

Welcome!

Joyful Echoes is an Alumni Newsletter published by the Onondaga Central School Education Foundation for the purpose of keeping alumni and friends of OCS engaged with the Onondaga community and informed of current activities happening at OCS.

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4&5 by Natalie Price ('23) and Jim Molloy ('68)

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CHRISTIANS TO THE LIONS?

by Natalie Price, Class of 2023, and Jim Molloy, Class of 1968

OCS, Like Early Christians, to Be Tossed to Wildcats in Coliseum?

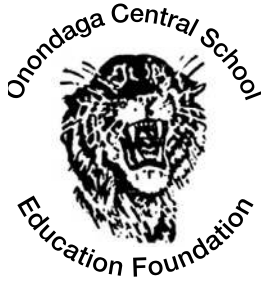
Fans of the classic 1986 film *Hoosiers* love the story of the underdog Hickory Huskers, a high school basketball team from a little country town in Indiana, taking on the big-city South Bend Central squad, a team loaded with bigger, stronger players, heavily favored to win the state championship game. The film was based on a real-life story: in 1954 the Milan, Indiana small school underdogs played the Muncie Central Bearcats, a huge favorite—and prevailed! (YouTube

has excerpts from that famous upset.) The Indiana championship tournament mixed big and small schools, permitting the occasional miracle to occur.

The more senior readers of *Joyful Echoes* may remember (or have heard about) OCS participating in a similar game as a huge underdog in 1958. As it is still arranged today, the county league was divided into large and small schools. The “A-B” schools included...

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About the OCSEF The Onondaga Central School Education Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit, all-volunteer 501(c) charitable corporation whose purpose is to provide support to students, staff and academic programs at Onondaga Central through charitable donations. The OCSEF was founded in 1984 with a vision of growing an endowment over the years. Please visit our web page: <https://www.ocseducationfoundation.com/>



OCSEF UPDATE

UPCOMING • FUNDRAISERS

THE 2022 CHARLES MOLLOY OCSEF GOLF TOURNAMENT

Saturday, July 9, 2022
Orchard Vali Golf Club

9:15-9:45am Registration
10:00am Shotgun Start

Cost:
\$85.00 per golfer

Includes: Golf, Cart, Lunch,
Dinner Buffet & Prizes

To sign up, visit our web page: oceseducationfoundation.com/fundraisers/annual-golf-tournament/

TILE-BY-TILE PROGRAM

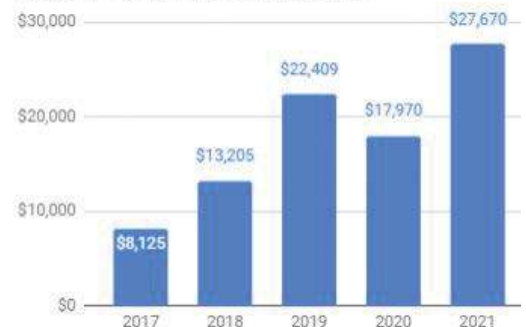
The OCSEF Tile-by-Tile program is a unique opportunity to raise funds for scholarships by recognizing individuals in the OCS community with tiles on the wall at the OCS Jr/Sr High School. Tiles are mounted on the wall leading into the school gym. These tiles make excellent gifts and will enable you to preserve the memory of a cherished member of the greater OCS community. To honor someone with a tile, please see the instructions on our web page: oceseducationfoundation.com/fundraisers/tile-by-tile-program/

6TH ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

The OCSEF Annual Fund Drive is underway. In 2021 we had an astounding response, collecting over \$27,000 in donations. To contribute to this year's Fund Drive, please click the "Donate" button on our website, or mail your check, payable to OCSEF, to:

OCSEF
4466 South Onondaga Road
Nedrow, New York 13120

OCSEF Fund Drive Donations



VISIT THE OCSEF WEBSITE: WWW.OCSEEDUCATIONFOUNDATION.COM

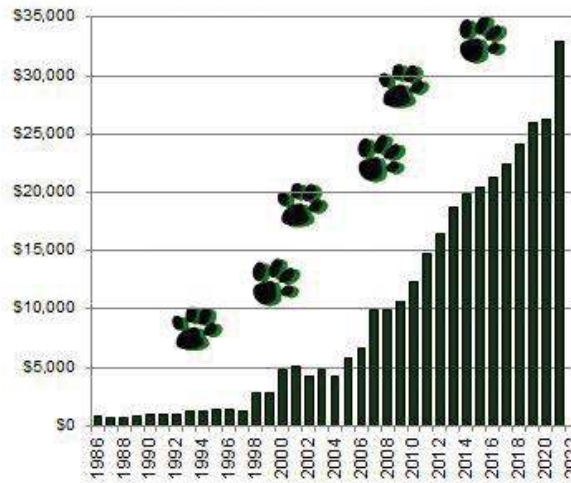
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THANK YOU!

Since its inception, the OCSEF has awarded \$339,825 to OCS graduates to assist them as they pursue education beyond high school. Total awards have grown from two \$400 scholarships in 1986 to 25 scholarships totaling \$32,950 in 2021. The OCSEF Board of Trustees would like to thank our donors for their contributions over the years that have resulted in incredible growth of the endowment.



OCSEF Dollars Awarded



Thanks for helping us increase awards to OCS graduates!

HAPPENING NOW

VINTAGE OCS FOOTBALL FILMS

Cheryl (Radway) Flannery (OCS '70) notified *Joyful Echoes* that she has preserved some OCS football movies from the fall of 1966. Cheryl's dad, Harry Radway, who retired from OCS as the transportation supervisor in 1975, shot the Super 8 color film at three different OCS home games, and Cheryl converted the old movies to a 15-minute DVD.

The action is clear, but without a program, it's difficult to identify the Tigers

wearing helmets. The cheerleaders we can identify, however, include Karen (Luchsinger) Clark, Cathy (Tracy) Nichols, and Patty (Gleason) Hourigan, (all OCS '68), and Jonna (Parsons) Lewandowski (OCS '67).

If you'd like to own a copy of the DVD, please notify *Joyful Echoes* via email and provide your regular mailing address. We'll send you a copy charging only our cost and shipping.

Forever IN OUR MEMORIES

Ellen Albino

Class of 1961
December 24, 2020

Vickie Annable Nine

Class of 1981
October 6, 2021

Ed Breckheimer

Class of 1968
October 28, 2021

Richard Niles

Mathematics Teacher
January 18, 2022

Christopher Rusho

Class of 1990
June 23, 2021

Carol Stillwell Stalker

Class of 1948
January 6, 2022

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West Genesee, Liverpool, Jamesville-Dewitt, East Syracuse, F-M, North Syracuse, Marcellus, Skaneateles, Solvay, and Baldwinsville. The "C-D" schools included Jordan and Elbridge, before the high schools merged, as well as OCS, Fabius, LaFayette, Minoa (prior to the merger with East Syracuse), and Tully. Before the sectional games started, the AB and CD playoff winners would compete to establish a county champion.

OCS finished the basketball season with eight wins in its last nine games to win the Onondaga County Class C-D championship, but coach Bill Gilbert's team had the unenviable task of taking on West Genesee, undefeated against all those big schools.

Syracuse *Post-Standard* reporter Jerry Scorse, observing that the game would be played in the State Fair "Coliseum," compared OCS players to "Christians to be tossed" to the Wildcats and compared the game to the Soviet Union crushing the Hungarian uprising. He wrote, "[The game] might start a movement to form a society for the prevention of cruelty to roundball teams who are thrown in over their heads . . . The pairing of the Onondagans (10-7) against the Wildcats (18-0) makes for butchery as bad as anything that ever happened in Budapest . . . It does not look like there is going to be much of a game."

But games are won and lost on the court, not in the newspaper. The next day, Scorse observed that the Tigers were ready with a tough

"WHAT HAPPENED UNTIL THE FINAL SECONDS CAN ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS SOMETHING OUT OF DREAM"

defense: "{Gilbert} . . . drilled the Onondagans on a slowdown game, bunched his defense into a game little group around the keyhole . . . a baffling thing that West Genesee could only paw at kittenishly."

The well-disciplined Tigers also had a plan on offense. The *Post-Standard's* Carmen Viglucci

noted that "Gilbert used a deliberate offense which seemed to unnerve the Wildcat defense. With George Williams staking a foul line post throughout the game, the rest of the OCS players weaved outside setting up driving shots. The strategy gave the Tigers an 18-17 lead at halftime."

The beginning of the third quarter, however, seemed to have the momentum shifting away from the Tigers. Viglucci wrote, "{Loren} James and {Frank} Legg paced a fast-break Wildcat offense that seemed to be breaking the game open. Legg hit on a drive . . . then James hit on a one-hander, followed with a set, another drive and Ed Lynch hit a field [goal] . . ."

But Scorse reported how the Tigers fought back and set the stage for an enormous upset: ". . . what happened until the final seconds can only be described as something out of dream . . . With a minute left, Legg layed [sic] one in but missed a foul shot to leave the Genesees a 40-37 lead. [Pete] Shields came back with a push for Onondaga. It was 40-39 at 0:30. At 0:10, Willie fouled Legg. He missed. Onondaga called time out. There were seven seconds left.

"The Centrals whipped the ball downcourt, to Willie. He sliced across from side to middle, went up just in front of the bucket, popped the ball in." Viglucci's lead the next day re-capped

the play: "Willie Williams drove through the West Genesee defense from midcourt and sank a layup with three seconds left in the game and five plucky kids from Onondaga Central sent a wildcat empire crumbling with a 41-40 victory for the County League basketball playoff championship last night at the State Fairgrounds Coliseum."

So much for the lions eating the Christians. Scorse described a happy celebration: "Chairs were overturned and barriers hurdled in a frenzied rush to thump the backs and pump the hands of the kids who had accomplished what had seemed beyond their means.

On the other side of the

ONON. CENTRAL			WEST GENESEE				
	B.	F.	T.		B.	F.	T.
Ross	2	0	4	James	6	2	14
Pallotta	2	1	5	Legg	3	1	7
Shields	5	0	10	Waterman	4	5	13
W. Wil'ams	8	4	20	Lynch	2	0	4
G. Wil'ams	1	0	2	Miller	1	0	2
				Ressegule	0	0	0
				Herkola	0	0	0
Totals	18	5	41	Totals	16	8	40

arena, numbed and uncomprehending, were those who had dreamed dreams of an unbeaten season."

Willie Williams not only scored the winning basket but led both teams with 20 points. Still, it was a team effort, according to Scorse: ". . . each of the other four OCS players who saw action played a vital part in the win. Brother George Williams was also a bear off the boards while Don Pallotta, Warren Ross, and Pete Shields turned in bang-up floor play. Shields had 10 points on drives."

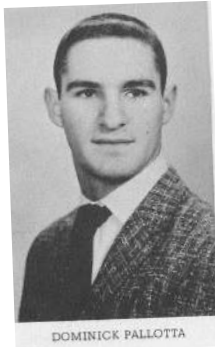
Scorse gamely recanted his pre-game predictions: ". . . critics conceded the Onondaga Centrals could not possibly hold the AB champs in check . . . When the smoke of battle cleared and the scoreboard showed the hoopmen from the hills of Onondaga won, the 'experts' were ready to take cover."

One more similarity to *Hoosiers*: the movie ended with Hickory's cinematic upset over Sound Bend, 42-40; OCS won its real game over West Genesee, 41-40.

PLAYERS' MEMORIES

Joyful Echoes reached out to some of the players to hear their stories about the game, almost 64 years since that night at the Fairgrounds. One of the West Genesee players, Dick Waterman, who is the current mayor of the Village of Camillus, observed that he was in the third graduating class of West Genesee. "Winning had been easy for us. We averaged 85 points per game, and that was before the 3-point shot was instituted. I think we went into that game a little overconfident, and OCS surprised us," Waterman recalled. "What I remember from that game were the two Williams brothers. Both were excellent athletes and the first and only black players that we faced that year."

Dominic Pallotta (OCS '60), one of the starting five, emailed his memories to *Joyful Echoes*: "It was a great game. I remember it well," Pallotta recalled. "The week before the game, Coach Gilbert installed a slow-down offense . . . I was usually the point guard, but in the four-



DOMINICK PALLOTTA

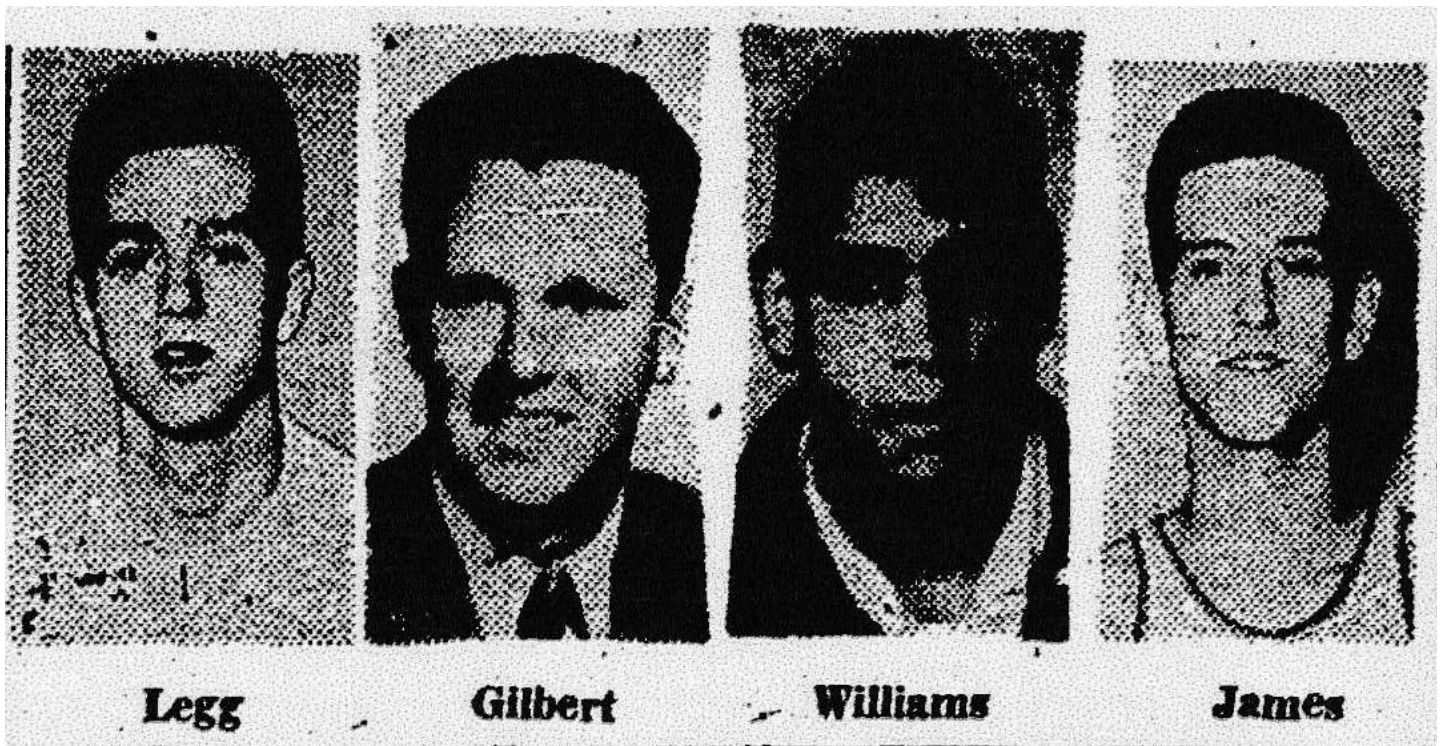
corner offense, we were four guards with Willie Williams as the center. In modern basketball terms, we played a spread offense with the ball constantly moving and everyone touching it on most possessions. We were coached to take only lay-ups or short, open shots. Nobody in our league played this style, so we surprised West Genesee. We played a stifling defense and blocked out and rebounded well.

"I was a sophomore . . . I was usually calm at the start of most games, but for this game I remember being nervous. The anxiety disappeared after a few minutes. From the very first basket . . . we realized that we were competitive and the West Genesee team was not as good as we expected. Everyone on the team had confidence in each other, and we held together nicely under the pressure."

Waterman played freshman basketball at Syracuse University the following year. "My claim to fame was that Ernie Davis was my teammate on that squad. Ernie went on to win the Heisman trophy at S. U." He mentioned to *Joyful Echoes* that he refereed local basketball for forty years.

Waterman remembered that West Genesee defeated Nottingham the next evening and proceeded to defeat Little Falls and Sacketts Harbor to win the big-schools sectional title, finishing 23-1. There was no state championship tournament in 1958, so the sectional title was as far as WG could go. Waterman mentioned that the West Genesee community still remembers the 1958 team. "Two years ago," he observed, "after West Genesee won the state championship in basketball, our team was invited to attend the first game of the season following the championship year. Four of us showed for the honor as we were invited for winning the last championship. It was a great get-together."

Pallotta still has understandable pride about putting the one blemish on West Genesee's record. "We were a small school with about 100 boys in high school. We beat a much larger school, class A or AA. We did not use the underdog status as motivation since we were already highly motivated. We beat them that night because we were the better team. There was no luck involved."



Legg

Gilbert

Williams

James

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

MARY DOROTHY FORGERTY BLISS BOB JONES • RICHARD H. BALDWIN



MARY DOROTHY FOGERTY BLISS MD, MPH, FACS

CLASS OF 1975

Originally from St. Louis, MO, my family moved to Syracuse when I was twelve. I lived on Hitchings Road and attended OCS for two years. I graduated a year early. My fondest memories of that time were the friendly students. I still keep up with several on Facebook. Riding the school bus for an hour each way, I would see far fewer houses than there are now. We rode our horses in the apple orchards. Mr. Littlefield and Mrs. Lamb were my favorite teachers. My mother would not let me take Home Economics or Typing—wish I had—and shop was not open for girls.

My lifelong ambition had been to be a doctor, and after working my way through college, I graduated from The University of New Mexico School of Medicine in 1992. I completed my surgery residency at SUNY Stony Brook in 1997.

After stints in private practice and the VA, I became an Assistant Professor of Surgery at Vanderbilt University. It was a great privilege to work with so many brilliant people in such an outstanding institution. While there, I completed a Master's Degree in Public Health and a fellowship in Critical Care. It is gratifying and humbling to work at what

you love and have people trust you to make them better. I also conducted clinical research, published papers and traveled to medical conferences to present research findings.

Unfortunately, a serious medical problem forced my retirement from medicine in 2013. I spent several years recovering, and while I have some deficits, I continue to do what I enjoy.

Currently, I divide my time between homes in East Syracuse, NY, and Albuquerque, NM. I have two adult children who are doing very well.

If I could impress on others anything after what I consider a life lived on my terms, it would be to follow your passions, no matter where you see yourself. Who would have thought a young lady from OCS, with no real resources except herself, would end up a surgeon at Vanderbilt University? The solid public education, drive and people who believed made all the difference.

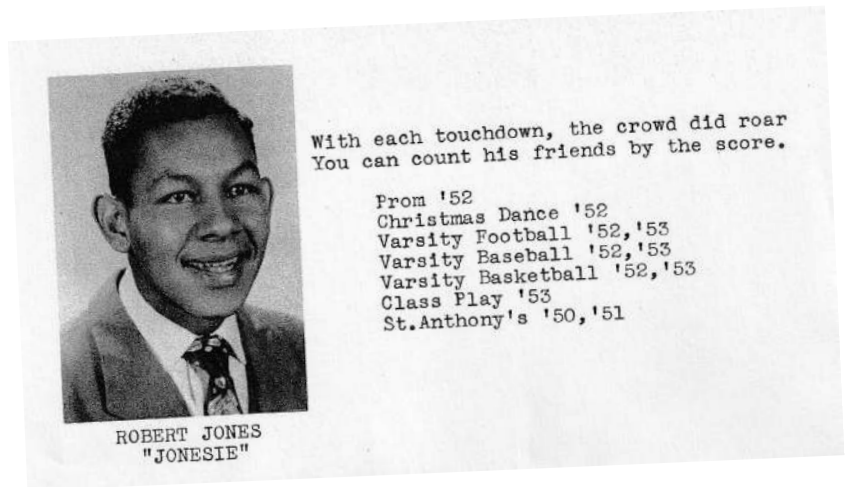


BOB JONES

CLASS OF 1953

Joyful Echoes was pleased to see Bob Jones participate in the Charles A. Molloy Golf Tournament on June 19th, 2021. Bob, now from Ypsilanti, Michigan, shared some memories. He grew up in Nedrow, and his father

worked as a mailman. Bob chose to attend OCS over Central Tech, and remembers Mr. Potter and Miss Alexander. Bob played baseball and six-man football for Coach Sampson at OCS, but recalled that he often had to walk to school or hitchhike to attend practices and games. Bob observed that he was the first Black student to graduate from OCS.



RICHARD H. BALDWIN

CLASS OF 1967

I was the shy boy growing up in Nedrow. I struggled through school, but I grew up in the Navy. Navy sent me to cooking school. I went from E-3 through E-5 from April 1969 through March 1973.

In April 1982 I joined the 174th TFW NY Air National Guard. From 1982-1989 I was a crew chief of the gun systems of the A-10 Warthog.

The most important change to happen to me was on May 19, 1974. It was the beginning of a journey surrendering my life to Jesus Christ five days before getting married. I've now been married forty-six years, and am a grandpa to three granddaughters.

I have been a factory worker (skilled machine repairman and average laborer), above-average photographer, on-and-off poet and music composer, and a master tailor, fashioning 18th-century men's clothes. I am currently learning how to make furniture.



REQUEST FOR SUBMISSIONS & INFO

This newsletter is a product resulting from submissions made by our alumni. Please send us your stories and news! Do you have a favorite memory? An interesting story idea? Or an alumni announcement - wedding, birth, obituary - you would like to share?

For submissions of news, ideas and/or stories, please contact us at ocsalum34@gmail.com or send to:

OCSEF Alumni Coordinator
3479 Cherry Valley Turnpike
Syracuse, NY 13215

The OCSEF has established an Alumni Database. It contains contact information of OCS alumni, community members and current and former staff members. If you know of someone who would like to receive future issues of Joyful Echoes and other alumni-related

communications, please forward the Alumni Data Form to him or her. You can find it on the OCSEF Web Page: www.ocseducationfoundation.com

O N O N D A G A

J O Y F U L
Echoes