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**A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT**

Dear Blackhawk Boosters, Families, Friends, and Fans,

My but how times flies. It is time for another year of scholastics and another year of athletics. The new school year brings plenty of excitement and anticipation. The West Aurora Sports Boosters would like to welcome the incoming freshmen and all returning athletes. It is truly an exciting time of year, and I'm sure that the athletes are just as excited to get their seasons started, as we are in supporting them. The Blackhawk Sports Boosters have been supporting our sports program here at West High since 1970 and we take great pride in providing the financial support that helps make the athletic programs and athletes be as successful as they have been through the years.

The Sports Boosters are looking for your continued support and with helping out in all the various ways that you can volunteer some of your time. This will be the third year that we will be publishing and producing our own programs for all three sporting seasons.

It is with great sadness that I report to you that we have lost one of our own boosters recently. Kathy Baumann passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday August 5, 2014. Kathy lived and breathed the Blackhawk Sports Boosters, and was a vital part of the day to day running of the organization. She took care of so many things for us all. My wife and I were responsible for bringing Kathy to the organization 15 years ago. You would see Kathy roaming the sidelines at all the home football and basketball games making sure that no one needed any help with anything. As a personal friend to my wife and me, she will be sadly missed. Our prayers go out to her husband Dave, and their children Justin, Amber, and Adam. Rest in peace Kathy.

The West Aurora Sports Boosters would like to thank you for your continued support to our organization. Your generosity does not go unnoticed and means a great deal to all our athletes and the greater Blackhawk community.

Go Blackhawks!!!

Greg Jackman  
President, Blackhawk Sports Boosters

FOUNDED IN 1970,  
The West Aurora Blackhawk Sports Boosters is the official athletics fundraising organization of West Aurora High School. Since its inception, the Boosters have raised more than one million dollars toward support of athletic scholarships, equipment and supplies. This year, thanks to your contribution, the Boosters have proudly provided more than \$65,000 to support our coaches' 'Wish List' requests!

The West Aurora Sports Boosters Newsletter is now electronic on the district website at [westhigh.sd129.org](http://westhigh.sd129.org)—Athletics & Activities—  
Blackhawk Sports Boosters

If you still wish to receive a paper copy, please contact Donna Olson at 630-892-7299 or at [BlackhawkSportsBoosters@gmail.com](mailto:BlackhawkSportsBoosters@gmail.com)

**Save These Dates**

August 13

First Day of Athletics

August 20

First Day of School

August 22

Fall Sports Jamboree  
5:30-8:30 PM

August 29

Football vs. Geneva  
Soph 5:00 PM  
Varsity 7:30 PM

Sept. 22-26

Homecoming Week

October 24

Fall Sports Senior Night

“Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence wins championships.”  
— Michael Jordan

Check out the WAHS athletic website at: <http://il.8to18.com>  
[/westaurora](http://westaurora.com)

**BOOSTERS GRANT WISHES**



# In Memoriam

It is with heavy hearts that we share the news that Anthony Paul "Tony" Kakoliris, 46, of DeKalb, Illinois, passed away Saturday, July 26, 2014, at Kishwaukee Hospital, DeKalb, surrounded by his family and friends.

Anthony was born February 4, 1968, in Chicago, Illinois the son of Paul Anthony and Sophie Kakoliris. He married Debra D. Dahlem September 25, 1993 in DeKalb.

Tony was a 1986 graduate of DeKalb High School, graduated from Northern Illinois University with a bachelor's degree in education in 2001 and a master's degree from National Lewis University in educational leadership in 2005. Tony was a teacher at West Aurora High School and was the sophomore baseball coach; was a member of St. George Greek Orthodox Church in DeKalb, and was an avid baseball fan and coach. In 2014 he completed his 23<sup>rd</sup> year coaching high school baseball with 13 years at West Aurora.

He is survived by his wife, Debbie; his son, Paul; his uncle Gus and aunt Katie Kakoliris of Addison, Illinois; mother-in-law, Shirley Dahlem; two brother-in-laws, Dennis (Larisa) Dahlem, Don (Cheri) Dahlem; one nephew, C.J.; two nieces, Cindy and Kristin; a multitude of close friends who are considered family; many former and current students and baseball players.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and father-in-law, Donald Dahlem.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Anthony P. Kakoliris Memorial Fund, for his son Paul's education, sent in care of Anderson Funeral Home, P.O. Box 605, 2011 South Fourth Street, DeKalb, IL 60115.

## Chalk Talk

### A Dance with Danzinger

By Tom Herget

It's time to meet Colin Danzinger, Washington Middle School's basketball coach and athletic director.

The Skokie native and Niles West graduate attended University of Illinois where he earned his bachelor's degree in Mathematics Education in 1995. His first and only job has been here in Aurora at Washington.

Colin was lured into math by its order and precision. One must follow the rules to get to an answer. Colin applies this principle every winter to the boys' and girls' basketball teams.

The Athletic Director position answers to many – athletes, parents, coaches, referees and bus drivers. These duties consume half of Colin's day. Fortunately, technology is making life easier. But that doesn't tame the weather; rescheduling is the bane of the AD's day.

Colin, his wife and two children live in Geneva. In his spare time (hours or minutes), Colin enjoys golf, running, weights and reading. His favorite place to grab a bite to eat is at Old Town Pub in Geneva. For vacation, look for Colin on the beaches of Cancun.

Danzinger is a German name meaning a person from the city of Danzig. East Prussia's loss has been West Aurora's gain. We're happy Colin is here to shepherd and inspire our students and athletes.



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## 2014 Blackhawk Scramble

The West Aurora High School Sports Boosters once again teamed up with the community to hold its 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Outing on June 13th, 2014 at Bliss Creek Golf Club in Sugar Grove. Again, we were blessed with beautiful weather and the turn-out was fantastic. We had a shotgun start in both the morning and the afternoon, sending off a total of 50 foursomes! In addition to those who played, many joined us for the traditional steak dinner following golf. We filled the Pine Room and patio area with over 160 Blackhawk supporters!

The Blackhawk Scramble is our major fundraising event for the Sports Boosters. The money raised is used to supply and support the Athletic Departments throughout our district. But most importantly, the money raised benefits our student athletes by supplying athletic equipment, facility improvements and scholarships to further their education.

Thank you to all who participated, including the many individuals and companies that donated funds to sponsor the 2014 Blackhawk Scramble. In addition, we all greatly appreciate the hospitality and efforts of Bliss Creek's staff and facilities. A great time was had by all. And with the hard work from our fantastic volunteers, this year's event was one of our most successful. We would also like to give special recognition to the Seidelman-Scharbert Memorial Fund, our event sponsor the last two years!

Hope to see you all again next year.  
Go Blackhawks!

## **Sports Boosters Membership 2014-2015 now open!**

Please support the Sports Boosters and our athletes for our 2014-2015 school year!

Membership is now open- please consider joining us or renewing your membership.

If current members do not renew, all written and electronic communications will end as of September 1st.

Registration can be done online at:

<https://sd129.revtrak.net/tek9.asp?pg=products&grp=57>

Mail-in registration forms can be printed from:

<http://westhigh.sd129.org/www/ud00/2/2857474694a1471a8e932e8aedfd00/Personal Documents/Blackhawk%20Sports%20Boosters%20Membersip.pdf>

Mail-in forms will also be sent in a separate mailing



# Chalk Talk

## Fall Sports Jamboree

Friday, August 22nd 5:30pm-8pm

The evening starts off in the Auditorium for all Parents, Athletes & Coaches 5:30 to 6:15pm.

From there sport teams head to their designated location for team play and parent meetings.

### Fall Sports:

Boys Cross Country

Girls Cross Country

Boys Golf

Girls Golf

Boys Soccer

Football

Girls Swimming & Diving

Girls Tennis

Girls Volleyball



## Get a Pick from Rick

### Drive Down the Lane with Coach Thompson

By Tom Herget

Rick Thompson has served virtually his entire career in the West side schools. We're happy he will soon be fully retired but sorry that his long tenure as teacher, coach and shining example will soon be history.

Rick is a native of Normal. There was nothing normal about his athletic abilities as his high school football performance earned him a scholarship on Northwestern's football team. After graduating from Normal University High School in 1971, Rick headed to Evanston where he played not only football but basketball as well.

Rick bumped heads with many a renowned player of that era, including Wisconsin's Rufus roadrunner Ferguson and Ohio State's Archie Griffin.

Rick earned his BA in Education in 1976 and took a job in downstate Chester. After one year there, he found a fulfilling home here at West High and has been in the district ever since.

Rick has been a health teacher. He has coached football and basketball at West High and Jewel, where he is currently the assistant 8<sup>th</sup> grade coach. He also was assistant principal at Washington and principal at Nicholson. He earned his MS in Educational Administration at Northern.

As a teacher, Rick enjoyed interacting with kids as they absorbed knowledge. As a coach, Rick prospered in helping the athletes grow and develop their games.

Rick is married to Debbie who has been the park district's executive secretary for many years. Their son Tyler is a WA grad and recently entered the work force with his communications degree from Quincy College.

Rick likes to relax with a round of golf. He and Debbie enjoy the fine dining at Orchard Valley and La Cabana. They like to vacation in the Smokies, where they will soon be relocating to enjoy retirement fully.

We will miss Rick's intensity, commitment and integrity. The district and its students have benefited so much from his dedication.



## The Third Team

by **Franklin Lewis • April 29, 2014** (Guest author, son of Scott Lewis (Class of 1974) and Abby Herget (Class of 1978) and nephew of Tom Herget, our Chalk Talk author)

We usually think of a high school sporting event consisting of two teams, each competing to the peak of their abilities for a chance to win. But, there is in fact a third team on the field. The third team is older than the other two teams, and there are fewer players on the third team. However, any physical disadvantage in the third team is offset by their supreme knowledge and devotion to the game. The third team draws no fans and demands no attention, yet they steadfastly show up at every game. The third team is there to balance the contest between the two teams and you couldn't play high school sports without this vital third force.

The third team is the officials.

Anyone who has played high school athletics knows the seemingly mysterious nature of the officials at game time. They will magically appear as if out of thin air, subtly emerging from a door or behind some bleachers or a fence to work the game. Then, the second the game concludes, the referees deftly exit, leaving no trace. Rarely are officials noticed during a contest either, or if they are noticed, it is only for a questionable call that they make. They seem in constant concentration, their expressions stoic even in the most heated moments of the game. In actuality, the women and men who don the shirts in navy blue (baseball and softball), black and white stripes (basketball), white (volleyball) or bright yellow (soccer), are—gasp!—real people, with real stories. This reporter interviewed several high school officials to understand their backgrounds and their extensive training.

### A Life Off the Court or Field

To most current high-schoolers, officials exist solely to ref your game. But have you stopped to think where referees might be headed after the game is over? They are most likely returning to their families at home, or to their other career. And, many officiators grew up playing the sport they now oversee when they were in high school.

Jason Gant, an official from the Northern California Basketball Officials Association (NCBOA), takes part in many activities outside of his reffing role on the court. "When I am not officiating, I am coaching, as well as working in the public health and fashion industries," said Gant. "I have co-founded a lifestyle brand called BoomTho!, offering t-shirts, tanks, hats, and beanies." Quite the resume for someone who is usually seen blowing a whistle. "I started officiating to gain a different perspective on...basketball and volleyball. I had always played both sports growing up and wanted to continue to participate into adult age. Officiating allowed me to see the sports through a different lens, other than as a player...it brought me even closer to the sport."

Another ref, who wished to remain anonymous, is a nine-year veteran volleyball referee for the Northern California Volleyball Association (NCVA) and enjoys officiating because it brings her closer to the student players. "What keeps me involved, first, is the love of this sport. There's always something to learn ... no matter how many years you have been reffing. Watching the kids excel in [volleyball] every season puts a smile in my face." And much like Gant, she has a wide range of interests and hobbies besides officiating, such as "dragon boat racing, kickboxing, bootcamp, yoga, grass volleyball, hiking and TRX training."





**(The Third Team-cont'd)**

Don Simon, Vice President of Baseball Operations and Game Assigner for the Northern California Umpires Association (NCUA), says he’s been working games for over 40 years. “My father was a youth umpire and a professional baseball player. One day I was needed and there I was — umpiring games.” It was the beginning of Simon’s long relationship with the trade of umpiring. He began his journey, jumping from pro baseball, to softball, to high school. “I went to pro school in 1977 and then from each year until 1979 was trained by Minor League Baseball. ...After coaching for 12 years, I retired from coaching and returned full time to baseball umpiring. I also ... am a qualified Amateur Softball Association (ASA) Championship Umpire, doing National ASA fast and slow pitch tournaments.” In all those years of officiating, Simon has had to make some extraordinary calls too, including calling every out in a triple play.

Eric Tow has been calling Northern California high school basketball games since 2003 for the NCBOA. Much like the other officials, he was inspired to ref by his own involvement. “After graduating high school, I wanted to be close to the game of basketball,” said Tow. “Knowing that I didn’t want to coach, I gave officiating a shot.” Tow is a financial analyst at UCSF when he is off the court.

**Training and Expertise**

While these referees have well-rounded lives off the playing field, that doesn’t mean they have inadequate experience on the playing field. Your high school refs belong to established, accredited sports associations that provide extensive training in their specific sport. For instance, the NCBOA mandates a six-week long basketball course and a tryout in order to become certified. Tow adds that, “We are independent contractors and we are free to do as much training as possible. Usually officials, who strive to be better, go to a camp in the summer. These camps are instructional.”

Simon, who is responsible for the NCUA training program, explains that the California Interscholastic Federation (the governing body for high school sports in California) and the NCUA require that umpires take 18 hours of classroom instruction and an additional four hours of field training each year in order to officiate at a high school game.

The volleyball referee from the NCVA detailed her yearly training, saying, “There would be a symposium for new officials held prior to the start of the season. We would learn how to keep score. Learn what are the expectations of an official. You would work with an experienced referee on the court using proper mechanics, whistling and protocols. You were given a copy of the Rulebook which was discussed and highlighted as to new rules and changes. There would be a two-hour training once a month on different topics and discussions on situations that each ref had experienced.”

Next time you question your ref’s expertise, think about the lesson learned in 2012 by the National Football League. When the NFL referees went on strike that year, the league used the now infamous “replacement refs.” After four weeks of painful officiating madness, the NFL took the hint and gave the real, qualified referees their jobs back. An important point was made: trained officials on the field make for a fair game.

Often when a call is missed, we fans mutter, “I could’ve made that call!” or, “This ref needs glasses!” But, get real—you couldn’t do it better. As the replacement referees showed us, professional officials make fair decisions. In fact, in a recent study of professional baseball umpires done by Brayden King and Jerry Kim, to be published in the journal Management Science and featured in The New York Times in March 2014, umpires were shown to call a pitch (considered one of the toughest umpiring jobs in sports) incorrectly just 14% of the time — an impressive stat, considering the speed and movement of pitches thrown in pro baseball.



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### **(The Third Team-cont'd)**

#### **Consider That Challenge**

Although well trained and experienced, referees and umpires are not automatons programmed to call sports games. They are unique, multi-faceted people, with many stories and experiences to be told. So, when you're in the heat of an emotional game—whether you're playing, coaching, or watching—think about your approach to the refs.

"Referees are human," Tow emphasizes. "We are prone to mistakes and are not always perfect. With that being said, if players and coaches treat referees with respect, they will most likely get a respectful answer. But what coaches and players tend to do is get upset and they usually get an emotional response from a referee." Gant offers similar advice: "Every high school athlete should try to put him/herself in the shoes of the referee before acting in an unsportsmanlike manner....I may not catch every single call, just as a player aims to shoot 100%, yet may miss a couple. Understand officials' calls are final and cannot be turned back, so accept a respectful answer...Know that refs will gladly speak to you, we are not evil. If you speak to us respectfully we will certainly give you reasons behind a call or answer any questions."

Next time you suit up and get in the game consider the "Third Team." Believe it or not, refs and umps want to see you play your best and are willing to help you. Gant offers some invaluable advice to players about sportsmanship. "Try your hardest and don't allow the refs to be a crutch or excuse for bad play. Respect the game. Leave it all on the court. Play on!"



The Sports Boosters will be getting a new website this fall!  
Volunteers are needed to help maintain this website.

Please contact Donna Olson at  
[BlackhawkSportsBoosters@gmail.com](mailto:BlackhawkSportsBoosters@gmail.com)  
if you are interested in this opportunity.



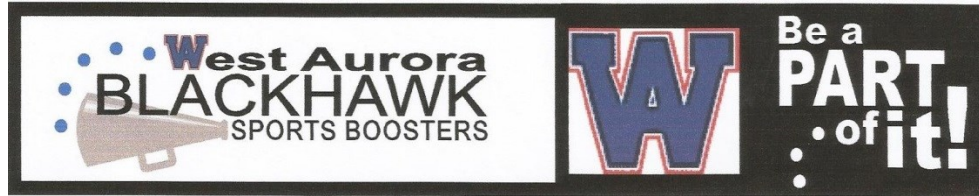
Summer 2014

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Supporting District 129 Athletes



## Over \$1,500,000 to Aurora West Sports Teams and Counting! Be a Part of It!

**Since 1970, the West Aurora Blackhawk Sports Boosters have provided volunteer and financial support for athletic programs across the West Aurora school district. The Blackhawk Sports Boosters have helped build one of the finest high school athletic programs in Illinois!**

*Over 1300 students participate in West Aurora Sports! That means parents, grandparents, siblings, friends, neighbors as well as the incredibly loyal West Aurora Alumni, come out to support our teams!*

Support our West Aurora Sports Teams in a beautiful 4 – color, 24+ page Official Souvenir Program. Each high quality program features Seasonal Sport Team Photos, Coaches Information, Personal Player Ads and *Your Special Advertisement!*

### Become a Corporate Sponsor –Support all 3 seasons! Receive the following -

- ⇒ One Free AD! 3 Seasons for the price of 2!
- ⇒ Signage at Football Stadium and Main Gym
- ⇒ Name on Scoreboard during Football Games
- ⇒ Name on Gym TV's During Basketball Games
- ⇒ Call Outs on Radio Broadcasts
- ⇒ Corporate Sponsorship Call Outs in Programs and Website







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Ad Size	Corporate Sponsorship	Costs	Savings	Single Season Ads
Full Page	Platinum	\$1800	\$900	\$900
½ Page	Gold	\$1200	\$600	\$600
¼ Page	Silver	\$850	\$425	\$425
1/8 Page	Bronze	\$600	\$300	\$300

**Circle Ad Selection above**

**Production Notes:**

- All Ads should be submitted in EPS or Illustrator format
- Ads are all 4 – color process
- All files should be submitted to the size purchased (no bleeds)
- All files should be uploaded to the Kelmscott FTP site:  
 Web address : <https://ftp.kelmscottcommunications.com/thinclient/>  
 Folder name: "2014 West Aurora Program Ads"  
 Username : kelmscottftp  
 Password: client
- All ad files must be submitted by **August 15<sup>th</sup>**
- With the exception of the center spread and back cover, Kelmscott controls ad placement
- Ads can be created for a minimum charge of \$175
- Customer to provide high resolution art and is entitled to 2 proof approvals
- Bad art and continual changes will increase the cost of the ad (cost figured on individual basis)

**Ads must be paid in full prior to placement**

**Customer Information:**

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Customer Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Company Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment Options:**

Circle One:    Visa            MasterCard            AM Express            Discover  
 Name as it appears on card: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Card Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**Send this completed form to**  
**Ray Roos, Sports Booster Programs, 120 Stillwater Ct. Aurora, IL 60506**  
**Or email to [rroos@comcast.net](mailto:rroos@comcast.net) phone 630-897-7777h**



Be a  
**PART**

•of  
**it!**

West Aurora Blackhawk Sports Boosters  
2112 West Galena Blvd., Suite 8-187  
Aurora, Illinois 60506

**Address Service Requested**

**Summer 2014 NEWSLETTER**  
**Chalk Talk with Coach Rick Thompson and**  
**Coach Colin Danzinger**  
**Golf Outing Report**

Check out our webpage at: <http://westhigh.sd129.org/groups/blackhawk-sports-boosters>

Membership for the 14-15 school year will begin in July.  
Online membership registration is available.

## **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

August 21 (Thurs) – G Golf vs SE/BAR/SWD – Valley Green & Orchard

August 23 (Sat) - Fall Athlete Picture Day - 8am to 12pm

August 26 (Tues)- G Volleyball vs Oswego East 4:30/5:30pm – Main Gym

August 26 (Tues) – B Soccer vs West Chicago 4:30/6:30pm – Stadium

August 28 (Thurs) – B Golf vs East Aurora 4pm – Bliss Creek & Orchard

August 30 (Sat) – G Tennis V & JV Invite – WAHS Tennis Courts 8am

September 4 (Thurs) – WAHS Open House – 6 to 8pm

September 9 (Tues) – G Swim vs Plainfield Coop @ IMSA 5pm

October 11 (Sat) – G & B Cross Country Stampede Invite @ Stuart Sports Complex 8:30am