

Class of 2007

Junior Spencer

Junior is a 1942 graduate of RFHS where he earned eight varsity letters in the sports of football, basketball and track.

While Junior was a great all-around athlete it was track where he excelled. Junior qualified for the state meet in the Pole Vault in both his junior and senior years. In 1941 Junior earned All-State honors by finishing third in the event.

Frank Simester

Frank is a 1958 graduate of RFHS where he earned 12 varsity letters, four in golf, three each in football, basketball and two in baseball.

He was a two-time first team All-NCIC selection in football and was named to the All-State football team in his senior season. Frank was also an important member of the 1958 Rocket Basketball team that finished 2nd in the state.

Upon graduation Frank continued his football and academic career by attending Illinois State University.

Floyd Deyo

Floyd is a 1958 graduated of RFHS where he earned varsity letters in football, wrestling and track. He was one of those rare athletes who excelled in most sports as noted by him earning All-Conference honors in all three sports.

As a fullback on the football team Floyd earned All-NCIC and All-State honors averaging six yards per carry his senior year. He was a NCIC champ and state qualifier in wrestling as a junior dominating the heavyweight division while compiling a 28-2 record. He also earned valuable points for a strong Rocket track team by placing in both the shot put and discus at the NCIC meet.

In college, Floyd attended Northern Illinois University and participated in track, wrestling and football. As a four-year starter on the defensive line for the Huskies, he led the team in tackles twice and earned All-Division honors.

After college Floyd took his love of athletics to the coaching profession, at Argo High School in Summit Illinois, where he taught and coached for 38 years.

Jed Johnson

A 1999 graduate of RFHS, Jed earned varsity letters in basketball, football and baseball. As a three-year starter on the Rocket basketball team, that won a State Title in 1999, Jed earned first team All-NCIC honors his junior and senior seasons. He was named 2nd team All-State by the Associated Press and 1st team All-State by the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association his senior year. Jed was also named to several holiday basketball tournament teams as well as being a two-time Daily Gazette All-Area first team member. He was also named to the 1999 Class A State Tournament Team.

As Jed left RFHS he had basketball records for most three point field goals in a season (73), most three point field goals for a game (10) and most three point field goals for a career (195). Jed finished his career at RFHS with 1325 points that ranked him third at the time of his graduation.

Jed continued his basketball career at Sauk Valley College and then at Missouri Baptist College in St Louis, Missouri. At Missouri Baptist Jed was a two-year starter and one of the leading scorers on the nationally ranked team.

Brian Vance

A 1999 graduate of RFHS Brian earned varsity letters in football, basketball, baseball and track. And while his basketball exploits may have made him one of the most popular athletes in RFHS history, he did have success in other sports, including a 6th place finish in the triple jump and running a leg on the Rocket 4x100 relay team at the state track meet his senior year. But basketball was his sport. Brian was a three-year varsity starter and earned 1st team All-NCIC in both his junior and senior seasons. He also received 2nd team All-State honors from the AP, IBCA and Chicago Sun Times his junior year and then 1st team All-State honors from all three during his senior year.

Brian was a two-time Daily Gazette Player of the Year and a two-time Most Valuable player for the Rockets. He was also named to several holiday tournament teams and of course to the 1999 Class A State Tournament Team. It was in the 1999 State Finals that Brian made the biggest shot in Rocket basketball history as he calmly drained a three-point field goal from the top of the circle, with 0.7 seconds left to give the Rockets a come from behind 45-43 victory over Waterloo-Gibault, and their first State Championship

When Brian graduated from Rock Falls, he held records with most points in one season (644), most consecutive free throws made (21), best free throw percentage for one season (.832), best free throw percentage for a career (.813) and was the schools All-Time scoring leader with 1651 points. Brian continued his basketball career at Southeastern Community College in Burlington Iowa and then at Sauk Valley Community College before graduating from Illinois State University.

In 2006 Brian received another great honor by being named to the “100 Legends of the State Basketball Tournament” by the IHSA as they celebrate 100 years of Illinois High School Basketball.

1960 Wrestling

To say that the 1960 Rocket wrestling team had a good season would be an understatement. It was a great one!

This team had a fantastic dual meet record of 15-1, defeating such powers as Dekalb, Sterling, Dixon, Savanna and Clinton, Iowa. It then flexed its muscle in tournament action by winning the NCIC, District and Sectional titles. Out of the Sectional four individuals went to the state meet. Dennis Devers, Harvey Wagner, John Hemminger and Jim Ufkin. A third place finish by Devers and a fourth place finish by Wagner tallied enough points for the Rockets to end the season as a “top 15” wrestling team in the state of Illinois.