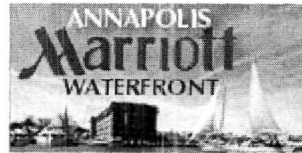


The Capital

ONLINE ▾



intrev web solutions
e-business
collaboration

Home | Site Map | Search | Contact | Buy the Paper | Archives | Photos | Lively Events | Local Directory
Classifieds | Top Stories | Obituaries | Police Beat | Opinion | Sports | Pets | Neighborhoods | Poll

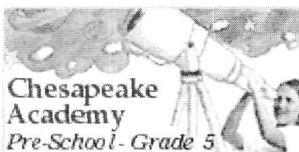
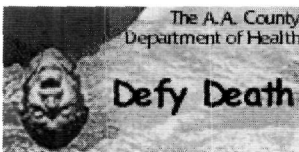
Click for Content

free translation.com

En Español!



Finally, An Email
That Helps
Prevent Viruses.



DSL Now
on the
Eastern Shore!



Annapolis VOLVO

Sports

Hall of Fame: Mike Busch brings an array of talent

By JOE GROSS Sports Editor

Most people inducted into the Anne Arundel County Sports Hall of Fame are enshrined as a player or coach or for their contributions to a particular sport.

When Mike Busch is inducted to that august body on the evening of Jan. 27, it will be different to find any one category into which the State of Maryland's Speaker of the House will fit.

Because success has followed Busch wherever he has gone in life, he is a perfect fit into any of the categories.

He was a three-year starter on St. Mary's High School football teams and was the recipient of the Touchdown Club of Annapolis' Jim Rhodes Memorial Trophy signifying the most outstanding scholastic player in the county.

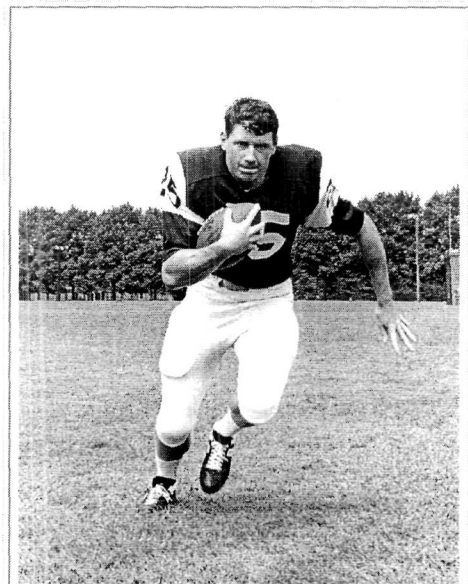
After running 69 yards for a touchdown the first time he touched the football as a collegian at Temple University in Philadelphia, Busch went on to set school rushing records and earned All-East honors before suffering a career-ending knee injury.

When he returned home after college Busch was named coach of the St. Mary's High football team and became the county Coach of the Year after leading the Saints to their last unbeaten season en route to amassing a 31-8-1 record and three Tri-County League championships. He also coached basketball at his alma mater.

As a scholastic and collegiate lacrosse official for 15 years, Busch was recognized and respected as one of the best referees in the region and eventually served as president of the Chesapeake Lacrosse Officials Association and was the winner of a Willis Bilderback Award for excellence.

He has been an administrator at the Anne Arundel County Department of

2004 Calendar
Local sports groups
2003-04 School Calendar



Courtesy photo

Mike Busch crafted many of his teamwork skills as a standout running back at Temple University.



Recreation and Parks since 1979. He served as the only two-term president of the Touchdown Club. And he was the chairman of the Maryland Commission on Physical Fitness and was an inductee to the St. Mary's Hall of Fame. He was also on the first boards of the Friends of Joe Cannon Stadium and the county sports Hall of Fame.



And, if you throw in his election to the House of Delegates and his climb up the political ladder to his current lofty position, nobody can doubt Busch's close relationship with success.



Now comes his much-deserved enshrinement into the Hall of Fame.

"It's such an honor, a humbling experience," Busch said. "It's an honor to join such an outstanding individuals who were selected not only for their athletic ability but also for their contributions to athletics in the county.

"It's a special honor to be inducted in the class with (former Old Mill wrestling coach) Mike Hampe, who was a contemporary of mine. We played high school football against each other, had parallel careers in coaching, though he stayed in and established himself as one of the finest wrestling coaches in the state of Maryland," Busch said.

Busch also remembered Art St. Martin for putting girls basketball in the county on the map and he knew of the accomplishments of Julian Easterday, the deceased bowler who will also be inducted at the banquet. He expressed a deeper feeling for Bob Pascal, Anne Arundel's first county executive who will be honored as well on Tuesday for his lifetime of contribution to sports here.

"I'd like to think I'm going into the Hall of Fame for a combination of athletic achievements: Coaching, refereeing and long-term involvement in athletics, a body of activities," he said.

"I had a decent career at St. Mary's, where I had wonderful coaching in football and basketball. I did relatively well as a running back in college at Temple University," Busch said humbly. "Then I was very fortunate at a young age to be named football and basketball coach at St. Mary's."

Busch says his major contribution was having many of his players become outstanding members of the community.

He is, however, also proud of having the highest winning percentage at St. Mary's, of officiating at all levels, from peewees to college, of lacrosse and getting the opportunity to create and build a variety of athletic programs for young people.

"I don't think there's anything that has shaped my life more than the lessons I've learned in athletics; the appreciation and dynamics of team work and the camaraderie of those I competed with and against," Busch said.

"Getting the ability to handle losing as well as winning, understanding that the most important thing is the effort put forth; they have been valuable lessons that tend to guide you through life," he continued. "And, as you get older you get a greater appreciation for your coaches, who ultimately become your mentors, teachers and role models. There are people you meet through athletics with whom you build lifelong relationships."

Busch remembered, with a chuckle, the first headline after he decided to run for public office: "Football player runs for office." He thought there was something of a negative connotation. He called his first four years as a representative in the House of Delegates "uncomfortable because he knew he was outside his bailiwick."

"As I grew into the job, I realized a lot of it was about relationships, hard work, understandings the issues; that the same things that would make you successful in athletics or any other endeavor could make you successful in the legislature," Busch said.

"Obviously, not in my wildest imagination could I have realized that I would one day be the presiding officer in the House of Delegates as Speaker of the House," he said.

"A lot of getting here is a product of the things I learned in athletics: The importance of empowering and motivating others, things I learned through coaching," Busch said. "Another thing is the realization that no success for a team can be attributed to any one individual; that it must be a consensus of the body as a whole.

"Having had the opportunity to participate in athletics and understanding what it takes to be successful, has had a tremendous influence on me here. That's as sincere as I can get about this. You cannot be successful here unless you have the ability to convince people that what we're doing is the right thing and that you have to work together to achieve that," he said.

Busch has come a long way from the evening he sat beside Don Shula and behind Roger Staubach and Harry Stuhldreher, one of Notre Dame's backfield dubbed the "Four Horsemen, and Rip Miller, one of Irish linemen known as the "Seven Mules" at the Touchdown Club banquet, when he was expected to make a speech after receiving the Rhodes Trophy.

"It was terrifying because back then I was the only young kid there. They didn't have the Maryland Player of the Year, no lineman of the year or Laramore Award or anything like that," Busch said of the Touchdown Club. "And I stood up and gave the typical 18-year olds speech, "I want to thank my coach, my teammates, my mother and father. Thank you."

After barely being able to speak in public back then, Mike Busch has the title "Speaker". And on Tuesday night he'll add "Hall of Famer".

[Next Sports story](#)
[Sports Page](#)
[Top Stories Page](#)

*Published January 23, 2004, [The Capital](#), Annapolis, Md.
Copyright © 2004 [The Capital](#), Annapolis, Md.*