SIGNUM FIDEI MEDALIST: JUDGE GENEVIEVE BLATT

Alumni President Richard H. Becker announced that Genevieve Blatt, Judge of the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania, has been selected to become the thirty-sixth recipient of the Alumni Association’s Signum Fidei Medal at the Annual Awards dinner on November 18th.

Judge Blatt graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Pittsburgh, where she also earned graduate degrees in Political Science and Law. She was the first woman elected to a state-wide administrative office in Pennsylvania (Secretary of Internal Affairs – 1954), and the first Pennsylvania woman elected to a state wide judicial office (Commonwealth Court – 1973).

She has been a member of the Advisory Council of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, a board member and vice-president of CARA (the National Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate), president of the Harrisburg Seton Club, and president of the St. Patrick Cathedral Council of Catholic Women in Harrisburg. Judge Blatt was also an integral part of the 41st International Eucharistic Congress, serving on the Board of Managers for the week-long event last year.

In recognition for her numerous contributions to the Catholic Church in Harrisburg, the city where she resides, and in the state of Pennsylvania, Judge Blatt was awarded the papal honor Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice (for the Church and pontiff) Medal by Pope Paul in 1966.

Interested in youth, she organized the Pennsylvania Intercollegiate Conference on Government in 1934, and served as volunteer director of the organization until 1972. In 1970, she founded the James A. Finnegan Fellowship Foundation in the interest of young people desiring careers in public service.

Judge Genevieve Blatt receiving honorary degree from then President Brother Daniel Burke in 1973.

Ms. Blatt was named a “Distinguished Daughter of Pennsylvania” in 1956, and in 1963 she was designated as National Woman of the Year in Government by Who’s Who Among American Women.

Born in East Brady, a city in the Diocese of Erie, Judge Blatt attended Sacred Heart High School in Pittsburgh. She is presently a member of the American, Pennsylvania and Dauphin County Bar Associations, American Judicature Society and National Association of Women Lawyers.

Asked which of her many interests is the closest to her heart, Judge Blatt said, “My mother used to say, ‘I have children, and they’re all good.’ That’s how I feel about the church, youth, and government. They’re all good, and they each get all I’ve got — in different respects, of course.”

The Signum Fidei Medal has been awarded annually since 1942 and derives its name from the motto of the Brothers of Christian Schools — “sign of faith.” It is given to recognize personal achievement in harmony with the established aims of La Salle College and is conferred each year on an individual who has made “most noteworthy contributions to the advancement of humanitarian principles in keeping with the Christian tradition.”

Chairperson of this year’s Selection Committee was Marianne Salmon Gauss, ’75. The Committee’s choice was endorsed by the Alumni Board of Directors.

The medal will be presented at the annual Alumni Awards dinner in the College Union Ballroom at 7:00 p.m. on Friday evening, November 18.

Membership in the Alpha Epsilon Alumni Society will be conferred on selected members of the Class of 1978 at the dinner, also.

Tickets for the dinner are $10.00 per person and may be purchased at the Alumni Office. Mail requests (accompanied by check payable: La Salle College) should be received by the Alumni Office by November 11.
Significant numerical strength, an exciting nucleus of young yet seasoned talent, and explosive offensive potential foreshadow a successful 1977-78 campaign for the La Salle College basketball team.

Paul Westhead, entering his eighth season at the helm of the Explorers, will have ten returning lettermen from last year's youthful 17-12 squad which finished second in the ECC playoffs, including eight players who started at various points of the '76-77 season.

"Our emphasis and our strength will almost certainly lie in our numbers," says Westhead. "We have a cluster of players who are able to perform at different positions, which offers us a great amount of flexibility and maneuverability.

"We are going to break from the usual pattern of having one center, two forwards, and two guards. Our players are going to assume multiple roles. We have people who at various different times will be playing forward and center, forward and guard, and in some cases maybe even combinations of all three.

"This is going to require a diverse sharing of roles and responsibilities, and it means that a player is going to be one of five men on the court, but that he won't be strictly a forward, strictly a center, or strictly a guard."

No matter where he plays, 6'7" sophomore Michael Brooks, who burst into national prominence a year ago with a scoring record for first year players with 579 points (19.9 ppg.) and led the Big Five in rebounding with 10.7 caroms per game, is perhaps the best outside shooter in the club, and 6'7" freshman Stan Williams, a quick, inside power player, with great rebounding talents.

In the backcourt Westhead can draw from a total of five players who started at one time or another last year plus one freshman prospect.

After a musical chairs rotation of starting guards which lasted most of the 1976-77 season, Westhead finally found a combination that clicked at the tail end of the year.

6'1" Darryl Gladden and 6'0" Kurt Kanaskie, a pair of sophomores, both started the last five games of the 76-77 campaign, including three crucial ECC playoff games, and proved to be an exciting and effective tandem.

Kanaskie (6.5 ppg.), a scorching perimeter shooter, also lent contagious hustle to the team. His keen defensive anticipation led to a flurry of steals and fast break baskets and his 21 points and glittering all around play keyed La Salle's 86-80 victory over Lafayette in the ECC playoff semifinals.

Gladden (8.2 ppg., 104 assists), who was the team's third guard for most of the year, will again be a key to the entire offense. He is a cunning penetrator with extraordinary court vision and passing ability. His "thread the needle" skills and good shooting touch allow him to complement whoever his partner in the backcourt is.

If 6'0" senior Tony Di Leo (6.8 ppg., 105 assists), who was named first team Academic All American last year, can recover from a season long shooting slump, he will further enhance the backcourt picture. He contributes important on and off the floor leadership, and is an outstanding ballhandler. A return of the shooting form he displayed at Tennessee Tech for two seasons would be a valuable acquisition.

6'0" senior Joe Mihalich (1.2 ppg.), who started 12 games last year, and 6'4" Tony Plakis (3.2 ppg.), who started 11, can each contribute important skills. Mihalich is a steady, control player with good court awareness and is adept at settling the team down when the action

In short, Brooks is a devastating power forward who does nearly everything well.

6'6" senior Jim Wolkiewicz (6.2 ppg., 4.8 rpg.), a workmanlike, hustling forward who started every game last year, will contribute his exceptional defensive skills and devilish offensive rebounding. He is a slick passer and a sneaky offensive player who sometimes lulls defenders to sleep before erupting with scoring bursts.

Another player who will challenge for a starting berth and who may catapult to stardom is 6'5" strongman Reggie Miller (8.6 ppg., 3.9 rpg.). Miller who was La Salle's third leading scorer in a sixth man role last year, may have actually led the Explorers in scoring and rebounding on a per minutes played basis. He demonstrated inside scoring strength last year and is probably the team's best offensive rebounder.

A broken hand early in the season retarded the maturation of 6'7" swingman Mark Spain (1.7 ppg.), who epitomizes Paul Westhead's conception of the multi-purpose player. Spain plays a shrewd perimeter game and parleys razor-sharp passing skills and a deft shooting touch into a smooth overall performance.

Also eager to contribute and likely to see some time in the frontcourt will be 6'7" sophomore Mo Connolly (1.0 ppg.) who saw little action last year but who is perhaps the best outside shooter in the backcourt is.
Plakis is a bruising defensive ace who was usually called upon to shut down the opposition's key backcourt scorer.

A new addition to the backcourt will be 6'2" freshman Kevin Lynam, brother of American University head coach Jimmy Lynam. He is a fundamentally sound overall player whose forte is defense.

The loss of 7'0" center Donn Wilber, (17.3 ppg., 8.8 rpg.) who was La Salle's second leading scorer and rebounder a year ago, will occasion a change in the offensive game plan, and the 1977-78 Explorers will undoubtedly unveil a smoother, more fluid running game with greater frequency.

Westhead appears to have an interesting blend of talent, experience, and depth at his disposal and the overall prognosis indicates La Salle will be a serious contender for both the Big Five and ECC titles in 1977-78.

"I think that we'll definitely be a major factor in both the Big Five and the ECC races this year," says Westhead. "In the ECC particularly I foresee us involved once again in the playoffs right down to the wire."

"I think the entire Big Five has taken a step forward and I don't know if there is one clear cut superior team. I think it will be a real dogfight, as usual, and the only prediction I would make is that no team will go 4-0 in the Big Five."

**BASKETBALL CLUB**

The Basketball Club will host the Big Five Coaches at its annual Coaches Corner on Friday, November 4 at 7:30 p.m. in Hayman Hall. This meeting will feature a preview of each of the five teams by their respective coaches. For reservations, please call the Alumni Office.

The Basketball Club is also sponsoring a trip to the Louisville Holiday Classic from December 27-30. The $179.00 price includes flight, accommodations at Stouffers Inn, transfers and tips. Participating teams in this basketball battle include the University of Georgia, Ohio State, and host school, University of Louisville. Call the Alumni Office for more information.

**NIT DINNER**

On December 3 the EXPLORER CLUB will honor the 1952 N.I.T. Champions at a silver anniversary dinner-dance at the Valley Forge Sheraton in their main ballroom. Tickets are $25.00 per person and include an open bar cocktail hour and a prime rib dinner. Checks may be made payable to the La Salle Explorer Club, Inc. and sent to the Club treasurer, Mr. Jim Flavin, 57 Berkley Avenue, Lansdowne, Pa. 19050.

**CONBOY TO RETIRE AS ATHLETIC DIRECTOR**

John J. (Jack) Conboy has announced his retirement as athletic director, effective December 31, 1977.

"I've accomplished the goals which were outlined to me by the administration when I was hired," said Conboy. "We've been fortunate in restoring stability to the men's basketball program. We've successfully made the transition to our first all purpose athletic facility, Hayman Hall. Our women's program has gotten off the ground very well and I think our entire athletic program has been able to make maximum use of a limited budget.

"I've enjoyed my ten years at La Salle and I'll cherish many of the relationships and friendships I've developed during that time."

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Conboy, 53, was named athletic director on January 3, 1969, replacing James J. Henry, who had served as athletic director for 35 years. He had joined the athletic staff as assistant athletic director in November, 1968.

Hayman Hall, the multi-purpose athletic and recreation facility, opened in September, 1972 under Conboy's auspices. La Salle also launched a flourishing women's athletic program in 1972 which is now comprised of eight varsity teams and four intramural sports.

Conboy is currently the president of the East Coast Conference, chairman of the Big Five athletic directors, and is a member of the NCAA Division One Basketball Committee.

"During the decade of Jack Conboy's service as La Salle's athletic director," said President Brother Patrick Ellis, F.S.C., Ph.D., "there have been many positive changes, particularly in participatory sports, as the college has grown into full use of a new physical recreation facility and added a complete roster of varsity and intramural sports for women.

"Through all of these circumstances, Jack Conboy has stayed in tune with La Salle's priorities and has related well with regional and national associations."

A 1950 graduate of the College, Conboy retired from the U.S. Army after twenty years service with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He is a veteran of three wars (World War II, Korea, and Vietnam) and served on the College's ROTC staff from 1960 to 1964.

Bill Magarity, '43, President of Magarity Chevrolet, Flourtown, Pa., presents keys to auto the agency has provided for Coach Westhead's use.
Strike up the band — on Wednesday, December 7th it’s La Salle College Night at the Palestra! Bring your family to watch action-packed men’s and women’s basketball, featuring two of the East’s powerhouses. At 6:30 p.m. La Salle’s women’s team will start the evening off by facing Cheyney State, then at 8:30, Paul Westhead’s Explorers will challenge Jack Kraft’s Rhode Island Rams in a special TWO FOR ONE OFFER. Buy your tickets in advance, and get two $3.50 adult seats for the price of one, and all student tickets for $1.50 each (tickets on the day of the game at the Palestra will be $3.50 each for adults and $2.00 each for students).

Ken Durrett’s number 33 will be officially retired that evening.

Free Explorer bumper stickers will be distributed to all. Don’t miss the music and entertainment by the Overbrook String Band and the new La Salle Explorer Jazz Band. For tickets to this College night, call the Alumni Office, 951-1535.

LA SALLE COLLEGE
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
20TH STREET AND OLNEY AVENUE
PHILADELPHIA, PA. 19141
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