

2025 FARRAGUT HALL OF FAME INDUCTION

Narrations by Erik Gerhardt/edited by Alan Sloan

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Farragut High School's 13th Annual Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony Saturday night, Feb. 1, in the FHS Commons honored eight former Admirals and Lady Admirals star athletes and one multiple state title-winning coach, while also recognizing the 2025 Service Award honoree. Hall of Fame Class of 2025 inductees, **standing from left**, are Jason Messing (Class of 2002, football, track & field and basketball); Matt Buckner (baseball head coach from 2010 through 2024 seasons); and Nick Senzel (baseball, Class of 2013). Farragut Mayor Ron Williams (standing, far right) represented the Service Award winner, Town of Farragut. **Sitting, from left**, are Adam Priest (baseball, football and track & field, Class of 1991); Wendy Irick Stewart (swimming, Class of 1983); Sue Anne Heins Perry (cross country, track & field and soccer, Class of 1985); Rachel Ingleby Tabor (softball, Class of 2008); and Stuart Thomas (golf, Class of 2013). Unable to attend was Dr. Katie Beuerlein Kemple (soccer and track & field, Class of 2014). ("Class bonding family time" photos below) **beginning top left**: Perry, Tabor and Stewart in a lively discussion. **Below left**: Thomas and Priest, along with Susan Davidson, FHS Hall of Fame coach and Hall Committee member, listen to David Moore, far right, also an FHS Hall of Fame coach and Hall Committee member. **Top right**, Senzel shows his former coach, Buckner, something interesting on the Internet. **Below right**: Messing and his wife, Staci Messing, with their three children: Aaliyah, Miles and Jaden.

Eight athletes, one coach inducted during 13th Annual FHS Sports Hall of Fame Ceremony

What about "the stuff" making up Farragut High School Sports Hall of Fame's Class of 2025?

Its newly inducted members, following the 13th Annual FHS Hall Induction Ceremony in the school's Commons Saturday evening, Feb. 1, feature a current Major League Baseball player, a second-generation Tennessee Vols athlete whose family has earned a Mr.

or Miss Farragut honor four times, a national champion swimmer, a seven-time state champion coach, a college record-setting receiver, a golf individual and team state champion, a record-setting softball pitcher, a uniquely talented two-sport athlete who answers to "doctor" and a former championship distance runner who, almost 40 years after graduating from FHS, could likely

give many teenage distance runners a run for their money.

Adam Priest (Class of 1991), a second generation Knoxville attorney and UT Vols athlete following in the footsteps of his father, Tim Priest, in both regards, spoke briefly on behalf of eight ex-Admirals and ex-Lady Ads and one coach inducted into the Class of 2025.

"On behalf of all of this year's in-

ductees, it's a great honor to be here," Priest said to the gathering.

He was inducted alongside ex-baseball head coach Matt Buckner (2010-2014), Wendy Irick Stewart (1983), Sue Anne Heins Perry (1985), Jason Messing (2002), Rachel Ingleby Tabor (2008), Nick Senzel (2013), Stuart Thomas (2013) and Dr. Katie Beuerlein Kemple (2014). (Details/photos, pages 2C to 4C)



Class bonding, family time



Induction Ceremony and Reception photos by Alan Sloan

Farragut High School archive photos and family photos courtesy of FHS Sports Hall of Fame Committee

13th Service Award Winner is Town of Farragut staff

Farragut High School Sports Hall of Fame's 13th Athletic Service Award was presented to Town of Farragut "for all of its dedicated service to helping support the athletic teams over the years ...," said Erik Gerhardt, annual event emcee and "Voice of the Admirals" in football and basketball.

Bill Parker, former FHS multi-state title-winning track & field and cross country head coach, said, "There were three major instances I recall that we needed monumental assistance. In 1987 upon arrival of the new track, it turned out we were 2 feet short on the asphalt poured.

"Within 24 hours the Town had pulled a crew from road work, supplementing the crew already at the school so that construction could begin," he added. "The year before, the Town matched funds after a major fundraising effort to get the new track built."

In 2020, "The school was closed due to the flu prior to the weekend of our Hall of Fame banquet, so we were in need of a venue for the Friday night reception," Parker said. "Sue Stuhl (then Parks/Rec director) returned my call very quickly, and on short notice the Town allowed us to use (Town Hall) community room."

Retired football head coach Eddie Courtney, joining Parker as FHS Hall of Fame inductees, was quoted as saying, "The Town of Farragut has helped with top-dressing practice fields, hanging banners at the stadium in difficult-to-reach high places, aeration



of grass and delivering multiple large items, such as rolls of turf, field equipment and landscape items."

Softball coach Nick Green said, "The Town of Farragut has helped pick up and transport field materials like sand and gravel (and) aerated and top dressed the field in the summer."

"The relationship and partnership is great and continues to benefit the school immensely," athletic director Donald Dodgen said about Town of Farragut and FHS.

Former Town of Farragut Public Works director Bud McKelvey, center, and Mayor Ron Williams, right, accepted the Town's 2025 FHS Hall of Fame Service Award from Donald Dodgen, athletic director/Hall Committee member.

Inductees profiles, archive photos: H of F Class of 2025

Wendy Irick Stewart swimming, Class of 1983



Wendy Irick Stewart, left, (swimming, Class of 1983), is introduced by Betsy Baymiller Jones, an athlete Hall of Famer and Hall Committee member.



One of the nation's top teenage swimmers in the early 1980s, Wendy Irick Stewart (Class of 1983) ranks among the most outstanding all-time swimmers both at Farragut and at Southern Illinois University.

A two-time national champ after winning the 200-yard backstroke in 1982 and 1983, Stewart, as a freshman in 1980, earned third and fourth-place finishes at the YMCA National Championships in the 400-yard Individual Medley, 100-backstroke and 200-IM.

As a freshman, Stewart claimed state titles in the 200-IM and 100-freestyle. As a junior, she brought home gold in the 200-IM and 100-backstroke — then won those same events as a senior, earning recognition as a National Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association All-American.

At the Olympic Trials in 1984, Wendy competed in the 400-IM — and in 1986 and 1987 she participated in trials for the World Games, World Championships and Goodwill Games. At SIU, Stewart earned All-American honors all four years (1984-1987).

Adam Priest

baseball, football, track, 1991



Adam Priest, left, (baseball, football and track, 1991) is introduced by Ben Lyle, highly regarded former FHS football offensive coach and Hall Committee member.



Three-sport FHS standout Adam Priest (Class of 1991) was a three-year letterman for the football Ads at running back, wide receiver and defensive back, earning All-District and All-KFL recognitions.

His sophomore and junior seasons, Priest helped Farragut win back-to-back district championships and playoff victories in 1988 and 1989. As a senior during the 1990 season, he set school records for the longest pass reception (94 yards) and for receptions (37), which still stand for running backs at FHS.

As a freshman in track, Priest was a district champ and region runner-up in the 4-by-100-meter relay.

In the following years, his speed was put to good use on the baseball diamond, earning All-district honors his junior and senior seasons (center fielder), going on to play for the Tennessee Vols.

During his junior season, Priest led Farragut with a .471 batting average. A Second Team All-state honoree as a senior, his team-best average climbed to .484 — and was never retired on strikes the entire season.

Matt Buckner

baseball head coach, 2010-2024



Matt Buckner, right (former baseball head coach), is introduced by Donald Dodgen, fellow Hall of Famer, FHS athletic director and Hall committee member.



Matt Buckner ranks among the winningest coaches in state high school sports history. With seven baseball state titles and two state runner-up finishes in just 14 full seasons (12 state trips) as FHS head coach (2010-2014), Buckner "has a great work ethic and is a great competitor," his mentor, former Ads skipper Tommy Pharr, said. "... He has a love for the game and a love for his players that allowed him to achieve great success. I am proud to have coached him, to have coached with him and to call him my brother."

With 699 career wins (starting as Bearden head coach from 2004 through 2009), Buckner returned to Farragut (where he coached under Pharr) as the Admirals new skipper in 2010 (522-114 record at FHS).

Named State Coach of the Year on seven occasions, Buckner twice has been recognized as American Baseball Coaches Association National Region 4 Coach of the Year. He also was named the TSSAA's A.F. Bridges Male Coach of the Year in 2019 (recognizes coaches and their programs for sportsmanship).



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Jason Messing football, track, basketball, 2002



Jason Messing, center, (football, track and basketball, 2002) is introduced by Hall of Fame Committee members Kellie Ivens (Hall of Famer) and Ben Lyle.



Among his FHS athletic accomplishments, Jason Messing (Class of 2002) is remembered for key interceptions as a star cornerback — and a lot more.

Also a standout kick returner, receiver and running back, Messing earned All-Region honors as a senior, leading the Admirals in interceptions and kickoff returns — averaging just under 28 yards on his 20 kick-off opportunities, 556 yards overall, which still stands as the highest single season total in program history.

His offensive coach at Farragut, Ben Lyle, remembered Messing as both an outstanding athlete and an outstanding young man. “Jason was gifted,” Lyle said, “able to pick up on things quickly. He could do just about anything asked of him — and do it well.”

A versatile track athlete, Messing competed in sprints, relays, hurdles, triple jump, long jump and decathlon — winning the triple jump as a senior at the William Blount Invitational.

In college, Messing went on break a few football receiving records at North Alabama University.

Rachel Ingleby Tabor softball, Class of 2008



Rachel Ingleby Tabor (softball, Class of 2008) is introduced by Hall of Fame coach David Moore, Hall Committee member.

Freshmen, defense, pitching all combine to lift FHS softball

ALAN SLOAN
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Kori Meade's diving catch in ground got the game started right for the Farragut Lady Admirals, while pitching and by hitting did the rest.

Her season opener at FHS's my Field, Farragut blanked a 5-0 Monday, March 10, in a complete-game five-hit effort from FHS pitching staff Rachel Ingleby.

Senior recorded eight hits without a walk or hit.

el pitched solid FHS head coach David id. "I don't know if she such command of her she would like.

Sophomore first baseman Stephanie Harris belted a single for Farragut while scoring three runs — the first on a nifty back-door slide in the first inning despite the throw home arriving well before Harris.

"She scored all the way from first, we had her going on the pitch," Moore said. "Steph's got good speed, and she's a good baserunner."

A pair of Lady Admirals playing in their first-ever high school varsity game provided 60 percent of the FHS hit production.

Freshman designated hitter Megan Harris punched out two hits, one providing an RBI. "She's been hot in the scrimmages, we've got to get her bat in the line-up," Moore said.

(Above) Stephanie Harris, Farragut sophomore first baseman slides around the catcher's leg against Kari. (Below) Rachel Ingleby, FHS pitching staff ace, has a look of determination she faces pitcher against the Lady Beavers.

Rachel Ingleby Tabor, Class of 2008, ranks among the top pitchers in Farragut softball history.

A letterman each of her four seasons, Tabor was the Lady Admirals' Rookie of the Year as a freshman, posting a 6-0 record with an earned run average under 2, while offensively leading the team in triples.

As a sophomore, Tabor led her team in doubles and was second in RBI production. As Farragut's No. 2 pitcher, she sported a 0.75 earned-run average.

Taking over as the No. 1 pitcher as a junior, Tabor fired 14 shutouts, second most for a single season in school history, among her 24 wins. In more than 198 innings she struck out 234 batters (1.16 ERA), posted five no-hitters and also enjoyed her strongest year at the plate, batting .363 with nine doubles and 25 RBI.

Tabor was recognized as All-State while also being named District 4-AAA Player of the Year.

As a senior, Tabor pitched Farragut to the Class AAA State tourney with 27 wins — third most in FHS history — 11 shutouts and two no-hitters (1.24 ERA).

Sue Anne Heins Perry cross country, track, soccer, 1985



Sue Anne Heins Perry (cross country, track & field and soccer, Class of 1985) is introduced by coaching Hall of Famer Bill Parker, a Hall Committee member.



Sue Anne Heins Perry, Class of 1985, was a four-year distance run letter winner in track & field, and was instrumental in a remarkable run for girls cross-country, which finished state runner-up in 1982 before winning back-to-back state titles — a first for the Lady Admirals program — in 1983 and 1984.

As a cross country senior, “Sue Anne had the race of her life” at the state meet, then head coach Bill Parker said, “finishing fourth (18 minutes, 17 seconds) — a personal best.” Despite health challenges during her senior season, Perry had top-10 finishes in nine of the 10 meets in which she competed, including third place in the KIL and fourth in region.

In the spring of her junior year in 1984, Perry helped the Lady Admirals track and field team to a fourth place state meet finish as a leg on the 3,200-meter state champion relay foursome (9:29.6).

As a senior in 1985, Perry was part of the state runner-up 3,200 relay, with her Lady Admirals bringing home the state runner-up team trophy.

Those who make Hall of Fame happen; memoriam



(Far left) Erik Gerhardt, “Voice of the Admirals” as Farragut High School football and basketball play-by-play voice on WFIV-FM 105.3, has been emcee of FHS Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony since its inception in 2013. (Left) A tribute to the late Lynn Sexton, FHS Hall of Fame boys basketball head coach for 30 years — with an open Hall of Fame Committee seat, photo and “Reserved” name plaque left in his honor — and his wife, the late Pat Sexton. A Memorial Tribute was read for the Sextons and for the late Neil Clabo, former FHS employee and ex-Admirals football star who played for the UT Vols and punted for the Minnesota Vikings in Super Bowl XI. (Below left) Committee members, from left, are Hall of Fame coaches David Moore and Donald Dodgen (FHS AD), Betsy Baymiller Jones (Hall of Fame athlete) and Hall of Fame coach Bill Parker. (Below right) Committee members that include Hall of Fame coaches are, from left, are Ben Lyle, Kellie Ivens, Susan Davidson and Natalie L. Sisk. Not pictured: Committee member Ben Collins.



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Nick Senzel
baseball, Class of 2013



Nick Senzel (baseball, Class of 2013) is introduced by Hall of Fame coach Kellie Ivens, a Hall Committee member.

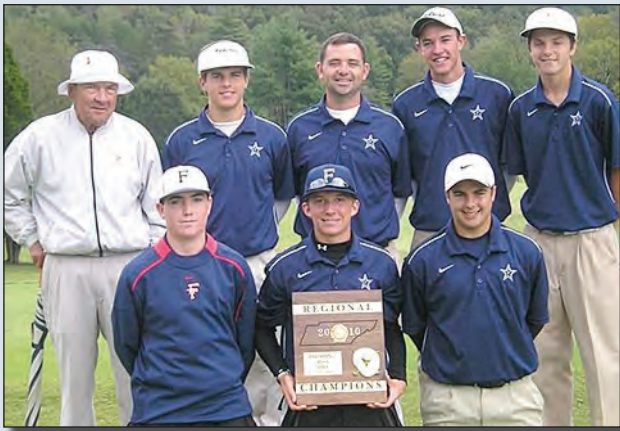


Nick Senzel, Class of 2013, progressed from his glory prep days as a state champion at Farragut to an All-American college career at Tennessee — then to his “Field of Dreams” as a Major League Baseball starter, which included being named National League Player of the Week. It all started after he was the second overall pick in the 2016 MLB draft (Cincinnati).
Senzel’s contributions as a freshmen for the 2010 state champs, while primarily playing second base, included batting .360. In the 2011 Class AAA state title game — a 2-0 victory over Columbia Central — the sophomore went 2-of-3 at the plate, helping FHS make still more history with a fourth consecutive state title.
As a junior in 2012, he was selected All-State and All-District 4-AAA while batting .404 with eight home runs and 46 RBI. As a senior helping the Ads to a state runner-up finish, Senzel (now at shortstop) was again All-State and All-District, batting .386 with 14 doubles, four triples, five home runs and 42 RBI.

Stuart Thomas
golf, Class of 2013



Stuart Thomas (golf, Class of 2013) is introduced by Hall of Fame coach Natalie L. Sisk, a Hall Committee member.



Stuart Thomas graduated Farragut in 2013 as the reigning Class AAA individual state golf champion. He was a huge part of four FHS region championship teams, all advancing to the state tournament. The Admirals won the team state title to cap Thomas’ freshman season of 2009. As a sophomore, he earned All-State honors after first taking the district championship. His 10th-place individual finish at state led the Admirals to a third-place team finish. In the summer of 2011, Thomas advanced to the round of 32 at the U.S. Junior Amateur. As a junior in the fall of 2011, Thomas again was chosen All-PrepXtra and All-KIL after finishing Region runner-up and leading Farragut to a fourth place finish at the TSSAA Championships. In the summer of 2012, he had an impressive third-place showing at the Tennessee Junior Amateur. After mulling offers from two SEC schools, Stuart landed at UT-Chattanooga (a three-year letterman).

Dr. Katie Beuerlein Kemple
soccer, track & field, 2014



Accepting for Dr. Katie Beuerlein Kemple (soccer/track, 2014) is her father, Dr. Frank Beuerlein, center, with Hall of Famers Willie Parker and Susan Davidson.



Earning Academic All-American honors as an FHS senior, Dr. Katherine Beuerlein Kemple led her soccer Lady Admirals to a Division I-AAA state runner-up finish in 2011 (final record of 22-1-2) and to the state semifinals in 2012 (23-1-1) and 2013 (19-3-3).
Leading her team in scoring both her junior and senior seasons, Kemple (Class of 2014) twice was name All-South and All-State and was honored as an All-American. As a junior, she was selected the Prep Xtra Girls Soccer Player of the Year and was a Wendy’s High School Heisman state finalist.
In track & field her junior and senior years, Kemple earned All-Region honors — and as a senior was All-State while setting a new school record in the pentathlon, which still stands, with 3,315 points. She also set new school marks for the 100-meter hurdles and 300-hurdles.
Kemple went on to become a two-sport standout at Wofford College (South Carolina).

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