

Waconia High School Hall of Fame – Class of 2011

Class of 2011: Joe Hedin, Lisa Jacobson-Dinger, Orle Lentz, and Jim Thulien

Joe Hedin, 1997 WHS grad

Joe Hedin is remembered most as a phenomenal basketball player from the mid-nineties, when Waconia's team celebrated three consecutive conference championships. A three year high school starter, Joe was named 3 times to the WCC All Conference Selection with career points totally 1,138 and 327 steals. He received All-State; All-Metro honors his senior year. Best recognized for his speed, he was encouraged to join the track and field team his senior year. He was part of the 4x4 relay, which set a new Section record, and placed 7th at the State High School Track Tournament in 1997.

After graduation, he went on to play basketball at North Dakota State University on a full basketball scholarship. There he was a 4 year starter and named Defensive Player of the Year his senior year.

He graduated with a business degree from North Dakota State University. Joe worked for Microsoft and also Wells Fargo then decided to chance careers, went back to school, and is presently employed as Deputy Sheriff of West Fargo, North Dakota.

Lisa Jacobson-Dinger 1982 WHS grad

One of Waconia's elite female athletes from the 1980's, Lisa Jacobson was a letter winner in **four** sports during her high school career at Waconia: a 2 year letter winner in track; 3 softball; 3 volleyball; 3 basketball. She was a member of the early 1980's state volleyball team that captured the conference, district, and region titles in 1981. Lisa was named All Conference in volleyball her senior year.

Jacobson was All-Conference in basketball her junior year, and a senior starter on the 1981 conference championship basketball team her senior year.

A true student athlete, she was a member of the National Honor Society and also the Waconia VFW's Senior Sportsmanship Award recipient.

Lisa is a South Dakota State University graduate who served as Vice President of South Dakota State University Athletic Trainers' Association in 1986.

Orle Lentz -- 1941 WHS Grad

Orle Lentz has the distinction of playing on Waconia High School's first football team, as a freshman, in 1937. He was a premier high school athlete having earned many football, basketball, baseball, and track awards, not only at Waconia, but at the Conference, District and Region levels. He was heavily recruited to play football, basketball, and track at the college level.

Orle served with the U.S. Army in Italy and North Africa, from August, 1942 through January, 1946. He is a decorated World War II Veteran who received 3 overseas service bars, good conduct medal, and the Meritorious Unit Award. Orle currently resides in Waconia and is an active member of the Waconia Veterans of Foreign Wars and Waconia American Legion.

James Thulien Band Director -Taught in Dist. from 1972-1986

James Thulien transformed the instrumental music program from a struggling curriculum to a premier band program during his 14 years as a music educator in District #110. The WHS Marching Band, this under his direction, became an award winning street marching band and field show competition band. He directed the Marching Band from the summer 1971 to the summer of 1985. Because of his success the band, by invitation, started traveling across the USA to festivals: Bicentennial celebrations in Philadelphia and New York City, the Fiesta Bowl, and locally at Vikings half-time shows at the Metropolitan Stadium and the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome.

Director Thulien created the ***Flags Over Minnesota Band Festival*** (now Lake Waconia Band Festival) a premier festival that brings top quality marching bands to Waconia from all over the Midwest.