

Alfred University to welcome four into Sports Hall of Fame

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ALFRED Four former student-athletes were inducted into the Alfred University Sports Hall of Fame Saturday, Oct. 2. Timothy Callahan '82, Annie Boucher '92, Mike Johnson, '93 and Brian Johnson '94 were inducted during banquet ceremonies on the AU campus. Callahan was a standout linebacker on the AU football team from 1978-81. He was a member of the nationally-ranked Saxon defense that allowed a mere 8.2 points per game in 1981, when Alfred went 10-1 and played in the NCAA Division III championship tournament. Callahan had 122 tackles that season and totaled more than 200 for his career. He recalled the immense support his team received from the University and Alfred community, especially during the 1981 season. "For such a small school, we packed the house with fans," he said. "Even when we went on the road, our crowds intimidated the other teams." Callahan spoke of the Saxons' defense with pride, and was quick to credit his teammates. "We had so many great players. Our defense, I think, was the top defense in the country." Callahan earned a bachelor's degree in ceramics engineering from Alfred in 1982 and an MBA from the University of Rochester in 1992. He is a group product director at Welch Allyn, Inc. in Skaneateles, a leading global manufacturer of frontline medical products and solutions. Callahan lives in Skaneateles with his wife, Melanie, and his children Cassidy (17), Rory (11) and Patrick (4). Boucher was a star on the women's tennis team in the early 1990s. Her accomplishments are remarkable in that she enrolled at Alfred in 1990 as a 49-year-old grandmother. Boucher dominated her opponents her senior year, logging a 9-1 record in first singles and leading AU to its first-ever unbeaten season. "This is truly a humbling experience for me," said Boucher. "I'm ecstatic to have been chosen to receive this distinguished award." Boucher graduated from Alfred in 1992 with a bachelor's degree in psychology. She lives in Jamaica, NY, with her companion, Chet Turnquest. She has a daughter, Sandra Nkrumah and a grandson, Haki Nkrumah. Her grandson is a freshman at Alfred and a member of the AU men's tennis team. Mike Johnson is one of the best defenders ever to wear a Saxon men's lacrosse uniform. After transferring to AU from Washington (MD) College, he earned All-American honors twice as a member of the Saxons: honorable mention in 1992 and Third Team in 1993. In 1993, his senior year at AU, he scored 13 goals, an incredible number for a defenseman. Johnson was an integral part of the Saxon teams that played in the NCAA championship tournaments in 1992 and 1993. "I'm thrilled to accept this honor. When I got the call that I was chosen (for the hall of Fame) I was shocked," Johnson said. He spoke with fondness of the time he spent playing lacrosse at AU, and urged the student-athletes in attendance at the banquet enjoy their time playing collegiate sports. "Cherish the time you spend here. You have those two or three hours out on the field, without cares and worries. They're some of the best days I'll remember," he said. Johnson received a bachelor's degree in history from AU in 1993. A native of Waterloo, Johnson is single and lives in Manhattan. He is a senior project manager with the National Development Council. Brian Johnson (no relation to Mike) played two seasons on the men's lacrosse team (1992-93) after transferring to AU from Washington College prior to the 1992 season. He was a two-time All-American attackman (honorable mention in 1992; Second Team in 1993). Despite playing in a Saxon uniform only two seasons, he ranks third on AU career lists for assists and points. "I'm honored to be here," said Johnson. "Alfred has done so much for me. I've been able to use my experiences here throughout my career." A native of Baldwinsville, NY, Johnson earned a bachelor's degree in history from AU in 1994. He is the Northeast key account manager for Brine, Inc., in Milford, MA. Brine is the world's leading manufacturer of lacrosse, field hockey and soccer equipment. He lives in Northbridge, MA, with his wife, Catherine, and four children: son Jacob, twins Tyler and Hannah, and Leo. During the banquet, the University presented a special award of recognition to Dr. William LaCourse, professor of glass science, for his volunteer service to the AU Athletic Department. LaCourse is a former volunteer assistant coach for the women's basketball team and for years has been the public address announcer for football and basketball games.