

## **Athletic Director Paul Vecchio set for induction into Olean High School Sports Hall of Fame**

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Paul Vecchio

OLEAN, NY – Alfred University Athletic Director Paul Vecchio will be inducted into the Olean High School Sports Hall of Fame Saturday morning, June 15.

Vecchio, who has been athletics director at Alfred University since 2012, is being honored for a nearly three-decade career in collegiate athletic administration. The Olean High School Sports Hall of Fame induction ceremony is at 9 a.m. Saturday at the high school.

After earning a bachelor's degree in communications from Brockport State College in 1990, Vecchio worked as assistant sports editor at the Tiffin (OH) Advertiser-Tribune for a year and as a staff reporter and sports writer for the Olean Times Herald for a year before serving as sports information director at Alfred University from 1992-95.

In 1995, Vecchio was appointed SID at University at Buffalo and in 2001 he was promoted to assistant athletic director for Communications/Radio and Television. In 2006 he was promoted to senior associate athletic director for Communications and Sports Administration at UB, a position he held until 2012, when he returned to Alfred University as athletic director.

Under Vecchio's leadership, the Alfred University athletic programs have seen marked improvement and the standards for academic performance among the University's more than 450 student-athletes have been raised.

Two AU teams – the 2015 softball team and the 2016 football team – advanced deep into their respective NCAA championship tournaments: the softball team made it to the College World Series in Salem, VA, and the football team posted an unbeaten regular season and advanced to the national quarterfinals.

In 2018-19, 14 men's and women's teams competed in their respective Empire 8 Conference championships – a school record for a single year – with men's basketball winning a conference crown and advancing to the second round of the NCAA Division III championship tournament. Two teams – football and women's soccer – qualified for Eastern College Athletic Conference postseason competition, with the football team winning an ECAC bowl game title.

Off the field, student-athletes have achieved new marks of excellence in the classroom – regularly achieving a department-wide cumulative GPA of at least 3.00 – as well as in service to the local community.

Vecchio was a member of the varsity golf team at Olean High School before graduating in 1984. He earned a master's in educational leadership and policy from the University at Buffalo in 2011 and also completed the executive educational program offered by the UB Sports Management Institute in 2008.