

**Wheeler High
School:**

**Celebrating over 50
years of Academic
and Athletic
Excellence**



***A Collaborative Community
for STUDENT SUCCESS***



**Wheeler High School
Athletic Hall of Fame**

2022-2023 Induction Ceremony

Wheeler High School Cafeteria

Saturday, January 28, 2023

10:00 a.m.

2022-2023 Induction Ceremony

The Wheeler High School Athletic Hall of Fame Committee:

Mrs. Liz Bouis, *Ex Officio* Member
Ms. Brittny Jones Wheeler Athletic Director
Mr. D. A. Layne
Coach Jim Mau, *Ex Officio* Member
Rev. Tim McDaniel
Coach David McDonald, *Ex Officio* Member
Dr. Lynn Murray
Mrs. Margarita Cabrera Nickell
Coach Terry Poor
Coach Cameron Ward

*The success of the Wheeler Hall of Fame program
relies solely on your generous donations. Please
consider supporting its continued tradition of
excellence. Make checks payable to WHS Athletic
Booster Club and designate your tax deductible
donation to the "Hall of Fame."*

*375 Holt Road, Marietta, GA 30068
or use the QR code below.*



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Social Time and Breakfast

Master of Ceremonies.....Ms. Brittny Jones
Wheeler HS Assistant Principal & Athletic Director

Welcome.....Mr. Paul Gillihan, Wheeler HS Principal

Invocation.....Rev. Tim McDaniel

Recognition of Current Hall of Fame Members.....
Ms. Brittny Jones

Introduction of Inductees.....Ms. Brittny Jones

2022-2023 Inductees:

Mr. Kenny Bellah

Introduced by Tain Kell

Mr. Foster Joiner

Introduced by Tim McDaniel

Mr. Evan Mitchell

Introduced by David McDonald

Ms. Katie Kochman Welsch

Introduced by Jeff Rosen

Closing.....Ms. Brittny Jones

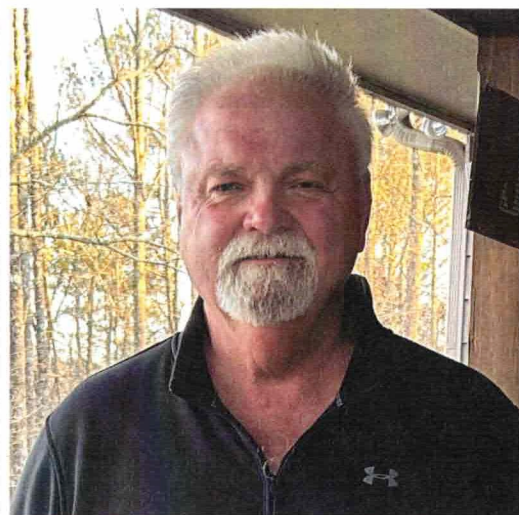
2022-2023 Inductee Accomplishments

Kenneth M. Bellah (1973-1976)

Kenny came to Wheeler as a 10th grader in the Fall of 1973, and he immediately established himself as a starting Linebacker and an integral member of a very strong Wheeler football program coached by Corky Kell. Kenny was a three-year starter on Wheeler teams that compiled 34 wins and only 3 losses during that three-year period, with one of those losses being in the 1973 State Championship game and the second in the 1974 State Semi-Final game.

During Kenny's three-year tenure at Wheeler, he was twice named to both the *Atlanta Journal Constitution* and *Marietta Daily Journal's* all Cobb County teams. When the *Atlanta Journal Constitution* began its program of naming football teams of the decades, Kenny was named to the Team of the 1970's and was selected as the Defensive Player of the Decade. Kenny's football skills were recognized with a scholarship to Western Carolina University.

Kenny and his wife Debbie, also a Wheeler graduate, currently reside in Dawsonville, Georgia.



Foster Joiner III (1978 - 1981)

Foster's family moved from Macon to Marietta and Foster began attending Wheeler High School at the start of his Sophomore year. It was while Foster was a student at Wheeler that his love for his school began.

Coach Corky Kell had just handed the football program over to Coach Jimmy Austin, and Foster was at every football game. Our Girls Basketball team had a rising star and future All-American, Kate Brandt, and Foster soon became a

huge Wheeler Girls Basketball fan. All throughout high school, Foster was supportive of all of the athletic teams at Wheeler, but it wasn't until Foster graduated from Wheeler that his "legend status" developed.



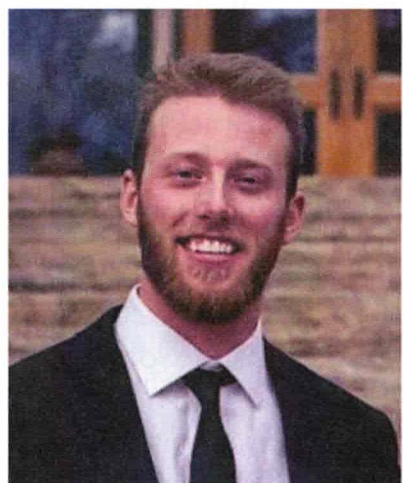
After graduating from Wheeler in 1981, Foster attended West Georgia College for one year and then transferred to Kennesaw College in 1982. Moving back home allowed Foster to be able to continue his support of all the Wheeler Sports. Initially, Foster was known to be found at all the football games, and most of the softball, basketball and baseball games, as his work schedule allowed him. He was a big supporter of the 1983 & 1984 Softball State Championship teams. Through the years, Foster also became a big supporter of the Boys and Girls Soccer teams.

For over 40 years, Foster was a loyal, die-hard fan of Wheeler Athletics. Foster attended, conservatively, between 1,000 - 1,500 Wheeler sporting events in his lifetime. He was known by the coaches and players, alike. Foster would engage with coaches and players after their games to give his own analysis of how the game went. His passion was evident to all that he engaged with. Foster was known to engage with fans before, during and after the games to share his knowledge of the team and its players. Foster was a legend of Wheeler High School.

Foster passed away on January 28, 2022. A scholarship has been started in his memory for a Wheeler High School student that displays school spirit and loyalty to Wheeler Athletics.

Evan R. Mitchell (2006-2010)

During his tenure at Wheeler Evan lettered in basketball twice, and he was also a member of FCA, the Leadership Club,



and FBLA. It was for baseball, however, that he distinguished himself the greatest. He lettered all four years, and during his sophomore year Evan was named Outstanding Pitcher and Most Improved Player, he was named MVP for his Junior season, and during his Senior Season he was named Best Defensive Player. He was also chosen for the All-Region Team for three years.

Upon graduation he won a scholarship to Mississippi State University and earned a B.A. in business finance. His pitching career at MSU was also decorated. He was a member of the SEC Academic Honor Roll in 2012, and he was a member of the 2011 NCAA All-Tournament Team. During his career he played the role of a starter, as well as a long relief pitcher, and he pitched in the College World Series in Omaha in June of 2013. Evan was signed by the Cincinnati Reds, for whom he played at different levels for four years. In 2015 he was chosen to play in the All-Star Florida State League, and he played for Cincinnati in 2017. His professional career spanned seven years.

Evan currently resides in Atlanta. He retired from baseball professionally at the end of 2020 and started working as an Account Manager at AthenaHealth, a healthcare technology company, where he just celebrated his 3 year anniversary. His hobbies include baseball, basketball, hiking and biking.

Katie Kochman Welsch (1996-2000)

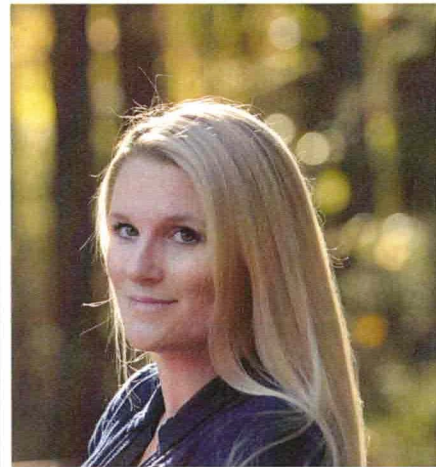
Katie Kochman Welsch began her swimming career at the age of 4 in Louisiana. She and her family moved to Marietta when she was 6, and Katie continued swimming. She broke a national age group record in her 9/10 year old competitions, and it took eleven years before her record was broken nationally - but it still stands in Georgia. During this time, she was a Junior Nationals Qualifier.

Katie joined the Wheeler High School swim team in the 1996-97 school year—a team she would captain her senior year. While at WHS, Katie was a member of Beta Club, National Honor Society, and Latin Club, and she was the *Marietta Daily Journal's* Swimmer of the Year in 2000, as well

Katie Kochman Welsch (continued)

as the Cobb Swim Coaches Association's Swimmer of the Year. She said her most meaningful award was winning WHS's Matt Lee Award, since she grew up swimming with Matt.

Katie parlayed her success at Wheeler into a swimming scholarship at East Carolina University where she went on to break the freshman 100-yard butterfly record and serve as team captain. She was named Outstanding Rookie of the Year her Freshman Year, and she was the Iron Pirate Award recipient. As in high school, Katie was a member of a number of academic honor rolls and honor societies.

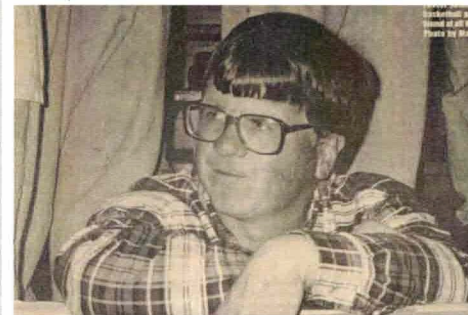


Katie married fellow Wheeler High graduate and swimmer Tim Welsch. She now cheers for her 9-year-old son Griffin, who last year swam to state summer league swimming titles, and she watches 6-year-old son Bode excel in baseball. *And on it goes!*

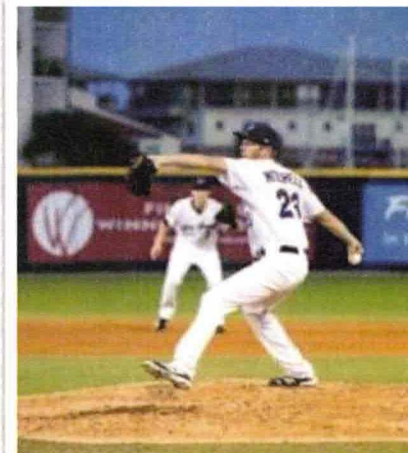


**Kenny Bellah
#42 playing for
the Wildcats!**

**Katie Kochman Welsch
swims...and wins...for
Wheeler!**



**Foster Joiner intently
watches his beloved
Wildcats play a basketball
game.**



**Evan Mitchell
delivers
another strike!**