

GOSHEN GRIDIRON NEWS

Goshen Football Alumni

May 2024

REMEMBERING STEVE SWIHART

Steve Swihart, a mainstay in the Goshen football program for over four decades, passed away on November 9, 2023. 'Swi' (as he was known to most) had a huge impact on the Goshen football program as a player, coach, father, and supporter. He was a Tri-captain, Co-MVP, and 2-way All-State lineman for the 1978 State Championship team. Later, he was an assistant coach for both the 1988 State Champions and 1999 State Runners-up.

He has the distinction of being the only person to have both played and coached on a Goshen football team to win a State Championship. He also was a founding member of the Goshen Gridiron Club, Inc., and he ran the annual golf outing since its inception. Steve was a teacher in the Goshen school system for over 30 years.

Through teaching and coaching he forged lasting relationships with the students, players, and fellow coaches. Coach Ken Mirer was his high school football coach and said "Steve has been a main figure in the Goshen community, especially the GHS football program at all levels. As an all-state player, Co-captain of the 1978 State Championship team, Assistant Coach on the 1988 State Championship team and more recently the President of the Goshen Gridiron Club. Swi will be sorely missed by all of us." Steve later coached with Brad Park. Coach Park said, "Steve had a strong passion for teaching the game and working with the young players on the team. Steve was my defensive coordinator. I could always count on him to be prepared. He went above and beyond for our players. He would write personal notes to many players when they needed a little motivation. Steve helped in coaching my sons and I always appreciated that of him. It has been quite a shock of Steve's passing, but his memories will always live on. He had an impact on a lot of young men's lives." Erik Wolfe played for Steve and said "he helped me make it through middle school behaviorally and as a student. Then he pushed me to be the best football player I could possibly be in high school. I never wanted to let him down. I remember how much he paid attention to the details. He was always prepared. It was also special to coach with him for 2 years. He will be greatly missed."



Steve had a passion for Goshen football, but the relationships with his players and the coaches are what fueled that passion. We are fortunate to have had him as a leader in this program and appreciate his contributions to Goshen football. As many have said, Swi was something else and his legacy will endure.

WELCOME COACH HECKLINSKI

Earlier this year, Joey Hecklinski was hired as the new head football coach at GHS. Coach Hecklinski comes to Goshen with a 10 year coaching resume including stops at Manchester, Marian, Butler, and most recently Ball State. As a player, Coach Hecklinski is a graduate of South Bend St. Joseph High School and Marian University, playing QB on both squads. He led St. Joe to a state title appearance and Marian to an NAIA Championship. The Goshen Gridiron Club offers our warmest welcome to Coach Hecklinski and his family. We look forward to working together to preserve and further the legacy of Goshen Football.

FROM THE SIDELINE

COACH JOEY HECKLINSKI

To the Goshen Gridiron Club:

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as the Head Football Coach at Goshen High School. Through these first few months of getting acquainted with the people that make up our program and our community, my family and I have been amazed at the support and kindness that we have been shown. It has been a great learning experience for the players and myself as we get to know each other and work this off season to bring Goshen Football back to where it should be. One of the things that I have stressed to the players through off season workouts is that "There is no substitute for hard work" and that "You get what you work for, not what you wish for!" Our players are working their butts off right now in the off-season. We are working to build tough, smart, dependable football players! As we continue to finalize the staff and work towards the 2024 season, we are going to have players and coaches alike who are filled with Redhawk Pride!



Thank you again for welcoming my family and I into the Goshen Football Family and we cannot wait to get to football season!

Sincerely Yours In Football,
Joey Hecklinski

GRIDIRON BOARD

David Swihart - President
Ken Mirer

Travis Elliott - Vice President
Brad Park

Joe Camacho - Secretary/Treasurer
Mike Biller

GRIDIRON GOLF OUTING

The annual Goshen Gridiron Club Golf Outing returns this year on Saturday, July 13th at Maplecrest Country Club. You can sign up via the attached form or on our website goshenfootball.com. We hope to see you there!

11:30 Registration & Lunch 12:45 Program
12:30 Annual Meeting 1:15 Shotgun Start

The annual meeting of the members will take place July 13, 2024 at 12:30 pm immediately before the annual Gridiron Golf Outing. Items discussed at the meeting will be affirmation of the board and a 2023 financial report.

NEW GRIDIRON PAYPAL

The Gridiron Club is now accepting online payments through our new PayPal account. If you use PayPal, you can now pay your annual dues and your golf outing registration from your smartphone or computer. Just scan this QR code for a link to make your payment.



PLEASE REMIT YOUR GRIDIRON DUES

If you're not paying your dues at the golf outing, please include the information below when you send in your \$25 dues for 2024

NAME _____ YEAR GRADUATED _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL _____ PHONE _____

Make checks payable to and mail to: **Goshen Gridiron Club, 130 N. Main St., Goshen, IN 46526**