



## William Spalik Jr.

Year of Induction: **2012**

Year of Graduation: **1999**

William Spalik Jr. is truly an example of a Wildcat through and through. He represents a bloodline of athletes that include his grandfather (Jack Spalik) and uncle (Ed Connelly) who have been welcomed to the Johnson City Athletic Hall of Fame in recent years. He was a three-sport athlete at JCHS; went on to a successful college athletic career, and has returned to his alma mater as a teacher and coach.

Mr. Spalik's athletic exploits at JCHS earned him 10 varsity letters during his playing days—three each in basketball and lacrosse and four in football. He was a leader on the basketball court during his years on the team, and his lacrosse career included an outstanding season in 1999 when he scored 35 goals and had 14 assists. His play earned him an All-Conference selection, a spot in the Exceptional Senior Game, and recognition as the team's MVP. Success on the lacrosse field and basketball court aside, it was on the football field where Billy stood out.

Starting in the fall of 1995, the Wildcat football team was anchored by the presence of Mr. Spalik in the backfield. His accomplishments on the gridiron speak volumes of his ability:

- All-Time Leading Rusher in JC Football history with 3,038 yards
- Team Captain in 1997 and 1998
- All-Conference in 1996 and 1998
- All Metro in 1998
- 2nd Team All-State Running Back in 1998
- Team MVP in 1998
- Offensive MVP in Sectional Final and Regional Final Games in 1998
- Ernie Davis Football Classic Team 1998
- Section IV Football Student-Athlete Representative for Johnson City

Bill's football career continued at SUNY Brockport where he started for three seasons at fullback. He was selected as the team captain in 2002 and awarded the team's "Iron Man" award by his coaches. His senior year team in 2002 won the ECAC and Lambert Cup, and Bill lead the team to its first ever 10 win season.

With his playing days over, Mr. Spalik has returned to Johnson City as a physical education teacher and coach. He has coached in the JC football program for eight years, in the basketball program for eight years, and the lacrosse program for seven years. Mr. Spalik was honored by Section IV with an induction into its Hall of Fame in 2010. He was an ever-present fixture of the JC athletic landscape of the late 90's, and is without question one of the top running backs the Wildcats have ever featured. The Johnson City Athletic Hall of Fame is proud to welcome Mr. William Spalik Jr., JCHS Class of 1999.