



Dr. Robert Lance Holbert

Year of Induction: **2018**

Year of Graduation: **1987**

Comparisons between the game of golf and life are easy to find. Both require concentration, persistence, and follow-through in order to realize any measure of achievement. In golf, as in life, reaching a high level of success is rare and extremely difficult. Robert Lance Holbert, JCHS Class of 1987, is one of those select individuals who can say that he has accomplished both.

Lance earned 5 varsity letters for the Wildcats as a member of the golf team, his first coming in the fall of 1982 as an 8th grader. His contributions at the varsity level paid immediate and ongoing dividends for the Wildcats. His teams were division champions in all five of his varsity seasons from 1982 through 1986. Lance led the Wildcats to a STAC championship as a sophomore in 1984. In his senior season of 1986, the Wildcats finished in 2nd place in the Section IV Class B championships and Lance was part of a team of golfers representing Section IV that was crowned New York State sectional team champions. As impressive as his team accomplishments are, Lance's individual feats were even more noteworthy. He was selected to STAC's All-Division team as a 9th grader in 1983 and to the All-Conference team in three consecutive years from 1984 through 1986. He finished 2nd in the New York State Golf Association Boys' Junior Amateur Championship as a 16 year old in 1985. Lance finished his scholastic career on a high note with a 6th place finish in the NYSPHSAA Golf Championships, earning him a spot on the All-State golf team. Finally, and quite possibly most impressive, is the fact that Lance qualified for the state golf tournament in 4 consecutive seasons from 1984 – 1987. At the time, the only other golfer in New York State who had done the same was PGA golfer and Horseheads native, Joey Sindelar.

After graduating from JCHS in 1987, Lance continued his golf career at the collegiate level at the University of Rochester. As he did as a member of the Wildcats, Lance led his teams to tremendous success. His teams won four consecutive conference championships from 1988 -1991, earning them a qualifying spot in the NCAA Division III Golf Championships each year. The Yellow Jackets accumulated 26 team invitational titles during his 4 years on campus. Individually, Lance was named to the All-Conference team 4 times from 1988 through 1991 and he was named an NCAA Division III All-American in 1990. In 2016, Lance was honored by the University Athletic Association by being named to its 30th Anniversary Golf Team. One final accolade demonstrates Lance's success both on the course and in the classroom as he was recognized by the Golf Coaches Association of America as a NCAA Division III Academic All-American in both 1990 and 1991.

Although his competitive playing days ended upon graduating from the University of Rochester in 1991, Lance's pursuit of excellence in the academic arena was still ongoing. He continued his education at

Syracuse University, earning his Master of Public Administration degree in 1993. From there, Lance attended the University of Wisconsin where he earned a Ph.D in Mass Communication in 2000. He has had a notable career as a professor in the field of communications, and the National Communication Association named him its Teacher of the Year in 2012. Lance is currently a professor at the Klein College of Media and Communications at Temple University, a Distinguished Research Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania, and the Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Communication*.

The Johnson City Athletic Hall of Fame is proud to welcome one of the best golfers to ever play for the Wildcats, and a graduate who has reached tremendous heights both athletically and professionally, Dr. Robert Lance Holbert, JCHS Class of 1987.