



Ed Drimak

Year of Induction: **2021**
Year of Graduation: **1960**

A familiar phrase in the school district is “Once a Wildcat, Always a Wildcat” and Edward Drimak is the living embodiment of that mantra. A Johnson City native and 1960 graduate and valedictorian of his class, Drimak has continued to give back to his alma mater through unwavering support to the district and the athletic program. He has given his time, energy and passion to the Wildcat athletic program over many decades with his maroon and white roots going back to his own high school career and continuing through the years of his family members’ participation in the district’s programs.

In high school, Drimak distinguished himself athletically as well as academically. He was a three-sport athlete participating in football (2 years), volleyball (3 years), and track (2 years). For the Wildcat football team, he played offensive and defensive lines as a tackle. He was a spiker for the volleyball team and threw discus and shot put for track. He demonstrated his leadership as captain of the volleyball (2 years) and track team (1 year). In track, he was the shot put distance record holder which stood for many years. Being part of a winning football team is also a chapter in Drimak’s story. In 1958, the Johnson City football team won the Southern Tier Football Championship. Then in 1959 during the fall of his senior year, he was selected for the Binghamton Sun All Triple Cities Football Team.

Drimak will tell you that his coaches had a significant influence on his life. Coaches George Britton and Joe Ciesielski emphasized to him and his teammates to learn from any mistakes that were made and to not repeat them. They taught Drimak and the others about hard work, humility and perseverance.

Drimak completed his college education at the University of Pennsylvania where he graduated with a degree in electrical engineering in 1964. He returned to his Johnson City roots after he completed his degree and worked for IBM for 30 years, retiring in 1994 as a Senior Technical Staff member. But he also had another very good reason to return to this area besides work. His high school sweetheart, Joanne Harvilla, was waiting to make a life with Drimak. Together they raised three sons (Ed Jr., Jeff, and Chris) who were all great Wildcat scholar-athletes. The Drimaks founded the Johnson City Recreational Wrestling Club in 1983 which taught fundamentals to the youth in our community. The Drimak family found much success in the Johnson City athletic program and all together they earned 30 varsity letters.

Drimak and his wife have been familiar faces at many Wildcat sporting events over the years. But he has been more than a spectator for the past twenty years as he has organized and maintained the chain crew for all JV and Varsity home football games. He has led what he describes as “the best chain crew in the Southern Tier.”

Always proud to be a Wildcat and wear maroon and white, Edward Drimak is rightfully receiving the Johnson City Hall of Fame Committee’s recognition as the 2021 Contributor as he is inducted into the athletic hall of fame.