

Bear Tracks



The Suda East Butler High School Alumni Newsletter

March 2023

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Alumni Events Scheduled for 2023

Golden Bear Dinner and Alumni Picnic Dates are Set!

Plans are being made for our two "Main Events." These events improve and grow each year. 2023 will be no exception.

Golden Bear Dinner – Friday, September 15

This year's Golden Bear Dinner will feature the Class of 1973 and the Class of 1963. This year's celebration will be held at school, in Alumni Hall, on Friday, September 15, 2023. This will be our 10th Golden Bear Induction Dinner. This is a special event that attracts over 300 alumni and faculty each year. It will also be the kickoff of the Class of 1973's reunion weekend.



On this night, teachers and staff associated with the class of 1973 will be inducted into the club. The 50th class reunion will be held the following day at Mike Linnig's. We will also recognize the Class of 1963 as they celebrate their 60th reunion.

This year's induction and celebration will be held on Friday, September 15, at Butler High School. Registration and social hour begin at 5 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m., with the induction following. Typically, the Golden Bear event concludes by 8 p.m., but you are invited to stay and continue visiting and walk through the halls.

The dinner will be catered and those being inducted into the Golden Bear Club will be presented with a unique lapel pin commemorating this occasion. In addition, the Class of 1963 will receive their 60th reunion pin during this event.

Invitations will be sent in July.

Alumni Summer Picnic – Friday, June 23

SEBAA will again sponsor a Bear's Night Out for all Butler alumni and friends on Friday, June 23 at Mike Linnig's. We have the pavilion and North Building reserved for Butler alumni and friends.

This event is special because it attracts over 400 people throughout the afternoon and evening. We will have live music provided by **The Uptown Band**. The Uptown Band plays music primarily from the 50's through 70's. No other Alumni group provides this type of entertainment.

Some classes are already planning to hold mini reunions so come early to claim your tables. Our event begins at 4 p.m. and will continue through 10 p.m. (or later)

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Butler Experiencing Many “Firsts”

It is hard to imagine a school that is 68 years old, still experiencing as many firsts as Suda E. Butler High School is experiencing. Two of these exciting changes have recently been brought to our attention and we thought you would like to know. Many of us wish these changes could have been made years ago.

Butler’s First Wrestling Teams

This year Butler fielded their very first wrestling teams. Teams — as in... two? Yes, Butler fielded a boy and girls’ team. Girl’s wrestling is still a club sport but the KHSAA has sanctioned it to have its own State Championship next year, so Butler will be ready.

Many students and coaches wanted to field a wrestling team in the 60’s and 70’s but we didn’t have the room. During most of that time we had one gym and then the popularity of girl’s athletics made it difficult to create a new varsity sport. Yet, according to the school’s athletic director, Larry Just, “Gym time is still an issue. Both of our teams practiced at Doss High School with their kids but we competed at meets as Butler. We hosted our first wrestling meet on January 28.”



Senior, Taevis Cuff wins this semi-state match to become the first Butler wrestler to qualify for the state championship, 157# division.

He continued with more good news, “In the school’s first year of competition, we had two girls finish in the top eight in the girl’s state meet, and one of our boy competitors had remarkable success. Senior Alexia Mendoza finished 5th and sophomore Kamilah Nana finished 8th at the girl’s meet. Senior, Taevis Cuff competed in the Boy’s Regional Tournament and qualified for the Semi-State. His performance in the Semi-State qualified him for the State Tournament.”

Congratulations to Alexia, Kamilah, Taevis, the teams and coaches!

Baseball Adds Turf Infield

This may be hard to believe but if you played baseball in the late 60’s and early 70’s, you more than likely played on 4 different baseball fields.



New artificial turf on the Milam Perpich Field.

When the big gym was built, the original baseball field had to be moved. For a short time, the infield was in the southeast corner of the school with home plate being near the football field (near the visitors’ concession stand).

Then it was moved to the southwest corner and home plate was in the southwest corner (near the walking path). At this location, the band room was in left field and if a ball was hit onto the band room roof, it was a ground rule double and not a home run.

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We know that it was moved, at least two more times (away from the band room) before it was moved to its current location (home plate near the band room). But now, the school has put artificial turf on the infield making Milan Perpich Field one of the nicest in Jefferson County. This project is being funded by the school and the baseball boosters.

[Courier Journal – Butler Debuts Turf Field](#)



Construction begins on new turf field

Charlie Myers

We don't typically write articles about the passing of one of our members but Charlie Myers merits this call out.

If you ever attended a Golden Bear Dinner or an alumni picnic at Mike Linnig's, chances are you met Charlie Myers. He loved to attend those events and he was a great ambassador for SEBAA.



Charlie was a member of the Class of 1958 and by his own admission, he "could of/should of" done better while attending Butler. He loved to tell about getting out of 6th period, when he was a freshman, and hitchhiking to Valley High School so he could play football (Butler didn't yet have a football team). He also talked about the time he and another student took the brass dedication plaque off the wall, one Sunday afternoon while they were waxing their cars in front of the school. They hid it under a bush in Shively Park. He would add, "We didn't steal it, we were going to put it back the next weekend." Let's just say, the prank didn't go as planned."

Charlie left Butler before graduation and joined the Navy. He had a successful career with General Motors and was a multitasking craftsman. He loved Butler and supported SEBAA since it began, serving on the Board of Directors for several years.

There will be a celebration of life for Charlie on Saturday, March 18 from 2-6 p.m. The location is The Woods at Cedar Springs Event Venue, 383 Cedar Creek Road, Louisville, KY 40229.

Editor's Note: The dedication plaque is now displayed in the Alumni Room at the school. It was not harmed. 😊

Alumni Association Leadership

During the next two months we will be discussing what SEBAA will look like in the future. Our top priorities will be the Golden Bear Dinner, the Summer Picnic, our data base, charitable gaming, membership, communication (website and newsletter) and sustainability. We have some of these areas covered but we need others to help.

Can you help in one of these areas? We already have processes in place. Most of the work can be done from home. Email us if you can help. [Click to find out more information.](#)

[Click to View SEBAA Lifetime Members](#)

**Suda E. Butler High School
Alumni Association**

Website: www.butlerhighalumni.com
Email Address: admin@butlerhighalumni.com

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ButlerHighAlumni.com Coming Soon

The school's website is currently hosting SEBAA's webpage. It has worked well but it is limited. We are moving toward our own web site. It will be **ButlerHighAlumni.com**. We hope to have this up and running by the end of the school year.

The Class of 1958 donated the money when SEBAA began in 2012. This donation allowed us to purchase the domain, ButlerHighAlumni.com, that will be a big help (and savings) as we try again.

Butler students in the Web Design class will assist in this project.



Keep Connected

Click Links Below

[Join SEBAA](#)

[SEBAA Memorial List](#)

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[SEBAA Web Page](#)

[SEBAA Lifetime Members](#)

Welcome New Lifetime Members

1970 Phil Pearson *
1973 Mark A. Clark
1973 Judith A. Jessee McQueen
1973 Cheryl A. Perkins Clark
1989 Shaun Spencer
2007 Dustin Baker
2018 Hailey Johnson

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2007 Dustin Baker
2018 Hailey Johnson

* Memorial

Alumni Obituaries

1958 Charles Myers

1963 Charles Chuck Cox

1967 Kenny Cox

1967 Clara Drechsel Jimerson

1969 Larry Powell

1969 Deborah A. Rodgers Duncan

1970 Douglas R. Cooney

1970 Stephen Hall

1970 Linton W. (Yogi) Maryman

1970 Phil Pearson

1972 Jeane Russ Frye DeWeese

1973 Eddie Chaney

1973 Barbara Sprowles Hall

1974 David J. Leahy

1974 Melinda Raggard LaFever

1976 Charlotte Fraley Green

1979 Michael L. Cummings

1996 Warner B. Tarrants

1998 Mario J. McKevie

2001 Dana King

2001 Kanisha Rice

2004 Melissa Nichols

We have recently received the news of the passing of these classmates. We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of these Butler Bears. If we have missed the passing of one of our friends, please let us know and we will publish it in our next newsletter.

[Click to visit our webpage](#)