

O'Dea Fighting Irish

Athletic Wall of Honor

2016 Inductees

Kurth Connell, Class of 1995

Kurth Connell was a member of the 1994 State AA Championship Football Team. That year he was credited with 45 solo tackles and was named to the All-Metro, All-District, All-State and All-America teams. In 1995 Kurth was a member of the State AA Track Team, was a State shot-put champion and placed 3rd in discus; he is a Metro record holder for both. Kurth attended the University of Washington



where he was a 3-year starter at right tackle and in 1999 was an All-Pac 10 selection and the Husky Lineman of the Year. He is a UW Track record holder for indoor 35lb. weight. Kurth finished his football career playing for the New Orleans Saints whom he was drafted by in 2001.

Chris Johnson, Class of 1995

Chris Johnson was a three-sport athlete at O'Dea and a member of four State Championship Teams. He was a three-year varsity letterman in football where he played quarterback and led the team to two State Championships in 1992 and 1994. In basketball Chris averaged 14.7 points per game his senior year and helped lead his team to O'Dea's first State Basketball Championship in 1993. Chris was also a member of the 1995 State Championship Track Team. He finished 6th in State in the 300



Intermediate Hurdle and was a member of the 1995 4x100 State finalist team. In 1995 Johnson was named the Seattle Times Male Athlete of the Year. He attended Stanford University where he played football for all four years, leading the team in interceptions in 1997. He was a member of the 1995 and 1996 Liberty Bowl teams and a member of the 2000 Rose Bowl team. Chris ended his career with 19 passes defended, 5 interceptions, 3 fumble recoveries, and 171 tackles.

David Bazzi, Class of 1996

Bazzi was a member of six O'Dea squads that finished in the top-eight at the state championships, three in Cross Country and three in Track & Field, including the 1995 state championship team in Track & Field. He was the state runner-up in the 1996 3200m run, held O'Dea

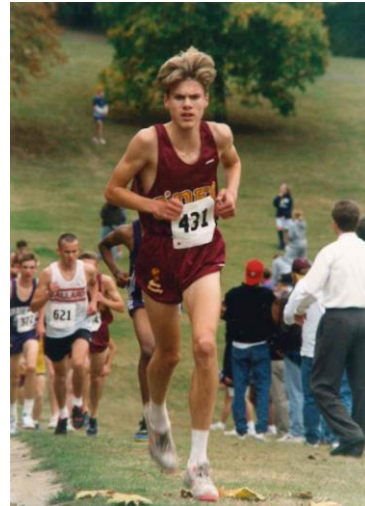


school records in both the 3200m and Distance Medley Relay, and was a National Scholastic All-American in the 3200m. Bazzi attended the University of Washington where he went on to win the 2001 Pac-10 10,000m race before finishing his career as an All-American in both the outdoor 10,000m and 5,000 races at the 2001 NCAA Championships. He held UW school records in both the indoor and outdoor 5,000m 13:58(i)/13:40(o) and outdoor 10,000 (28:34). Bazzi qualified

for the US National team at the 2001 World University Games where he competed in the half-marathon in Beijing, China. Following the retirement of Andy Slatt, Bazzi returned to O'Dea to coach the distance runners.

Matthew Pearson, Class of 1996

Matthew was an 8-time letter winner while at O'Dea, lettering all four years in Cross Country and Track. In Track he was a 3-time Metro Champion in both the 1600m and 800m. He was the State Champion in the 800m in both his junior and senior year, and the State Champion in the 1600m in his senior year. As a senior at O'Dea, he was ranked top 25 on the national high school list in the 800m, 1600m, and 3200m. In Cross Country, he finished 3rd in State his senior year. Matthew attended college at the University of Washington and finished 7th at the PAC-10 Championship Meet in the 1500m his freshman year. He then suffered multiple stress fractures and completed his college running career at South Dakota State where he was a 2-time Indoor D-2 All-American in the mile.



1992-1993 O'Dea Basketball Team

The 1992-93 O'Dea Fighting Irish Basketball Team defeated the Garfield Bulldogs 59-55 on March 13, 1993 to earn O'Dea's first ever state basketball championship. The title game was an intense, hard-fought battle that remained close the entire game. Garfield had defeated O'Dea easily in two earlier meetings but the final matchup would prove to be much different. O'Dea finished the game strong to bring home their first title in front of a large Tacoma Dome crowd. O'Dea finished its season with a 24-6 overall record, winning 13 of their final 14 games. At the State Tournament, O'Dea defeated West Valley of Spokane, Aberdeen and Gig Harbor to advance to the Championship game against Garfield.

