

Dave Shestina 1981

ATHLETIC

Dave Shestina was accurately described in the 1981 *Cinema* as a triple threat due to his skills on the basketball court, football and baseball fields. Freshman, JV and Varsity Basketball, JV and Varsity Baseball, Freshman, JV and Varsity Football. Add Homecoming King as a senior just for fun! Not surprisingly, he won four letters in football and baseball but his most significant accomplishments came on the baseball field.

In football, as a Junior, Dave was a starter at the cornerback position under Coach Nemec. As a senior, his gifts were recognized by the new Varsity Head Coach, Dick Kerschbaum, and he was promoted to starting quarterback. In a seismic shift from the immediate prior years for the Rangers, Dave led the team to a three-way split of the Lake Erie League (LEL) Championship title.

On the baseball field, Dave was among eight returning lettermen on whose abilities high hopes were pinned for the season. As a senior, Dave set and still holds school records, for innings pitched in a season (75 2/3) as well as wins (10). More uniquely and perhaps more satisfyingly, Dave has the title of winning pitcher against rival, St. Edward, both in the City Championship game as well as the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) playoffs. He is the only Ranger pitcher to beat St. Edward twice in the same season.

After graduation, Dave attended Cleveland State University and then began a 30-year career with L.J. Miner Corporation. He and his high school love, Eileen Cunningham, married and raised their family in Lakewood where they were enthusiastic supporters of their three kids - all LHS Alumni - who participated in Lakewood sports. Dave and Eileen continued to be fierce advocates of the Lakewood Schools and LHS Athletics and remained immersed in the sports programs in the Lakewood Schools- Dave as a coach and Eileen as Athletic Boosters President for several years. The cycle continues to the present for Dave, whom friends describe as a terrific athlete, but even better person, as he becomes the biggest fan for his two grandchildren as they begin their sports journeys.

