

Connecting the Dots

What a Trio *by Shawn Young '82*



State Champs | Hall of Famers | College Athletes Teachers | Mothers

In this edition, we highlight three outstanding Rockets whose love of McNicholas High School as students brought them back to teach at Rocket High.



**Kendra Hornschemeier Lonneman '01,
Women's Basketball**

**Ashley Clark Brothers '01,
Women's Basketball**

**Cat Humphries Lest '09,
Women's Track and Field**

All three alumnae have five things in common: they won State Championships while at McNicholas, went on to compete in college athletics, were inducted into the McNicholas Athletic Hall of Fame, have come home to McNick to teach, and are raising young families of their own.

We asked each of them: *How did you get your start at McNicholas High School?*

Kendra: It was a no brainer. Her parents are married McNick grads from the Class of '67. She spent much of her childhood at McNicholas. She even had a cheer uniform to root on her brothers' teams. There was never a doubt Kendra was going to be a Rocket.

Ashley: The path was different. Her parents gave her the option to attend the local public high school or become a Rocket. She had been friends with Kendra since first grade and realized if the two of them went

to McNick together, they would have a great basketball team and a lot of fun. So, Ashley felt like McNicholas High School was the place for her.

Cat: Wanted nothing to do with Rocket high. Her oldest brother Mike was already a Rocket (Shout out to Hump!) I taught him in his sophomore year. Mike loved to tell stories about his little sister (Cat), who would horse race. She was fast, but she didn't like being dragged to her brother's McNick track meets. Cat came from a small grade school, only six students in her grade. Her parents wanted her to have more academic and athletic options, so they sent her to McNick, and Cat fell in love.

All three excelled in sports and in the classroom at McNick. A common thread among them was a strong desire to succeed.

Kendra: Her parents always kept sports in context. If she was not on the honor roll, she was not going to play. Kendra worked hard to make sure that never happened. Kendra says, "the busier I am, the more organized it forces me to be." Driven always to do her best, she played three sports all four years and was still on the honor roll.

Ashley: She expected excellence out of herself. She found herself staying up late and using a flashlight to read on the team bus, but she always got her schoolwork done and received academic honors.

Cat: Was always self-driven. She is very competitive and always wanted to be the best in everything. Cat says it gave her a great sense of pride to come home and tell her siblings how well she was doing, including several honor societies.

When asked about their most memorable sports moments, all three chose the state high school competitions.

Kendra and Ashley: Both remember the end of the state championship game. Kendra says she just stood around, not believing what had just happened and that you can see it on her face in the state championship photo. Ashley remembers the staged awards ceremony after the game and how she and Kendra agreed at halftime that if they won the



championship, they would all take off and slide to the center of the court. Kendra laughs that she started her slide too early and fell short of the center court.

Cat: had mixed feelings. She won state as a freshman in the 100-meter dash. She had never lost a race and thought it was expected and not a big deal. When she won again as a sophomore, she felt like the magnitude of the event hit her more. Plus, she won the 200 that year, which was her better event, so it meant a little more.



With their diplomas in hand, they all set off for college to learn and compete.

Kendra: went to Ohio University to play soccer. Her Bobcat team won the MAC two times. Kendra set the school record for assists and selected to the all-decade team.

Ashley: started at Kent State and was the MAC Freshman Player of the Year. She then transferred to Indiana State, where she was the Conference Newcomer of the Year. During her senior year, her team ranked in the top 25 in the country.

Cat: her college career was cut short by injury. As a freshman, Cat competed in the Nationals in the 100, 200, and 4x100 relay. She was ranked 15th in the nation in the 100, and 20th in the 200.

With college degrees in hand and many outstanding accomplishments in sports, it was time to move on to

the next chapter in their lives: teaching and raising their families.

Kendra: always felt McNicholas was her home. When she got the job offer call from Mr. Rosenbaum (an assistance coach on her state championship team), it was like a dream had come true. When Kendra got the math teaching position, another spot



also opened up. She immediately called her friend Ashley and implored her to come back home to McNick too. Kendra and her husband have two beautiful daughters.

Ashley: listened to the request from Kendra, but said, "no thanks." Then Mr. Rosenbaum called her, and she said no again! But the more she thought about it, it was like a divine spark going off in her head. Ashley finally gave in to the calling, took the job teaching math at McNick alongside her friend Kendra. She calls it one of the best decisions of her life. Ashley married an alumnus, Mathew Brothers '00, with whom they now have three lovely children, the youngest born this spring.



Cat: was doing her student teaching in the inner city in Cleveland during a pretty rough time. She heard about a science opening at McNick and immediately called Mr. Rosenbaum. She loved McNick, and she



loved the teachers and the thought of teaching in the same classroom as Mrs. Gwyn Bush left her speechless. Weeks later, the track coaching position opened up, and Cat was

overjoyed. She also felt as if her dreams were now a reality. Cat and her husband have two beautiful children, including their newest born this summer.

I had the chance to talk to Mrs. Gwyn Bush, a fellow McNick teacher (now retired) and member of the McNicholas Athletic Hall of Fame, about Kendra, Ashley, and Cat. She remembers them as great students and hard-working kids. Cat used to work

two or three jobs while she was going to school and playing sports. Kendra and Ashley were always whip-smart. Mrs. Bush also spoke about the growth of girls' sports at McNick, and the important role athletics played in the success of these young women and many others.

kids will be going to go to high school...GO
ROCKETS!

Talk about Connecting the Dots! These three outstanding McNick students worked hard, achieved awards and recognition, and now have come back to pass on their work ethic and desire for excellence to the next generation of Rockets. I wonder where their