

# Edmond, Connie Gicewicz make major gift to UB athletics

## UB Athletics Hall of Fame to be named in their honor

The name Gicewicz has long been associated with athletics at the University at Buffalo.

Beginning with Edmond J. "Doc" Gicewicz's prowess on the fields and courts and continuing with his long service to the university and a lifetime of contributions, including the couple's most recent through a \$200,000 charitable gift annuity, Gicewicz and his wife, Connie, have helped to ensure UB's continued athletics growth. In recognition of all they have done in support of the ath-

letics program at the university, the UB Athletics Hall of Fame will be renamed the Dr. and Mrs. Edmond J. Gicewicz Family UB Athletics Hall of Fame. A ceremony recognizing their support will take place on April 14.

The Gicewicz live in Getzville.

"The long-standing commitment of the Gicewicz family to the advancement of the university, as well as through their philanthropic contributions as highlighted by this charitable gift an-

nunity, is greatly appreciated by the University at Buffalo," said Warde J. Manuel, director of athletics. "This honor will most appropriately ensure the continuing legacy of 'Doc' Gicewicz, as it will help provide future UB student-athletes with the enhancements necessary to compete at a championship level both on and off the athletic fields."

Gicewicz starred at UB in three sports — football, basketball and baseball — while earning his undergraduate degree, which was

awarded in 1952. He served as captain of the varsity football, basketball and baseball teams and was named a Little All-American in football. He earned his medical degree from the UB School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences in 1956. His accomplishments on the court, field and gridiron have been acknowledged with election to the UB Athletics Hall of Fame and the Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame.

Gicewicz and his wife have remained lifelong friends and supporters of the Bulls' athletic programs. Ed served 27 years as team physician.

Gicewicz also has filled many other important roles at UB, including serving as a member of the UB Council, the university's local governing council, since 1997. Among the leadership roles have been president of the UB

Alumni Association and the University at Buffalo Medical Alumni Association and founder and first medical director of the University Sports Medicine Institute, which continues to thrive today. Gicewicz has held appointments as an assistant professor of clinical surgery and an assistant professor of clinical orthopedics in the UB School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. He has been honored by his alma mater with the Distinguished Alumni Award, as well as the prestigious Samuel P. Capen Chancellor's Award.

"Education, educators and sports have been the major factors in enabling us to make this gift," said Ed Gicewicz. "We therefore consider this a 'payback' so that others may enjoy the same opportunities that were presented to us."

## Wave

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just didn't seem to bounce their way.

Allie Troncone came close to scoring twice. The first time, the goalie knocked the high shot down with one arm. On the second attempt, she made a solid shot on net despite harassing defenders on either flank.

Sarah Snyder made several strong charges to the net which led to shots by her and teammates.

Jade Brooks aggressively defended midfield and pushed the line of defense up into Akron's end to help keep up extended periods of pressure.

Julia Newton also beat defenders to get the ball in deep and almost got an assist with a nice

centering pass.

Courtney Sugarman was a force at midfield as she repeatedly engaged opponents trying to get control of the ball.

Defensively, Julia Struble make two big saves when she came far out of the net to take away the shooters angle and taking hard shots off her shins.

Kali James took the ball away from an Akron attacker who was in close and about to shoot and knocked the ball away from another one breaking towards the net. Colleen Stelley stuffed Akron attackers repeatedly, preventing numerous scoring chances.



**CHAMPS** — The Amherst Knights Squirt Major Selects defeated the West Seneca Wings, 4-3, in overtime last weekend to win the WNY Select Championship. Members of the team, pictured from left: front row - Ryan Ruggerio, Marc Giangreco, Mike Geiger, Adam Herr, Jon Utech, Jeremy Schwab; middle row - Adam Tucker,

Steven Zaprowski, Matt Lesinski, Greg Sibick, Anthony Carbone; third row - John Tomczak, Trevor Shaw, Colin Lawrence, James Kirkpatrick, James Bassett, Tom Roesch, Gabe Jewula; back row - coaches Brian Lawrence, Don Tucker and John Tomczak.



**FIRST PLACE CHAMPIONS** — The team representing Clarence in the Buffalo School of Baseball indoor 15-year old modified hitting league have become back-to-back champions. Clarence representatives also play for the Clarence 14U travel team. Members of the team, pictured with their respective school's baseball team are, from left: Kenny Liszewski (Canisius High School), Mike Wagner (Clarence High School), Billy Szelazkiewicz (Williamsville North), Chris Kruszynski (Clarence Middle); back row - Rick Lancellotti.

## Johnny

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"Honestly, I haven't really thought about it," he said. "I know it's there, but I'm not letting it affect my game. It's almost like I don't want to shoot as much. I'm not trying to break it. If I play enough games, I'll eventually break it, if not this year, then next year."

To find a comparison for Tavares in other sports, you have to look to the likes of Wayne Gretzky, Michael Jordan and Babe Ruth. Yes, he's that good. And like those other athletes, what makes Tavares better is his ability to lead others.

"He makes everybody on the floor better," said Kilgour, who played eight seasons with Tavares before taking over as coach. "If you work hard to get open, you'll definitely get the ball when Johnny's on the floor. He really looks to help his teammates and make them better players. That's what most great players do."

Obviously, Tavares has fewer days ahead of him in the league than behind. But even at 38, he's among the elite in the game. And even if the fans can't see the drop off in his game, he says its there.

"I've lost several steps, but I just have to make up for it in other areas," he said. "I have to make better decisions out there. I've never relied on speed and strength, so I'm playing the same game. I'm not as reckless to the net, I'm more conservative, making good decisions and capitalizing on my chances. I'm the same player I was five or six years ago. I've got at least a couple more years, I hope."

What makes the difference for Tavares, who signed a one-year contract with the Bandits this past October for \$25,552, is his love for the game. He has outlasted so many players in the league, because of the thrill he still gets when taking the field.

"I'm not going to last another five years," said Bucktooth, who was eight years old when Tavares first signed with the Bandits. "He's in tremendous shape and he's young at heart and he plays the game like it."

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