

2023 Hall of Fame Inductees



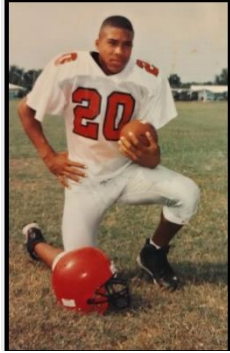
Alex Voris: Alex Voris graduated from Osceola in 1992 and made quite an impact during his time here, especially in the world of swimming. He was in the Top 16 nationally all 4 years, received 5 All-American Swimming awards, and was a National Qualifier. His senior year, he was State Champion in the 200 Free, was an Olympic Festival participant, and was Swimmer of the Year for the state of Florida. He held 6 Osceola High School swim records and 3 conference records. If that wasn't enough, he was National Honor Society President and Valedictorian.

After high school, he received a full scholarship to attend and swim for the University of Alabama and had Alabama's All Time Top 10 times in the 100 and 200 Free. Alex now lives in Mobile, Alabama, working as a Project Executive in Construction. He has a lovely wife, April, and two kids, Aiden and Ava. He enjoys attending their multiple sporting events as they keep him busy with travel baseball, softball, basketball and football. In what little spare time he has, he likes to spend it at the beach listening to the waves.



Mia Hartley : Mia Hartley graduated from Osceola in Mia 2012, after four years of pursuing music in the OFHS Warrior Pride Band, under the Hartley direction of Mr. Donald Edwards. Upon high school graduation, Mia went on to study Music Therapy at Florida State University, where she was a member of the Florida State University Marching Chiefs and led the ensemble as an Assistant Drum Major in her final year.

Upon graduation from FSU and becoming a Board-Certified Music Therapist, Mia taught music at the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind. This experience inspired her to develop an app called the "Tonal Braille App," which helps Braille students memorize letters using interval pitch recognition. Following her time teaching, Mia was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study Ethnomusicology at the University of London. Upon receiving her Masters, Mia returned to the United States to begin working for Congresswoman Betty McCollum of the Fourth District of Minnesota. This experience inspired her to pursue a Doctorate and Master of Business Administration Degrees from Stetson University College of Law. She was awarded Best Oralist during her round in Pace University's 2022 National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition.



Jason Teague: Jason graduated from Osceola High School in 2002 and has been described by some as the best athlete to walk the halls of Osceola High School. Jason was the All-Suncoast selection and led Pinellas County in rushing in 2001. He rushed for a career-best 1,638 yards and had 16 touchdowns as a senior at Osceola. Jason was a three-year starter for Coach George Palmer at Osceola and finished his career with 4,504 yards and 50 touchdowns.

After high school, Jason was recruited to play football at Michigan State. As a freshman, he appeared in all 12 games. He earned Spartan Scout Team Offensive Player of the Week honors three times. Jason lives in Bradenton and has been working for the Social Security Administration since 2009 and has a son, Jordan, as well as a daughter, Penelope. In his free time, Jason likes to go to the gym regularly, work with his son in baseball, as well as coach him in football.



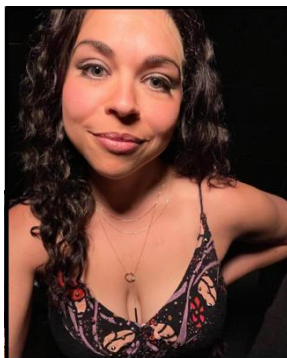
Jenny Ruetschi: Jenny Ruetschi graduated from Osceola High School in 2002. She was a 4-sport high school athlete competing in soccer, volleyball, tennis, and cross country, but soccer is where she excelled the most. Jenny started all 4 years of high school soccer for the Lady Warriors, never missing a game. She helped lead the Lady Warriors to numerous titles, most notably, as the 2000 2A State Runner Up. Jenny was 1st Team FHASS All State Team twice and had her high school jersey retired and mounted in the Osceola cafeteria.

After careful thought and consideration, Jenny chose to hang up her cleats after graduation. She attended college at the University of South Florida and received a Bachelor's Degree in Communications. After college, Jenny moved back to the area, eventually settling in St. Petersburg. She met and married the man of her dreams, Paul Buhrow. They share 2 beautiful children, Josie and Pauly. Jenny has a successful career with HCA Healthcare as a Physician Recruiter Liaison. She still stays active training and running in half and full marathons and plays a little bit of soccer for fun when she can.



Taylor Layner: Taylor Layner was a 4-year varsity baseball starter at Osceola High School from 2008 -2011. He was named the Pinellas County Pitcher of the Year in 2009, the Pinellas County Player of the Year in 2011 and was on the All State Team. His high school career stats are 34-6 as a pitcher with over 300 career strikeouts on the mound. His team won 3 district titles in a row. All 4 years of High School, his batting average never finished lower than 360.

After committing to Florida State University his senior year of high school, Layner later opted to attend South Florida State College in Avon Park. His college baseball career was interrupted with injuries and surgeries, so he finished his playing career at Webber International University where he was awarded a Gold Glove. In his senior season at Webber, he rehabbed to return to the mound for the first time since 2014. He came back strong, with a 3.7 ERA and 77 strikeouts and offensively, he had a .350 AVG. Taylor is currently the Athletic Director, Head Baseball Coach, and Business Education Department Head at Largo High School. He was married in November 2019 to his wife and biggest supporter, Amanda, they have 2 boys, named Taylor Jr. and Carter, who both love to play with their black lab named Sosa and their cat named Cubbie. Coach Stefan Futch retired Taylor's #15 jersey at Osceola High School. His jersey is hung up on the outfield fence, as well as in the Cafeteria at Osceola Fundamental High.



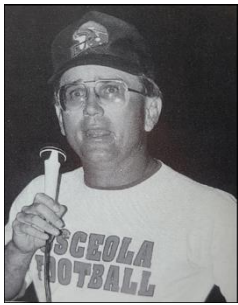
Ariel Reich: Ariel graduated from Osceola in 2013 and participated in theatre all four years of high school including the lead role of Annie Oakley in *Annie Get Your Gun* as a Sophomore. She then attended the University of Florida where she earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Performance as well as a certificate of Arts in Medicine. Ariel is now an actor, director, and mindfulness artist based in New York City. Most recently, she performed in the Broadway national tour of the ten-time Tony Award winning musical, *The Band's Visit*. On screen, she appears in the film *The Reunion*, *Love Online*, as well as *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, *Younger*, and *The Deuce*.

In addition, Ariel has a background in Arts in Medicine, working as a researcher and practitioner. Ariel has done research on "*Suicide Prevention through Theatre Intervention* " which has been internationally recognized. This work was inspired by the loss of her amazing friend and former Osceola student, Christina Tournant. In all aspects of her work, Ariel is passionate about telling stories that amplify voices that go unheard and empowering people of all abilities.



Ernie Whalen: Before Ernie made his mark as a coach, he was quite an athlete himself. From 1968-1975, he was on the National Swim Team for Puerto Rico as a diver and competed in the Central American Games in 1968 and the Pan American Games in 1969. From 1971-1975, Ernie attended Clemson University on a swimming scholarship. He was later the first women's swimming coach at Clemson from 1975-1977. He was then a member of the Puerto Rican National Swimming Team Coaching Staff from 1978-1982.

During his time at Osceola from 1984-2017, Ernie coached a total of **77** seasons and taught Spanish for 34 years. He was named PCAC coach of the year 7 different times in 5 sports, including Men's and Women's Swimming, Women's Soccer, Women's Track, Men's and Women's Tennis, and Women's Flag Football, which he helped start at Osceola. Ernie has been married to his wife, Monsy for 45 years and has one daughter, Beverly, one son, Ernie III, and 1 grandson, Eric.



George Palmer: George Palmer graduated from Poly High School in Fort Worth, Texas, and spent four years in the Coast Guard. He then played golf from 1978-79 at the University of Texas at Arlington, where he earned a BA in Education. A year after graduation, he came to St. Petersburg on vacation and, like many people, never left.

George ended up being the head football coach at Osceola for 26 years from 1990-2016 and led the team to 128 victories. He also coached basketball, track, and golf during that time. In his first season at Osceola, the Warriors were 5-6 but won a district title, the first playoff appearance in school history. George helped the Warriors win 3 football District Championships and 6 FHSAA playoffs. He was voted Pinellas County Coach of the Year by his peers 4 times. He is married to his wife Martha and has 2 daughters (Patty and Melissa) and a son (John). He is the proud grandfather to Alexa, Amanda, Zack, and Matthew.