



Presidential Address

December 13, 2022

Knight families,

As we close in on 2023 I took time to reflect back on the year. Whether it be professionally, personally, or spiritually, this is a moment for many to say, "What have I done well and what do I want to do better?" For some of us there is hope of a better year; for some there is hope for continued success we aspire to achieve in 2023. When I reflect back I constantly look at the continued support our volunteers, parents, and coaches provide to our student athletes. There are so many requests we make to provide top-of-the-line athletics, and our parents and volunteers fill those opportunities with not only great enthusiasm, but positive energy. The coaching demands, the gym duty opportunities--all these tasks make our Waukesha Catholic Athletics the best version we possibly can be. Our program is so much more than just the athletes on the court or field; it is all of us coming together as one unifying voice. I believe athletics can be a beacon, a shining example of the greatness that comes with our Waukesha Catholic faith. Athletics is the light that in many cases shines the brightest, that can reach people in a special way. While we are all guided through our education with the faith we all hold, athletics is the powering vessel that can bring us enlightenment on a special scale. As I reflect back I see our light shining as bright as possible, I see us not only as a beacon, but truly a special program in the community. That gives me hope for the future, that gives me excitement that we are fulfilling our duty to use this athletic family to push the message of God even further. For that, I, along with the athletic board and all involved, thank you for what 2022 has been and what 2023 will be.

-Dan Fodrocy Waukesha Catholic Athletic Board President

Seton Reflection – by Mark Hickok

You never really know what experience will flash a memory or cause you to think about something, but suffice it to say that when that trigger occurs, thoughts and images can come flooding back. Such was the case for me a few nights ago. It was a cool November evening, and I was settling in to watch the Univ. of Wisconsin Women's volleyball team play on TV. I was enjoying what was trending to be a Badger victory when near the first set, the cameras panned the crowd and then settled on a view of the student section. The kids were going crazy and supporting the Badgers with all they had. The announcers commented on what an "electric environment" and that this was unlike any other venue at which they had worked. Then it hit me: I had a flashback to the Seton Volleyball Championships.

Much like the environment in the UW Fieldhouse, the crowds at the Sting Center during the week, and at Catholic Memorial over the weekend, created environments for middle school volleyball unlike any other I am aware of. Fans from each school proudly wore their spirit wear, made signs, and cheered with all their hearts while the players and coaches delivered high level volleyball for 7 days. Having coached in the Seton a few times, I know that playing in this tournament is an experience like no other, that it means a great deal to the players, and that the memories of playing in the Seton will live on for many years to come.

While my personal experience as a coach and parent has been outstanding, I can say my experience is not unique. Each year 750 or more players get the chance to play in the Seton and the vast majority come away with the same positive reaction that I had. For some of the participants, this may be the last (or only) time in their athletic career that they will have the chance to be part of something like this and I can think of no better way for them to close their middle school career than playing in the Seton.

Having been on the Seton Committee for over 12 years, I can say from first-hand experience what this tournament means to all associated with it and how important it is that it be preserved for seasons to come. Waukesha Catholic is blessed to be the stewards of this event and be in position to not only deliver a once in a life-time experience to players, but provide financial assistance for Catholic education, to support retired clergy in our area, and support the athletic program. I pray that all our parents, coaches, volunteers, athletic board, and staff at Waukesha Catholic continue to take this responsibility seriously and do all they can to educate future generations of families as to the importance of ensuring its health now and into the future. We are all called to serve each other, and that service can come in many forms; sharing our time and talents to support the Seton is one way in which we can all serve the students of the Milwaukee Archdiocese in a meaningful and impactful way.

-Mark D. Hickok

Mark is a current Assistant Tournament Director and Seton Committee member, current Waukesha Catholic volleyball coach, the parent of 2 Waukesha Catholic alumni in college, former Athletic Board President and Waukesha Catholic Track Coordinator, and former basketball and track coach.