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THE ECHO



Spring 2005

Berlin High School Alumni Association - "The Oldest in the State"

Joe LaBuda to emcee 2005 Alumni Banquet

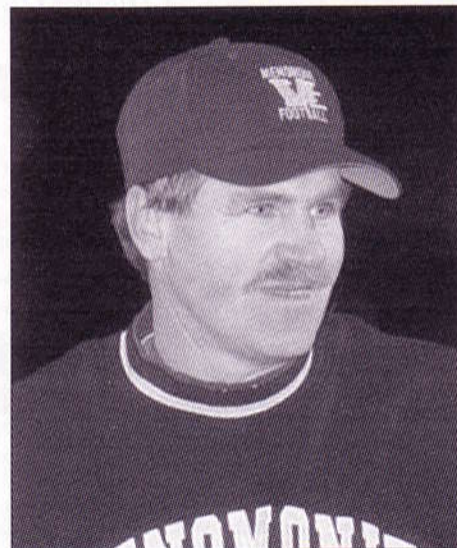
By Laurene (Chier) Brooks, '80

The BHS Class of 1980 is proud and excited to announce that Joseph R. (Joe) LaBuda, head football coach for Menomonie High School, will be the featured speaker at this year's Alumni Banquet on May 28, 2005. He is expected to share not only how hard work and dedication can win football games, but how values and belief in family and community, combined with hard work and dedication, produce good people, good citizens, and good leaders.

Joe is known in Menomonie and throughout the state as the winningest high school football coach of the last 16 years. Since Joe joined Menomonie in 1989, he has accumulated an unbelievable list of coaching accomplishments: 175-24 overall record; five state championships (out of seven state trips); 13 Big Rivers Conference Championships; no losing seasons; and 15 consecutive play-off appearances. Joe and Menomonie High School have also gained national attention, having been ranked twice by *USA Today* in 1993 and 1997.

A 1983 graduate of Concordia University in St. Paul, MN, Joe majored in Physical Education and Health. He also has an M.A. in Secondary Education from Viterbo College in LaCrosse, WI. His football career started at BHS where he played varsity under Coach Steve Stellmacher. He then went on to play for Concordia University, and in 2002, was inducted into the Concordia University Athletic Hall of Fame.

Joe's coaching career began in Gainesville, FL, where he was part of the North Marion



Joe LaBuda, Class of 1980

High School football program for five years. Joe made his move back to Wisconsin in 1989 when he embarked on his tenure at Menomonie. Now, he's credited with building a football dynasty in small town, Wisconsin.

Joe has an amazing resume, chock full of coaching and teaching experiences, honors and awards, professional speaking appearances across the country, professional publications, and TV guest appearances. Joe also serves as the high school's Physical Education and Health Instructor and Strength and Fitness Coordinator.

Newspaper articles about Joe and his "dynasty" abound. They all sing Joe's praises, honoring him not only for building one of the most phenomenal football pro-

grams in the state, but for teaching and inspiring his players to be good people, good citizens, and good leaders.

Making sure that his players volunteer in the community, Joe teaches that sports, though important, are just one small piece of life's puzzle. In fact, of all his accomplishments, Joe is most proud of being named Dunn County Citizen of the Year for his dedication to volunteerism.

"Joe teaches values to his players by example. He is a great family man, teaches his players that the real rewards of football are in the memories and lessons learned, deals equitably with discipline problems and always gives credit where credit is due - whether it be his players, coaches, band, cheerleaders or managers. Joe always seems to say and do the right thing. There is no "I" in Joe LaBuda's name." —Editorial written by Jim Kleinhans of the *Dunn County News* (12/11/02).

Joe and his wife, Colette (a fourth grade teacher), have two children, Katie (10) and Jace (7).

**BHS Annual
Alumni Banquet**
6 p.m. • Saturday, May 28
BHS Commons
Featuring classes ending
in "0" or "5."