

## 2021 Newman Catholic Athletic Hall of Fame Inductee

John "Jack" Koltes

Were we able to step back in time and ask former classmates and teachers to describe Jack Koltes, you would hear that he was a leader, a modest and humble gentleman, a good student, and a truly genuine individual. On the court, you would hear that he was a deadly shooter and a classy "guard". All descriptions of a great man who has lived his life with integrity and honesty. A graduate from the class of 1960, John "Jack" Koltes was a star student, not simply because he received good grades or that he was a successful athlete but because he was a student who earned the respect of his classmates and faculty, and was highly regarded in the greater community.



Jack grew up with his older brother, James, class of 1959, and his parents, Lewis and Hazel. Jack was raised in a devoutly Catholic home, attending Mass at St. James Parish (now Church of the Resurrection), where he is still a lifetime member. Jack's father owned and operated the Wausau Welding Supply Company, where Jack worked during the school year. His pay while working for his parents was to cover tuition costs and other expenses. Mrs. Koltes was an educator, teaching English and American History at Edgar High School. Jack's parents instilled a strong work ethic within their children, encouraging them to take their education and faith seriously. A goal that both sons have accomplished and surpassed throughout their lives.

Jack Koltes' education began at St. James School which he attended through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. He then moved on to Newman High School, beginning classes in 1956 in the newly finished building located on Bridge Street in Wausau. The Class of 1960, Jack's class, was the first graduating class to fully attend all four years at Newman. Prior to that classes were held at St. Mary Parish or St. James Parish schools.

His time at Newman was quite successful both academically and as an athlete. Jack was a member of the honor roll throughout school and part of the Student Council all four years, first as a representative and then as the council President. Jack took on leadership roles for many committees and for several events; including Chairman of the N.H.S. Candy Sale and Homecoming Committee, Chairman of the Committee for Needy Children and President of the Letterman's Club. Jack was also a strong representative in the greater community through the Catholic Youth Program, Teens Polio and St. James' Holy Name Society & Men's Alter Society. During his senior year, Jack represented his school at the Youth Council Conference and as an Uthrotar at the local youth Rotary Club. Top this all by the fact that he was chosen as Prom King and Mr. Senior.

Jack's accomplishments certainly do not stop with his academic and civic achievements, he was a star on the basketball court. Jack played football for two years at Newman but truly found his place playing guard for the Cardinals. During his four years, Jack was the first player to score over 1,000 points, 1,041 total, averaging over 25 points per game his senior year and was Captain of the Varsity Basketball Team. Throughout his time with Newman High School, he was honored as a member of the All Conference, All Diocesan, and All State Catholic Basketball Teams. When selected first team All-Diocesan in 1960, the author of a Wausau Daily Herald article states that Jack Koltes was "A hot shooting six-foot guard that was a unanimous CWCC choice and averaged 25.9 points per game. A fine team player and a fine defensive man." As one of the top 5 basketball players in the state of Wisconsin and with a successful

academic career, it is not a surprise that Jack was offered a four-year scholarship to attend the University of Notre Dame.

After graduating from Newman High School in 1960, Jack began the next chapter of his life at Notre Dame, the beginning to what would be a truly successful career. In 1964, Jack graduated from Notre Dame with a Bachelors in Business Administration, and completed his Master's in Business Administration from the University of Wisconsin Madison in 1965.

After completing his Master's program, Jack moved to New York City where he began a 47 year career in finance. From 1965-1970, he worked for First National City Bank before joining the team at Alliance Capital Management. He spent five more years in New York before following his heart and making the move back to the Midwest. A transfer to the Minneapolis branch of Alliance Capital Management, now AllianceBernstein, brought him home and closer to family. During the next 37 years, he was a Senior Portfolio Manager, managing an \$8 billion portfolio comprised of pension and endowment funds for state and local governments. He managed the pension plans for the states of Minnesota, Nebraska, Wyoming and Nevada and steered the endowment funds for Georgetown and John Hopkins Universities. He was able to give back to his collegiate alma mater by running the University of Notre Dame's endowment fund for 20 years, and continues to be an active member of the Business Advisory Council for the Mendoza School of Business at Notre Dame.

After a 47 year career, Jack has now retired and splits his time between his home near Minneapolis, snow birding to warmer weather, and at the family cottage on Tug Lake. He finds joy in spending time with lifelong friends and with his brother Jim and his family, but when the Fighting Irish are playing you can be sure that he is either catching the game at Notre Dame or watching them on TV.

Throughout his life, Jack Koltes has always kept Newman High School with him. When asked what he remembers most about his time at Newman, he shared, "Sitting as a senior at Newman High School I couldn't have plotted my career out any better. The education I received while at Newman was a wonderful foundation that prepared me for the rigorous education at Notre Dame."