



## STEVE AVERY'S OUTSTANDING CAREER

The Taylor North Little League baseball team put the City of Taylor into the National Baseball News, as did JFK graduate Steve Avery some 30 years ago. At age 16 he was a star on the Taylor American Legion baseball team, leading the team to the State Championship and being named the Most Valuable Player.

Playing baseball for JFK, he compiled an amazing record. In his senior year his record was 13 wins and zero losses, while striking out 196 batters and compiling a 0.51 earned run average over 88 innings. He not only was an outstanding pitcher but had a .512 batting average that included 8 home runs and 44 runs batted in.



Based on his baseball skills and being an excellent student, Steve was offered a full four-year scholarship to Stanford University. But those in professional baseball, recognizing his many talents, knew he would go as a high draft choice straight out of high school. Steve chose to go into the draft and was selected by the Atlanta Braves. In June of 1988 he signed what was reported to be the highest bonus ever offered to a player straight out of high school.

Avery was assigned to the Atlanta Braves team in Pulaski, Virginia. The lefty made his 1<sup>st</sup> appearance on July 11, 1988. He pitched five innings giving up 4 hits while striking out 7 to pick up a 5-0 win. In his debut season, Steve posted a 7-1 record and was named to the Appalachian League All-Star Team.

Steve started the 1990 season at Richmond in triple A where he came under the guidance of famous pitching coach Leo Mazzone, who said "I didn't teach Steve Avery a pitch as he had them all".

In June of 1990, the Atlanta Braves were in last place and obviously needed pitching help. Avery was summoned from Richmond to start the June 13 game in Cincinnati against the Reds who were in 1<sup>st</sup> place. It was a tough outing, as he was pulled with the Reds leading 8-2. Six days later, Avery again faced the Reds, this time in Atlanta. He pitched into the fifth inning, allowing only one run and left the game with the score tied 1-1. His next start, June 26, he went 7 innings beating the Los Angeles Dodgers 4-2 for his first major-league win.

Avery had a great year with an 18-8 record, and the Braves advanced to the postseason for the 1<sup>st</sup> time since 1982. In the National League Championship series against Pittsburgh, Steve started 2 games and won both 1-0, earning the Most Valuable Player award for the series. Steve pitched well in two of the world series games but Minnesota won the World Series. Brave fans will never forget the last to first season and the remarkable pitching of Steve Avery.

Moving on to the 1993 season Avery posted the best year of his career. His season record was 18-4 with a 2.94 ERA.

In 1991, Steve Avery married Heather McMillan, his high school sweetheart. In March of '93 Heather's father unexpectedly passed away. Twelve days later their son, Evan, was born 3 months early and weighed only 2 pounds and 13 ounces. Evan underwent 9 surgeries his first year. Steve became a commuter pitcher, flying home after every start and rejoined the team for his next start. He posted an 8-3 record but there were some bad signs. His strikeout total dropped, and control problems were a concern.

1995 was not a good season for Steve as he ended the campaign with a 7-13 record, but the team once again made the NLCS. Many were surprised when the manager picked Avery to start the 4<sup>th</sup> game. After two years of struggling, Steve was back in form pitching 6 innings of 2-hit shutout ball, striking out 6, and ending as the winning pitcher. In the World Series the manager gave the ball to Avery for the fourth game and the lefty rewarded his trust with six innings of 3-hit-1-run baseball and won the game as the Braves went on to win their first World Series.

Avery started the 1996 season in good shape but, as the season progressed, he struggled and ended the season with a 7-10 record. He was released by the Braves.

He finished his career with stints for the Boston Red Sox, Cincinnati, again with Atlanta, and finally with the Detroit Tigers.

Steve Avery had an amazing career: an All-star game appearance, a National League Conference Most Valuable Player Award, three National League Championship rings, and a World Series trophy.\*

*STEVE, THE TAYLOR ALUMNI IS HONORED TO HAVE YOU AS A LIFETIME MEMBER OF OUR ASSOCIATION. WE ARE EXTREMELY PROUD OF YOU, AS ARE, THE RESIDENTS OF TAYLOR, THE STATE OF MICHIGAN AND BASEBALL ENTHUSIASTS AROUND THE WORLD.*

*\*Much of this was taken from an article in "Society for American Baseball Research" written by Tom Huffard*

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## GOOD THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN THE CITY OF TAYLOR

**Friday Before Halloween** - Be a part of the ghoulish fun at our Hallow-Palooza!



Your little pumpkins will have a scream with 70 trick-or-treat stops filling their buckets with all sorts of candy and goodies. Thousands of people attend this event, so don't miss out!

### Event Details - Free for Taylor residents:

- 👻 \$5 per non-resident child
- 👻 Minors must be accompanied by an adult throughout the event.
- 👻 Walk through Heritage Park, the Petting Farm, the Taylor Conservatory & Botanical Gardens and several other stops.
- 👻 "Scary" car show at the Taylor Conservatory
- 👻 Bring your own trick-or-treat pails
- 👻 Snacks and drinks will be available for purchase
- 👻 Bounce houses
- 👻 Scarecrow and costume contests will take place on location.
- 👻 Music
- 👻 Late evening movie

## MEMORIES OF GIRLS SPORTS FROM CHUCK BONNER'S MEDIA SITES

Millie Cullen Lampshire, TCH 1962- When we played basketball, we didn't run the length of the court. If playing defense, you stayed on one half of the court. Your teammates playing offense played the other half.

Vivian Dupuy, TCH 1970- We didn't have sports, but we had a club called Girls Athletic Association (GAA). We met on Tuesday nights. We had about 100 members and set up tournaments against each other: softball, basketball, badminton, volleyball, etc. Occasionally another school would challenge us to a softball game. We had a lot of fun.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

**OCTOBER 27** - JFK Class of 60 monthly luncheon 12:30 Ford Garage Dearborn. All are welcome!

**OCTOBER 29** - Harry S Truman High School, Class of 1986 will be holding their 25TH Class Reunion

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## UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS

### Tuesday, November 2:



On November 2, 2021, voters in Taylor School District will be asked to consider a bond proposal to implement improvements within the Taylor School District. These improvements will address infrastructure upgrades and provide modern learning environments for all students with the goal of increasing opportunities and enhancing performance.

The total amount of this bond proposal is \$130 million, requiring an additional 2.68 mill increase for taxpayers, bringing our school bond millage rate to 3.64 mills. This program will totally transform our district, preparing our students for a successful future.

#### Features of this proposal include:

- A New High School combined with a New Career Center constructed at the Kennedy High School site on Northline and Kennedy Drive.
- Athletic field improvements at both the current High School and the New High School.
- Middle schools will be consolidated into the existing Taylor High School building, which will receive upgrades.
- New flexible furniture and instructional technology in all PreK-12 classrooms to meet current teaching/learning practices, affording highly collaborative spaces.
- District-wide security technology upgrades to enhance safety.

The **TSD Citizens for Quality Taylor Schools** is a ballot question committee working diligently on campaign efforts to educate voters about the features and benefits of this important bond program. The committee is composed solely of volunteers and the resources, materials and postage used by the committee are costly. Your involvement and past support of the District is greatly valued, and we would like to ask for your help in making this school election a successful one.

**TSD Citizens for Quality Taylor Schools** would greatly appreciate your financial support of our efforts. Donation levels are listed below. We cannot do this without you, and your support!

**NOTICE:** *The Alumni Association is neutral on this as we are on all possible political issues, but also want to share what is happening in the City and the School District.*

**Saturday, November 6th:**

**Doors open at 5:30 p.m.**

**Amando Amando**

**Traditional  
Motown  
Music**

**Saturday  
November  
6, 2021**

**starts at 7:00 p.m.**

This Fund Raiser supports the enrichment programs, teacher grants, and scholarships for graduates of our Taylor Public School District.



**TAYLOR PUBLIC SCHOOL FOUNDATION**

For Educational Excellence

**Sponsor and reserve a table.**

\$500 Sponsorship - Recognition at the event, signage, and a table of eight tickets.  
\$250 Sponsorship - Recognition at the event, and four tickets.

Make checks payable to: TPS Foundation for Educational Excellence  
Contact Linda Newsome (313) 295-7313 or Cindy Whittico (734) 788-4341  
for more information to sponsor a table or purchase tickets.

Location of event is at: Democratic Club of Taylor (main hall east side entrance)  
23400 Wick Road Taylor, MI 48180

Taylor Public School Foundation for Educational Excellence is a registered 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization.

**\$25 Tickets**

**include pizza  
& a soft drink.  
18 & up only!  
Beer & Wine  
available  
for purchase.**





## OBITUARIES

*The Alumni Association members would like to extend their deepest sympathy to the family and friends of the former classmates mentioned below. You will forever be in our thoughts and prayers.*

**Please Note:** *If we receive deaths from the past that are not listed in our newsletter, they will be posted on the "In Memoriam" section on our website. If you know of a deceased graduate that is not listed in the Memoriam section of our website please let us know the name, school, graduating class and date of passing.*

### TAYLOR CENTER HIGH SCHOOL

- ❖ Janet Gundlach Jaeger, Class of 1971 (passed August 29, 2021)
- ❖ Lee Mitchell, Class of 1964 (passed August 9, 2021)
- ❖ Joan D. Bacashihua, Class of 1973 (passed August 18, 2021)
- ❖ Darrel Lambert, Class of 1980 (passed September 12, 2021)

### JOHN F KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL

- ❖ Sandra Tobachak, Class of 1970 (passed February 25, 2010)
- ❖ Steven Allen West, Class of 1970 (passed September 3, 2021)
- ❖ Michael Schermling, Class of 1970 (passed August 21, 2021)

### HARRY S TRUMAN HIGH SCHOOL

- ❖ Arthur Hall, Class of 1984 (passed July 31, 2021)

### STAFF

- ❖ Lee Mitchell, Teacher at Truman Jr HS, Titan, Hoover Jr HS, and John F Kennedy HS

**For more information about the deceased and their families, please visit the alumni website [tayloralumni.org](http://tayloralumni.org) and click on "In Memoriam".**