

Legends of Kalida

Dan Stechsulte **1951- 1954 1,028 Points**

First Kalida Player to Score 1,000 Points

Dan played in an era when there were very few individual awards to be won. PCL awards were just starting during this time period.

In 1951, Dan scored his first basket and scored two points.

In 1952, he scored 181 points.

In 1953, Dan scored 270 points.

In 1953, Kalida, 13-9, placed 3rd in the Putnam County Tournament, but lost in the Sectionals to Columbus Grove 64-47.

In 1954, he scored 575 points. Dan was named 1st Team All-PCL.

In 1954, Kalida, 23-4, won the PCL Championship. They placed 3rd in the Putnam County Tournament, won a Sectional Championship, but lost in the Districts to Ottoville 62-60.

For his career, Dan scored 1,028 points. During his final three years, Kalida was 43-25.

Jim Fanger **1953 – 1956 1,019 Points**

Jim played in an era when there were very few individual awards to be won. PCL awards were just starting during this time period.

He started his varsity high school career at Kalida in 1953 when he scored 9 points.

Kalida, 13-9, placed 3rd in the PCL Tournament, but lost to Columbus Grove in the Sectionals 64-47.

In 1954, Jim scored 250 points.

Kalida, 23-4, won the PCL, placed 3rd in the Putnam County Tournament, won the Sectionals, but lost to Ottoville in the Districts 62-60.

In 1955, he scored 338 points.

The Wildcats, 18-3, won the PCL, but was upset by Miller City in the Putnam County Tournament, 66-64.

In 1956, Jim scored 422 points. He was named 1st Team All-PCL.

For his career, he scored 1,019 points. During Jim's tenure, the Wildcats were 55-16.

Tom Recker **1953 – 1956 987 Points**

Tom played in an era when there were very few individual awards to be won. PCL awards were just starting during this time period.

Tom's varsity basketball career at Kalida began in 1953 when he scored 13 points.

Kalida, 13-9, placed 3rd in the Putnam County Tournament, but lost to Columbus Grove in the Sectionals, 64-47.

In 1954, he scored 311 points

The Wildcats, 23-4, placed 3rd in the Putnam County Tournament, but lost in the Sectionals to Ottoville, 62-60.

In 1955, Tom scored 294 points.

Kalida, 18-3, won a PCL Championship, but lost to Miller City in the Putnam County Tournament.

In 1956, he scored 369 points. Tom was named 2nd Team All-PCL.

For his career, Tom scored 987 points. During his tenure, the Wildcats were 68-25.

Denny Potts **1961 – 1964 1,158 Points**

Denny Potts started his high school varsity career at Kalida High School in 1961 with 56 points.

In 1962, Denny scored 230 points.

Kalida, 13-12, placed 3rd in the Putnam County Tournament, but lost in the Sectionals to Coldwater, 66-62.

In 1963, he scored 374 points. Denny was named 1st Team All-PCL. Kalida, 21-4, won the PCL and Putnam County Tournament, but lost to Marion Local in the Sectionals, 69-66.

Legends of Kalida

In 1964, Denny had his best season when he scored 498 points. He was named 1st Team All-PCL and PCL Player of the Year.

Kalida, 18-6, placed 3rd in the Putnam County Tournament and won a Sectional Championship. The Wildcats lost to Celina ICHS in the Districts, 72-63.

For his career, Denny scored 1,158 points. During his tenure, Kalida was 63-33.

After graduation, Denny attended St. Joseph's College, 1965-1968, and played basketball and baseball.

Denny Knott **1974 – 1976 1,173 Points**

Denny started his varsity basketball career at Kalida in 1974 when he scored 214 points with 100 rebounds.

In 1975, he scored 481 points with 239 rebounds. He was named 1st Team All-PCL.

Kalida, 17-7, won a PCL, Sectional and District Championship, but lost to Riverdale in the Regionals, 51-50. This was Dick Kortokrax's first season at Kalida.

In 1976, Denny scored 478 points with 205 rebounds. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year and Special Mention Northwestern Ohio.

Kalida, 16-5, won its second consecutive PCL Championship.

For his career, Denny scored 1,173 points with 544 rebounds. During his tenure, Kalida's record was 44-22.

Greg VonderEmbse **1977 – 1978 698 Points**

Greg began his varsity basketball career at Kalida in 1977 when he scored 306 points with 185 rebounds. He was named 1st Team All-PCL.

Kalida, 17-4, won a PCL Championship.

In 1978, he scored 392 points with 171 rebounds. Greg was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year and 1st Team District 8.

Kalida, 20-3, won a Sectional Championship, but lost in the Districts to Ottoville, 67-57.

For his career, Greg scored 698 points with 356 rebounds. During his tenure, the Wildcats were 37-7.

Tim Stechsulte **1977 – 1979 960 Points**

Tim's varsity career at Kalida began in 1977 when he scored 292 points with 133 rebounds. He was named 2nd Team All-PCL.

Kalida, 17-4, won a PCL Championship.

In 1978, Tim scored 358 points with 176 rebounds. He was named 1st All-PCL and 1st Team District 8.

The Wildcats, 20-3, won a Sectional Championship, but lost to Ottoville in the Districts, 67-57.

In 1979, he scored 310 points with 187 rebounds. Tim was named 1st Team All-PCL, 1st Team District 8 and Special Mention Northwestern Ohio.

Kalida, 17-5, won a PCL Championship.

For his career, Tim scored 960 points with 496 rebounds. During his career, the Wildcats were 54-12.

Barry VonderEmbse **1978 – 1980 789 Points**

Barry's varsity basketball career at Kalida began in 1978 when he scored 35 points.

Kalida, 20-3, won a Sectional Championship, but lost to Ottoville in the Districts, 67-57.

In 1979, he scored 223 points with 141 rebounds.

The Wildcats, 17-5, won a PCL Championship.

In 1980, Barry scored 531 points. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year and 1st Team District 8.

Kalida, 25-2, won a Section, District and Regional Championship, but lost in the State Tournament to Summit Country Day, 72-66.

For his career, Barry scored 789 points with 400 rebounds. During his tenure, the Wildcats were 62-10.

Legends of Kalida

Randy Kortokrax **1982 – 1983 768 Points**

Randy Kortokrax's legendary career in basketball began in 1982 at Kalida High School where he scored 357 points. He was named 2nd Team All-PCL.

Randy led the Wildcats to a 20-3 record. The Wildcats won a PCL and Sectional Championship. However, Kalida was defeated by Delphos St. Johns in the District Semi-Finals 49-47.

He followed that up with 404 points in 1983. Randy was named 1st Team All-PCL and Honorable Mention All-Ohio.

The Wildcats, 20 – 3, had another great season by winning a PCL and a Sectional Championship. However, Kalida lost to Delphos St. Johns for the second year in a row in the District Semi-Finals, 63-61.

In his high school career, Randy scored 768 points and pulled in 533 rebounds. During his tenure, Kalida was 40-6.

Randy's next level of competition, college, however, is where he really excelled. From 1984 – 1987, Randy Kortokrax was "Mr. Everything" on the basketball court for the Findlay Oilers.

The following are a few of his most prestigious awards: 1985 - Honorable Mention NAIA All – American. 1986 - 2nd Team NAIA All – American and Player of the Year/Hoosier-Buckeye Conference. 1987 - 1st Team NAIA All – American and Player of the Year/Hoosier-Buckeye Conference

For his career, Randy averaged 23.4 and 10.9 rebounds per game, while leading the Oilers to an 83 – 32 record for the seasons of 1984 -1987.

Randy was inducted into the University of Findlay's Hall of Fame in 1999.

Joe Verhoff **1981 – 1983 1,129 Points**

In 1981, Joe Verhoff began his legendary career as a sophomore at Kalida High School by coming off the bench. He scored 160 points and pulled down 195 rebounds.

The Wildcats, 27 – 1, won a PCL, Sectional, District and Regional Championship. The 1981 season was a complete success when Kalida won the State Championship by defeating C.A.P.E. 58 – 44.

In 1982, Joe greatly improved his game by scoring 439 points and grabbing 274 rebounds. He was named 1st Team PCL, 1st Team District 8 and 2nd Team All-Ohio.

Kalida, 20 – 3, won another PCL and Sectional Championship. However, the Wildcats were defeated by Delphos St. Johns in the District Semi-Finals, 49-47.

In 1983, he had a monster season by scoring 530 points and pulling down 175 rebounds. Joe was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year, 1st Team District 8, 1st Team Northwestern Ohio and Player of the Year. Joe's final award was being named 1st Team All-Ohio.

The Wildcats, 20 – 3, had another great season by winning a PCL and Sectional Championship. However, Kalida lost to Delphos St. Johns for the second year in a row in the District Semi-Finals, 63-61.

Joe's career offensive statistics were fantastic as he scored 1,129 points and hauled in 644 rebounds. During his tenure, Kalida was 67 – 7!

After high school graduation, Joe went to Rio Grande which participated in the Mid-Ohio Conference - MOC and played basketball for four years, 1984 – 1987. His college accomplishments and statistics were even better than in high school.

During his tenure, Rio Grande captured the MOC and District 22 Championships in 1985 and 1987.

He scored 2,198 points, which ranks 4th and grabbed 1,164 rebounds, which ranks 3rd, at Rio Grande. Joe was 1st Team All-MOC in 1985, 1986 and 1987. He was the Most Valuable Player of the MOC in 1986 and 1987. Joe was also a Co-Captain of the 1987 team.

Brian Vorst **1986 – 1989 1,258 Points**

KALIDA'S #1 SCORER

Brian Vorst started his varsity basketball career at Kalida High School in 1986 when he scored 81 points and grabbed 71 rebounds.

In 1987, he scored 299 points and pulled in another 150 rebounds. He was named 2nd Team All-PCL and Special Mention in Northwestern Ohio.

Legends of Kalida

Kalida, 14-8, won a Sectional Championship, but lost to Delphos St. Johns in the Districts, 53-48.

In 1988, he scored 450 points with 292 rebounds. Brian was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Co-Player of the Year, 1st Team District 8, 2nd Team Northwestern Ohio and Honorable Mention All-Ohio.

The Wildcats won the PCL, Sectional, District and Regional Championship. Kalida lost to Columbus Wehrle in the State Finals 71-54. Brian was named to the All-State Tournament Team.

In 1989, Brian scored 428 points and grabbed another 300 rebounds. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year, 1st Team District 8, 1st Team Northwestern Ohio and 2nd Team All-Ohio.

He led the Wildcats, 21-4, to another PCL, Sectional and District Championship. Kalida lost to Lima Central Catholic in the Regional Finals, 64-56.

For his career, Brian scored 1,258 points with 813 rebounds and 210 steals. During his tenure, Kalida was 75-20. He also played in the Ohio North/South All-Star Game.

After graduation, Brian continued playing basketball at Findlay University.

Gene Stechschulte **1990 – 1992 1,000 Points**

Gene started his high school varsity basketball career at Kalida in 1990 when he scored 124 points with 47 steals and 71 assists.

Kalida, 12-11, won a Sectional Championship, but lost to Leipsic in the District Finals, 67-62.

In 1991, Gene scored 358 points with 192 rebounds, 50 steals and 71 assists. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, 2nd Team District 8 and Honorable Mention Northwestern Ohio.

The Wildcats, 14-7, won a PCL Championship.

In 1992, he scored 518 points with 216 rebounds, 87 steals and 94 assists. Gene was named 1st Team All-PCL, 1st Team District 8, 1st Team Northwestern Ohio and 3rd Team All-Oho.

Kalida, 21-3, won a PCL, Sectional and District Championship, but lost to Crestview in the Regional Semi-Finals, 38-36.

For his career, Gene scored 1,000 points with 408 rebounds, 184 steals and 236 assists. During his tenure, Kalida was 47-21.

Following graduation, Gene went to Ashland University to play baseball. He was then drafted and played major league baseball for several years. He hit a homerun in his first official time at bat on the very first pitch for the St. Louis Cardinals!

Scott Unverferth **1994 – 1996 1,041 Points**

In 1994 as a sophomore, Scott Unverferth began his high school basketball career at Kalida by scoring 180 points with 90 rebounds.

In 1995, Scott scored 379 points with 172 rebounds. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year, 1st Team District 8, 2nd Team Northwestern Ohio and Honorable Mention All-Ohio.

The Kalida Wildcats, 16-4, won a PCL Championship.

In 1996, he scored 482 points with 228 rebounds. Scott was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year, 1st Team District 8, 1st Team Northwestern Ohio and 3rd Team All-Ohio.

The Wildcats, 21-3, won a PCL, Sectional and District Championship, but lost to Old Fort in the Regionals, 78-75.

For his career, Scott scored 1,041 points with 490 rebounds. During his tenure, Kalida was 50-16.

Following graduation, Scott took his talents to Ohio Northern University where he played four years, 1997-2000. He scored over 1,000 points and was named 2nd Team All-Ohio Athletic Conference in 2000.

Joel Burgei **1994 - 1997 1,125 Points**

Joel began his varsity basketball career at Kalida in 1994 when he scored 101 points with 95 rebounds and 27 steals.

In 1995, Joel scored 281 points with 179 rebounds, 45 steals and 32 assists. He was named 2nd Team District 8.

Kalida, 16-4, won a PCL Championship.

Legends of Kalida

In 1996, he scored 357 points with 204 rebounds, 38 steals and 60 assists. Joel was named 2nd Team All-PCL and 2nd Team District 8.

The Wildcats, 21-3, won a PCL, Sectional and District Championship, but lost in the Regionals to Old Fort, 78-75.

In 1997, Joel scored 386 points with 214 rebounds, 55 steals and 88 assists. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, 1st Team District 8 and 1st Team Northwestern Ohio.

Kalida, 19-3, won a Sectional Championship, but lost in the Districts to Leipsic, 57-52.

For his career, Joel scored 1,125 points with 692 rebounds, 165 steals and 180 assists. During his tenure, the Wildcats were 69-19.

Jordan Basinger **2007 – 2010 1,242 Points**

In 2007, as a freshman, Jordan Basinger started his high school basketball career at Kalida by scoring 174 points with 122 rebounds, 34 steals and 43 assists.

In 2008, Jordan scored 267 points, with 169 rebounds, 41 steals and 33 assists. He was named 2nd Team All-PCL.

He helped the Wildcats to a 17-6 record and a Sectional Championship. Kalida lost to Wayne Trace in the District Finals 56-36.

In 2009, Jordan improved his scoring to 436 points along with 237 rebounds, 48 steals and 73 assists. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, 1st Team District 8, 1st Team Northwestern Ohio and Honorable Mention All-Ohio. Jordan also made the 1st Team All-State Tournament Team.

Jordan led the Wildcats to a 23-5 record. They won a PCL, Sectional, District and a Regional Championship, but lost in the State Finals to Oak Hills, 45-43.

In 2010, Jordan's senior year was spectacular. He scored 365 points with 227 rebounds, 65 steals and 98 assists. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, PCL Player of the Year, 1st Team District 8, 1st Team Northwestern Ohio and 2nd Team All-Ohio.

He led the Wildcats to 21-3 record, winning another PCL, Sectional and District Championship. Kalida lost to Ottawa Hills in the Regional Finals 41-33.

For his career, Jordan finished with 1,242 points, 755 rebounds, 188 steals and 247 assists. During his tenure, Kalida was 68-27.

Jordan went on to play basketball at Owen's Community College in 2011 and 2012.

Luke Erhart **2018 – 2021 1,140 Points**

In 2018, Luke Erhart, started his high school basketball career at Kalida by scoring 165 points with 89 rebounds, 13 steals and 19 assists.

Kalida, 18-7, won a Sectional Championship, but lost in the District Finals to Pandora-Gilboa, 56-33.

In 2019, he scored 298 points with 145 rebounds, 26 steals and 34 assists. Luke was named 2nd Team All-PCL, 2nd Team District 8 and Honorable Mention Northwestern Ohio.

The Wildcats, 19-6, won a Sectional Championship, but lost in the District Finals to Crestview, 61-58.

In 2020, Luke scored 320 points with 158 rebounds, 30 steals and 57 assists. He was named 1st Team All-PCL, 1st Team District 8, 2nd Team Northwestern Ohio and Special Mention All-Ohio.

Kalida, 18-8, won a Sectional Championship, but lost in the District Finals for the 3rd consecutive season. Columbus Grove won 58-49.

In 2021, he scored 357 points with 139 rebounds, 27 steals and 29 assists. Luke was named 1st All-PCL, 1st Team District 8, 2nd Team Northwestern Ohio and Special Mention All-Ohio.

The Wildcats, 18-6, lost in the Sectionals for the first time in four years.

For his career, Luke scored 1,140 points, with 531 rebounds, 96 steals and 139 assists. During his tenure, the Wildcats were 73-27.