

STEVE BANKS (PHS 1978)

Steve Banks may have been the best all-around male athlete to go through Frederick Jackson Turner High School in the 70s. He ended his career with seven varsity letters and a super senior year earning all-conference honors in football, basketball and baseball.

Banks added MVP honors in baseball and basketball his senior year. He also quarterbacked the football team to its first winning season in many years. In basketball, Steve led the South Central Conference in scoring, while leading Portage to its first conference championship in 23 years. He graduated as the second-leading scorer of all time. Steve was honorable mention all-state and played in the first Wisconsin High School Basketball All-Star game.

As a junior, he led Portage through the WIAA basketball tournament as the smallest school in the "Class A" division. At sectionals PHS beat highly ranked Big Eight champions Madison West, before losing to eventual state champions Madison LaFollette in the sectional final.

In Steve's final two games the following year he scored 18 points in the fourth quarter of a Class A regional championship game to erase a double-digit deficit on his way to 35 points. His final game was once again vs. a Madison West team looking for revenge. Madison West did win, but all their efforts could not stop Steve Banks from scoring 39 points that night.

Steve was also a tuba player in the band. He attended concerts and solo & ensemble even as a senior on game days.

Steve and his wife Janet (PHS '83) have 3 adult children and live outside of Pardeeville.