

Sollars, Walton, Chapel to Join CC Sports Hall of Fame

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Centralia College will welcome three new members into its Sports Hall of Fame on Feb. 21, with the 2015 class' induction ceremony set for halftime of the Lady Blazers' home contest with Clark College.

This year's inductees include two-sport standouts Jim Sollars and Monte Walton, as well as James Chapel.

Sollars, who played baseball and basketball in blue and gold from 1961 to 1963, made the academic honor roll and went on to a lengthy coaching career. He spent three years as the head boys basketball coach at The Bush School in Seattle, then coached the women's basketball team at Wenatchee Valley Community College from 1976 to 1983, winning three straight NWAACC championships.. He followed that up with three years at Portland State University, and was hired in 1986 as the head coach at the University of Portland — a position he held until last year, during which time he won the West Coast Conference's Coach of the Year award five times. His 38-year collegiate record stands at 565-510.

Walton (1975-77) played two years of baseball and a year of basketball in Centralia, earning second-team All-Conference and All-State Tournament honors his sophomore year. He went on to play two years of baseball at Western Washington University, and played for the Bellingham Bells for two seasons. He went on to serve as an assistant varsity coach at Sehome and Meridian high schools, helping lead the teams to seven state basketball championships (along with three state baseball titles at Sehome) and is currently the head varsity boys basketball coach at Ferndale. Walton was inducted into the Washington Interscholastic Basketball Coaches Association's Hall of Fame in 2012.

Chapel played basketball for the Blazers in the 1981-82 and 1983-84 seasons, helping his team to the state finals each year and earning All-Region second-team honors. He went on to play two years at St. Martin's University, where he was the Saints' leading rebounder and earned his criminal justice degree. He's worked in the juvenile justice system since 1985, and has been with the Pierce County Juvenile County system since 1990, serving on committees to help produce the juvenile court's Alternative Detentions programs, and earning two Employee of the Month awards and a citation for using none of his sick leave.

Saturday's events will also feature a luncheon, by invitation only, set for 1 p.m. The Lady Blazers (21-3) and Clark (11-8) tip off at 5 p.m., followed by the Trailblazer men's home game with the Penguins at Michael Smith Gymnasium.