

Wauseon High School Hall of Fame

Karen (Lammon) Moden – 1960

- A Trailblazer for Female Athletics
- Most Outstanding Female Athlete (1960)
- First Female Professional Athlete from Wauseon (1961)

Because girls' sports were not high school-sanctioned sports in Wauseon, Ohio, Karen joined the Wauseon High School's Girls Athletic Association in 1957 where she played volleyball and basketball, the only two sports offered. Girls' basketball was 6-on-6, with three girls on one side of the court playing defense and three on the other side playing offense.

Karen was the first to receive a medal at Wauseon High School for the Most Outstanding Female Athlete. Many of Karen's classmates say she was one of the best male or female athletes at Wauseon High School no matter what sport they were playing. They recall that she was often a team captain and an excellent leader.

In 1961, with just enough money for a one-way ticket, Karen took a bus to Arkansas to try out for Hazel Walker's Arkansas Travelers Professional Women's Basketball team. Karen made the team and Hazel Walker gave her enough money to return home to pack her things and return to Arkansas to start the season.

This made Karen the first professional female athlete from Wauseon. She played professionally for one season and her team of seven women traveled around the country from Wyoming to West Virginia and Ohio to Florida playing against all men's teams. Most of their games were played in front of a sold-out crowd. The players were required to keep up ladylike appearances, which involved rolling their hair and applying make-up before every game.

The Arkansas Travelers played 220 games that season and won 85% of their games. Karen was asked to come back and play the next season but chose to return home and marry her husband. Karen spent many years giving back to sports in the Northwest Ohio area by playing, coaching, and officiating multiple sports.

Karen lives in Wauseon with Jim, her husband of 61 years. Together, they have three children, four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren who all graduated from or currently attend Wauseon Schools. As of tonight, Karen and Kyle are the first grandparent/grandchild duo to enter the Wauseon Hall of Fame.

“For all of this I give God the Glory”

Karen (Lammon) Moden

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