

## ALUMNI OF THE MONTH

**Name:** Nick Conway

**Year of Graduation:** 2013

### **What have you done since graduating from Port Allegany High School?**

After graduation I attended Saint Francis University, receiving a Doctorate in Physical Therapy and Masters in Business Administration, while running track and field. I then married my high school sweetheart, Jena (Young), and moved south to Charlottesville, VA. I spent a few years managing an outpatient physical therapy office, but have since transitioned into a role for the Virginia Department of Corrections.



We are now first time home owners with two small dogs and tons of renovations to complete! I am now looking forward to settling into this community and establishing myself in local athletics volunteer work.

### **Where do you currently live?**

Charlottesville, Virginia

### **Who was your favorite teacher in high school? Why were they your favorite?**

Several teachers went out of their way on a daily basis to better the lives of many students at PAHS. Most of these teachers taught for 10+ years, and may still be teaching for 10+ more.

I believe the most impactful person for my professional career would have been Mr. Wheaton. He taught biology/anatomy and was foundational for guiding my interest into healthcare. He was always quick to make you laugh, yet hold you accountable for knowledge. I recall several hands-on dissections and acronyms for making a difficult subject engaging. His light hearted demeanor is something I like to carry into my profession with each patient I treat.

A special thanks to Mr Haskins, Mr. Bienkowski, and Mr. Bodamer for their involvement and dedication to my athletic development in the from 7th-12th grade 3x a week before school began!

### **What is your fondest memory of Port Allegany High School?**

My fondest memories from high school mostly pertain to the success I was able to enjoy through sports. From my father coaching me through track and field to the peak of football season in the Sharpsville and Clairton state playoff games.

It was incredible to go into each key moment with a 'chip on my shoulder' approach, given we 'were just some small town kids from the middle of nowhere PA.' I've always leaned on that mentality through sports and through life. The opportunities I received in high school sports have taught me how to be a leader...and most importantly, how to face adversity.

At the time, there was no greater feeling than the support we felt from our community. It became common to see Pat Bodamer sprinting alongside of the school bus parade led by fire trucks. Kids wearing your jerseys, playing football on the playground debating over who was most similar to players on our high school team. Having so many eyes watching you forced you to lead by example, when you may not have even understood how to be a leader yet.

I am grateful for all of those who played a role in my development at PAHS.