

Thanks for the memories — from the heart

I'm very proud to have been the sports editor at The Review for the past 30 years. It was a wonderful journey. I retired from this position on Monday, July 23, with many fond memories.

I was blessed to meet so many nice people through my job, whether they be athletes, coaches, parents/fans, and many, many other people, both locally and outside the area.

I've interviewed Hall of Famers, covered high school state championship events and three PGA Championships, and numerous other major athletic events which I thoroughly enjoyed but the local sports I covered also meant a great deal to me.

What meant the most during my career at The Review were the friendships I formed and the people I interacted with. I love sports but I love being a people person even more.

Some examples of persons I was fortunate to have known were the late Arnold "Ozzie" Pick (Plymouth Flame baseball manager and longtime groundskeeper for Plymouth baseball fields), the late John Thome (Howards Grove boys golf coach) and former Plymouth High School athletic director and coach Cabby Wild. There are countless others but too many to list here.

I have so many fond memories, I don't know where to start. I would like to share some of them however. I interviewed Robin Yount, Milwaukee Brewer and Hall of Famer, before a game at County Stadium during his 1989 MVP season.

I interviewed Paul Molitor, another former Brewer great and another Hall of Famer, in 2004 when he was the hitting coach for the Seattle Mariners. I talked to Molitor before Seattle's game against Milwaukee at Miller Park. One of the first things he said to me when I introduced myself was that he loved the double cheeseburgers at Chester's Drive-In (called the A & W Drive-In when he visited there many years ago).

I was thrilled when I interviewed former Chicago Bear running back Walter Payton, a Hall of Famer. I talked to Payton, my all-time favorite Bear, at Road America after one of his races there. He got into racing after he retired from the NFL following the 1987 season.

A few of my favorite quotes from coaches include:

"We scored more points than they did," cracked former PHS head boys basketball coach Scott Richards after I asked him what the key was to the game's outcome.

"There's nothing like Friday night lights," said PHS head football coach Dan Knaus.

"We couldn't hit water if we threw it [ball] in the ocean," said Donny Kulow, Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah head girls basketball coach, after a cold-shooting night by his team.

A sincere thank-you to everyone who was a part of my Review career – it meant so much to me.

I'd be remiss if I didn't thank my wife, Julie, and daughters, Vanessa and Bridget, for all of their great support over the years. My crazy schedule some weeks with a lot of games to cover and travel to can put a strain on a family but my family was very understanding and supportive of my work.

I'm not quite ready to ride off into the sunset as I will be doing some part-time feature sports writing for The Review as a correspondent. The sports writing blood is still flowing inside me.

Thanks for the memories.



SPORTS BEAT

Greg Ceilley • Review Sports Editor