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Writer: Lisa Healy

Media Contact: Dominic Knight, Director of Alumni Relations,
Orchard Lake St. Mary's Preparatory

Office: (248) 706-5351

Email: dknight@orchardlakeschools.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE --

St. Mary's Preparatory Reaches Out to Alumni

ORCHARD LAKE, Mich. (2-9-15) – “What I’ve lost in ability of body, I am fortunate to have in ability of mind,” said Shane Dwyer, Class of 2006. In December, 2014, Dwyer was involved in a snowboarding accident that left him paralyzed from the waist down.

With an injury of this nature, medical expenses are enormous, and the Orchard Lake Schools Alumni Association reached out to Dwyer and his family in this difficult time. The Shane Dwyer Alumni Day Fundraiser, an all-day event, took place Friday, February 6, 2015.

St. Mary's Prep students participated in a dress down day and hot dog cook-out. During Alumni Appreciation Night, when the Eaglets took to the basketball court against U of D Jesuit, a 50/50 raffle will took place. In the athletic complex following the game, attendees participated in black jack, raffles, and contributed to a donation box. Alumni, alumni parents, guests, current parents, faculty and staff were in attendance and raised more than _____ for the Dwyer family.

“The best memories of my life have been spent sharing connections with family and friends, regardless of any activity at hand,” added Dwyer. “I have not lost the ability to continue this, and I am grateful for that. Plus, I still plan on dominating many activities.”

The Alumni Association also honored former Prep graduates Josh Burke (Class of 2000) and John Grabowski (Class of 1931).

Burke is one of the most successful football players to attend St. Mary’s Preparatory, and helped lead the Eaglets on to the 1999 State Championship. At Grand Valley State University, he earned honors such as 1st Team All-American, 1st Team All-GLIAC, and Great Lakes Conference Lineman of the Year, and three national championships in 2002, 2003 and 2005. In 2005, he was drafted by the Green Bay Packers and is now in the CFL with the Montreal Alouettes. Burke made the All-Star Team in 2011 and 2012, and won the famed Leo Dandurand Trophy that same year.

Grabowski was a three-sport all-star in basketball, baseball and football while at St. Mary’s. After graduating, he moved on to play in the Brooklyn Dodgers Farm System in the mid-1930’s. He went on to attend St. Mary’s College where he led the Eagles to six Michigan-Ontario Athletic titles from 1931-35. Grabowski returned to Orchard Lake in the 1940’s to help coach both the Prep and the College before becoming a priest in 1948 and serving as a Chaplain Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Navy until 1972. John Grabowski passed away in 1977. His nephew, Larry Nadrowski, accepted his Alumni Night honors on his uncle’s behalf.

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