



STATE: A Team, A Triumph, A Transformation Recalls '79 West State Championship

They were a group of girls sitting innocently at the crossroads of history, a fledgling team of first-time athletes not permitted to play in the "Boys Gym." Four years later, those girls performed before standing room-only crowds in that same gym and reached the pinnacle of Illinois high school basketball.

STATE: A Team, A Triumph, A Transformation is the captivating first-person account of the 1979 Niles West Girls Basketball State Champions, written by longtime sportswriter **Melissa Isaacson** (W'79). Isaacson, on the faculty of Northwestern's Medill School of Journalism and the author of two previous books, was the first woman general sports columnist at the *Chicago Tribune* and the beat writer for the Michael Jordan-led Bulls championship teams as well as the Bears, covering virtually every major sports championship for the *Orlando Sentinel*, *USA Today*, the *Chicago Tribune* and later, ESPN.com.

"We were unaware of the history we were making," Isaacson said. "But what we did know was that we were sharing something that would impact our lives forever."

STATE: A Team, A Triumph, A Transformation will be released on August 13, 2019. It is available for presale on Amazon.com.

Niles North student **Marika Kalodimos** presented a plan to the Board of Education to create a memorial to honor all eight D219 graduates who died in action during the Vietnam War. The memorial is in the initial stages. Niles West has a Wall of Honor to commemorate past, present and future graduates for their service. For alumni who have served in any branch of the military, active or reserves, complete the form at www.niles219.org/alumni/west using the Wall of Honor link.



EDUCATION FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Niles Central graduate **Josh Sawyer** was selected to receive a \$2,000 scholarship from the Education Foundation. Sawyer plans to attend Oakton Community College, then to transfer to the College of Culinary Arts at Johnson & Wales University. (Pictured: Sawyer, **Jean Hedstrom** and **Alyse Burman**, Education Foundation directors).



VIKINGS, A FAMILY TRADITION

Sharon (Nimer) Swanson (N'68) noted that at Niles North's Homecoming game this year, three generations of Vikings were represented. Her daughter **Rachel** is a 1995 grad, and her granddaughter **Izza** is from the Class of 2022.



Noam Pikelný (NN'99), founding member of Punch Brothers, wins Best Folk Album for *All Ashore* at the 61st annual GRAMMY awards.

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LONGTIME EMPLOYEE HONORED

Lou Kovitz (W'83), who works at Niles North in receiving and distribution, was honored for his 30-plus years of service in delivering the Board packets to the members of the Board of Education. Since 1985, Kovitz has made deliveries, no matter the hour, no matter the weather, to make sure all seven Board members receive the Board packets in a timely manner. In all the years of making his deliveries, Kovitz said he never had an accident, never got a ticket, and was never pulled over. "It's a rare service," said Kovitz. "It's rare for an employee to know every superintendent and every board member."

"It's an honor to serve," he continued. "I realize how this was an important aspect of my job."