

CLASSMATE PROFILES
Getting to know Classmates all over again!
So what have you been doing for the past 50 years?

Page 1



Pat Santell
Taft Student



Pat Santell
1963



Me & Tom Hookanson
At Taft Prom



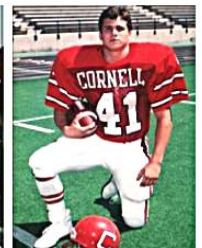
JoAnne Wolf, Me, Kathy McGovern, Sally
Weed, Bonnie Anderson, Carole Tatara,
Arde MacFarlane & Carolyn Remito



My
Stacy



1984 -



My Football Hero - 1989
Son Steve

PAT SANTELL LUTZ

In the winter of 1970, friend and former classmate Denny Cavan, an independent film maker at the time, chose my five-year old daughter, Staci, for an American Medical Association commercial which showcased a panel of young food tasters. On the morning of the shoot a heavy snowfall compelled us to leave our suburban home predawn to make sure we arrived to the AMA's loop location by 7 a.m. The actress cast to play the facilitator, was a no-show. Denny commandeered me to fill in. Because the camera focused on the faces and activities of the five children, I was visible from the top of my boots to my shoulders as my character encouraged the youngsters to sample the exotic flavors. Hollywood never beckoned. The 30 second spot aired during early morning kid shows when most adults were sleeping.

After a successful academic and athletic career at Buffalo Grove HS, (letters in track, basketball, and football) where he set several records, son Steve Lutz, was recruited by Cornell's University new head coach Maxie Baughan (ex Philadelphia Eagle and L.A. Rams All Pro linebacker). Maxie was lured away from professional coaching with an endowment aimed at bringing the losing Big Red Machine to football prominence. At the end of their third season together, Coach Baughan, needing another back for the following fall, asked Steve to consider shifting from wide-receiver (at 6' and 185 lbs.) to become his Walter Payton. During the ensuing months, Steve added weight and muscle climbing to 235 lbs. and was a key component of their 1988 season. With a game to play and tied with the University of Pennsylvania, Cornell was in the Championship game against the Quakers. In the fourth quarter, Steve scored the go-ahead touchdown for the win and the ruby ring. Post game, surrounded by reporters, Steve was interviewed by ESPN, magazines, and East Coast sports pages. The following morning we enjoyed reading about the team's success in New York's Sunday columns. A couple weeks later, while at O'Hare waiting for Steve to return for Thanksgiving break, his father (Dick Lutz, Taft class of '58), saw copies of Sports Illustrated being stacked into airport magazine racks. While thumbing through the November 28th edition, he was surprised to see a ½ page photo of his son with corresponding 2 page article about the Ivy League championship game.

In August, 1983 as a member of Arlington Park Racetrack's marketing team for the only Million dollar thoroughbred race in the world, I "volunteered" my daughter to be a chauffeur providing shuttle service for dignitaries to and from O'Hare. It was a fairly mundane exercise for an 18 year-old until late in the day while lined up outside the entrance to the famous Cinderella Rockafella nightclub where the post race celebrations were taking place, into her station wagon rushed a slightly built, red-headed man, who had to make a flight. It was a routine ride without much conversation between them.. Arriving at the departure gate, Staci got out to help with his luggage. The grateful passenger handed her a \$20 tip and autographed the bill - It was from Chris McCarron, who had just won the most important stakes race (up to that time) having guided the famous thoroughbred, John Henry to his second victory in three tries at Arlington Park. Not realizing the importance of his gesture, Staci, exchanged the famous signature for teenage purchases.

Remembering our senior class trip to New Orleans with Mr. Kaplan and his wife and child and Miss Nielsen (I think) as chaperones. Division-room buddies Karen Lange, Bob Drinan, Ted Rolander and Pat Santell had big plans for the Crescent City as a quartet until boyfriend Tom Hookanson appeared as the train was departing Chicago's Union Station. Hotel bed check every night followed by mass exodus of teens stampeding Bourbon Street, Jackson Square and the rest of the French Quarter. Al Hirt and Pete Fountain entertained. Pretty amazing time as naïve 17 year-olds entered strip clubs and ordered alcohol quite freely.

How we enjoyed the great Springtime beach parties at Sand Low Beach in Wilmette (soon covered by mile-high condos) - *Beach Blanket Bingo* had nothing on us. Neil Vetter looking older than his 17 years, bought beer for the naughty underage guzzlers. His greatest creation was vodka filled watermelons. Homebound, I was the designated driver.

My Kappa Chi clubmates, who suffered teenage angst and insecurities with me while trying so hard to be cool. I'm lucky to still see many of the girls but am forever saddened over the passing of Bonnie Anderson, Sally Gundel, and also our class' only cheerleader, Sally Weed.

Senior Prom - pre-parties, photo stops, the dance at the downtown Palmer House and post prom dinner on Rush street plus beach picnic next day with Sally, Neil Vetter, Tom Hookanson and others. Sally and I had to be tan - she looked gorgeous, I burned and suffered with red blotches and welts.

Graduation night - at the beach with tear laden friends realizing everything was going to change with our innocence challenged as we prepared for college or other unknown paths.

Attaining Life Saving credentials together with Taft's swimming requirements to earn Red Suit freshman year. Remember the impossibly awful grey and blue cotton suits? Boys had it worse though, as everyone knows - no suits at all. Being a White Suit Leader every semester in gym class. Elected by peers, to captain each semester's teams in volleyball, captain basketball, and baseball.

Earned a spot on the Illinois Wesleyan University Terrapin Club for aquatic arts (synchronized swimming), which was awarded a superior rating by Esther Williams in 1961 Florida competition. As a Sociology major at Illinois Wesleyan, had the honor of meeting Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1962 before he attained worldwide significance as a non-violent civil rights leader. He spoke to the entire student body and then came to a private session with Sociology students.

Joined local tennis club and won first place in my flight several years running, when I had the privilege to meet tennis ace, Martina Navratilova. Also played in ladies golf league for many years although not as successfully. Belonged to a ladies bowling league too and was the team handicap - fortunately the other bowlers were excellent and we took first place several times.

Produced and hosted many business golf outings, and had some success playing in dozens of other charity tournaments winning my share of useless awards. While not a proponent of beauty pageants in general, I was one of five officials asked to judge the 2005 Miss Illinois' competition (leads to the Miss America Pageant formerly held in Atlantic City in September). This being the "granddaddy" of female talent shows, it concentrated on scholarship and causes. Modernity and controversy had dramatically reduced TV viewership so the future of this cultural phenomenon is questionable. The venue moved from Schaumburg to St. Charles in 2006 and now negotiates for its continuance - probably moving to Las Vegas in the future.

In my former life as Vice President of Greater Woodfield Convention and Visitors Bureau, I created, and for 13 years produced, an award winning local event called Chefs' Fest. It's an annual festival held at Arlington Park Racetrack, bringing together the food loving public and local restaurateurs - providing dining entertainment, earning revenue and bringing exposure to the eateries. During my stewardship, the event was a seven time award winner of Illinois' Best Restaurant Promotion at the annual Governor's Tourism Conferences. I retired from the Bureau at end of 2006 and now enjoy the flexibility of combining volunteering, sports and family at my own discretion and leisure.

One daughter Staci, one son Steve, who are co-owners in a family business called Lutz Sales Company, Inc. One grandson Timmy, granddaughter Melissa, (both adults) and 2-year old granddaughter Cameron. One great grandson, Kellen 3 ½,, and another grand baby due in June.. They keep me laughing. How lucky we are!!!