

James Manganello



Freedom Area Class of 1960

"The secret of success in life is for a man to be ready for his opportunity when it comes." -Benjamin Disraeli

James Manganello, better known as "Jimmy Maggs", is a 1960 graduate of Freedom Area High School. Born and raised in Conway, Manganello is the son of the late Joseph and Stella Manganello. The elder Manganellos came from Sicily and knew the value of hard work, a trait they passed on to their sons Jimmy and Dennis. Manganello attended Mt. Gallitzin Academy before enrolling at Freedom Area High School where he participated in all sports. Because Freedom did not have a baseball program at that time, he played baseball for Ambridge American Legion.

After high school graduation, Manganello attended the University of Miami where he played football, basketball and baseball. Injuries during his junior year, a dislocated knee, broken ankle and a compound leg fracture ended his athletic career and his opportunity to play with the Washington Nationals Minor League organization. When he earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Miami in 1964, he could have accepted a teaching position in Rye, NY. Instead, he returned to Beaver County to take over the family business.

Manganello's work ethic and entrepreneurship were evident at an early age. He learned through the example of his hard-working parents who owned and operated a bar and restaurant in Conway for many years. His parents opened Imperial Lanes in 1955 where, while in high school, Manganello worked as a pin boy on weekends and after school. This experience served him well, and in 1980 when the opportunity arose to purchase Baden Bowl, Manganello jumped at the chance and has made it one of the premier bowling centers in Beaver County along with Center Lanes purchased in 1990.

Always a man who likes a challenge, Manganello was instrumental in keeping the Pittsburgh Penguins in Pittsburgh. He was a friend of Eddie DeBartolo, the Penguin owner from 1977 to 1991. Through that friendship, DeBartolo saw the interest, enthusiasm and organization skills in Manganello and named him vice-president responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Penguins, a position he held from 1981 to 1993. He had the opportunity to travel with the team and to this day has remained an avid hockey fan.

Now the owner of The Club at Shadow Lakes, which he purchased in 2010, Manganello has developed an 18-hole golf course, restaurant and banquet facility unrivaled in Beaver County. Well known and well respected throughout Beaver County, Manganello was honored by the Mental Health Association as its 2012 Man of the Year. However, his proudest achievements are his forty-seven year marriage to Donna and their three daughters Jennifer, Janet and Jackie and grandchildren Nicolas, Jacob, Alexa and Francesca.