

# Jeffrey R. Beltz



**Freedom Area Class of 1991**

*"It is fine to have ability, but the ability to discover ability in others is the true test."*

—Lou Holtz

As is common with many families throughout the Conway, Freedom, and New Sewickley Township municipalities, Jeff Beltz celebrates his Freedom diploma with multiple generations of family members. The railroad industry brought Jeff's great grandfather to Freedom nearly a century ago, and the railroad provided employment opportunities and financial stability for three generations. Jeff is extremely proud and humbled by his local heritage and the sacrifices that were made to give him opportunities beyond the railroad yard.

As a 1991 graduate of Freedom Area High School, Jeff Beltz celebrated an historic senior year of varsity athletics. In football, Jeff captained a Bulldog team that reached the WPIAL playoffs and set a single season record with 40 receptions, while anchoring the defensive secondary. Jeff batted over .500 in baseball, and he averaged 25 points per game in his only season of basketball.

Beltz attended Geneva College and earned a degree in business. His collegiate sports achievements are outstanding. On the gridiron, Jeff accumulated every game, season, and career reception record along with playing in the secondary and returning kicks. Similar success was also found in baseball as a variety of records were achieved in on-base percentage, runs scored, stolen bases and triples. Jeff earned NAIA All-American honors in two sports, and to date he is the only athlete to accomplish that feat in over 100 years of intercollegiate athletics at Geneva. Beltz holds as his fondest collegiate memory the 1993 baseball team's advancement to the NAIA World Series where the Golden Tornadoes upset the number one ranked team in the opening game of the tournament 2-1.

After graduating from Geneva College, Beltz returned to the Freedom Area School District as an assistant football and baseball coach for one year. He then enrolled at Robert Morris University, where he received an MBA degree and helped coach the Colonials to four football conference championships and one national championship. In 1999 Beltz became Freedom's athletic director and transportation coordinator, but that tenure only lasted one season as the lure of coaching pulled him into the Beaver Area School District where he is in his fourteenth year as head football coach. He has achieved great success with the Bobcats football program. In the past decade, Beaver has captured a share of the conference title three times and has been a playoff participant 9 of the past 11 seasons.

Professionally, Beltz is currently serving as principal of the Beaver Area Middle School and has reached the dissertation stage of a doctorate program in education at Youngstown State University. He is single and resides in Hopewell Township.