

Vinnie Guandolo



Freedom Area Class of 1994

"We all have dreams. But in order to make dreams come into reality, it takes an awful lot of determination, dedication, self-discipline, and effort."

-Jesse Owens

Vinnie Guandolo, the son of Vincent and Krista Guandolo, is a 1994 graduate of Freedom Area High School. While in high school, Vinnie was a member of the National Honor Society and held numerous leadership positions. He was president of the Student Government, Student Council, World Affairs Council, Health Careers Club, and the Art League. He was vice president of his class and graduated fifth out of 150 with a 3.95 GPA. Athletically, Vinnie was a multiyear letter winner in football, wrestling, and track and field. While on the football field, Vinnie became the first athlete in Freedom's history to rush for a 1,000 yards in a season. During that year, he broke both the school's rushing record and touchdown record. He also led the team in receiving, all-purpose yards, individual scoring, interceptions, punt returns and kick returns. In track and field, Vinnie had similar success breaking records in the 300 intermediate hurdles, the 4X100 relay, and the 4X400 relay. In 1993, Vinnie was the PIAA State Champion in the 300 intermediate hurdles.

This success in track and field led Vinnie to Bucknell University where he was a four-year letter winner, a four-time Patriot League finalist in the 400 intermediate hurdles, a four-time IC4A Qualifier, and earned All Patriot League Team honors four consecutive years in the 400 intermediate hurdles and as a member of the 4X400 meter relay team.

While at Bucknell University, Vinnie earned a Bachelor of Science degree in biology. He also earned certification to teach biology and general science. As he pursued his MBA at Robert Morris University, Vinnie earned business, computer and information technology certification.

Currently, Vinnie teaches seventh grade science at South Side Area Middle School. In addition to teaching at South Side, he coaches track and field and has coached football. In 1999, Vinnie was a member of the football coaching staff of the undefeated PIAA State Championship team earning him the distinguished honor of being one of the few in the state of Pennsylvania to win a PIAA State Championship as both an athlete and a coach. It is his time dedicated to the track and field team, however, in which his influence has been most noted. Before Vinnie's tenure as the head varsity track and field coach and as a middle school track and field coach, neither of South Side's boys or girls track and field teams had ever won a section championship. Furthermore, the girls team had never qualified for the WPIAL team playoffs. Since that time, the girls team has qualified for the WPIAL team playoffs 10 out of the last 14 years and has won three section championships. The boys team has qualified for the WPIAL team playoffs 12 out of the last 14 years and has won seven section championships. In 2006, the South Side boys team even went on to win the WPIAL Team Championship, the first in school history. On an individual level, a South Side hurdler has won a WPIAL Championship an impressive 8 times in the last 14 years. Of those eight WPIAL champions, five of them went on to become PIAA state finalists and return home with a PIAA medal. With this hurdling success, South Side has been nicknamed "Hurdle High" among many local track and field enthusiasts.

In addition to teaching and coaching at South Side, Vinnie also spends time working in the business world. Since his early years in high school when he began detailing and painting cars, Vinnie has always been an entrepreneur. He began investing in real estate in 2001. Today, he is the president of G2 Enterprises, Inc., specializing in real estate and property management services. In 2008, Vinnie earned his real estate license and became an agent with Remax Select Realty. He is also a partner/shareholder of Cartiff Giant, LLC, a real estate investment company. Vinnie has not limited his entrepreneurial activities to real estate. He is the owner and president of G2 Auto Sales. With a passion for vehicles, Vinnie enjoys bidding at auctions for clients and even for his own personal collection.

Although Vinnie enjoys his time teaching, coaching and managing his businesses, nothing compares to spending time with his family. He and his wife Lori (who ironically is also a former PIAA state hurdler and teacher/coach) have two beautiful daughters, five-year Nina and three-year old Gia. They currently reside in Center Township but spend much time with family in both Conway and New Sewickley Township.