

JIM BANKS (PHS 1980)

Jim Banks' Portage sports debut was delayed by a serious football injury to his knee as a sophomore.

Still he earned three varsity letters that injury-plagued year and he made the most of his final two years, earning five more varsity letters while setting multiple records and winning an individual WIAA Class A State Championship.

He started his junior year helping the volleyball team win a conference championship. He was all-conference in basketball as the team's leading rebounder and second-leading scorer. He was an impressive inside force on the hardwood. Portage made it to the Class A regional finals where they lost to Madison East. It seemed clear that a healthy Jimbo may have been the missing piece for a PHS Class A state championship the prior year. That spring he qualified for State in shot put and discus.

As a senior, he set the single-season record for most rebounds, which still stands today after 42 years. He left PHS as the No. 1 all-time rebounder in just over two seasons of play. He is still fourth on that list. Jim Banks repeated as all-conference and was all-state honorable mention while completing his career as the 13th-leading scorer of all time. He also dominated the Class A field at the WIAA State Track and Field championships, winning a first place gold medal for his shot put throw of 58'-4". His personal best that year was just shy of 60 feet. He had a sixth place finish in the discus to go along with his gold medal.

After PHS, Jim had one record-setting year at MATC (Madison College). He completed his only season with the seventh-best field goal percentage in MATC history and he still has the seventh-best single-season rebounding record.

Jim and his wife Lori (PHS '80) have two adult children and live in Endeavor.