**Team of Honor**

**Girls Track Team 2008**

The first Defiance High School girls track team to ever win the Western Buckeye League was the 2008 squad.

“When most of these girls were freshmen and sophomores they were close to winning it,” head coach Steve Wahl reflected about the team. “They were heartbreakingly close as sophomores and they felt horrible. But they decided right then and there they were going to win it and two years later they were able to do it.

“After they won it, I remember it being a really emotional time. That was the ‘rallying call’ all year and they did everything they could do to make it happen. It was a hard-working crew and I never had to get on them.”

After winning the WBL meet, the Bulldogs went on to finish first at districts, fourth at regionals and 14th at the state meet.

“There was a lot of versatility on that team,” Wahl said. “A lot of them could do a lot of different things which gave us the flexibility to move them around. It was an easy team to coach because of that.

“I didn’t appreciate it at the time, but those girls were also tough, a lot different than what we see out there today.”

Three relays from that squad broke school records, the 4x200 of Britany Bryant, Kelsey Zipfel, Lena Herrett and Mikaela Tolbert at districts, the 4x800 of Tolbert, Anna Meyer, Megan Vogelsong and Lauren Fett at regionals and the 4x400 of Tolbert, Fett, Zipfel and Herrett at state.

The 1600 relay, which still holds the school record, took fourth at state that year with the 3200 relay of Tolbert, Meyer, Vogelsong and Fett fifth. Fett was also sixth in the 1600.

Tolbert also qualified for state in the 400 that year and Vogelsong in the 1600.

That season the Defiance girls won invitationals at Celina, Bowling Green, Wapakoneta and Bryan in addition to the Palmer Relays.

All-WBL honors in 2008 went to Bryant in the long jump, Kelsey Dale in the high jump, Jenna Thomas in the high jump, Heather Grant ini the discus, Fett in the 800, 1600 and 3200, Tolbert in the 400, Vogelsong in the 1600, Brooke Lime in the 100 and Herrett in the 300 hurdles. In addition, all four relay teams were all-WBL.

Special year-end awards that year went to Fett for Most Points, Vogelsong for Most Improved Track, Bryant for Most Improved Field and Tolbert for Coach’s Award.