

## Whitefish Bay Athletic Hall of Fame Statement of Support for Howard (“Howie”) Zien

Howie Zien was a superstar before there were superstars. He not only starred in football, basketball, and track, but was a captain and leader in each of these sports. He lettered as a freshman in track and accumulated nine additional letters over the course of his high school career.

He demonstrated a fierce competitive spirit and led WFB to championships in football and basketball, including its first ever appearance in Madison in the finals in of the State basketball tournament, before there were tiered divisions. In basketball, he was a wizard at point guard. In football he was an elusive, lightning fast halfback, punt returner, and kickoff returner - talents recognized in a first team all-suburban conference selection and a second team all-state selection, both in his senior year. When he set his still existing state 180-yard hurdles record as a junior at 19.1 seconds, his margin of victory recalled Secretariat’s legendary Belmont Stakes win (immortalized in the movie by the same name) by 31 lengths – the others had not even rounded the final turn. He captured the 180-yard hurdles state title again in his senior year.

He was a leader and a scholar off the field as well, maintaining an A average, active in student government, and serving as the sports editor of the Tower his senior year. He was well-liked, admired, and respected by his peers.

Following high school, he completed his college education at Princeton with a degree in philosophy, taught himself computer science, received his MBA from New York University and went on to found his own company, Business Logic, presently located in Manhattan, specializing in providing unique software needs for businesses and governmental organizations, including the Department of Defense and New York City.

In addition to his professional accomplishments in New York, Howie is President of his residential COOP and Treasurer of his class at Princeton. He is an Assistant Director in BNI, a global business networking organization with 220,000 members, and frequently delivers speeches to groups of varying sizes on its behalf. He maintains his fitness by being an active tennis player in the USTA, bicycling to work, jogging, and running errands on rollerblades!

He has resided in Greenwich Village since 1976 and is married with two accomplished children, his wife Marj working as a software developer in his business.

James S. Rumack, M.D. ‘67

Wendy (Metzler) Wetzel  
1182 N. Skyview  
Flagstaff AZ 86004  
September 22, 2017

Activities Office  
Whitefish Bay High School  
1200 E. Fairmont Avenue  
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

Greetings:

This letter is in support of the nomination of Howard "Howie" Zien to the Whitefish Bay High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

While our classmate Dr. James Rumack has detailed to his many athletic accomplishments, I'd like to add my personal memory of Howie. As he led our team to a Suburban Conference Championship, even the single defeat of that season did not deter him. He never lost sight of that goal. We could always count on him to bring it home.

Not only was he a superior athlete, but Howie was a remarkable scholar, participant, and friend. In the process of planning our 50<sup>th</sup> reunion, he and I shared a great email conversation as if the years had never happened. And it was great to reconnect at the reunion as well.

I am continuously grateful for my years at WFB. And I hope the committee will help us honor our classmate.

Sincerely,

Wendy (Metzler) Wetzel  
Class of 1967

## James Rumack

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**From:** Don Lindley <donlind77@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 27, 2017 7:20 AM  
**To:** jamesrum@earthlink.net  
**Subject:** Howie Zien

Jim,

Great to see you at the reunion. Wish we'd had more time.

Below is my letter of support for your nomination of Howie for the WFBHS Athletic Hall of Fame. I hope you can print it, forge my signature and send it to the selection committee. It's questionable whether snail mail from here in Italy would get there as soon as next June - or ever.

Let me know if you need anything else for this.

Best regards,

Dick Lindley

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TO: Selection committee, Whitefish Bay High School Athletic Hall of Fame

FROM: Dick Lindley, '67 graduate and co-captain of the '66 football team

RE: Support of Howie Zien nomination - A perspective from the football field

Howie Zien was one of just three sophomores to earn a spot on Whitefish Bay's varsity football team in 1964. He worked hard to become a starting running back as a junior and, in the process, began to establish himself as a team leader.

In 1966, he was named by coaches as a co-captain of the team. He responded by leading it to a Suburban Conference championship. He earned first-team all-conference and second-team all-state honors - and the enduring respect of his teammates.

Howie led quietly by example, never taking a play off, hustling every day in practice and excelling in the classroom. When he did speak up, he commanded everyone's attention.

As a running back, his exceptional speed and elusiveness made him a breakaway threat on every play. And though he weighed only about 165 lbs., he was unafraid to fight for tough yards up the middle when necessary. His blockers loved him because even slight contact with a defender was usually enough to shake him loose for a big gain. He made everyone up front better.

Howie Zien was a football star who made outstanding contributions to a team that carried on Whitefish Bay's proud tradition of athletic excellence. In football alone, he exemplified every attribute that should be expected of a hall of fame member. I urge selectors to add his name to the distinguished list of recipients of this high honor.

September 28, 2017

Activities Office  
Whitefish Bay High School  
1200 E. Fairmont Avenue  
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

Re: Support Letter - Howard (Howie) Zien  
Nomination for Whitefish Bay High School Hall of Fame

Recently I had the pleasure of touring Whitefish Bay High School during our 50<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion. Amongst those who attended the Reunion was Howie Zien, who was one of our school's most talented athletes. I was surprised that he was missing from Whitefish Bay High School's Athletic Hall of Fame.

It was lovely to talk with Howie during our Reunion activities. As he was in High School, he continues to be a personable gentleman who can make an acquaintance feel comfortable and welcome.

Howie deserves inclusion in the Whitefish Bay High School's Athletic Hall of Fame. I attended each of our High School's "home" football games. I can personally attest that when Howie was on the field, you could depend on him to make some great plays. Fortunately for our team, Howie was often on the field.

He also was the spark for our basketball team. I was thrilled to be able to see our team play well enough during the season to play in the 1967 finals in Madison. On the court, as well as the football field, it was fun to watch Howie play. Go Blue Dukes!

I can't speak to his accomplishments in track, since it was not a sport to which I can claim to have paid much attention, but I can say that in class, Howie was smart and contributed a great deal to the classes we shared. He was always nice to be around and showed an interest in his classmates.

I support Howie's nomination to our High School's Hall of Fame, based on his athletic accomplishments. In sports or off the field, court or track, then and now, I'd say Howie is a true class act.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. (Nigbor) Snowfox  
Class of 1967

HEDIN & EHLENBACH

TODD C. HEDIN  
<todd@toddhedin.com>

JEFFREY E. EHLENBACH  
a professional corporation  
<ehlenbach@earthlink.net>

COURTHOUSE SQUARE  
1000 FOURTH STREET, SUITE 600  
SAN RAFAEL, CA 94901

TELEPHONE (415) 453-0534  
FACSIMILE (415) 453-0441

PETER E. MITCHELL (Retired)  
ROBERT P. PRAETZEL (Retired)

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THOMAS C. NELSON (1892-1975)  
THOMAS P. BOYD (1914-1984)  
D.K. MACDONALD (1928-2016)

October 5, 2017

Activities Office  
Whitefish Bay High School  
1220 E. Fairmont Avenue  
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

Re: Howard "Howie" Zien  
Support of Nomination to Whitefish Bay High School Athletic Hall of Fame

Dear Sir/Madam:

I enthusiastically support the nomination of Howie Zien to the Whitefish Bay High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

Howie Zien was and remains a scholar, athlete, leader and champion. I was a teammate and will always be a classmate and friend of Howie Zien.

Jeffrey E. Ehlenbach  
WFB Class of 1967

I am writing this letter in support of Howie Zien's nomination to the Whitefish Bay Athletic Hall of Fame. Until I had children of my own who participated in multiple high school sports, did I really appreciate Howie Zien's contributions to WFB's sports teams. You already know his personal athletic accomplishments and how important they were to the success of the teams he played on. What was really important was how much excitement was generated at Whitefish Bay football, basketball and track meets due to Howie's accomplishments. I am well aware that 1966-67 was a long time ago, but I can still remember how much fun we had and how much pride we felt from the success of our sports teams. We are still talking about this 50 years later which should tell you how we felt about the success of our teams. Much of this was due to Howie Zien not only as a standout star, but as a valued member of a team. Fifty years later, he still remains a nice, humble person who is more than deserving of entry into the Whitefish Bay Athletic Hall of Fame.

Ellen Kaufman Mandelman  
Class of 1967  
1809 N. Commerce Street  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212  
emandelman@mac.com

Activities Office  
Whitefish Bay High School  
1200 East Fairmount  
Milwaukee WI 53217

re: Howie Zien, Athletic Hall of Fame Nomination

October 10, 2017

It is my pleasure to write this letter in support of the nomination of Howie Zien to the WFB HS Athletic Hall of Fame submitted by Jim Rumack in September 2017.

It is a well known fact that Howie Zien starred as an athlete throughout his four years at WFB high school. I think it is of note that he was also a leading scholar. Being a success both athletically and academically is notable, an important model for all students today.

It is also of note that fifty years after leaving WFB HS, Howie Zien remains engaged and hard working as an individual who gives back to others and is admired and respected. Again, Howie Zien serves as a model for students of today.

I fully support this nomination for membership in the WFB Athletic Hall of Fame.

Nan Gronik Youngerman, Class of '67  
2445 Fox Ave  
Madison, WI 53711

## James Rumack

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**From:** Pasch <smnej@cox.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 7, 2017 10:34 AM  
**To:** jamesrum@earthlink.net  
**Subject:** WFB High School Hall of Fame Statement of Support For Howard (Howie) Zien

WFB High School Hall of Fame Statement of Support For Howard Zien

Howie was a spectacular athlete and also very active in student affairs.

His athletic accomplishments were extraordinary. I remember playing some tennis with him on the concrete Henry Clay courts. Not only was he good at tennis, he was also a humble and nice young man. I never remember any conceit. For that reason, I always pulled for him. Howie was one of those rare athletes who excelled in multiple sports. I proudly support this nomination, which is long overdue.

Steven Pasch



10/09/2017

To:WFBHS athletic wall of fame committee :

Re: Howard Zien nomination (class of 1967)

I was pleased to see that John Stone and Bill Hilgendorf are on the wall of fame. Both are very deserving.

But neither was able to lead WFB to a first ever state tournament berth in basketball. Howie Zien was able to that-in his THIRD best sport ! When he got "hot" in basketball , he was and we were unstoppable. Poetry in motion. He broke or fractured his nose before the regional final against Shorewood.He wore a large bandage/cast throughout the game. Two starters fouled out , but Howie wouldn't let us lose despite partially obstructed vision.

In his best sport,track, he set a state record in the 180 yd low hurdles as a junior which I believe still stands.

In football, he was a second team all-state halfback who returned kicks and <sup>led</sup>~~lead~~ WFB to a 7-1 record.

He was a great scholar who took Calculus at UWM as a senior (first semester). He returned 2<sup>nd</sup> semester to my Calculus class( with the great Morgan Byers teaching) because UWM wasn't challenging enough.

The next year I attended UWM , and the math TAs all raved about the skills of Howard Zien.

How many people in their 60s rollerblade in NY city (sometimes to work) or compete in tennis against people in their 20's ? Only Howie.

Howie was not a flashy person . People somehow took his incomparable skills for granted. It was assumed he would be excellent in whatever he did.

It's time to recognize him for what he was – one of the ten Greatest athletes in the history of WFBHS.

P.S. I was not a close friend of Howie. I am just a classmate who reaped the benefits of being a sports fan in the same class as Howie Zien-WFBHS 1967.

Respectfully submitted,

George Friedman class of 1967

414-331-9371

Activities Office

Whitefish Bay High School

1200 E. Fairmont Avenue

Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

Dear Selection committee, Whitefish Bay High School Athletic Hall of Fame

I am writing in support of the nomination of Howard Zien, Class of 1967, to the Whitefish Bay High School Athletic Hall of Fame. Howie's athletic achievements are well documented in Dr. Jim Rumack's nomination.

I was friends with "Howie" from 7th grade (Henry Clay) through high school, and the friendship continues. I always found him to be a stand-up guy and a "straight shooter" (he had a great sense of humor too). He was a leader on and off the athletic fields. I knew him to always be serious about classwork as well.

In 7th and 8th grade, we often played basketball at his backyard court. Of course he would routinely beat us whether it was pick-up or h-o-r-s-e, but never was known to lord it over any of us. He was a friend and a gracious winner.

I also remember Howie calling me up on Saturday mornings back in those pre-high school days to go to the high school track and practice. The first time this happened, I said 'sure' - but I wasn't prepared for what I witnessed! I loved the hurdles and thought it would be fun to maybe run a few races. But, Howie was there with stop watch and measuring tape, plotting out the steps from starting block to the first hurdle, and the next and so on. He was, in 8th grade, working on the 5 step first approach and (if memory serves) 3 steps between hurdles - all a necessity for maximum efficiency. I was, to say the least, very impressed. I don't know anyone else that dedicated.

Howie was like lightening on the track, amazing form on the hurdles and so much fun to watch. He made us proud!

I offer my strong support to his nomination and hope you see fit to honor this truly great stand-out athlete and person.

Sincerely,

/s/

Jim Stearns, Class of 1967

1519 Bradley Drive

October 11, 2017

Activities Office

Whitefish Bay High School

1200 E. Fairmont Avenue

Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

I am writing you to support the nomination of Howard Zien to the Whitefish Bay High School Athletic Hall of Fame

Howie Zien was a multiple-sport superstar and team leader who not only excelled at football, basketball, and track, but was a captain of each of those Whitefish Bay sports teams in the late 1960's.

Howie led Whitefish Bay to conference championships in football and basketball. In basketball he was a great point guard. In football he played multiple positions; as a senior was selected as a member of the first team all-suburban conference football team and the second team all-state football team. In track, he achieved the fastest time in the state in the state in the 180-yard hurdles in 1966, with a time that was never beaten during the remaining 10 years in which the 180 yard hurdles were run in Wisconsin.

Howie was also a great guy and a great student. None of us were surprised when he got accepted by Princeton.

Richard Florsheim

Whitefish Bay H.S. Class of 1967

Bill Smith sent in a letter of support but I do not have a copy to post.

## James Rumack

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**From:** Tom Bamberger <tom.bamberger@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 14, 2017 4:49 PM  
**To:** jamesrum@earthlink.net  
**Subject:** regarding Howie

Jim,

For whatever reason I have be unable to access the nomination link for Howie Zien. Might you be able to do this for me? That is, take what I write below and present to whomever makes these decisions.

Meanwhile, it was good to catch up as much as we could in a brief moment. If for any reason you are in these parts again look me up if you have some free time.

Here is my phone number... 414 975 5711.

Tom

To Whom it May Concern,

Regarding the nomination of Howie Zien (class of 67) to the hall of fame. It's a travesty that he is not all ready included. Howie was perhaps the the best three sport (football, basketball, and track) in the history of school.

We would have won the State Championship in football if I hadn't dropped a pass during the only game we lost that year against Waukesha. The problem being we hardly ever passed because Howie was such an outstanding halfback.

Howie let the basketball team to the State final four in his senior year. That year Milwaukee Lincoln won the championship let by Downtown Freddie Brown who went on to become an NBA Allstar and play 13 years with the Seattle Supersonics.

Howie was the State champ in the 180 yard low hurdles (the event was discontinued in 1974). Zien still holds the State record in the event of 19.1 seconds in 1966. That beat Hugh McElhenny's national high school record set in 1947 by two tenths of second. You remember McElhenny as a sleek halfback who ended on in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. In 1967 Zien won the State title again with a time of 19.4

Best regards,

Tom Bamberger (class of 67) and member of WFB Cultural Hall of Fame.

## James Rumack

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**From:** William Thurwachter <wat004@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 15, 2017 10:50 AM  
**To:** jamesrum@earthlink.net  
**Subject:** Howie Zien

Dear Activities office:

Writing in support of adding Howard P. Zien to the WFB Hall of Fame

I am including Jim Rumack's letter of endorsement and application forms as a means of confirmation for the record.

I am personally familiar with Howie's record. I spent the better part of my 4 years at WFB following in Howie's footsteps, so I can speak to his prowess first hand. I followed him in GPA in all the the advanced classes we attended together. I followed him in sports typically watching his backside be it in track or football. I was able to letter in track because of Howie. I was a 3rd rate hurdler on a 3 man hurdle relay team. Howie's blistering speed offset my substantially slower leg. But our combined times gave us the overall win in a letter meet.

If there were to be a model candidate for the Hall of Fame, I think it would have to be Howie Zien. First in academics and athletics, much less well liked, genuinely respected and admired by his peers.

I am perplexed that Howie hasn't previously been recognized in this capacity. The record is the record. It should not be a popularity contest based on number of alumni who remember his record. I believe Howie's relevant accomplishments to be of such stature for consideration in the WFB's Hall of Fame, I am confident his record will meet or exceed those already recognized.

Sincerely,

Wm A Thurwachter - Class of '67

January 4, 2018

I am pleased to support the nomination of Howard Zien to the Whitefish Bay High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

He was an outstanding scholar and athlete. I think we all remember how as a point guard he ran the floor in basketball. He had that uncanny ability to see the whole field a few moves ahead. Nothing was more exciting than "going to State" that year.

In 2009, our paths crossed again in New York City business circles where Howard introduced me to the concept of networking and the Business Network International (BNI) organization. These days people use the term "life coach" in business, and there is definitely a piece of that to Howard's personality. He loves to learn new information and he is generous with his time and talents.

Sometime between 2005-15, while visiting my elderly parents, I ran into a cousin-in-law of mine, Nicolet High School class of '67 football player, Wally Bronson, at a family event. Out of the blue as we were reminiscing, he asked me about Howie. After confirming that we had been in the same class, he said, "Man that guy had an amazing athletic reputation all around the conferences. So fast. So focused. So many sports. We were all in awe of him." That pretty much says it all.

Sincerely,  
Betsy Harrington Moore  
WFB 1967

← (15) Nomination Howie Zien - Don Zien docx

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January 4, 2018

Dear Whitefish Bay Athletic Hall of Fame Nomination Committee:

I am honored to support the nomination of my brother, Howard Zien, to the Whitefish Bay High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

He is an outstanding brother, husband, father, and athlete. We became close when all the sports started taking off in high school. In great part because of this, I decided to take up track at Henry Clay School and did the 100 yard dash and 440 relay. This interest has stayed with me for my whole life in largely because of his influence and the example he set with athletic and life excellence.

I have reviewed many of the nomination letters from friends and classmates. Those really say it all especially after 50 years. Classmates still have crystal clear memories of the impact Howard had on their high school experience including the thrill of going to state in basketball along with state track, which was pure individual record accomplishment at its best.

It is fun hearing the name Howie again after all these years since Howard has been the norm for addressing him since high school. Please induct Howie into the WFB Athletic Hall of Fame without further delay or hesitation.

Respectfully,

Don Zien  
Fox Point, WI  
Class of '72.



TO: The selection committee for the Whitefish Bay High School Athletic Hall of Fame

FROM: Dick Baer, Whitefish Bay Educator and Coach from 1964 to 1997

RE: The nomination of one Howie (Howard) Zien

I first came in contact was Howie during my first year at Whitefish Bay as a varsity football coach in charge of the running backs. Although only a sophomore in competition with upperclassman, it was very obvious that he had the athletic ability to play an important part in Bays "Wing T Offense" and split time at the halfback position.

He would become the starter the next two years, leading the team in rushing both years. Howie had the speed and toughness as a punt and kickoff returner also, accumulating in being named co-captain his senior year and first team honors on the 1966 Suburban Conference Champions. He was also named second team All-State.

It was also a privilege to watch Howie as a point guard on the basketball team and a State record holder in the 180 yard hurdles his junior year and a State Champion once again his senior year. As the weight coach in track, I could watch him everyday as he prepared himself to be the very best.

Howie was the perfect student-athlete which all his teammates admired for his hard work both on the playing fields or in the classroom where he had an A average.

When one says "Hall of Fame" at Whitefish Bay, I can't imagine it would be the same without Howie Zien.

**HERBERT B. ZIEN  
825 E. DONGES ROAD  
MILWAUKEE, WI 53217**

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February 6, 2018

Activities Office  
Whitefish Bay High School  
1200 E. Fairmont Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53217

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in support of the nomination of Howard Zien to the Whitefish Bay High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

As Howard's older brother (WFB Class of 1965) I would love to report that he followed in my footsteps and learned everything he knew from me. Regarding athletics, however, the opposite was true. Howard hogged all the athletic genes, and no one in my immediate, or even extended, family demonstrates athletic skill in any sport to match Howard's prowess in every sport. In high school he excelled in football, basketball and track, and probably would have dominated cross country and tennis too if the cross country season did not conflict with football and tennis with track

Howard also was a role model off the field in academics, club participation and community involvement. I cannot think of anyone more deserving than Howard Zien for permanent enshrinement in the Whitefish Bay High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

Very truly yours,

Herbert B. Zien  
(414) 352-3572