

## **BERNIE KIRCHNER**

For those fortunate enough to see him play, Bernard R. "Bernie" Kirchner is remembered as the best athlete to graduate from Yorktown High School. He is also considered by many as one of the greatest all-around athletes in Arlington history. Bernie grew up in Arlington playing little league in the early 1960's, following in his older brother's and father's footsteps as a multi-sport talent. He became recognized as a star athlete at Williamsburg Junior High School before moving on to Yorktown.

In his high school junior year of football, Bernie made the All-Met, All-Northern Region and Virginia, and All-Potomac District football teams, as well as third team All-State. In his senior season, he missed five games due to injury but still made the All-Met Second Team, All-Northern Virginia, All-Suburban Virginia, All-Potomac District, and third team All-State.

In basketball, his honors in both his junior and senior seasons included All-Northern Region and Virginia Teams, All-Potomac District and Tournament First Teams, and All-State Third Team. He graduated as the first Yorktown player to score 1,000 career points, before the three-point line existed.

In baseball, there were no All-Met or All-State teams but Bernie made the All-Potomac District First Team his junior year, batting .400, and senior year, batting .340 with a 9-1 pitching record. He was drafted by the Montreal Expos following his senior season.

Instead, he signed a football scholarship to West Virginia University and played wide receiver for Coach Bobby Bowden. He also pulled off the rare feat of playing a year of baseball and basketball in college. In his career at WVU, Bernie caught 58 passes for 727 yards and three TD's.

Bernie is happily married residing in South Florida for the past thirty-two years and is a successful owner of two restaurants.