

Salem-Woodbury Hall of Fame: Qualter Pudil and Salem a marriage made in heaven

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Salem-Woodbury Hall inducting 5 on Sept. 18

Katie Qualter (right) was a three-time Eagle-Tribune All-Star for Salem who earned a basketball scholarship to St. Anselm's.

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Fortunately for the Salem High basketball and volleyball teams, Tyngsboro isn't the easiest commute from Salem.

"I went to St. Joseph's in Salem and I wanted to continue with the Catholic education," said Katie Qualter Pudil. "It was a tough commute. I really wanted to play for my hometown."

Thus Notre Dame of Tyngsboro's burgeoning star became Salem's future Hall of Famer.

Salem High may not be a Catholic school but it was a marriage made in heaven. In her three years at Salem, Qualter was an Eagle-Tribune All-Star in basketball three times (she averaged career bests of 16 points and 14 rebounds as a senior) and twice in volleyball.

Pudil, wrestling great Trevor Dearden (Class of 2008) and state champion two-sport coach E.J. Perry are being inducted into the Salem-Woodbury High Hall of Fame Friday night at the Atkinson Country Club. Being inducted for their professional achievements are teacher Jared Cassidy (Class of 2000) and late Rockingham County Sheriff Michael Downing (Class of 1972).

"I'm really excited and shocked," said Pudil, who is married (Drew Pudil) with a daughter, Molly 9, and a son, John, 4.

"It's been awhile. It's a nice surprise this year. I had a milestone birthday. I can't tell you which one! It was nice to get that in the mail."

Well, Class of 1993, you can probably figure out the milestone birthday.

There will be a big group there at Atkinson Country Club including her husband and children, parents Jim and Patricia, brothers and their wives Jamie (Lisa) and Shaun (Anita), her niece, Shani; close friends Ernie Calverley and Marilyn Fitzgerald, and her Salem neighbor growing up Shirley Bedrosian.