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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—Sept. 11, 2009

GUERIN PREP TO HONOR TWO ALUMNI COACHES AS PART OF HOMECOMING '09

Guerin College Preparatory High School will honor Dee Susin '72 and Virg Gerin '83 as outstanding alumni, players and coaches of their respective alma maters Mother Theodore Guerin High School and Holy Cross High School, during Homecoming celebrations set for Saturday, Sept. 19.

Guerin Prep, established in 2004 as a co-ed high school, recognizes both Mother Guerin and Holy Cross as its foundation schools. This is the second year that Guerin Prep has used the Homecoming celebration as a venue to recognize outstanding alumni.

“Both of these fine alums were outstanding players while they were in high school and college; they both returned to their alma maters as coaches with great success, and they continue to make giant contributions to the athletic program here at Guerin Prep. They are perfect examples of the student-athletes produced by MTG and HC and now here at Guerin Prep,” explained Terry John Malik, president of Guerin Prep, who will retire Coach Susin and Gerin’s jerseys during half-time festivities.

Additionally, before the game, all Holy Cross High School alumni who played on one of the football teams from 1974-1983 and Mother Theodore Guerin High School alumnae who served as cheerleaders during this same time period, plus the first graduating class of Guerin Prep will be recognized and will form an honor guard for the varsity football team to run through onto the field.

The Guerin Gators varsity football team kicks off against the Immaculate Conception Knights at 1:30 p.m. on Holy Cross Field on the Guerin Prep Campus.

Coach Susin & Coach Gerin

Susin has served girl’s high school athletics for the past 32 years, first at Mother Theodore Guerin High School and now at Guerin Prep.

An athlete herself, Susin, a Chicago native and current resident, played three sports as a student at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She graduated in 1976 with a degree in physical education.

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Today, in addition to her responsibilities as girl's athletic director and physical education teacher, Susin still coaches. And like most years since she started teaching at Guerin in 1977, she is coaching three sports—this year varsity volleyball, junior varsity basketball and soccer.

This adds up to more than 100 teams in volleyball, basket ball, softball and track over the years. A compilation of her record estimates 825 wins as a coach of these sports, against approximately 600 losses.

Coach Susin was inducted into the Girls' Catholic Athletic Conference (GCAC) Hall of Fame in 2006. In November, she will be inducted into the Illinois USSSA Hall of Fame in the female player category. Last November, the softball team on which she played—the Chicagoans—was inducted into the hall of fame. She is also a member of the Chicago 16" Softball Hall of Fame.

A 1983 graduate and football standout at Holy Cross High School, Gerin served 10 years in the football program at Holy Cross, three years as head coach, seven years as varsity assistant coach and defensive coordinator.

When Gerin took over the football program at Holy Cross in 1990, the team had only one win in 27 games. In Gerin's 10 years as head coach and defensive coordinator, the varsity football team made IHSA playoffs eight times, going on to the quarterfinals twice. Holy Cross teams played in several Prep Bowl Championship Games during this time frame. Gerin helped placed several Division I, II and III collegiate players including current Chicago Bear Garrett Wolfe. Many of these athletes coached by Gerin during the '90s remain loyal to him to this day.

Following graduation from Holy Cross, Gerin attended Northern Illinois University where he was a four-year starter on the Huskies football team and led the team in receiving two years. He has been inducted into the NIU Athletic Hall of Fame.

Other Homecoming Events

The evening before the game, Friday, Sept. 19, all parents, friends and alumni of Guerin Prep can take part in the annual Homecoming parade either as spectators or participants beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the back parking lot of the school.

The parade winds through the neighboring streets of River Grove, led by the Guerin Prep marching band. Guerin Prep's newly formed alumni council will be participating in the parade by riding on the old time fire truck compliments of the Village of River Grove. The Homecoming Court is also featured in the parade.

Students from area grade schools, including St. Cyprian, St. Francis Borgia, St. Celestine, Canty and Dever, also have been invited to participate in the homecoming parade.

Following the parade, a pep rally and fireworks show will be held back at Holy Cross field on the Guerin Prep campus. At that time, the Homecoming King and Queen will be announced.

The Homecoming King and Queen and court will again be recognized during the traditional semi-formal dance on Saturday, Sept. 19, from 7 to 10:30 p.m.

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