

## About the Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame

The Hall of Fame is organized as a means of recognizing, preserving and promoting the heritage of interscholastic sports in Nassau County. Many individuals have made extraordinary contributions and have had superb accomplishments in high school sports. The Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame honors the contributions and accomplishments of these individuals who are worthy of countywide recognition.

Nominations for the Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame are to be made through the approved nominating process. Nominations in each category will be accepted only for those individuals whose achievements or contributions were relative to Nassau County high school athletic programs. All nominees are required to have attended, employed by or worked for a Nassau County High School. The official nomination form shall be completed and submitted with appropriate support materials to Section VIII by February 1 of each year for a candidate to be considered for the following year's class.

Information and photos on past inductees can be found at <http://www.secviii.org> under the drop-down menu on the head footer that is entitled about Section VIII.

**2019 Induction Ceremony will be held at the Crest Hollow Country Club on September 25. Tickets are available on our website at: [www.sectionviii.org](http://www.sectionviii.org)**

## Section VIII Press Conference Hall of Fame Inductees



April 16, 2019  
Nassau Coliseum

### **TED ADAMS**

Ted Adams coached the boys' basketball team at Hempstead High School from 1983-2013. And under him the Tigers captured 17 Nassau County Titles, 12 Long Island Championships while winning the New York State Title 3 times. Coach Adams won 517 games and was named Newsday's Coach of the Year seven times and in 1990 Ted Adams was NYS Coach of the Year. From 1980-88 the Tigers won 102 straight league games.

### **ALICE JEAN ARDEN-HODGE**

A 1932 graduate of Baldwin High School, Miss Arden, as she was known, won 10 varsity letters in 3 sports. At the time, it was the most by any female athlete at Baldwin. She starred in field hockey, basketball and track. She was all-scholastic and captain in field hockey, a defensive specialist in basketball and in track she competed in the long jump and was a running high jumper. Alice Jean Arden-Hodge also competed in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin.

### **WILLIAM ASHLEY**

Bill Ashley's teams were winners. He coached lacrosse and football at Freeport High School. On the gridiron, Ashley's teams went 124-38-6 in his 21 years winning 8 league titles and 5 Rutgers Cups. He coached 5 undefeated teams and led Freeport to a 33-game unbeaten streak from 1956-60. Bill Ashley was also named Coach of the Year twice. In lacrosse, Ashley led his teams to a mark of 61-34 from 1966-72.

### **JOHN BAUMANN**

John Baumann coached the Carey High School baseball team from 1961-1977. Under his guidance, he led Carey to a record of 255-152. In 1970 and '71, Carey won the league title with the '70 season highlighted by a 17-game winning streak. During his reign, Carey High School received the South Shore Sportsmanship Award five times. And in 1970, Baumann was appointed the Nassau County Section VIII Baseball Chairman. In 1976, John was appointed by NYSPHSAA to be the State coordinator.

### **CARMINE VERDE**

Carmine coached some great softball teams in his 40 years including some outstanding seasons at Long Beach High School. He led his teams to victory over 350 times including the 2007 New York State Class AA. Long Beach was also a state finalist in 2002 and has 7 Nassau County Championships to its credit. Verde's teams won on a regular basis and did it with class. His squads received multiple county championship awards for team sportsmanship.

### **CHRISTIE WELSH**

When it came to the game of soccer, Christie Welsh was head and shoulders above the rest. The 1999 Massapequa High School graduate helped lead the Chiefs to the 1997 NYS Class A Championship and was a two-time Parade All-American and 1999 NSCAA All-American as well. Christie was also the 1998 Gatorade Circle of Champions National High School Girls Soccer Player of the Year. And as a junior at Penn State, Welsh received the Herrmann Trophy, the sport's most prestigious award given to the nation's top player.

### **HANK WILLIAMS**

Hank Williams, teacher, coach, mentor! Williams coached the Malverne High School boys' varsity basketball team for 27 years and amassed 450 wins, 20 conference championships, 9 Nassau County titles and 2 NYS Championships, 1979 and 1981. In the '81 season, Williams' team also captured the NYS Federation title. Williams also was the boys' basketball coordinator for Nassau County and in 2003 the gym at Malverne High School was named in honor of the late, great Hank Williams.

### **WANDY WILLIAMS**

A two-sport superstar, it was tough to say that there was anyone better than Malverne High School's Wandy Williams. In football, Williams scored 234 points and in his senior year he averaged 8.9 yards per carry. In 1963 Williams was first team All Long Island. On the court, Williams was named All Long Island in 1964 and was a 1,000-point scorer for Malverne. He started his collegiate career at Kansas where as a freshman he broke Gale Sayers rushing mark, and in hoops played with Jo Jo White before transferring home to Hofstra where he graduated from. In 1969, Wandy Williams was drafted in the sixth round by the Denver Broncos.

**ROBERT PERPALL**

Rob Perpall coached teams just win! At Seaford High School, Perpall's football teams have won 72% of its games including 2 Long Island Championships, 7 Nassau County and 9 Conference Titles. And his overall record is 157-62-1. And in softball, Rob coached for 13 years and amassed a mark of 202-62 and went to the playoffs 13 straight years capturing 9 Conference, 3 County Titles and a Long Island Championship. Rob has also been named Nassau County Coach of the Year in both football and softball.

**CARL REUTER**

Carl has been on the landscape of high school sports in Nassau County since 1983. A 1973 graduate from Wantagh High School, Carl started working for Cablevision's Long Island Sports Network in the early 80's as a sideline reporter and play by play announcer covering football, basketball, baseball and lacrosse. Carl spent 20 years at News 12 Long Island as a sports reporter/anchor and was part of the original team as a play by play announcer for MSG Varsity. He has won 2 Emmy Awards, and was the recipient of the Jim Barbanell Memorial Service Award presented to him from the Nassau County Football Coaches Association.

**ROBERT "BOB" RULE**

Bob Rule came to Manhasset High School at the start of his junior year, and by the time he graduated a few years later in 1967, he made his mark. On the football field he was captain of both the '65 and '66 teams and was named MVP of the squad both years. In 1966, he was named to the first Grid Iron 44 as an offensive lineman. He also played two years of lacrosse, but it was his senior year that he burst on the scene. He helped Manhasset go 18-0, was named MVP of the county title game and he gave up only 39 goals that whole season.

**JOSEPH CAIRO**

Joe Cairo has been part of the landscape of high school football in Nassau County, having been an official for over 40 years. A member of the Hall of Fame Planning Committee and presently on the Advisory Board, Mr. Cairo is responsible for raising much of the money to get the Hall of Fame off the ground and is the person who put the wheels in motion to get the Nassau Coliseum on board to be the home of the Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame.

**JAMES COLLIGAN**

Jim Colligan, a 1965 graduate of Westbury High School, certainly made his mark during 35 years at Carle Place High School. Colligan, a health educator, and athletic director, coached basketball at Carle Place for 33 years, 29 at the varsity level where his teams qualified for the playoffs in 24 of those 29 seasons. Colligan twice took his teams to the Final Four of New York State. In 2006, Carle Place High School dedicated the basketball court in his name.

**COURTNEY CORNWALL**

Courtney was a super star, not only locally at Lawrence High School, but on the national scene as well. Cornwall was a three-time NYS Champ in the 300 meters and 4x400 meters indoor. And he was the nation's best in 1997 when he ran the 300 in 34.36 seconds. Cornwall was also an All-American in the 400 and sprint medley relay. A three-time Eastern State Champ, too, Courtney took his talents to Ohio State where he became a track and field All-American at Ohio State.

**GEORGE DLUGOLONSKI**

A 1968 graduate of Plainedge High School, George Dlugolonski has pinned the competition. He taught Physical Education and Health at Chaminade High School where he was the wrestling coach for 40 years and had a dual meet record of 536-156-3. Dlugolonski was the first Long Island wrestling coach to amass 500 wins in dual meets and his 536 victories are the most in Long Island history. George is a member of the NYS and National Wrestling Halls of Fame.

### **WILLIAM DUMPSON**

Bill Dumpson was a legend in Port Washington and Nassau County. A 1947 graduate from Port, Dumpson played football, basketball and baseball. He led Port Washington to a 35-game winning streak during the 1946-47 campaign and the Long Island Championship. He was the first black athlete to be named All-Newsday hoops team during his junior and senior years. And he was the "first and only" player to dunk in a basketball game in Nassau County when he played. He was a member of the Negro League where he played with Satchel Paige and Josh Gibson and played for the Harlem Globetrotters.

### **WILBUR "BILL" ERB**

Bill Erb wore the stripes for decades! His football officiating began with Pop Warner in 1950 and in 1960 he became a member of LIAFO (Long Island Association of Football Officials) and that last until 2016. Erb was more than an official. He was always looking to help a fellow official, player or coach. He worked countless clinics and camps and his interpretation of rules, consistency and integrity are some of the teachings he preached. It has been said that in Wilbur Erb's 66 years of officiating he was actively involved in over 1,500 games.

### **JESSICA FOSCHI-GALLO**

Jessica Foschi, a 1998 graduate from Friends Academy was pure greatness! She was the NYS Champion in 1995, '96, and '97 in the 200 and 500 freestyle. In 1996, Jessica was the National High School Champ in the 500 freestyle. That same year she won the U.S. National Championship in the 5K open water and in '97 she won the open water 10K National Title. Also, in 1996, Foschi participated in the US Olympic Swimming Trials. A 14-time All American at Stanford, including winning the 2001 NCAA Championship in the 500-yard freestyle, Foschi then finished up her schooling graduating from Duke University School of Law in 2007.

### **GERALD MCHUGH**

Five sports and 14 varsity letters. That was Gerald McHugh, a 1937 graduate from Baldwin High School. Football, basketball, baseball, track and swimming is where McHugh showed his athletic prowess! He captained three of those teams. Football 1934, McHugh caught 22 passes and had 2 TD catches and from 1934-36 he helped Baldwin go 18-0-3. He was the MVP of the Eastern States basketball tournament played in Glens Falls while captaining that team. In 1937 Gerald had the highest batting average on the baseball team, while in track he was one of the top long jumpers in Nassau County. And in swimming he took first place in the 50-meter freestyle in the Nassau/Suffolk Scholastic Team Championship.

### **BREANNE NASTI**

Breanne Nasti was a 3-sport star at Baldwin High School, field hockey, basketball and softball. The 2000 graduate was All County in field hockey and helped lead her team to a pair of county titles while in hoops, two more Nassau County championships. But on the diamond, lookout. A phenom, Nasti was a record setter with the highest career average in the nation, .695! She was a 3-time All NYS player as well as a 3-time All-American (1998, 99, '00). And she led Baldwin to 5 Nassau County titles and a Long Island Championship in 1999.

### **GLORIA O'CONNOR**

Gloria had a "glorious" coaching career. A 1969 graduate from Carle Place High School, O'Connor made her mark as one of the best coaching field hockey and lacrosse. From 1978-1989, O'Connor led her lacrosse teams to a record of 199-11-2. Her program captured 11 league championships, 8 Nassau County titles and won the State's 5 times. In field hockey, she had a won-loss record of 146-18-1 from 1979-88. Under O'Connor, Carle Place won 9 league championships, 7 Nassau and 4 NYS titles.

### **WILLIAM "BILLY" OMELTCHENKO**

Billy O was an athlete for all seasons. The 1974 graduate from Great Neck North starred in soccer, basketball and baseball and captained all three teams his senior year. "Omo" was a two-time All Long Island soccer and basketball player and all conference in baseball. He finished his soccer career as the all-time scoring leader at GNN. In hoops, Billy was a 1,000-point scorer, averaging 23 and 25 points respectively in his junior and senior campaigns. In 1974, he was named Great Neck North's Athlete of the Year and in 1992 was inducted into the Great Neck North Hall of Fame

### **JACK KALEY**

Lacrosse was Jack Kaley's game, and the 1956 Sewanhaka High School graduate became one of the best to coach the sport. Kaley was the head coach at Lynbrook HS from 1964-67 but his juggernaut years were at East Meadow. He coached the Jets from 1968-88 and had a record of 227-96 including leading East Meadow to three straight Long Island Championships in 1971, 72 and 73. In 1985, Jack was named the Nassau County High School Lacrosse Association Coach of the Year. And in 2003, Kaley was inducted into the Sewanhaka High School Hall of Fame.

### **ROBERT KENNEY**

Bob Kenney's teaching, coaching and administrative career started back in 1960. In 1973, Kenney was named Chairman for Health, Physical Education and Athletics at Herricks High School. He was there until 1984 when he was appointed district director for Health and Physical Education at Hicksville High School where he stayed until 1995. From 1977 to 1992, Kenney was the Tournament Director and Section VIII Boys Basketball Coordinator. Bob also served on the Officials Negotiating Committee as well as the Athletic Council until his retirement.

### **ERNEST KIGHT, JR.**

A true gentleman, and an unbelievable coach! Ernie Kight graduated from Freeport High School in 1971. He went on to become one of the all-time great girl's high school basketball coaches in the history of Nassau County, and he did it at his alma mater. Kight coached Freeport from 1977-2005 and amassed 399 wins, capturing 8 division titles, 5 county championships and 3 Long Island titles. He still sits on the Section VIII basketball seeding committee and currently serves as a Freeport Schools Board Trustee in which he advocates for interscholastic athletics.

### **PAUL LANKFORD**

Paul Lankford is one of the greatest athletes Farmingdale High School ever produced, and one of the best Nassau County ever saw. Lankford, a 1977 graduate of Farmingdale excelled at wide receiver and cornerback for the Dalers. He helped lead Farmingdale to the Rutgers Cup in 1975 and '76 and was team captain. He was a Newsday All Long Island selection in 1976 and was named All NYS, too. And in track, call him record-setter. An All-American, Lankford had NYS records in the 60 and 100-yard hurdles. He was also the Junior National record holder as well as World record holder in the 400 meters.

### **BETHANY LAMBLEY LESUEUR**

Bethany LeSueur was a basketball wiz. The 2001 graduate from Garden City High School is Long Island's all-time leading scorer, male or female, having dropped 3,167 points. Bethany was twice named NYS Gatorade Player of the Year as well as Miss Basketball in 2001. She was a 6-year starter helping GC to a record of 121-12 and 3 Long Island Championships. A Street and Smith All-American, LeSueur also played lacrosse and soccer at Garden City where she earned first team All NYS in soccer. She is the only athlete in the history of Garden City High School to have had her number retired.

### **PAUL LIMMER**

Paul Limmer's coaching career in track and field at Mephram High School was beyond spectacular. His boys and girls combined cross country league meet record was 555-15. His boys and girls combined spring track league mark was 570-25. He had 4 State Championship Teams and 20 State Individual Champs. Limmer was the National Coach of the Year in 1984, NYS Coach of the Year three times and he was named the National Federation Indoor Coach of the Yea in 1992. He achieved all of this during his tenure as coach of boys and girl's cross country, indoor and outdoor track from 1963-1998.

### **JOSEPH LORES**

There are athletes who play 3 sports, and then there is Joe Lores who coaches three varsity sports. Lores, a 1976 graduate from Lynbrook High School, coaches' girls' soccer for East Rockaway/Malverne, boys hoops at East Rockaway, as well as the East Rock softball team. His soccer team has won 697 games and have won 3 conference titles in his 18 years. On the hardwood, Lores has led the basketball team to a county and Long Island title and this year was inducted into the NYS Basketball HOF. And in 24 years of coaching softball Lores' teams have won 347 games including 11 county and 3 Long Island championships. He has also been named Coach of the Year 12 times in softball.

### **ALAN LOWE**

Alan Lowe was a great player, and maybe a greater coach when it came to lacrosse! The 1962 graduate from Hempstead High School starred in 3 sports, but he excelled in lax. In his senior year Lowe scored at that time a county record 64 goals in only 13 games, including 12 in one game, a mark that still stands today. Following graduation from Maryland, Lowe eventually found himself as a teacher and lacrosse coach at Manhasset High School. From 1975-2006, Lowe's Manhasset teams were 511-110. Manhasset won 2 NYS titles, 7 Long Island Championships and 9 County titles. And he coached 36 High School All Americans at Manhasset.

### **HEATHER MCADAM-POMILIO**

A four-sport athlete at Long Beach High School, softball, volleyball, basketball and gymnastics, it was on the diamond where Heather McAdam-Pomilio made her name. Three times named All County, Heather batted .500 for her career (108/216) while slugging 18 homeruns while driving home 101 runs. In the circle during her senior year, Heather went 7-2 and struck out 65 in 48 innings. Predominately a left fielder, Heather showed wonderful range and possessed a powerful arm with a quick release. Heather is in the NYS Softball Hall of Fame.

### **BRUCE GEHRKE**

Bruce Gehrke, a 1942 graduate from Sewanhaka HS, set a standard of excellence. He coached football and basketball at Mineola High School, leading his teams to remarkable records. On the gridiron, Gehrke coached from 1958-1975 and compiled a record of 91-48-6, winning 7 division titles and two Rutgers Cups as well as coaching two Thorp Award Winners. And in 1976 the Bruce Gehrke Memorial Coach of the Year Award was created and awarded to a man who puts forth the time and effort to bring his team to great heights. On the hardwood, Gehrke's teams were 260-145 winning 8 division titles and the Nassau County Championship in 1959-60.

### **RONNIE HELLER**

Ron Heller, 1980 graduate of Farmingdale High School, was a three-sport star. In football, Heller was All County, All Long Island and first team All New York State. He also won the Thorp Award as the County's top player, as well as the Martone Award given to the top lineman. In wrestling, Heller had an incredible record of 75-5 and was Nassau County Champion in 1978, '79 and '80. In 1979 he was ranked 4th in NYS and won the State title with a record of 26-0. Ron Heller was also an All County baseball player for the Dalers in 1980.

### **JILL ROSE JANUSZEWSKI-KROL**

Jill was the ultimate athlete at Oceanside High School. The 1983 graduate was Oceanside's first female 3-sport athlete. A star in volleyball, basketball and softball, Jill was a two-time All-County recipient in volleyball and softball and made the All-County team in basketball, too. In her sophomore and junior seasons, she helped lead Oceanside to the county title in softball. During those two years, Jill pitched EVERY INNING OF EVERY GAME!! And in her junior year, Jill sported a record of 23-2. She captivated everyone's attention with her extraordinary accomplishments.

