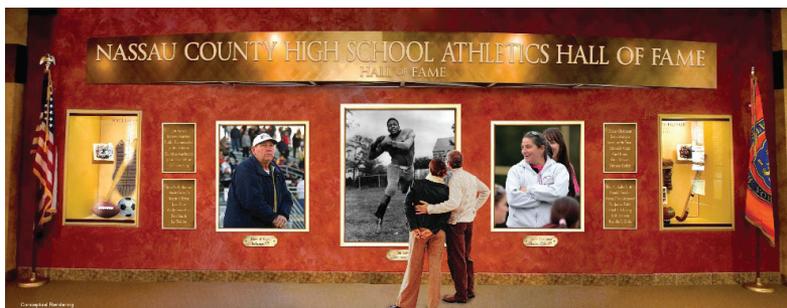


**DR. JAMES TOLLE
NASSAU COUNTY
HIGH SCHOOL
ATHLETICS
HALL OF FAME
INDUCTION CEREMONY**



SEPTEMBER 25, 2019

**CREST HOLLOW
COUNTRY CLUB**

NASSAU COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME

WELCOME

THE NASSAU COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME IS ORGANIZED AS A MEANS OF RECOGNIZING, PRESERVING AND PROMOTING THE HERITAGE OF INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS IN NASSAU COUNTY. THE NASSAU COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME HONORS THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE WORTHY OF COUNTY-WIDE RECOGNITION. NOMINEES MUST EXEMPLIFY THE HIGH STANDARDS OF SPORTSMANSHIP, ETHICAL CONDUCT AND MORAL CHARACTER.

THE CATEGORIES OF NOMINATION INCLUDE: ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICIAL, CONTRIBUTOR, ATHLETE AND COACH. ALL CANDIDATES FOR THE NASSAU COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME MUST BE AT LEAST 35 YEARS OF AGE PRIOR TO DECEMBER 1ST OF THE APPLICABLE YEAR IN ORDER TO BE CONSIDERED FOR INDUCTION.

NOMINEES FOR THE NASSAU COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME WILL GO THROUGH A TWO-STEP PROCESS BEFORE BEING SELECTED FOR INDUCTION. THE TEN (10) MEMBER SCREENING COMMITTEE WILL DETERMINE WHICH CANDIDATES ARE WORTHY OF CONSIDERATION. THE FIVE (5) ANONYMOUS MEMBERS OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE VOTE INDEPENDENTLY TO DETERMINE THE CANDIDATES WHO WILL BE INDUCTED INTO THE HALL OF FAME.

APPLICATIONS CAN BE FOUND ON THE SECTION VIII WEBSITE AT WWW.SECVIII.ORG. CLICK ON THE LINK FOR "INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS". ALL NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2020 HALL OF FAME ARE DUE ON DECEMBER 1, 2019. NO SUPPORTING INFORMATION WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER FEBRUARY 1, 2020.

PROGRAM

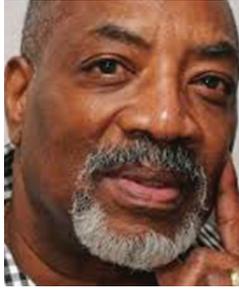
INTRODUCTION OF THE CLASS OF 2019
MASTER OF CEREMONIES – CARL REUTER

HONOR AMERICA
STAR SPANGLED BANNER
TOMMY BARONE

OPENING REMARKS
PATRICK PIZZARELLI
SECTION VIII EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS
CARL REUTER

CLOSING REMARKS
DOMINICK VULPIS
SECTION VIII ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



THEODIS L. ADAMS COACH

His program set the standard for high school basketball in New York State, and even touched the national level.

Ted Adams led the powerful Hempstead Tigers for 30 years. His calm and caring attitude, and his focus on education, led to his 517-158 career record, a Nassau County boys' basketball standard. Obviously, when you win nearly 80% of the games you coach, you had to have the players, which Adams did. But he had the knack for putting those players into the right positions to execute.

And did they ever execute! The Tigers won 17 Nassau County Championships, 12 Long Island titles, and three New York State Large School Championships.

Adams was named *Newsday's* "Coach of the Year" six times. In 1990, Adams was the New York State "Basketball Coach of the Year". Between the years of 1980-1988, Coach Adams led Hempstead to 102 straight league wins, a Nassau County record.

Ted Adams was a coach, but he was an educator first. He was named "Teacher of the Year" at the Jackson School, Hempstead in 1980. For 16 years, he was the Director of the Salvation Army Youth Service.

A total gentleman, Ted Adams' demeanor was always the same: a grounded, respectful man who put his student/athletes first. In 1990, Adams was a nominee for the Presidential Award of Excellence in Science and Mathematics teaching.

Part of coaching is sacrificing, meaning you miss plenty of family time. Adams' wife, Rochelle, passed away last December. She told Ted that this day would come! That day is now here.

Tonight is another win for Coach Ted Adams. Congratulations on your induction into the Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame!



FRANK ALAGIA ATHLETE

He was a little man in a big man's game, generously listed at 5' 9" tall. Some people said he was too short to be a big-time player, but Frank Alagia never let such talk bother him. To Alagia, it was just noise. The lightning-quick point-guard from St. Agnes Cathedral High School was living proof that size is just a state of mind.

Alagia was at the center of coach Frank Morris' fabled St. Agnes High School fast break and full-court press. The left-hander could shoot, dribble and pass on offense, and pick an opponent's pocket on defense. He was a sight to see flying down the court on a fast-break. If an opposing player holding the basketball turned his back, Alagia would steal the ball and begin a scoring streak that frequently turned close games into blow-outs.

During his three years running the show for the Stags, Alagia was Long Island's premier point-guard. He was the heart and soul of the St. Agnes teams that won three straight Nassau-Suffolk Catholic High School Athletic Association titles. To the surprise of no one, Alagia was named to the 1972 All-Long Island basketball team. Even more impressive, Alagia was chosen as one of five players selected for the first All-State team.

Then it was on to St. John's University, where Alagia was a starter for four years. Alagia first played under Coach Frank Mulzoff, and then under legendary coach Lou Carnesecca. It wasn't long before Alagia was nicknamed "The Flea," for his ability to fly around the court.

"Frank was a bumblebee at work, Carnesecca said after Alagia was named "Most Valuable Player" of the 1975 Cougar Classic against Brigham Young University. "He was all over the place."

The Red Storm built a record of 83-30 during the Alagia years. His mark of 478 assists stood as a school record until it was broken by future professional Mark Jackson.

Frank Alagia's finest moment came at the conclusion of his senior season, when he was the recipient of the Frances Pomeroy Naismith Award as the nation's best college basketball player under six feet tall. So much for the notion that a little man can't be star in a big man's game.

We congratulate Frank Alagia on his induction into the Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame.



ALICE JEAN ARDEN-HODGE ATHLETE

From Baldwin High School to the 1936 United States Olympic Team—that's how athletically gifted Alice Jean Arden-Hodge was. The 1932 graduate from Baldwin High School played field hockey, basketball, and track. She compiled 10 varsity letters- at the time, the most earned in the history of Baldwin Athletics. Arden-Hodge also earned All-Scholastic honors in each of her sports, several times. She was also the team captain for all three of her sports.

In field hockey, Alice helped lead the teams to two South Shore Athletic League "A" Championships. In basketball in those days, six players were on the court for each team. Arden-Hodge was a defensive player who could not cross over to the offensive side of the floor. But she was uncompromising on defense, and in every game, she guarded the opponent's best player.

In the spring, Alice was on the "Athletics team", today known as Track and Field. It was her favorite, and probably her best sport, earning her four varsity letters. She was a running high jumper, and also competed in the long jump. During her junior and senior years, she never lost at either one of these events.

Following her graduation from Baldwin High School , Alice Jean Arden-Hodge won three national titles in the high jump from 1933-1935. Perhaps her proudest moment was earning a spot on the 1936 United States Olympic team, where she became very good friends with Jesse Owens.

Her son, Rusty followed in her footsteps when he competed in the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo. Inspired by the associations she made in the Olympic games, Alice Arden Hodge became involved in numerous Olympic committees, working towards increased female participation in athletics.

Tonight, we proudly honor pathfinder Alice Jean Arden-Hodge posthumously with her induction into the Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame.



WILLIAM S. ASHLEY COACH

He was a gifted coach at Freeport High School, who left an indelible mark on those who were fortunate to play football and lacrosse for him.

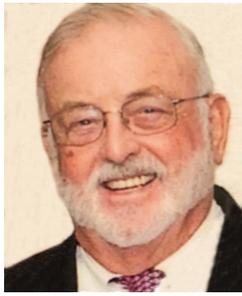
The Colgate University graduate gave early evidence that he was going to be an outstanding coach and mentor to his student-athletes. In his first year of coaching at Bernards High School in New Jersey, Ashley took a team that had had a 2-5 record the season before, and led them to an undefeated season and the 1932 Somerset County title. Bill Ashley was just 21 years old at that time.

More than a half century has passed since so many young men came under Bill Ashley's influence. His former players still praise him for preparing them for life.

Former Syosset Athletic Director John Pappas played football at Freeport High School under Bill Ashley's direction over 60 years ago. He said, "Coach Ashley taught us to respect other people, to be compassionate and consistent, and to hold ourselves accountable for our actions."

Ashley also taught his players how to be winners. Ashley's football record is among the finest in Nassau County athletics history. During his 21 years as the Freeport "Red Devils" football coach, his teams produced an overall record of 123-38-4. They earned eight league titles and were undefeated in 1942, 1950, 1958, 1959 and 1963. Freeport did not lose a single game from 1957-1960, gathering a 31-0-2 record over those four years. The Red Devils captured four Rutgers Cups as Nassau County's top team. Ashley was named "Football Coach of the Year" twice.

We are proud to remember and celebrate William Ashley's accomplishments as we posthumously induct him into the Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame.



JOHN MORTON BAUMANN COACH

“He was a practice-like-you- play guy,” said Frank Intagliata, one of the greatest players that John Baumann coached at Carey High School.

From 1961-1977, Baumann led Carey baseball to a 255-152 record, including two 1970 and 1971 league championships. In 1970, Baumann was selected by both the Nassau County High School Baseball Coaches Association and the Daily News as “Coach of the Year”. The presentation by the Daily News was made at home plate at Yankee Stadium.

Under his tutelage, Carey won lots of baseball and softball games. But John Baumann taught his teams how to play the game and respect the opponent. Carey received five Sportsmanship Awards from the Nassau County Umpires Association.

John also coached softball at Carey for four years. In 1986, the team went 16-2 and was crowned league champions. Baumann was also the Nassau County “Softball Coach of the Year” that year.

For 13 years, Baumann served as the Section VIII baseball sport coordinator. For 15 years, he served New York State in the same capacity. He was a driving force in establishing and facilitating the New York State Public High School Baseball Championships. “He was a motivator, and always told his teams that past performances will never replace work ethic and results.”, added Intagliata.

“John has been retired for 30 years and graduates still keep in touch with him,” said his wife of over 60 years, Mary.

Baseball and Baumann is quite a double-play combination. Tonight it all culminates with John Baumann’s induction into the Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame.



ROBERT (BOB) BIGELOW COACH

He was the quiet man. A legendary coach at South Side High School in Rockville Centre, he never raised his voice, but had a gift for developing talent. He possessed uncanny judgement when it came to tactical decisions. Simply put, Bob Bigelow was one of the finest coaches to ever walk the sidelines of a basketball court or a soccer field in Nassau County.

After his own playing career at New York University, Bigelow took over as the South Side High School “Cyclones” basketball coach in 1968. In three years, he turned a struggling team into a county champion. That was the start of a brilliant run, as he guided South Side to three more Nassau championships in 1972, 1975 and 1978. By the time he retired as the coach in 1982, he had built a record of 202-60.

“He had a unique knack of getting kids to perform over and above their abilities,” said Art Raynor, a former South Side teacher and basketball scorekeeper. “He never raised his voice. I never saw him angry. He was remarkable.”

After retiring from basketball in 1982, Bigelow went on to initiate one of the greatest stories in the history of Nassau County sports. With no background, he was asked to start a girls’ soccer team at South Side. Despite admitting to family and friends that he knew nothing about soccer, Bigelow accepted the challenge. What followed was other-worldly.

Starting from scratch, the Cyclones went on to win an unprecedented 10 New York State championships in 21 years. During Bigelow’s last season as their coach in 2001, the Cyclones had a 20-0 record that included a New York State title and a national championship. That same year, Bigelow was selected as the national Soccer Coach of the Year, the second time he earned that recognition. South Side won 330 games and lost only 45 under Bigelow. He began with nothing and built a girls’ soccer dynasty that might never be equaled.

Robert Bigelow taught Physical Education at South Side for 32 years. He passed away in 2011 at the age of 71.

We are proud to induct him posthumously into the Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame.



JOSEPH CAIRO CONTRIBUTOR/OFFICIAL

He neither seeks nor requires the spotlight. He most often works behind the scenes, content to let others receive the credit and recognition. Yet, when something needs to be accomplished, Joseph Cairo willingly offers to help.

The Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame is a perfect example of his character. Cairo comes to meetings and sits quietly. He reads biographies and enjoys listening to discussions about various candidates, whether they are athletes, coaches, administrators or old-timers. He rarely interjects his personal opinions, but carefully absorbs the information. When he heard the members of the Hall of Fame committee talking about the need to find a permanent home for it, Cairo went to work and found that home.

In the near future, when spectators wander into the Nassau Coliseum for a concert, a hockey game, or a basketball game, they will walk through a room that will house the Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame. They will see photos, plaques and memorabilia. They will be able to identify the inductees who have meant so much to the evolution of high school sports in the county. They will have Joseph Cairo to thank for it.

Joseph Cairo has spent much his life as a problem solver. He has rescued families that have fallen on hard times. He has helped men and women find a place to live or a place to work. He has done all of it while avoiding the fanfare or glare of the spotlight. "The magnitude of people this man has helped is mind-boggling," said longtime friend Tom O'Connor, "and he absolutely refuses to take any credit."

Decades from now, when the Hall of Fame has become a fixture at the Coliseum, visitors won't have any idea that it was Joseph Cairo who long ago worked to put it there. And that's just how he'd like it.

With great respect and gratitude, it is our pleasure to induct Joseph Cairo into the Hall of Fame that he built.



MICHAEL CINGISER ATHLETE

By the time he graduated from West Hempstead High School, Mike Cingiser was the school's all-time leading basketball scorer with 1,185 points. But that doesn't begin to reveal his prowess as an athlete and coach.

Cingiser excelled everywhere. He was a two-time, first-team All-Nassau County basketball selection, and an Honorable Mention All-County baseball player. When he tried out for tennis as a senior, he wound up playing First Singles. Although he was a multi-sport athlete, it was on the basketball court that he became an iconic figure for the West Hempstead Rams.

Mike was a three-year starter for coach Bob Jahelka. After averaging 15 points per game as a sophomore, he was a force of nature in the 1957 county basketball tournament as a junior. He poured in 38 points—then a play-off record—in a semi-final victory over Hempstead High School. He then came back with 24 points to lead the Rams to a 58-51 victory over Levittown Memorial High School in the Nassau championship game. He was named the tournament's "Most Valuable Player" and was a first-team All-County selection in the days when only five players were chosen.

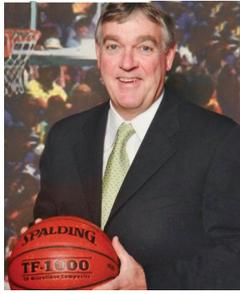
His senior year was extraordinary. Cingiser averaged 23.5 points per game and received the Carl Molusky Award as the South Shore Athletic League's best player, over such stars as Art Heyman and Larry Brown. Cingiser was again named first-team All-County.

After being heavily recruited, Cingiser chose Brown University, where he became that school's all-time leading scorer and only the second player to be named "All-Ivy" three years in a row. He was drafted by the Boston Celtics, but decided to attend graduate school.

Cingiser returned to Long Island to teach English and coach basketball and tennis at Lynbrook High School. During his 12-year basketball tenure, the Lynbrook Owls won six league championships, and advanced twice to the county final. His tennis teams won 10 league titles in 10 seasons, including a 50-match winning streak.

Mike Cingiser eventually returned to Brown University, where he coached basketball for 10 years, guiding the Bruins to their first Ivy League crown and a berth in the 1986 NCAA tournament.

We proudly welcome Michael Cingiser to the Nassau County Athletics High School Hall of Fame.



JAMES COLLIGAN ADMINISTRATOR/COACH

He served his community, he served his school district, and he served his country. Jim Colligan was always about giving!

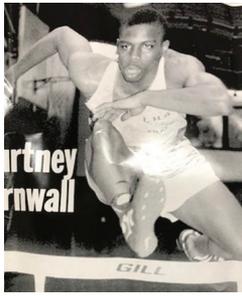
From 1971 to 2006, Jim was a teacher and school administrator, which included being the Athletic Director at Carle Place High School. Those years also included 33 years of coaching the Frogs' boys' basketball team. For 29 years at the varsity level, Colligan's teams made the play-offs 24 times, including reaching the New York State Final Four in 1999 and 2006. Colligan coached one of the greatest games ever played on Long Island, a 67-66 Carle Place win over East Rockaway in the Nassau County Class "C" semifinal, a victory earned after five overtimes.

The 1965 graduate from Westbury High School was all about commitment. When Jim retired from Carle Place, his sick day 'bank' had 465 days in it. Carle Place superintendent David J. Flatley said, "No single quote could possibly capture the essence of Jim's work." Hall of Famer Bernie O'Brien, a former Executive Director of Section VIII Athletics, said, "Jim always managed to find time to be a major part of other vital activities in the county, aside from his daily workings at Carle Place." He served on the Section VIII Athletic Council and was also the Nassau County boys' basketball coordinator for 20 years.

Jim Colligan had a presence in the classroom and as a coach on the court, always exemplifying a high level of character. His school district dedicated the basketball court in Jim's honor at his last home game. In 2018, Colligan was inducted into the New York State Basketball Hall of Fame.

With all that he accomplished, Jim also served and protected our nation. He served in the United States Army for 29 years, in both Vietnam and Desert Storm, and was promoted to full Colonel. He was awarded two Bronze Star medals, as well as a Meritorious Service medal and four United States Army Commendation medals.

Tonight, we honor Jim Colligan yet again with his induction into the Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame.



COURTNEY CORNWALL ATHLETE

As fast as Courtney Cornwall was, that's how slow he could be at times. Maybe he was the fastest guy in the metropolitan area when he was running track at Lawrence High School. But Courtney's coach, Tom Graham said, "He's so slow getting dressed. Sometimes, it's like, 'Courtney, hurry up. I'd like to get home tonight.' "

But when in action, Cornwall was lightning! While at Lawrence High School, he was the three-time Eastern State Champion at the 400-meter Dash (Outdoor and Indoor) and the 4x400 meter relay. Courtney was number one in the United States in 1997 in the 300 meter run and an "All-American" in the 400 meter dash and Sprint Medley relay. That same year, Cornwall was the "Most Valuable Player" of the Bishop Loughlin Games, the biggest indoor track meet in the United States.

His excellence in 1997 continued when he won the Brown Invitational in the 500 meter dash. He was also named the Madison Square Garden "Tri-Athlete of the Month". Cornwall holds the Long Island mark in both the 300 and 400-meter dashes. He also captured the Nassau County 1997 title when he beat teammate O'Neal Bryan in the 55-meter High Hurdles. One of the greatest athletes in the history of Lawrence High School, Cornwall continued to excel at the collegiate level.

Courtney was a stand-out at Ohio State University, earning "All-Big Ten" honors and "All American" status. He was a two-time winner at the Penn Relays. Away from the track, Cornwall, at times, went into a crawl, saying, "You've got to slow down sometimes. You can't move fast all the time. I save it." Yes, he did. That is why his competition was always in pursuit watching Courtney cross the wire first.

Tonight is yet another milestone for Courtney Cornwall. We celebrate his induction into the Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame. Just don't try to catch him...



CONRAD (CONNIE) DIERKING ATHLETE

Connie Dierking wasn't a basketball prodigy. In fact, after a mediocre season on the Valley Stream Central High School junior varsity team as a 6' 9" sophomore, he wasn't expected to have much impact at the varsity level. Then something dramatic happened.

"Connie's transition from 10th to 11th grade was unbelievable," said Joe Dondero, Dierking's teammate for two years. "We almost didn't recognize him. That tall, gawky, skinny kid suddenly was smooth as silk. He just grew into his body."

Aside from being a force on offense, Dierking was a tenacious rebounder. His outlet passes enabled Central to get out on numerous fast breaks. "We averaged 70 points per game, in an era when most teams were averaging 50. Connie became a defensive intimidator, too. Other teams stopped driving down the lane, knowing that he was waiting to protect the basket," added Dondero."

Dierking's transformation from caterpillar to butterfly turned Valley Stream Central High School into a championship basketball team. When the Eagles faced Mineola in the 1954 title game, the Mustangs employed a unique strategy. Every time Dierking touched the ball in the low post, Mineola fouled him, an earlier version of "Hack a Shaq." However, Dierking proceeded to sink 21 of 24 free throws on the way to scoring 27 points, leading Central to the county championship. That gawky, uncoordinated sophomore had blossomed into Nassau's best basketball player as a senior, when he was named to the All-Scholastic first team.

Dierking's years at Valley Stream Central served as the foundation of a stellar college and professional career. He starred at the University of Cincinnati, where he still holds school records for rebounds in a game (33) and rebound average for a season (18.8). Dierking was selected fifth overall in the 1958 NBA draft, after which he averaged 10 points and 6.7 rebounds over a 13-year career, mostly with the Cincinnati Royals.

The Valley Stream native had a great sense of humor, too. When asked how he and wife, Robyn, managed to have five daughters and no sons, Dierking quipped "just lucky, I guess."

Conrad Dierking passed away in 2013. We celebrate his outstanding athletic accomplishments tonight with his posthumous induction into the Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of fame.



GEORGE DLUGOLONSKI COACH

His passion for the sport is legendary, and his reputation in the wrestling world is stellar! Welcome to the world of arguably the greatest high school wrestling coach that Nassau County, and for that matter, New York State has ever seen, George Dlugolonski.

George was a member of the Physical Education and Health department at Chaminade High School for 39 years. The numbers his wrestling teams put up are beyond belief! He is the most winning wrestling coach on Long Island, with 536 dual meet victories, and only 156 losses. His teams won 23 Nassau-Suffolk Catholic School League Tournament Championships, 18 League Dual Meet titles, and 16 New York State Catholic High School Athletic Association State Championships.

His teams were so respectful, having received the Catholic High School Athletic Association Sportsmanship Award 14 times. Dlugolonski was also named "Coach of the Year" 15 times. In 2007, he was inducted into the New York State Athletics Hall of Fame. The following year, George entered the New York State Catholic High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame. That was followed up in 2012, when the Nassau County Sports Commission presented him with its "Lifetime Achievement Award". The hits kept on coming in 2013, with his induction into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.

Longtime Chaminade Athletic Director Don Scarola said of George, "His dedication and commitment to the entire Catholic League and our student-athletes was always exemplary. I can unequivocally attest to his integrity, professionalism and character in the areas of both teaching and coaching."

Tonight adds another big honor to the man that George Dlugolonski is as we induct him into the Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame.



WILLIAM “BILL” DUMPSON ATHLETE

William Dumpson’s high school athletic achievements would have been outstanding during any era. But coming as they did in the mid-1940’s made them nothing short of extraordinary. At a time when African American athletes suffered endless indignities, rarely were recognized for their accomplishments, and were hardly ever recruited by big-time college athletic programs, Willie Dumpson still managed to stamp himself as something special.

His career at Port Washington High School left an indelible mark on that community. Even today, more than 70 years after his accomplishments as a three-sport star, he is considered the greatest all-round athlete to grace the halls of Port Washington’s high school.

The folks in Port Washington sometimes refer to Dumpson as the “Jackie Robinson of Nassau County basketball.” He was the first African-American player named to Newsday’s All-County team, and he did it in both his junior and senior seasons. Legend has it that he was the first player in Nassau County to dunk a basketball. “He did it in practice,” said team-mate Jimmy Dykes. “We weren’t even aware of dunking until he did it.”

Although Dumpson starred in both football and baseball, it was in basketball that he made a name for himself. He led the Vikings to consecutive county championships in 1946 and 1947. During that span, Port Washington carved a then-Nassau County record—a 35-game winning streak. They went on to win the 1947 Long Island championship.

After graduating from Port Washington High School, Dumpson went to all-black South Carolina State University. In the spring of his freshman year, the Negro League “Homestead Grays” came to town. Dumpson, pitching for a local team, struck-out 17 Grays. “He left on the bus with them that night,” said his son, Darin. Dumpson went on to play with such Negro League greats as Satchel Paige, Josh Gibson and Buck Leonard. An arm injury later sent him back to basketball.

Willie Dumpson became famous as “Showboat Dumpson” while playing with the Harlem Globetrotters. He then formed his own team, known as the “Court Jesters”. Dumpson passed away in 2014, leaving behind an unmatched legacy in the town of Port Washington. We celebrate his athletic accomplishments and his indomitable spirit tonight with his posthumous induction into the Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame.



WILBUR "BILL" ERB OFFICIAL

"He was always first-rate, hardworking, and entirely honest. Very simply, Wilber Erb epitomized sportsmanship," said Congressman Peter King.

Bill Erb had an extensive career as a high school sports official from 1950-2016! He wasn't just a field official on the gridiron, but an active member in every association that he belonged to. He served on a number of committees and was on their Boards of Directors. He was the ultimate, consummate professional, always looking to help fellow officials, coaches and players. Over the years, Erb mentored countless officials, including two-time Super Bowl official Steve Zimmer, who played at Massapequa High School and at Hofstra University.

"During my tenure with LIAFO, I had the tremendous honor to work with, and more importantly, learn from one of the most dedicated and kindest men I have ever met," said Jeffrey C. Gerson.

Wilbur "Bill" Erb passed away three years ago. In 2018, the Long Island Association of Football Officials honored Bill Erb's legacy, naming an award based on Erb's four building blocks of life, "Faith, Family, Friends and Football."

It has been said that in Bill's 66 years of officiating, he was actively involved in over 1,500 football games. He preached interpretation of the rules, consistency, and integrity. From Pop Warner football in 1950 to the start of high school football in 1956, Wilber Erb left a mark that will be hard to match.

Wilbur "Bill" Erb was a humble man who never looked for fanfare. He dedicated his life to helping others. Tonight, we honor Bill Erb posthumously with his induction into the Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame.



JESSICA FOSCHI-GALLO ATHLETE

She glided through the water. She swam with grace, power, speed and stamina. Her competitive instincts approached perfection. She was so dominant and intimidating that when she stepped to the starting line, her opponents usually knew the race was over before it began. Simply put, Jessica Foschi was a phenomenon.

“Without a doubt, she was the finest high school swimmer to come out of Nassau County in the last 50 years,” said Dave Ferris, Director of the Long Island Aquatic Club. By the time Jessica graduated from Friends Academy, she was an iconic figure in Nassau County and New York State aquatics.

Foschi was a three-time New York State swimming champion in two different events, winning both the 200-yard and 500-yard freestyle in 1995, 1996 and 1997. She set county and state records in both events, and her record time of 4:46.97 in the 500-yard freestyle stood for 20 years. She still holds the Nassau County 500-yard freestyle record. She won the national high school championship in the 500-yard freestyle in 1996. She was the Nassau County “Most Valuable Swimmer” in 1995, 1996 and 1997. She was named to the high school All-American team in three consecutive years. It got to the point that every time Foschi began a race, she was a threat to set a new school, county or state record.

To the surprise of no one, Foschi continued to excel after accepting a scholarship to Stanford University. She was the 2001 NCAA champion in the 500-yard freestyle, and a seven-time PAC-10 Conference champion in five individual events and two relays. She was a 14-time All-American, and was named captain of Stanford’s women’s team in 2001 and 2002.

“I have known Jessica and her family since she was born,” said Friends Academy athletic director Alan Quackenbush. “Her swimming accomplishments are only surpassed by the person she is, and the content of her character. She was a school leader who was held in the highest regard by her classmates, teachers and coaches.”

We are proud to induct Jessica Foschi-Gallo into the Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame.



BRUCE GEHRKE COACH

Bruce Gehrke's football and basketball teams won plenty of games, but former Mineola High School student-athlete Jack Emmer said, "More impressive than the wins were the lessons he taught all his young athletes, impacting us for a lifetime."

Gehrke, a 1942 graduate of Sewanhaka High School, was a star athlete himself, especially at Columbia University. He was a four-year starter in football, basketball and baseball, earning 12 varsity letters. In 1950, Gehrke started a great career at Mineola High School. His football teams went 91-48-6, winning seven division championships and two Rutgers Cups in 1960 and 1967. During his tenure, Mineola ripped off winning streaks of 19 and 30 football games. Gehrke also coached two Thorp Award winners, and was a three-time Long Island Press "Football Coach of the Year". He was also honored by the Daily News as its "Football Coach of the Year" in 1961.

Gehrke's basketball teams won eight division titles, four North Shore Championships, and the 1960 Nassau County basketball title. Six times, Gehrke was named "Basketball Coach of the Year" by Newsday, the Long Island Press and the Daily News. Bruce Gehrke is the only coach in Nassau County history to win the Rutgers Cup in football and the Nassau County championship in basketball in the same school year.

At one time, Gehrke was the president of both the Nassau County basketball and football associations, as well as the President of the New York State Coaches Association. He also assisted in initiating the Gridiron 44 Football Dinner, recognizing the top 44 high school players in Nassau County. At the annual football banquet, the "Bruce Gehrke Coach of the Year Award" is still presented annually.

Bruce Gehrke passed away in 1976, but the mark he made still shines brightly today. We are proud to bestow upon Bruce Gehrke another milestone, inducting him posthumously into the Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame.



RON HELLER ATHLETE

Ron Heller was one of the greatest players to ever put on a Farmingdale High School uniform, where he played three sports. The 1980 Farmingdale High School graduate had a stellar career on the football field, wrestling mat, and the baseball diamond.

Ron earned All-County honors in baseball in 1980, splitting his time between pitching and third base. In wrestling, Heller was a three-time division, North Shore, and Nassau County heavyweight champion. He was crowned a New York State champion in 1980. Overall, Heller had a three-year wrestling record of 75-5. As good as he was in baseball and wrestling, the best was yet to come for Heller on the gridiron.

After missing both his sophomore and junior football seasons because of injuries, Heller came back with a vengeance as a senior. As captain of the 1979 team, which had an 8-1 record, Heller was the recipient of the Martone Award, given to the top lineman in the county. He also won the Thorp Award-given to Nassau County's finest player. That distinction thrust him into the limelight, and the next level of collegiate play.

At Penn State, Heller was an offensive tackle from 1980-1983. Ron was a starting tackle for the 1982 Sugar Bowl championship team. In 1983, he was the captain of the National Championship Nittany Lions. The National Football League was next.

A fourth-round pick by Tampa Bay in 1984, Heller played until 1995 with the Buccaneers, Philadelphia Eagles, and Miami Dolphins. He started in 166 of the 172 games he played.

It all began at Farmingdale High School. Tonight, Ron Heller comes full circle with his induction into the Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame.



JILL ROSE JANUSZEWSKI-KROL ATHLETE

There have been superb female athletes in Nassau County since girls' sports took off in the 1970's. Some excelled in one sport and some excelled in two, but only a precious few rose to the pinnacle in three different sports. Jill Januszewski was one of them.

Januszewski's accomplishments in volleyball, basketball and softball at Oceanside High School remain legendary, 36 years after she graduated. She is regarded as the finest all-around athlete in school history, and remains one of the most versatile female athletes in the annals of Nassau County athletics.

Richard Woods, Oceanside's boys' basketball coach while Januszewski was starring for the girls' team, is effusive in his praise for her. "I could only dream about having someone as talented, passionate, devoted, team-oriented and successful as her on my team," Woods said.

Januszewski was a once-in-a-lifetime performer. She was a two-time All-County selection in volleyball, while leading the team to a pair of Nassau County championships. She was an All-County performer as a junior in basketball, taking Oceanside High School to the county final. She singlehandedly carried the "Sailers" to the Nassau County softball crown as a junior; she was twice named All-County in that sport. Newsday called her "A Force of One" after she pitched every single inning of every game en route to a 23-2 record. But a broken leg prevented her from playing basketball or softball as a senior.

By the time she graduated in 1983, Jill held every significant school record in volleyball and basketball. She was named Oceanside's "Most Valuable Player" three times in volleyball, once in basketball, and twice in softball. She was the only Nassau County finalist for the "Bruce Gehrke Award", given to Long Island's best female athlete. When Oceanside began its "Circle of Pride" in 2003, honoring the finest male and female athletes in its history, Januszewski was a charter member.

An outstanding student as well, Januszewski earned a Bachelor of Science degree in history at Adelphi University, then attended Brooklyn Law School. She is currently a judge's clerk at the New York Civil Court in Queens.

We congratulate Jill Januszewski-Krol on her inspiring athletic career as we induct her into the Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame.



JACK B. KALEY COACH

Jack Kaley's love affair with lacrosse began more than 65 years ago and it is still growing strong. From 1952-1956, he never played in a losing game at Sewanhaka High School. That is because the "Indians" were in the middle of a 91-game winning streak that spanned from 1948-1957.

That was the beginning of a career that would take Kaley to the top of the Nassau County lacrosse world. When Kaley arrived at East Meadow to coach in 1968, he immediately turned the East Meadow "Jets" into a powerhouse. In his first season coaching there, East Meadow was unbeaten 20-0, and won its first county championship.

There were more championships to come. Under Kaley's tutelage, the Jets won seven division titles, and three consecutive Nassau County and Long Island championships in 1971, 1972, and 1973. East Meadow's play-off run in 1972 was especially impressive because the Jets defeated three previously undefeated teams enroute to the Long Island title. Along the way, Kaley won the Nassau County Sportsmanship Award, "Coach of the Year" Award, and "Lacrosse Man of the Year Award." By the time he finished his East Meadow career in 1988, Kaley's teams had built a record of 227-96.

After playing lacrosse under Kaley, East Meadow alumnus Rich Mauti went on to play college football at Penn State University, and professional football for the New Orleans Saints and Washington Redskins. "Throughout my career, I had the privilege to play for some great coaches--Hank Stram, Joe Gibbs, and Joe Paterno," Mauti said. "I can say with sincerity that I have never been motivated, inspired, or touched emotionally by any coach as I was playing for Coach Kaley."

Kaley was not done when he left East Meadow. He continued to excel at coaching at the collegiate level. He guided New York Tech to four NCAA Division II national men's lacrosse championships. He was named "Division II Men's Lacrosse Coach of the Year" four times. His overall record at the New York Institute of Technology was 185-34, for a winning percentage of 84.9, the best in NCAA Division II men's lacrosse history.

Tonight, we are proud to induct Jack B. Kaley into the Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame.



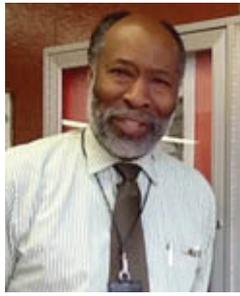
ROBERT “BOB” KENNEY ADMINISTRATOR

Bob Kenney has been involved in Section VIII athletics for almost 60 years! He has always done what is best for the student-athletes of Nassau County. Bob has always held a leadership role. Kenney started as a Physical Education teacher in 1960 at Carle Place High School. He eventually found himself as the Chairman of Health, Physical Education and Athletics at Herricks High School from 1973-1984. He then assumed the job of District Director of Health, Physical Education and Interscholastic Athletics for the Hicksville School District, a program he led until 1995.

From 1977-1992, Bob was the Tournament Director for Nassau County Boys' basketball and served as the county sport coordinator. He was also the Nassau Zone of NYSAHPERD Treasurer and President, and since 1982, has served on the Nassau Zone Executive Board. Bob served on the Section VIII Athletic Council and on many of its committees over his long career. His professional awards list looks like a "Who's Who Among Nassau County Athletics and Physical Education." Bob was even cited by former Nassau County Executive Tom Gulotta, in a letter to Kenney, Mr. Gulotta said, "You have emerged as an individual who has the ability, compassion and dedication to embellish your role as a dedicated member of your vocation."

In 1991, Bob was appointed as the Long Island Regional Director of the Empire State Games. He was a primary consultant to the Long Island Empire State Games Organizing Committee, and to New York State Parks Commissioner Bernadette Castro. Bob was responsible for bringing the Games to Long Island in 1999 for the first time in its 22 years. Kenney served as its Regional Director until the games terminated in 2013.

Bob Kenney has offered his distinguished service and strong advocacy for Nassau County athletics at the school, community, and New York State levels. Tonight we honor Bob Kenney's leadership, contributions, and dedication to the student-athletes, schools, coaches and administrators of Nassau County. Congratulations on your induction into the Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame.



ERNEST KIGHT, JR. COACH

That same work ethic that Ernie Kight, Jr. displayed so many years ago as a student at Freeport High School enabled him to become one of the most beloved educators in his hometown. He was a teacher, a coach, an assistant principal, a principal and a member of the Board of Trustees. That was a road few educators traveled, and a testament to his integrity and success every step along the way.

Ernest Kight, Jr. was also a pioneer. When he took over as the coach of Freeport's varsity girls' basketball team in 1977, there were only a handful of male educators coaching girls' teams throughout the state. But unlike others, Ernie did not resist the rise of female involvement in high school athletics. He embraced it. Ernie's combination of discipline and integrity soon turned the "Lady Red Devils" into a basketball powerhouse.

Strictly by the numbers, Kight's coaching career is noteworthy. However, his value as a mentor and father figure to hundreds of young girls far surpassed anything that happened on the basketball court. "Once in a great while, we are blessed with an educator and coach who makes such a significant impact on the community that he transcends the classroom and gymnasium," said Freeport athletic director Jonathan Bloom, "Ernie Kight is such an educator."

Over the years, Kight also coached the varsity badminton team and led the cheerleaders. His badminton team won two Nassau County titles, and his success in basketball was overwhelming. Kight guided his basketball teams to 399 victories, eight division titles, five Nassau County championships, three Long Island crowns, two New York State semi-finals and a State final. He won New York State sportsmanship awards for his demeanor on the sidelines, and was also named Nassau County's "Girls' Basketball Coach of the Year".

Ernie's commitment and service to the Freeport community are such that after retiring in 2012, he was elected to the Freeport Board of Trustees. Today, he continues to advocate for the young people of his hometown. Congratulations to Ernest Kight, Jr. on his induction into the Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame.



HOWARD KITT ATHLETE

He had a 98 mph fastball, and a curveball that dropped off the table. That's why Howard Kitt was able to record the greatest high school pitching season in Nassau County history.

The 6'3" lefthander led Oceanside High School to the 1959 Nassau County Championship by carving out an unprecedented 17-0 record that included 211 strikeouts. Kitt's mark of 17 victories has withstood the test of time. It remains a New York State record that has stood for 60 years! His 211 strikeouts remain third in the New York State baseball record book. Howard Kitt was the centerpiece of the 1959 All-Nassau County baseball team.

So noteworthy were Kitt's achievements that the citizens of Oceanside did what had never been done for any high school athlete. They held a "Howie Kitt Day" that featured posters in store windows, and a parade through the middle of the town. Kitt was sought after by virtually every major league baseball organization, especially after he pitched the New York Metro All-Stars to a victory over the United States All-Stars in the annual Journal-American sandlot game at Yankee Stadium. Kitt was awarded the Lou Gehrig "Most Valuable Player" trophy after a brilliant performance. He struck out seven batters and allowed no hits in three innings against a team that featured seven future major leaguers. His talent was not lost on the New York Yankees, who signed him to what, at the time, was the biggest bonus in the history of the organization.

Kitt was not a one-sport wonder. He was an outstanding three-sport high school athlete, who also starred in soccer and basketball. During an era when there was only one county champion in every sport, he was selected as the first-team All-Scholastic center halfback, while leading Oceanside High School to its first Nassau County soccer title. He also was a starting forward on the Sailors' county championship basketball team.

After several years in the minor leagues, an arm injury ended Kitt's baseball career. He graduated from Hofstra University. He went on to earn an advanced degree at Columbia University, and had a highly successful career as an economist.

We are honored to induct Howard Kitt into the Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame.



PAUL LANKFORD ATHLETE

He truly was a gifted athlete. Paul Lankford, a 1977 graduate of Farmingdale High School, excelled in both football and track and field. He was first a 'Daler, and then a Nittany Lion at Penn State University. He then took his extreme talents to the National Football League, where he had an outstanding ten-year career as a defensive back for the Miami Dolphins.

But it all started for Lankford in Nassau County. He was a county, state and junior world record holder in the 60, 120, 330 and 400 meter high hurdles. On the gridiron at Farmingdale, playing for Coach Don Snyder, Lankford was part of the 1975 Rutgers Cup Championship team that was ranked second in New York State. In the 1976 season, as a senior captain, Paul was named to the All-County, All-Long Island and All-New York State squads.

Lankford was also the captain of the 1976 Farmingdale High School football team. Upon graduation, he was recruited by Joe Paterno at Penn State University. Paterno asked Lankford, "Do you want to run track, or play football?" Lankford responded, "I want to run track. So I signed a track scholarship to Penn State. But coach Paterno said whenever I wanted to play football, I could."

Lankford did play football for Penn State, and started his last two years at the university. His success at the collegiate level led to him being drafted by the Miami Dolphins. He played for 10 seasons, picked off 13 passes and saw play in two Super Bowls. A stellar athlete, Lankford continued to be a true 'Daler, and would run through a brick wall if asked. He was a total team player who worked for three storied coaches at each level: Don Snyder, Joe Paterno and Don Shula.

Tonight, Paul Lankford comes full cycle, back to where it all began for him. We congratulate his induction into the Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame.



BETHANY LESUEUR ATHLETE

How good was Bethany LeSueur? Consider the history of Garden City High School athletics, boys and girls. Bethany is the only athlete to have had her jersey retired! Bethany played lacrosse, earned All-County soccer honors twice and was named First team All State. But in basketball, she was All-Everything!

Bethany was a six-year varsity hoopster, and a five-year starter. All she did was shatter records, leading her team to an overall record of 121-12, a .910 winning percentage. She led her team to three state final fours, three Long Island championships, and six Conference championships.

Bethany worked hard at her game. In six years of varsity basketball, she never missed a practice. Her late coach John Dell'Olio said, "What separated Bethany from all other players, was that she had the desire and work ethic to reach her potential." The five-time "All Long Island" selection was a scoring machine, pouring in 3,167 points, best in the history of Long Island for girls or boys, and earning the second most points in the history of New York State high school basketball.

During her dominance, LeSueur had 38 games when she scored 30 or more points, including a personal best of 47 points against Carey High School in 2001. She had the complete game: she could shoot three-pointers, drive to the hoop, dribble, pass, rebound, and play lock-down defense! Dell'Olio added, "One day in practice, she would shoot with only her right hand, and the next day, only shoot with her left. To say she was disciplined would be an understatement." Bethany was also a Street and Smith All-American, USA Today All-American, and also started in the Nike-WBCA All-American Game. Bethany played and excelled as a three-year starter at Georgetown University, receiving honors as a Defensive Player of the Year, team MVP in 2005-06, and recorded over 800 points, 200 assists and 400 rebounds for the Hoyas. She is currently a Business Education teacher at East Meadow High School, the director of Female Programs for the Rising Stars organization, and head female trainer for Pro Hoops, Inc.

Bethany states, "The utmost credit is due to my father, Paul LeSueur, who passed away unexpectedly this past June. My father was an inspiration as an All-American soccer player, heralded coach, and admired administrator in Nassau County throughout his career. Above all of his personal accolades, he was the greatest coach, mentor, and fan to his four children and countless grandchildren, always willing to work with us. He was the driving force behind my passion and my successes, on and off the court. His warm smile, witty personality, and strategic paper-and-pencil sports diagrams will be remembered for generations."

Tonight we honor the greatness of arguably the greatest girls' basketball player in the history of New York State basketball. Bethany LeSueur, congratulations on your induction into the Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame.



PAUL LIMMER COACH

“Dominant” would be the word to describe the boys’ and girls’ cross country and indoor/outdoor track teams that Paul Limmer coached at Mepham High School. From 1963-1998, Limmer taught science and put the track program at the North Bellmore school on the national map.

He retired as the most winning boys’ and girls’ track coach, with a New York State career record of 737-27. His teams won 40 division titles, 18 Section VIII championships, and three New York State crowns. Thirteen individual New York State titles in the mile and two mile alone can be added to those accolades.. A few summers back, a number of Limmer’s early career athletes from Mepham took their coach out to lunch. Athlete Larry Mancini, Jr. remarked, “Coach said ‘No, this is on me. You guys don’t know how much you contributed to my life.’” Mancini continued, “We all felt and said that the opposite was true.”

Limmer has been decorated with many honors for his coaching career at Mepham, including the “National High School Coach of the Year”, the “New York State Coach of the Year Award” three times, the “National Federation Indoor Coach of the Year”, and the “National Federation Cross Country Coach of the Year”. In 2017, Paul Limmer was inducted into the New York New Balance Armory Hall of Fame. Last year, he was also inducted into the New Balance Coaches Hall of Fame.

In 1993, Paul Limmer was an Honorary Co-Meet Referee at the Penn Relays. Mark Belger, a 1973 Mepham graduate and a New York State Federation champion coached by Paul Limmer said, “He woke us up from adolescence and gave us purpose, drive, and a need to balance education, life and sports.”

Tonight we honor Paul Limmer with his induction into the Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame.



JOSEPH G. LORES COACH

He was East Rockaway's "Renaissance Man", a coach so grounded in what the role of a coach should be that he was beloved far beyond what his athletic teams accomplished.

Whatever was needed, Joe Lores provided it. After East Rockaway High School abandoned boys' soccer, he was instrumental in reviving the sport. When the "Rocks" had no girls' soccer team, he started one. When it became clear that East Rockaway and neighboring Malverne High School individually did not have enough girls to fill a soccer roster, he merged them, and coached the first combined district team in Nassau County. When it was noted that East Rockaway High School did not have an Athletics Hall of Fame, Lores started one and remains its historian. When local charities needed help, Lores insisted that his student-athletes provide support. The list goes on and on.

"Year in and year out, Coach Lores' teams are involved in volunteer and community service initiatives," said David Barth, East Rockaway's Director of Physical Education and Athletics. "He is a man of incredible integrity."

Lores did not simply encourage participation, he wanted more. Despite coaching in one of the smallest districts in Nassau County, he demanded excellence and got it. He coached 13 championship softball teams, five championship basketball teams and four championship soccer teams. He was named "Coach of the Year" 12 times in girls' soccer, boys' basketball, and girls' softball. Twice, he was the recipient of the New York State "Sportsmanship Coach of the Year" award for basketball. He was the district "Teacher of the Year" in 2000. Last year, Joe was inducted into the New York State Basketball Hall of Fame.

Individual recognition was never a priority for Joe Lores. Heather Loughran, a 2008 East Rockaway graduate, played softball for Lores when they advanced to the New York State Final Four. She said, "Coach Lores is the type of person who gives and gives, never taking credit for the triumphs of his athletes and teams. He is truly the epitome of a coach, and deserves to be recognized."

Tonight, we are proud to honor the athletic accomplishments, moral character, and generosity of Joseph Lores with his induction into the Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame.



ALAN E. LOWE ATHLETE/COACH

He was the quarterback of his high school football team, played point guard in basketball, and was on attack on the lacrosse field. Alan Lowe, 1962 graduate of Hempstead High School, was an All-County athlete in all three sports. In fact, in his senior season, Lowe scored, at that time, a Nassau County record of 64 lacrosse goals in only 13 games, including 12 in one game. That record still stands in Nassau County. Lowe went on to play lacrosse at the University of Maryland, where he was honored as an All-American athlete in 1967.

As much success that Alan Lowe had playing the game of lacrosse himself, his name became even bigger when he became the lacrosse coach of Manhasset High School. From 1975 -2006, Lowe's teams won 511 games, losing only 110. Under Lowe's leadership, the Indians won 23 league titles, nine Nassau County championships, and seven Long Island championships. Manhasset High School earned the New York State boys' lacrosse title twice.

Alan Lowe coached 36 high school All-American lacrosse players who graduated from Manhasset High School. He has had countless moments of great pride. But perhaps the one at the top of his list is that, in an honor shared with his sons Darren and Kevin, the Lowes are the only family with three players who were inducted into the National Lacrosse Hall of Fame.

Alan has been inducted into the Manhasset High School Athletics and Lacrosse Halls of Fame. He is a member of the University of Maryland's Athletics Hall of Fame. Lowe was also inducted into the Long Island Lacrosse Hall of Fame. Tonight, Alan Lowe comes back to Long Island so that we can celebrate his induction into the Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame.



HEATHER McADAM-POMILIO ATHLETE

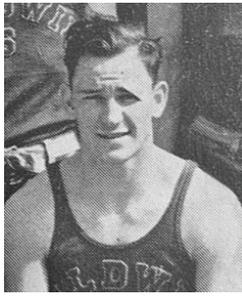
How good was Heather McAdam-Pomilio? It is more accurate to ask how great she was. The 1988 Long Beach High School graduate played four varsity sports. In her senior year, she was named the most outstanding senior athlete in her school. Heather was on the basketball, volleyball, gymnastics, and softball teams, and truly made her mark on the diamond as an outfielder and pitcher.

A four-year varsity softball player, Heather was named her team's "Most Valuable Player" three times. As a freshman, she played in 15 games and hit .372—a terrific season, but she was only getting started. During her next three years, McAdam hit .507, .508 and .600, setting the school's batting average record as a senior. Heather was named an All-County player three times. During her high school career, Heather had 108 hits, including 18 home runs and batting in another 101. During her last season, she went 7-2 in the circle, striking out 65 batters in 48 innings.

Carmine Verde coached Heather in her senior campaign at Long Beach and said, "You could tell within 30 seconds that you were watching a truly exceptional athlete, who outworked and out hustled every other player on the field. She was explosive, powerful and agile." A three-time Daily News All-Star, Heather received an athletic scholarship to Georgia Southern University to play Division I softball. She returned to Long Beach High School and served as an assistant softball coach, helping to lead the team to a New York State championship win in 2001.

Heather McAdam-Pomilio was a complete and a dominating player on the high school level. She was very proud when Long Beach High School won the conference title in her graduating season. But Heather said having fun with her teammates was just as rewarding.

Last year, Heather McAdam-Pomilio was inducted into the New York State Softball Hall of Fame, the first inductee from Long Beach. She rounds third and touches home again tonight with her induction into the Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame.



GERALD MCHUGH ATHLETE

Gerald McHugh graduated from Baldwin High School in 1938. It was a rough time for many, being that it was the middle of the Great Depression. But that did not stop McHugh. He found the time to go to class and still play five sports-football, basketball, baseball, track and swimming. He earned 14 varsity letters. He also excelled in athletics while working to help support his family.

During his time on the football team, Baldwin won three Nassau County titles. McHugh captained the 1937 squad. Perhaps his proudest football moment came on Thanksgiving Day in 1937, when Gerald scored all of Baldwin High School's 19 points in a 19-13 win over White Plains High School. McHugh received All-Scholastic Honors from three newspapers: the Nassau Daily Review Star, the Brooklyn Eagle and the World Telegram News.

In basketball, McHugh helped lead the charge to three Nassau County titles. During his senior season, Baldwin went to Glens Falls to play in the Open Championship of the Eastern States. In the spring, McHugh competed in both baseball and track. On the diamond in a 1937 game against Hempstead High School, Baldwin trailed 3-2 in the 6th inning. Baldwin loaded the bases, and McHugh hit a grand slam. Baldwin, in a huge upset, beat Hempstead 6-3.

On the track team, McHugh was an outstanding long jumper. But with all his success, perhaps this is the clincher that proves what this five-sport athlete was all about. Following the end of the baseball season, McHugh decided to get involved with the swim team. He won the 50-meter freestyle Nassau County Championship.

Gerald McHugh started his college career at North Carolina State University. After one year, he left school to join the United States Army to serve his country. Tonight, this extraordinary man is honored posthumously with his induction into the Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame.



FRANK MORRIS COACH

Once in a while, a coach comes along who refuses to go along with traditional thinking. That was Frank Morris when he was hired in 1960 as the boys' basketball coach at St. Agnes High School in Rockville Centre.

Morris was a basketball novice. After serving in the Air Force for four years, he went on to play football and lacrosse at the State University of New York at Cortland. As he prepared to teach Physical Education and coach at St. Agnes High School, Morris came to the conclusion that the slow, patterned offense of the game of basketball was dull, and not much fun for its players. Morris also decided that dropping back into the defensive end of the court made it easy for opponents to bring the ball upcourt. So, Morris went against form. He instituted a relentless fastbreak offense and a stifling fullcourt man-to-man press for the entire game.

"His innovative style left an indelible mark on the game of basketball on Long Island," said former St. John's University Hall of Fame coach Lou Carnesecca. "He was one of the pioneer coaches to employ the pressing man-to-man defense and fastbreak offense that is so popular today."

Frank Morris was an agent of change; his record speaks for itself. During his 26 seasons at St. Agnes, he forged an amazing 494-101 record. His teams won 18 divisional and 10 league titles. The Stags won the New York State championship in 1978 and 1979. They were state runners-up in 1981 and 1982. Morris developed many future collegiate players, including Frank Alagia, Billy Donovan, and future St. John's University coach Brian Mahoney.

Morris also guided the Stags' football and golf teams. When St. Agnes closed its doors, Morris worked on Wall Street, but returned to coach at the New York Institute of Technology. His teams won back-to-back Eastern College Athletic Conference championships in 1994 and 1995. He finished his career at Mariner High School in Florida, where his style of play produced 150 victories and four district championships in seven years.

Frank Morris passed away in 2004, leaving a legacy as one of the giants in coaching Nassau County basketball. We salute his many accomplishments as we induct him posthumously into the Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame.



BREANNE E. NASTI ATHLETE

Breanne Nasti was a three-sport star athlete at Baldwin High School, earning 13 varsity letters in field hockey, basketball and softball. In field hockey, Breanne was part of two Nassau County championship teams. In 1998, she was named an All-State field hockey player.

On the basketball court, she was an All-Conference player, who helped lead her team to the 1999 Nassau County Class 'A' championship. But when the calendar flipped to the spring season, what Nasti achieved when playing field hockey and basketball paled in comparison to what this dynamic athlete did on the diamond in softball.

Nasti led Baldwin High School to three Nassau County Class 'A' Championships in softball and the 1999 Long Island title. Five times, Breanne was named as an All-County softball player. She was a three-time All-New York State selection, and a three-time All-American. The numbers tell you why. Breanne Nasti was the two-time record setter for the highest batting average in the country, hitting .774 in 1998 and .783 in 2000. Nasti also holds the record for the highest career batting average in the country - .695.

In college, Nasti continued her prowess on the diamond, earning a scholarship to the University of Buffalo. During her collegiate career, Breanne was named the Mid-American "Conference Player of the Week" seven times. She holds the Buffalo and Mid-American Conference single season record with a .461 average.

In 2012, Breanne was inducted into the State University of New York at Buffalo Athletics Hall of Fame. Three years later, she was inducted into the New York State Softball Hall of Fame. Tonight is a hat trick for Breanne Nasti, as we celebrate her homecoming with her induction into the Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame.



EDWARD NEWMAN ATHLETE

He wasn't a gifted athlete, but his spectacular work ethic turned him into a great athlete. That's the story of Ed Newman.

While other high school athletes were relaxing in the off-season, Newman was working in the weight room, long before it was popular. When other college athletes were told they could not compete in two sports, Newman excelled in football and wrestling. While other NFL players were not thinking about life after football, Newman was attending law school while playing for the Miami Dolphins.

The 1969 high school graduate fondly remembers his time at Syosset High School, where he was an All-Long Island lineman and a superb wrestler. "I can't tell you the debt I have to Syosset," said Newman, on a visit home in 2016. "What a wonderful place to grow up. The lessons I learned here have brought me to where I am in life."

Newman says his most memorable moment was the final game in his senior year, when Syosset defeated Hicksville to win the league title. His hard work paid off in wrestling as he advanced to the Nassau County finals in the heavyweight division.

When Newman arrived at Duke University, he was told to give up wrestling because it was too difficult to compete in two sports. Newman rejected that advice. He went on to become an All-American and All-Conference lineman in football, and twice won the Atlantic Coast Conference heavyweight wrestling title.

After being drafted by the Dolphins, Newman played in four Pro Bowls, was named All-Professional in 1984, and competed in two Super Bowls. But even as he was enjoying a 13-year career, his mother's words kept ringing in his ears. "It was my mom who said every morning, 'You wake up. You should be thinking about the day you leave the NFL,'" Newman recalled.

Newman heeded that advice. He enrolled in the night division of the University of Miami Law School in 1984. He was simultaneously playing for the Dolphins during the day. Edward Newman earned a law degree in 1987. Today he sits as a County Court judge in Miami.

Edward Newman is an excellent example of excellence in athletics, academics, and life. We congratulate him tonight on his induction into the Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame.



GLORIA M. O'CONNOR COACH

Gloria O'Connor was a four-sport athlete at Carle Place High School, earning All-County and "Most Valuable Player" recognition. As good as the 1969 graduate was, it may still pale in comparison to what she did at her alma mater as the head coach of field hockey and lacrosse.

Gloria took over the reign of the girls' lacrosse program in 1978. For the next 12 years, her team would dominate. Over 12 seasons, O'Connor led Carle Place to a 199-11-2 record. The "Frogs" won 11 league titles, eight Nassau County Championships, and were crowned New York State Champions five times, four of which were undefeated seasons. During one stretch, Carle Place won 71 straight games.

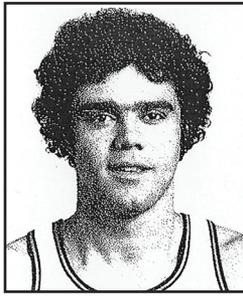
O'Connor's field hockey teams were equally dominant. From 1979-1988, Carle Place had a 146-18-21 record, capturing nine league championships, including seven in a row. Beginning in 1983, when a New York State Championship was initiated in girls' lacrosse, the Carle Place Frogs won that title four times.

To break it down, between the two sports, Gloria O'Connor's record was 345-29-23, with nine New York State titles. 2018 Hall of Fame inductee Barbara Sellers said, "Gloria's players always responded to her philosophy of 'give it your best and never stop trying to improve.' Her competitive spirit, leadership skills and love of sports benefitted numerous student-athletes."

In addition to being a long-time teacher and Athletic Director at Sewanhaka High School, Gloria also served as Assistant Principal at Floral Park Memorial High School for five years, and later became the school's Principal for another four years. Gloria retired in 2008 as Sewanhaka's Assistant Superintendent for Personnel and Administration. She then went on to become the head field hockey coach at Adelphi University in 2008. Her collegiate teams compiled a 94-76 record, with two back-to-back NCAA Division II tournaments in 2014 and 2015. Her teams were conference champions in 2015, and Gloria was named "Coach of the Year" by her peers.

Gloria has been inducted into the Long Island Metropolitan Lacrosse Foundation Hall of Fame, the Long Island Field Hockey Coaches Hall of Fame, and the Carle Place High School Coaches and Athletes Hall of Fame.

Gloria is so proud of her 28 former athletes who went on to coach in Nassau County. She remains grateful for the opportunity to coach and teach so many extraordinary student-athletes from Carle Place, while also getting to know so many wonderful parents. She remains forever appreciative of Becky King (her former Carle Place High School coach), and her mentors Barbara Sellers and Rosalia Gioia. It is significant that all these women are now Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame inductees. "Passing it forward" is still Gloria's top priority, as she now serves as an Adjunct Professor at Adelphi University, working as a student-teacher supervisor. Tonight, we honor Gloria O'Connor with another well-deserved honor--induction into the Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame.



STEPHEN “BILLY” OMELTCHENKO ATHLETE

Billy Omeltchenko was truly a star at Great Neck North High School. The 1974 graduate played three sports and excelled in them all--soccer, basketball, and baseball. Omeltchenko earned nine high school varsity letters, started every game he played in, in all three sports, and captained all his teams.

In soccer, Billy was a two-time All-Long Island selection. He is the all-time leading soccer scorer at Great Neck North. On the diamond, Billy was an All-Conference player during his junior and senior seasons. But the 1974 Great Neck North High School “1974 Athlete of the Year” may have made his biggest impact on the basketball court.

Billy Omeltchenko was also a two-time All-Long Island selection in basketball. He scored 1,007 points in his career, breaking the school record set in 1969 by Phil Hankinson. Billy averaged 23 and 25 points per game in his junior and senior seasons. “He was beyond the level of being good; he was exceptional,” said his coach, the late Bob Morrison.

Following graduation from Great Neck North, Omeltchenko headed to Princeton University. Billy played point guard and co-captained the Princeton men’s basketball team that won two Ivy League Championships. That accomplishment resulted in an automatic bid, at that time, to the 32-team field. “Tireless, honest and courageous are all the characteristics that make for a great basketball player, and Billy Omeltchenko epitomized all of the above,” said Pete Carill, who coached Princeton for 29 years.

The 1978 Princeton men’s basketball team’s “Most Valuable Player” is once again in the spotlight. Congratulations to Billy Omeltchenko on his induction into the Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame.



ROBERT PERPALL COACH

“Character is something not everyone can see. But Rob Perpall goes above and beyond to provide his athletes with opportunities to grow, mature and overcome any obstacle they may face,” said Kathy Delgais-Butler, a member of the Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame, Class of 2016. If you combine that with Perpall’s “Never Quit” attitude, you can see why he has been so successful over his athletic career.

For 13 years, Rob coached the Seaford High School softball team. He amassed an overall record of 202-62, made 13 straight play-off appearances, and won nine softball conference titles, three Nassau County Championships, and a Long Island Championship. Rob Perpall was named “Softball Coach of the Year” twice.

His numbers are equally impressive in his role as the Seaford High School football coach. In 19 years, the Seaford Vikings are 157-62-1. They have captured nine conference titles, seven Nassau County championships, and two Long Island Championships. At one time, Seaford won 44 straight football games and were ranked as New York State’s number one small school. Five times, Perpall was named “Conference Football Coach of the Year”. He also earned Newsday’s “Coach of the Year”. Former Vikings football player Logan Masters said “He dedicates his life to the game, simply because he loves his players and wants to give us the best chance to win every single game we play.”

Rob Perpall has been coaching high school football for 50 years! “In my eyes, he is the Bill Belichick of high school football,” said Corey Rosenbloom, a 2017 Clarke High School graduate, who played against Perpall. Matt McLees, the Section VIII football coordinator, added “Rob Perpall’s style is simply old school, and to see him flourish as a role model with today’s generation is exemplary.”

Tonight is another crowning achievement that Rob is proud to share with his wife Margi, daughter Katie, and his 97 year old mother. Congratulations, Robert Perpall, on your induction into the Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame.



CARL REUTER CONTRIBUTOR

Carl Reuter has been part of the fabric of Nassau County athletics for four decades. His face, his voice, his commentary and his insights are familiar to virtually every fan of high school sports in Nassau County and in all of Long Island.

Carl has done everything a member of the sports media can do. He has been a play-by-play broadcaster for countless high school contests, especially football, basketball and lacrosse. He has done televised games. He has called games on the radio. He has been a sideline reporter. He has done pre-game interviews, and post-game interviews. He has covered county championships, Long Island championships and New York State championships. If there was an important high school game in Nassau County, Reuter was certain to be there.

“Carl has worked some of the biggest games in Long Island high school history,” said Section VIII Executive Director Pat Pizzarelli. “He has a passion for high school sports.”

Reuter’s media career began after he graduated from St. John’s University in 1977. Even he did not know how many twists and turns his journey would take. He worked for the Associated Press. He worked for a newsweekly in Great Neck. He was a broadcaster for radio station WGBB. He worked for the Long Island Sports Network, and MSG Varsity, among others. Two months after News 12 Long Island’s television station was launched, Reuter began his 20-year relationship with the station.

He has won numerous awards, including a pair of Emmys for his coverage of the annual Boomer Esiason Football Challenge between high school stars from Long Island and New York City.

Although he has been a constant presence on the high school scene, Reuter also is well-known for covering a wide-range of collegiate sports. His face became familiar to Metropolitan area fans while he was a feature reporter and backup anchor for Fox 5 on Sunday’s “Sports Extra” for 17 years.

Reuter estimates that he has covered some 5,000 high school and college games during his career. His contributions to local sports have earned him a place in the Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame.



ROBERT J. RULE ATHLETE

It was a twist of fate that changed Bob Rule's life. When his family moved from Natick, Massachusetts to Manhasset, Long Island in 1965, Bob was already an accomplished football and ice hockey player. Lacrosse? He never heard of it. All of which turned out to be rather amazing, since Rule became one of the greatest lacrosse players of all time, and one of the premier inventors of lacrosse equipment.

Rule made an immediate impact as a lineman for Manhasset High School football. In his first season, the new kid on the block became the team's "Most Valuable Player" as an offensive lineman/linebacker. He earned All-League honors. That was merely a preliminary hint of what was coming in the spring.

Since he had been an ice hockey goalie in Massachusetts, Rule thought he would try out as a goalie in lacrosse. Good move! He wound up as a starter. In fact, Manhasset's opening game against Freeport was familiar to Rule. "It was the first regular game I had ever seen," he said. "It unfolded right in front of me." That was the beginning of a journey that would place Rule among the finest athletes to ever play at Manhasset.

Rule repeated his success as the Manhasset football team's "Most Valuable Player" in 1966 and earned a spot on Nassau County's Gridiron 44. But the kid who never saw a lacrosse game until the previous year outdid himself as a senior lacrosse player. He led the Indians to an 18-0 record and the Long Island championship. He was named the All-Nassau County goaltender and "Most Valuable Player" of the title game. Rule allowed in an unprecedented average of just 2.16 goals per game.

Rule's collegiate career at Cornell University was just as sensational. He was a goalie on an NCAA championship ice hockey team and an NCAA championship lacrosse team. He was named "First Team All-American", and earned the C. Markland Kelly Award as the nation's outstanding goalie.

While Rule was playing lacrosse, he was also evaluating lacrosse. As the years went by, he invented and modified sticks, especially goalie sticks. He created and patented improved arm, elbow and shoulder pads.

Bob Rule's inventiveness, creativity and skill on the field made him a legend in the lacrosse community. We proudly induct him into the Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame.



WILLIAM SANDIE ATHLETE

If you were a fan of Nassau County high school sports in the early 1950s, you would have been in awe of Bill Sandie. His exploits on the football field and wrestling mat were chronicled throughout an extraordinary career that made him one of the best and most recognizable athletes on Long Island.

Sandie excelled in football, playing for iconic coach Nick Sabetto. He was a punishing fullback who spearheaded Mepham High School's road to the Nassau County football championship in 1952 and 1954. He was the recipient of the Thorpe Award as the county's top football player in 1953, when he was a junior. Sandie was even better as a senior; he was the moving force behind Mepham's march to the 1954 county title. But since a player was only allowed to win the Thorpe Award once, Sandie could not earn it again.

Sandie was a two-time All-Scholastic selection by Newsday and a three-time All-Metropolitan pick by the New York Daily News. When Newsday published its "Team for the Ages Pre-1960", Sandie was one of the 11 players chosen, along with such future National Football League greats as Jim Brown and John Mackey. Sandie's accomplishments were so distinct that Mepham High School retired the #19 jersey he wore during his years on the Pirates gridiron..

Sandie was not merely a one-sport standout. He was a ferocious wrestler, who pinned virtually every opponent he faced. Under the tutelage of legendary coach Sprig Gardner, also a member of the Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame, Sandie was unbeaten as a senior, en route to winning both the South Shore Athletic League title and the Long Island championship. That was as far as he could go, since there was no NYS tournament at that time.

William Sandie went on to play college football at the University of Miami, and finished his athletics career as a member of the New York Jets. He remained a passionate sports fan for the rest of his life, until his death in 2018.

We are proud to induct William Sandie posthumously into the Nassau County Athletics Hall of Fame.



WILLIE SMITH ATHLETE

Willie Smith was a gem. He was not merely the greatest sprinter in Nassau County, or the best on Long Island, or the best in New York State, or the best in the East. He was the best in the country. In 1974, Track and Field News, the bible for track and field, named Willie Smith the #1 high school athlete in the United States.

Known as the “Long Island Express” when he was burning up the track at Uniondale High School, the 5’8”, 160 pound sprinter equaled national records in two events during an extraordinary senior year. He ran the 100-yard dash in a blazing 9.3 seconds at the Nassau County Track and Field championships. Two weeks earlier, at a meet in Hartford, Connecticut., he dazzled the crowd by tying the national record of 20.6 seconds in the 220-yard dash. Smith’s 220-yard mark still stands as the New York State record. That was just outdoors. Smith was just as fast indoors, holding national records in the 220 and 300 yard runs.

Forty-five years after an unparalleled high school career, he remains the greatest sprinter in Nassau County track and field history.

Smith’s exploits did not stop when he left Uniondale. After a national recruiting campaign, he attended Auburn University and continued to excel. He switched to the 400-meter run, and once again, became the best in the country, winning two NCAA championships and earning All-American honors.

After graduation from college, Smith continued his track career at the highest level. He was ranked #1 in the world in the 400-meter run, placing second at the Olympic Trials and earned a spot on the 1980 Olympic team. However, like so many other disappointed athletes, he never got to compete because the United States boycotted the 1980 Olympic Summer Games at Moscow. Four years later in Los Angeles, Smith finally earned a gold medal as part of the United States Olympic 4x400 relay team.

Smith has created and worked at sporting camps for young people. In 1997, Willie Smith was inducted into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame, and was also honored on the Auburn University Tiger Trail “Walk of Fame. “

We are proud to add another accolade to William Smith’s international, national, state and county honors, his induction into the Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame.



ROLLIE STICHWEH ATHLETE

He was a once-in-a-lifetime athlete, a person admired by teachers, coaches and teammates alike. By the time Rollie Stichweh graduated from Mineola High School the three-sport star had left an unequaled legacy.

Stichweh was first and foremost a football standout. A two-way star at quarterback and defensive back, he led Mineola to an unbeaten season and county championship as a senior in 1961. He was an overwhelming choice to receive the Thorpe Award, emblematic of the county's top football player.

Things didn't change in the winter. Stichweh was the key player on a Mineola basketball team that won a county title, and was one of five players selected for Newsday's All-County team. In the spring, he was a tough, talented lacrosse player on another championship team.

Stichweh's legend continued to grow at West Point. He played quarterback, halfback, defensive back and kick and punt returner for the Black Knights. In 1964, he was compared favorably to Navy's Heisman Trophy winner, Roger Staubach, and earned a spot on the All-America football team.

"I think Rollie Stichweh, besides being a terrific person, was one of the best football players and athletes I ever saw," said Staubach, who had a Hall of Fame career with the Dallas Cowboys. "Without a doubt, he would have been an outstanding professional."

But Stichweh had other things to do besides attempting to play in the National Football League. After graduating from West Point, he went to Vietnam as an officer in the 173rd Airborne Brigade. For his bravery under fire, Stichweh received numerous awards, including two for heroism. He earned the Bronze Star for valor and the Air Medal for valor.

Upon his induction into the Army Sports Hall of Fame, it was said that "West Point could not have a better person in its athletic Hall of Fame than Rollie Stichweh. He represents excellence in everything he has done before, during and after his days at West Point. There is no one better."

We celebrate his induction into the Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame.



CARMINE VERDE COACH

A social studies teacher for 37 years, Carmine Verde retired from that position in 2015. But he still is going strong as the Long Beach High School softball coach. He's been at the helm for 32 years, continuing the rich tradition he built. Verde is Nassau County's all-time most winning softball coach, with 442 victories. Verde is very proud to be the first Nassau County coach to win a New York State softball championship, in 2007.

His teams have won seven Nassau County titles, and two Long Island championships. "He exhibits a warm but ambitious spirit, and his drive to inspire everyone to be the best that they could be is unmatched," said Brianna Rivera, a Long Beach 2014 graduate. "Carmine is always a step ahead, proactive, and the perfect example of determination," added Carle Place Athletic Director Chris Ceruti.

High school sports is also about more than winning. Verde's teams have won the Nassau County Softball Officials Sportsmanship Award 10 times! "To this day, being assigned to a softball game for Long Beach is an honor in itself," said Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame umpire Marie Terc.

Verde is well recognized for what his softball teams have done over the years. He was voted the Nassau County "Softball Coach of the Year" six times. In 2007, he was the New York State and Newsday "Softball Coach of the Year." Gina Calabrese played for Carmine Verde from 1993-1997 and said, "The man is all heart. He loves the game of softball, and even more than softball, he loves his players."

Tonight, the man who raised four boys with his wife Gerry, but in reality helped raise hundreds of daughters over the years, is rewarded for his accomplishments. We are proud to induct Carmine Verde into the Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame.



FRANK VIOLA ATHLETE

The banner hangs on the gymnasium wall at East Meadow High School as a constant reminder of what Frank Viola's success means to the people in his hometown. He is the neighborhood kid who made it to the top of the baseball world.

On the left side of the banner is a huge No.16, the number he wore when he was pitching for the Jets. On the right side is a list of achievements that can take your breath away: Major League Baseball 1982-1996; Three-time All-Star; World Series MVP 1987; American League Cy Young Award 1988.

Viola's pitching career began by chance. He started his junior year as a first baseman, but when one of the pitchers suffered an injury, coach Mike Kostick moved Viola to the mound. "I don't know if the coach had a premonition that my batting would be so bad that I better find someplace else to play," Viola once said, "or whether it was just something meant to be."

Clearly it was the latter. By his senior year in 1978, Viola had become one of the premier pitchers in Nassau County. He was on his way to becoming "Sweet Music", the nickname that would stick with him throughout a 15-year major league career.

Viola accepted a scholarship to St. John's University, planning to be an accountant like his father. But a 26-2 record over three years at St. John's, including All-American honors as a junior, was enough for the Minnesota Twins to draft him in the second round.

The rest is history.

Viola became one of the best pitchers in major league baseball. In the 1987 World Series, when the Twins played against St. Louis, he won two games, including the seventh game, and was named the series' "Most Valuable Player." In 1988, he had a 24-7 record and an ERA of 2.64. It was good enough for him to win the Cy Young Award as the American League's best pitcher.

Viola wasn't finished. After being traded to the Mets, he became a 20-game winner again, with a 20-12 record in 1990. He ended his career with a 176-150 record.

Not bad for a kid expected to be a first baseman and an accountant. Congratulations, Frank Viola, on your induction into the Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame.



CHRISTIE WELSH ATHLETE

Christie Welsh was a dominant four-year varsity soccer star at Massapequa High School. The 1999 graduate was a three-time All-New York State player. Welsh led Massapequa to four Nassau County titles, two Long Island championships, and the 1997 New York State championship. In 1998, Christie was named the “Gatorade Circle of Champions National High School Girls’ Soccer Player of the Year”.

The two-time Parade All-American scored 25 goals in her senior year at Massapequa. One of the nation’s most highly recruited players, Welsh enrolled at Penn State University and was the first player in its school history to earn All-American honors in all four years. She led her team to four straight Big Ten titles and two Final Four appearances. Welsh set the conference record with 82 goals and 52 assists, a mark that still stands. Of her 82 goals, 27 were game winners. Welsh was also recognized as the top collegiate women’s soccer player, receiving the MAC Hermann Trophy.

After Penn State, she was drafted in the 2003 WUSA Draft by the New York Power. Leading her team in scoring, she would go on to play internationally in Sweden and France, and with the Washington Freedom and New Jersey Wildcats in the Womens Professional Soccer League. She was a member of the United States National Team from 2000-2008. Welsh played in 39 international games, and found the back of the net 20 times. In 2005, Welsh helped the National Team capture the Algarve Cup, tallying a team best of five goals, including the game winning goal in a 1-0 victory over Germany in the finals.

Christie Welsh has excelled at every level-in high school, at the collegiate level, and then in international play as a professional player. In 2016, Christie was inducted into the Long Island Soccer Player Hall of Fame. Tonight, back home where she started, we are proud to add another honor to one of the all-time great athletes of our county. Congratulations, Christie Welsh, upon your induction into the Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame.



HANK WILLIAMS COACH/ADMINISTRATOR

Hank Williams' journey to coaching greatness was anything but typical. After graduating from Malverne High School, he spent almost a decade working in a factory by day while attending Hofstra University in the evening. Finally, with a college degree in hand, the door was open for Williams to start a career that would one day make him a legendary high school basketball coach.

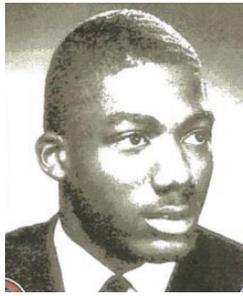
Hank's insight for nurturing talent and molding teams was such that in his first year as the head coach of the Malverne varsity basketball team, he guided the Mules to the 1974 Nassau County championship. He did it when only one team could win the county title. It was an astounding achievement for a first-year coach, and set the stage for a stellar career that spanned parts of four decades, and eventually got Williams inducted into the New York State Basketball Hall of Fame.

The numbers are staggering. Williams led Malverne to 450 victories, 20 conference crowns, nine Nassau County titles, and four Long Island championships. He reached the pinnacle in 1979, when he guided Malverne to the New York State Class B basketball title at the Rochester War Memorial. Two years later, Malverne took a different trip. This time the Mules traveled to Glens Falls Civic Center, and won a second state championship.

Williams was more than merely a basketball coach at Malverne. He was an icon. After being named Athletic Director, he implemented the school's first sports eligibility policy—a policy that still stands today. "Hank believed in academics before athletics," said Malverne's current coach, Darrol Lopez. Hank also served as Nassau County's boys' basketball sport coordinator for Section VIII.

Perhaps lost in the spotlight of Williams' coaching greatness is the fact that Hank was a genuine high school basketball star himself at Malverne. In 1957, he was the leading scorer in Nassau County, ahead of great players such as Larry Brown and Art Heyman. He was one of five players named to Newsday's All-Nassau team.

Hank Williams' influence on the youth of his hometown was such that after his death in 2000, the Malverne High School gymnasium was named in his memory. We are so proud to induct Hank Williams postumtaly into the Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame.



WANDY WILLIAMS ATHLETE/COACH

When people talk about the greatest all-around high school athletes in Nassau County history, Wandy Williams' name is certain to be in the conversation. During his athletic career, there were more than a few coaches and spectators who considered Williams to be the nearest thing to Jim Brown. He was that good!

Williams excelled in football, basketball and track at Malverne High School. However, the word "excelled" doesn't quite capture his dominance, especially in football and basketball. Wandy was a legitimate football prodigy, who averaged an astounding 8.9 yards-per-carry in his senior year as running back, and scored 234 career points. He was named First-Team All-Nassau, and First-Team All-Long Island.

Williams was just as outstanding on the basketball court. He scored over 1,000 points and had over 1,000 rebounds during his three-year varsity career. In his senior year, Williams exploded in the 1964 Malverne-Mineola Nassau County championship game; he scored 39 points and earned "Most Valuable Player" honors. That victory earned the Malverne High School Mules their first-ever county basketball title. Williams still counts his performance in that game as one of the highlights of his athletic career.

Wandy's success on the gridiron and hardcourt was enough to earn him high school All-American honors in both sports. When Newsday published its Silver Anniversary All-Long Island football and basketball teams before the turn of the century, Wandy Williams was the only athlete selected for both sports.

Williams accepted an athletic scholarship to the University of Kansas, where he broke the great Gale Sayers' freshman rushing records. However, he transferred back to Long Island and finished his career as a football and basketball stand-out at Hofstra University. He was drafted by the Denver Broncos in 1969, and spent two seasons in the National Football League.

After a superb athletic career, Williams became a teacher and basketball coach at Long Beach High School. He produced a succession of strong teams, regularly competing for the county title. During the 1991-92 season, Williams guided the Long Beach High School Marines to the Nassau County championship to cap his coaching career.

We are proud to induct Wandy Williams into the Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame.

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Lorraine "Chickie" Hoffman
Rebecca King
Ethel T. Kloberg
Buddy Krumenacker
Dr. Mira Martincich
Marcus Martone
Jason Morgan
Bernie O'Brien
Ted Petersen
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Natalie "Muffy" Smith
Don Snyder
Wally Szczerbiak
Dr. James Tolle
Howie Vogts
John "Jake" White

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Jim Amen
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Joe Blocker
Gil Blum
Darius Burton
Woody Davis
Katherine Delgais Butler
Anne DiPrima
Julius Erving
Anthony Ewers
Dr. Karl Friedman
Frank "Sprig" Gardner
Robert Hartranft
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George McElroy
Norn Murray
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Stephen Boyd
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Russell Cellan
Pete Cerrone
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Becky Crawford
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Danielle Gallagher
Ginny Gandolfo
Angelo Giugliano
Roger Glazer
Scottie Graham
Carol Ann Habeeb-Kiel
Bernard Hintz
Steven Hunte
John Kickham
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Alfred Kumerow
John Mackey
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Don McPherson
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Dr. Frank Saracino
Steve Shippos
Kenneth Sicoli
Billy Wilson

HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2018

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AL BEVILACQUA
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LARRY BROWN
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WILLIAM "DOC" DOUGHERTY
AUDREY ERICKSON
HERB FITZGIBBON
PAUL GILLESPIE
JERRY JEWELL
STEPHANIE JOANNON
DENNIS KORNFIELD
ROBERT MOORE
AMBROSE "BOB" MORAN
RICHARD MORAN
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Special Thanks To

Andy Slawson

**for His Untiring Efforts in
Statistical Research**

Mira Martincich

**for the Biographies
that Appear in this Booklet**

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Special Thanks To

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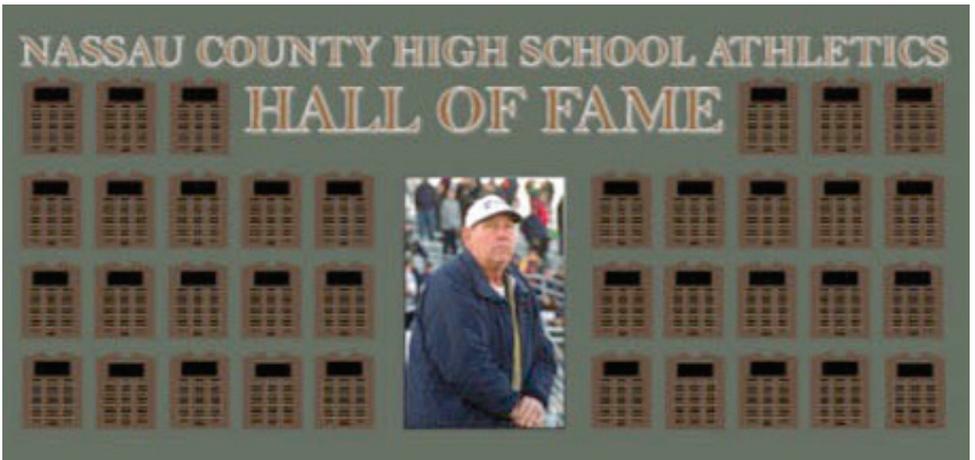
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