



## Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame

Welcome to the 37th annual induction ceremony of the Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame. This anniversary affords us an opportunity to honor past enshrinees while saluting a new group of exceptional athletes.

The Class of 2010 continues the tradition of excellence that has epitomized the Rockland Hall of Fame. Included among this year's headliners are T.J. Ford, a highly successful multi-sport athlete for Nanuet who received the New York State Class C Football Player of the Year award as leader of an undefeated and unscored upon 1989 football team; Barbara Mellen-Speerin, a four-sport standout for Clarkstown North in the mid 1970's; Margie Sahlstrom-Jaxel, a 1992 Nanuet graduate who was a seven-time All-County performer and first team All-State soccer player; Robbie Woods, a first team All-State selection in football and basketball in the mid 1970's who then went on to become a successful football and girls basketball coach at Ramapo; Mike Sparago, a 1982 Suffern graduate and three sport athlete who was the fourth-leading rusher in RCPSAL football and went on to play Class 1 professional hockey; Joe Conace, 1941 Nyack standout who played baseball, football and wrestled and is a decorated World War II veteran; and Sol "Spike" Israel, Spring Valley class of 1946, who was an outstanding football and wrestling champ and became a highly regarded wrestling referee. Unfortunately Spike, who lives year round in Deland, Fla., will not be able to attend this year's induction ceremony due to his fragile health.

The Hall of Fame is always seeking high-quality candidates to consider for induction. We applaud the continuing efforts of local high school halls of fame to honor their past stars and to assist us in obtaining the resumes of top candidates from the respective schools.

We acknowledge and congratulate Tom Collins, a distinguished Hall of Fame inductee (1994), board member and colleague who will be retiring as Pearl River athletic director in June. We wish him much success.

We also wish to thank those people who make our organization an indispensable contributor to the Rockland sports community: Joni Neuendorf, vice chair; Ethel Doller, secretary; Pete Castellano, treasurer and ticket chair; Bob Veltidi, master of ceremonies and screening committee chair; Gibby Sweet, for dinner arrangements; Dan White, Gene Erickson, Tom Doherty and Jamie Kempton for their behind-the-scenes support; Phyllis and Bruce Schweizer of Quality Graphics; and the entire Board of Directors who all contribute to the support of the organization throughout the year.

Regards,

Pete Scheibner, Chairman

Visit our Web site at [www.rcshf.org](http://www.rcshf.org)

# Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame List of Inductees

INDUCTEE: **SOL "SPIKE" ISREAL**  
INTRODUCED BY: *Skip Feinberg (Nephew)*

INDUCTEE: **JOE CONACE**  
INTRODUCED BY: *Angela Weygant (Daughter)*  
TROPHY SPONSOR: Nyack American Legion Post 310, Nyack, NY  
PLAQUE SPONSOR: Nyack American Legion Post 310, Nyack, NY

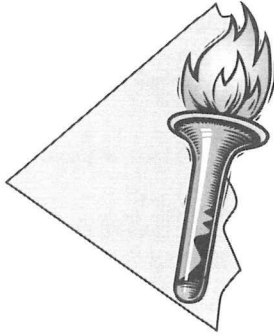
INDUCTEE: **BARBARA MELLEN-SPEERIN**  
INTRODUCED BY: *Chris Markam (Softball Coach)*

INDUCTEE: **T.J. FORD**  
INTRODUCED BY: *Mike Hussey (Co-Capt, Teammate)*

INDUCTEE: **MIKE SPARAGO**  
INTRODUCED BY: *John Orlando (Coach)*

INDUCTEE: **MARGIE SAHLSTROM-JAXEL**  
INTRODUCED BY: *Dave Powers (Coach)*

INDUCTEE: **ROBBIE WOODS**  
INTRODUCED BY: *Derik Davis (Brother-in-law)*  
PLAQUE SPONSOR: Nyack High School



### Dinner Program

Pledge of Allegiance.....Gene Erickson  
National Anthem.....Jean Marie Beckerle  
Master of Ceremonies.....Bob Veltidi

### Committees

Dinner .....Gibby Sweet  
Program Book .....Peter Scheibner  
Screening/Editor .....Bob Veltidi  
Tickets .....Pete Castellano

## 2010 INDUCTEES

JOSEPH CONACE

T.J. FORD

SOL "SPIKE" ISRAEL

BARBARA MELLEN-SPEERIN

MARGIE SAHLSTROM-JAXEL

MIKE SPARAGO

ROBBIE WOODS