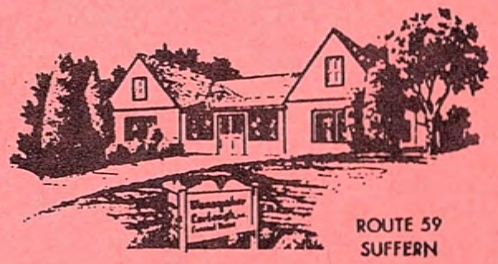

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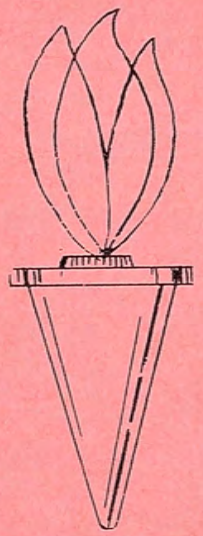

10th Annual Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame Dinner Dance

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 1983

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Pledge of Allegiance . . . . . Joe Grasso
Invocation. . . . . Rev. Farrell Hopkins
Master of Ceremonies . . . . . Leon Pesner

COMMITTEES

Dinner. . . . . Leon Pesner
Program Book . . . . . Harry Jackson
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Scholarship . . . . . .Shirley Sweetman
Screening. . . . . Jim Brown
Shrine . . . . . F. McGarvey & Joe Brilli
Trophy . . . . . A. Bogitsh

NEW INDUCTEES

Warren Austin
Jim Brechbiel
Frank Dawson
Jeanette Paddock
Walter Sickles

Concluding Remarks and Thanks . . . . . Leon Pesner
Benediction. . . . . Rev. Farrell Hopkins

Music for Dancing

Flowers donated by Al Dykstra

ENSHRINEMENT REQUIREMENT

The Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame was established to honor outstanding professional and amateur sportsmen, living and deceased, who have gained prominence while residing in Rockland County. To be considered for nomination to the Sports Hall of Fame, a prospective candidate must meet the following criteria:

A. Attain prominence in either professional or amateur sports as a player, coach, manager, official, owner, writer or broadcaster.
B. Have been a resident of Rockland County at the time of his or her prominence.
C. Be a person of integrity and good character.
D. A period of 5 years shall have elapsed since he or she gained prominence.

Nominations for consideration by the Hall of Fame Committee are solicited from the general public. Nominees are reviewed by the screening committee and then voted upon for enshrinement by the entire committee.

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SPORTS HALL OF FAME PAST RECIPIENTS

1974

Charles (Chuck) Aleno
Henry (Peck) Artopee
Dr. Daniel (Danny) Fortman
Joseph (Jo-Jo) Mackey
Howard (Howie) Pierson

1975

Roger Brown
Joe D'Auria
Bill Drescher
Bill Hogan
Donald 'Pop' Sherwood

1976

H. Parker Talman
John Koster
Jim Ridlon
Pete D'Auria
Gloria Callan Hones

1977

August Bradley Chapman
Nick Gamboli
Ed Greene
Harry Jackson
Richard (Gus) Shankey
Paul Toscano

1978

James (Jim) Brown
Harold (Hale) DeChelfin
James (Jim) Faulk
James A. Schnaars
Nicholas (Nick) Mottola
Ira Shuttleworth

1979

Bob Bacheller
Frank Cosentino
Harry Dee Dembnicki
Jerry Hollahan
Bob Grossman
E. J. Maurers
Bruno Ablondi

1980

Dr. Jeffrey Munson
Arthur Orlando
Britain Patterson
Nickolas Ryder
Horace Tyrus
Emil Willis
Mickey Wittman

1981

Arthur Hopper
Frank Horan
Howard Johnson
Lester Lepori
Walter Ostrom
Victor Shankey
William Yuda

1982

Frank DePatta
Tony Gamboli, Jr.
Bill Perry
George Jakowenko
Ed McGrath

WARREN L. AUSTIN

Warren L. Austin was raised in Rockland Lake, and later moved to Congers, New York and went to school in the old Congers Grammer School and Congers High School.

At Congers High School, Warren played on the Soccer Team and ran on the Track Team. While never an outstanding star, Warren was a student of the games and played Varsity and earned his letter in both sports.

In 1939, Warren and another member of the Congers High School Track Team entered Congers High School Track Team into the Dexter Press Field Day at the Pearl River High School field. Even though teams from the County were entered into the track meet, Congers High School Coach, Mr. Anderson, did not want to take the time to enter the team into the meet. At this point, Warren entered the team and along with Ronald Bow of Congers, represented the Congers High School Team. This meant that both people had to enter every event in order to score enough points to be eligible for the School Trophy. In his specialty the 100 yd. dash and the 220 yd. dash, Austin came in first, in the 440 run, he came in second, and third in the pole vault, first in the broad jump, and third in both the discus and shot put. His partner Ronald Bow, ran in the same events and scored well. Combined, the two fellows scored enough points to win the High School Trophy for the meet. It was a grand occasion on Monday when Warren and Ronald brought the trophy to school and gave it to the Principal, Mr. Felix Festa. The Trophy is still on display at Clarkstown North High School.

After the war, Warren played softball in Nyack for the Broadway Bakery, earning himself a name for being a good defensive player. He later played with the Nyack Police Softball team, once again showing his defensive game and hitting 350.

In 1969, he teamed with Raymond Will of Nyack and won the doubles in bowling in the New York State Police Olympics.

After settling down, he became active with the Nyack Youth and was active in the Nyack Little League, having served as Manager and President of the League. Warren noticed that there was no Youth Bowling Program in Rockland County and in 1958 he formed the Nyack Bantam League, a program for boys between the ages of 8-12 years. In the beginning there were 24 boys bowling at the Old Nyack Bowling Center on Main Street in Nyack. The League grew so there was the problem of adding more boys to the teams. In 1961, he formed the Nyack Junior Classic Bowling League to accommodate the boys who outgrew the Bantam League. At present, the Leagues bowl at the King Pin Bowling Lanes and have a membership of 50 in each league. In 1974, he formed the Warren Austin Recreation Bowling League for youngsters of the County, and that league bowls on Friday and has 100 boys and girls bowling in it.

After the tragic School Bus-Train accident in which a Nyack High School student by the name of Steven Ward was killed, who had bowled in the Nyack Junior Classic League, Warren established the Steven Ward Memorial Scholarship Fund that gives a $500 Scholarship to a graduating senior who is going to College and has bowled in the Nyack Junior Classic League for a year. Warren is a past President of the Rockland County Men's Bowling Association.

In 1978, Warren was elected President of the Nyack Monday Morning Quarterback Club in Nyack, and in 1980 when Nyack School District was on an Austerity Budget, he led the Quarterbacks in raising $48,000.00 to fund the Nyack High School Fall Sports Program. This included Football, Soccer, Hockey, Girls Field Hockey, Tennis, Band, Cheerleaders, Indianettes and Color Guard.

During this time the students at Nyack High School went on strike and left the school and gathered in the stands at MacCalman Field, and said they would not go back to school until they were assured that the sports would be funded. Dr. Alex Schwab, principal at Nyack High School called Warren and asked him to come to the field and address the students. Upon arriving at the school, he spoke to the student body and assured them that the sports would continue. He showed them the bank books that stated the money was in the bank. This persuaded the students to back into the school.

While he has been in Nyack, he has done much for the Nyack High School Students and stated he will continue to assist in any way he can.

JIM BRECHBIEL

Jim Brechbiel of North Rockland High School, considered by many as the best running back in Rockland County football history, added the highest honor yet to the many awards he has received for his athletic accomplishments.

Jim Brechbiel developed as a football player at an early age in the program of the Haverstraw Midget Red Raiders. He played four years of varsity football at North Rockland High School. He was the teams regular placekicking specialist since he was a freshman. During his junior and senior seasons, a time during which North Rockland won 17 straight football games, Brechbiel virtually rewrote the Rockland County scholastic football record book. As a junior he rushed for 1,109 yards and scored 120 points. The rushing yardage stands as a Rockland County record. He earned second-team All-State honors for his play as a junior.

He ran for 913 yards in 1971 despite missing two of the last games with a leg injury. Jim scored 122 points in eight Rockland Public School Athletic League football games and 131 points overall. Both figures are records. He finished his high school career with 314 points. His 92 extra point kicks in his career are believed to be a state record. Jim scored 33 touchdowns during his high school career to equal another Rockland County record. He had a career total of 2,351 yards rushing for an average of 7.8 a carry.

At the annual Journal News fall sports awards dinner he was named the Rockland County back of the year for the second time. No other back has ever received the award twice. When the All-New York State High School Football Team was announced in 1971 by the New York State Sports Writer Association, in addition to being cited as a first-team All State offensive back, Brechbiel was selected as the Empire State player of the year.

FRANK "DIXIE" DAWSON

Dixie graduated from Pearl River High School in 1953 having been a 3-sport man for the Pirates in football, basketball and baseball. He was All-County in Football in 1952 and was also one of the most distinguished punters in Rockland County history. His 79 yard punt from scrimmage against Nyack stood for quite some time as the longest punt in high school.

Frank's punting prowess continued through college, where at Cortland State in New York he played 4 years of Varsity Football as a tackle and punter. In 1956 Frank led All-Eastern small college punters and tied for 5th in the nation with Milt Plum (Don Chandler led that nation that year). In 1957 and 58 he was invited to the camp of the Baltimore Colts by Weeb Ewbank, but chose a coaching career instead.

While in college "Dixie" also played t2 years of Varsity Basketball. His basketball career continued beyond college where he played with the Letchworth Big 5 one of the county's most successful post high school teams.

Probably Dixie's greatest athletic achievements, however, came on the softball field where many have considered him the finest all-around player to play the game in this area. Dixie was one of the original fast pitch softball pitchers in Rockland. He began his softball career in 1952 and it has extended through the present day, where now it is more in a managerial capacity. Although he has lessened his playing he still was good enough to be selected the 1980 outstanding pitcher in the Suffern Tournament.

Among Frank's list of accomplishments in Softball are many MVP's, outstanding hitter and outstanding pitcher awards. He also received several golden glove awards for his great defensive play on pitching mound. Frank played for many of the County's most noted Softball teams and Softball Players: Wild Geese, Seidels, Nanuet Hotel, Andy's Mens Wear; Reiss Beer Sales and Modern Auto Body.

DR. WALTER J. SICKLES, DVM
1917 - 1970

The following is a short synopsis of the athletic accomplishments of "Walt" Sickles, well known Pearl River Athlete in the 1930s and early 40s.

Walt graduated from Pearl River High School in 1936, where he starred in Baseball and Football. He was co-Captain of the PRHS Baseball team in 1936 and was an all-county Back in Football. Walt was an outstanding pitcher in High School and in his last game he defeated Spring Valley H.S. striking out 17 batters.

He received a Football scholarship to Bordentown Military Academy upon graduation from Pearl River and starred in Football as a tail back at Bordentown, playing on a team that was undefeated. Walt also starred in baseball at the same institution.

Walt received a Football Scholarship at Cornell in 1937. He played Tail back playing on two squads that defeated Ohio State. His Football coach was Carl Snavely who is in the College Football Hall of Fame. Walt was an outstanding Pitcher winning 25 games and losing three in Ivy League Competition. Cornell won one Ivy League Championship outright and tied for another during the period he was at Cornell.

Upon graduation Walter signed to pitch with Baltimore of the International League and stayed with them the entire season of 1941.

Walt held a Commission in the U.S. Army and was called to active duty with the U.S. Infantry in 1941. He served with distinction as a Company Commander and was severely wounded in action. Because of his wounds he was forced to give up athletics and returned to Cornell where he earned a degree in Veterinary Medicine.

JEANETTE PADDOCK

Jeanette, daughter of Helen and Peter Paddock of Spring Valley, NY was born in Suffern. She attended the Spring Valley public schools and graduated from Spring Valley High School in 1959. She received a B.S. in Health and Physical Education from Pennsylvania State University in 1963 and a Masters in Health and Physical Education from the University of Northern Colorado in 1966.

A teacher for 19 years, Jeanette taught at the Air Academy School District (Colorado) 9-12 for 13 years where she was also the Area Coordinator and Department Chairman for Health, Physical Education, Industrial Arts and Home Economics. She also taught in the Littleton School District (Col.) 10-12 for 4 years, and the Orangeburg School District (NY) 7-12 for 2 years.

Jeanette has coached tennis, volleyball, track and field, and gymnastics for 13 years and has been a member of the Colorado High School Activities Tennis Committee Member for the same amount of time.

She has also worked as a tennis pro and director of the Colorado Springs Park and Recreation Tennis Program. (1968-72). She also was Director of the Swim Program at Nyack Field Club in MY (1961-65).

As to her Sports Experience in Tennis:
National Rankings:

35 Singles - # 18 - 1981
35 Doubles - # 6 - 1981
3rd Alternate to U.S. Open in 35 Singles - 1982

Intermountain Region Rankings (6-State Region)
35 Singles - #1 - 1982, 1980, 19, 79, 1978; #2 1981
35 Doubles - #1 - 1981, 1980; #3 1982

Colorado Rankings
35 Singles - # 1 - 1982, 1981, 1980, 1979, 1978
35 Doubles - # 1 - 1980; #2 1981

Tournaments Won - 1982 - 35 Singles:
Western Sectionals, Salt Lake City; Lynmar Vets, Colorado Springs; Colorado State Open; Denver City Open; Skyway Vets, Colorado Springs. Intermountain Open.

Tournaments Won - 1982 - Open Singles:
Colorado State Closed; Coors State Fair Open, Colorado; Pueblo Paper Cup, Colordao.

Childhood, High School, College Sports:
Participated in all team sports: Soccer, Hockey, Basketball, Softball, Baseball, Volleyball.
Participated in individual Tennis, Golf, Gymnastics.

Firsts:
1953-33 First girl to participate in Kiwanis Boys Baseball Leagus as Pitcher (struck out 29 and give up 7 hits in 3 games) and Shortstop.

High School CYO Basketball League: scored over 50 points in 1 game.
Tried out and made boys baseball team - 9th grade (not eligible because female.
Participated on a semi-pro womens basketball team.

Honors:
Adult Life: 1980 YWCA "Colorado Sportswoman of the Year for Masters Tennis"; 1981 - "Outstanding Women in Southern Colorado" - Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph Newspaper (Chosen as one); 1982 "Principals Award" - Air Academy High School; 1982 - "Coach of the Year in Tennis" - chosen by Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph Newspaper; 1983 - "Top Ten Coaches for All Sports" - chosen by Colorado Springs Sun Newspaper.
College: Pennsylvania State University - Outstanding Senior Girl Athlete; #1 in College of Physical Education; Winner of Queen of Hearts.
High School: Outstanding Senior Girl Athlete.

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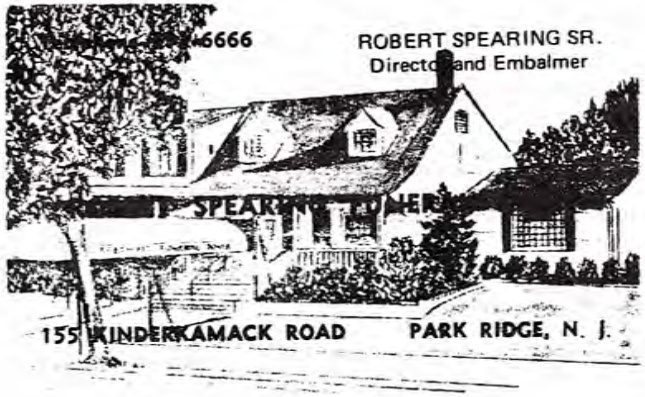

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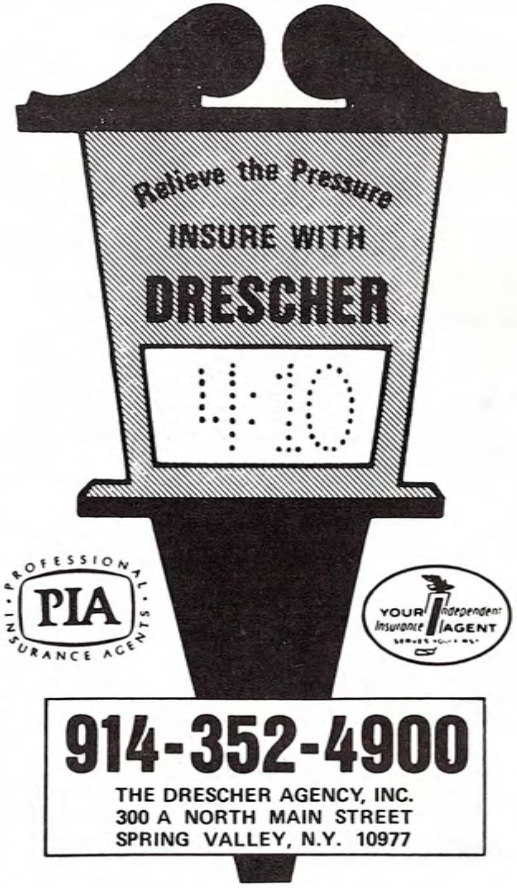

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