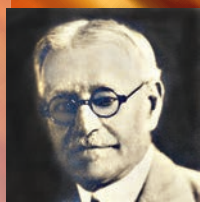


ROCKLAND COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME

A History of Sports Excellence

Founded in 1974



2022



2022 HONOREES

PHIL CONSIGLIO | WILL CUNNANE | WILBUR ESCHEN
GEORGE "DOC" LEITNER | JOSE SAINT-VICTOR | CHARLIE WHITE
MARGARET "BABS" STEAD
Joseph Holland Lifetime Achievement Award

APRIL 23, 2022

*ALL THE BEST TO THE ROCKLAND COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME
&
CONGRATULATIONS TO YOUR 2022 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES*

**PHIL CONSIGLIO – NORTH ROCKLAND
WILL CUNNANE – CLARKSTOWN NORTH
WILBUR ESCHEN – SUFFERN
GEORGE “DOC” LEITNER – PIERMONT
JOSE ST. VICTOR – NYACK
CHARLIE WHITE – SPRING VALLEY
MARGARET “BABS” STEAD – JOSEPH HOLLAND LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**



**The Honorable
HOWARD T. PHILLIPS, JR., SUPERVISOR
AND**

THE TOWN OF HAVERSTRAW ELECTED OFFICIALS

ISIDRO CANCEL	COUNCILMAN
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**- HAVERSTRAW -
HOME OF**

**THE BRICKS THAT BUILT NEW YORK - THREE MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS
WHERE HENRY HUDSON DOCKED THE HALF MOON - GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON'S TROOP ENCAMPMENTS
THE 95TH CIVIL WAR REGIMENT FLAG CARRIED AT GETTYSBURG**

Chairman's Message – Pete Scheibner



We celebrate our 49th Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame induction with a star-studded group of individuals. These include a former pro football player; a former major-league baseball player; two all-around athletes, coaches and educators; the first Rocklander to play major league baseball (1887); an outstanding wrestler; and a longtime referee and official with 45 years of service. Rockland County continues to produce outstanding athletes, coaches and contributors year after year, so there is no shortage of qualified candidates for future years.

The Hall of Fame has a website that serves as a rich repository of Hall of Fame information, including bios and photos on all 282 inductees. Visit our website at www.rcshf.org

Sadly, since our last induction in 2019, 11 of our past inductees have passed away. Two of these inductees who were significant contributors to our organization are Jim Kane, a founding member of RCSHOF and 1993 inductee who had a major impact on Rockland County sports from his many years as a referee, umpire and RCPSAL commissioner, and Bob Veltidi, whom we honored with the Joseph Holland Lifetime Achievement Award in 2019. Bob served as both screening committee chair and master of ceremonies. He exemplified true service to both sports and community – he will certainly be missed by all of us.

We were happy to be able to hold an induction last summer when we honored the 1971 North Rockland High School football team, coached by the legendary Ralph Cordisco. The Red Raiders compiled a perfect 9-0 record, scoring a Rockland County record 308 points while yielding only 14! We also honored the Willis brothers – Emil Willis Jr., Spring Valley HS class of 1952, an athletic standout and Rockland Community College coach and educator; and his brother, Bob Willis, Spring Valley HS class of 1959, a baseball standout and longtime education leader. Both brothers joined their father, the late Emil Sr., who was inducted into the RCSHOF in 1980. We also honored Tom Lawson, Clarkstown HS class of 1966, a star multi-sport athlete and a Notre Dame football standout. Tom joins his brother Bob Lawson, who was inducted into the RCSHOF in 2018.

This coming August 13, we will honor three outstanding teams at a New York Boulders game at Clover Stadium in Pomona. The teams to be honored are: the 1991-92 Suffern HS hockey team, New York State champions; the 1972 New City Little League All-Stars, finalists in the Little League World Series; and the 1954 Tappan Zee HS cross country team, Rockland's first NY State team champion in any sport.

I wish to thank the people who keep our organization a vital force in the community: Gibby Sweet, dinner arrangements; Jamie Kempton, secretary and program editor; Pete Castellano, treasurer and ticket chairman; Bill Rubbert, screening committee chair; Vince Sciortino, vice chairman and fund-raising; Chuck Maze, for community relations; Bill Madden, master of ceremonies, and Tom Doherty, for his tireless behind-the-scenes support; Bruce and Phyllis Schweizer of Quality Graphics; and the entire Board of Directors for contributing to the support of the organization throughout the year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pete Scheibner".

Pete Scheibner
Chairman



VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT WWW.RCSHF.ORG

The Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame

*wishes to thank the following businesses for
their generous support of our organization:*

J. J. Donnelly, Pearl River 1-Hour Photo
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Kennelly's Grill House
Music Works DJ's



Congratulations

All Inductees – Past, Present & Future



With gratitude,
JOE HOLLAND
FOUNDER & CHAIRMAN EMERITUS

ROCKLAND COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME 2022 LIST OF INDUCTEES

PHIL CONSIGLIO – NORTH ROCKLAND

Nominated By: Beth-Ann Consiglio
Introduced By: Chuck Maze
Trophy Sponsor: Town of Haverstraw
Plaque Sponsor: John Ryan

WILL CUNNANE – CLARKSTOWN NORTH

Nominated By: Andre Chiavelli
Introduced By: Andre Chiavelli
Trophy Sponsor: Clarkstown PBA
Plaque Sponsor: Clarkstown PBA

WILBUR ESCHEN – SUFFERN

Nominated By: Bob Veltidi
Introduced By: Steve Dugandzic
Trophy Sponsor: Steve Dugandzic
Plaque Sponsor: Suffern Athletics

GEORGE “DOC” LEITNER – PIERMONT

Nominated By: Bob Mayer
Introduced By: Bob Mayer
Trophy Sponsor: The Family and Descendants of George “Doc” Leitner
Plaque Sponsor: The Family and Descendants of George “Doc” Leitner

JOSE SAINT-VICTOR – NYACK

Nominated By: Greg Najac
Introduced By: Russell Grant
Trophy Sponsor: Nyack Monday Morning Quarterbacks
Plaque Sponsor: EFP, LLC - Greg D'Auria

CHARLIE WHITE – SPRING VALLEY

Nominated By: Jim and Soreida Ashcroft
Introduced By: Buster Keyes, Jr.
Trophy Sponsor: Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame
Plaque Sponsor: Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame

MARGARET “BABS” STEAD

JOSEPH HOLLAND LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Nominated By: Tom Doherty
Introduced By: Giulia Adler
Trophy Sponsor: Tom Doherty & Todd Sinclair
Plaque Sponsor: The Adler Family



DINNER PROGRAM

Pledge of Allegiance Pat Dizzine
National Anthem..... Buster Keyes, Jr.

INVOCATION

Vic Alfieri, Jr

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Bill Madden

COMMITTEES

Dinner Gibby Sweet
Program Book Peter Scheibner
Screening..... Bill Rubbert
Tickets Pete Castellano

2022 INDUCTEES

Phil Consiglio – North Rockland
Will Cunnane – Clarkstown North
Wilbur Eschen – Suffern
George “Doc” Leitner – Piermont
Jose Saint-Victor – Nyack
Charlie White – Spring Valley
Margaret “Babs” Stead
Joseph Holland Lifetime Achievement Award

ENSHRINEMENT REQUIREMENTS

The Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame was established to honor outstanding sportsmen and sportswomen, living and deceased, who have gained prominence while residing or competing in, or have brought recognition to Rockland County. To be considered for nomination to the Hall of Fame, candidates must meet the following criteria:

- A. Attain prominence in sports as an athlete, coach, manager, official, owner, writer, broadcaster or supporter.
- B. Reside or have resided in Rockland County, competed here at the time of their prominence, or brought fame to Rockland County as a result of their accomplishments.
- C. Be a person of integrity and good character.
- D. Candidates cannot be considered until 10 years after their high school class graduation, except in special cases.

Our committee encourages the public to send athletic resumes/nominations of prospective candidates to Screening Committee chairman Bill Rubbert, 189 Ridge Road, Valley Cottage, New York 10989. Nominees are reviewed by this committee and, if accepted, voted upon for enshrinement by the committee as a whole.

The Hall of Fame Committee holds monthly meetings the first Tuesday of the month from October to May. Anyone wishing to join the organization should write to Chairman Pete Scheibner, 1 Captain McGovern Drive, Stony Point, NY 10980, or e-mail him at scheibnp@msn.com.

Each inductee in the Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame receives a commemorative trophy and is further honored with an individual plaque, which is given to the inductee's high school for public display.

The Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame is more than awards and trophies and dinners, however. It is really about people – Rockland County people who have had an impact in the world of sports. A total of 276 such individuals have been honored since the hall's inception in 1974.

The Hall of Fame has evolved from those early beginnings to become a recognized presence in Rockland County athletics. In addition to its annual dinner, where it honors new inductees, the hall makes sizable donations to worthwhile local organizations and charities. Included among these donations have been cash gifts to:

- ARC • Varsity Athletes Against Substance Abuse • Salvation Army
- Haverstraw Little League Save the Fields Fund • American Cancer Society • Special Olympics
- Venture • Big Brothers-Big Sisters • Challenger Little League • YMCA Youth Programs • Homes for Heroes

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Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame Nomination Form

Nominee: _____
(Last) (First) (M)

Current Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____ Date Submitted: _____

* If deceased, please give name, address and phone number of family member.

H.S. and Year of Graduation: _____

College and Year of Graduation: _____

On a separate typewritten page, list all of the significant accomplishments of the nominee, both as a Rockland County resident and otherwise. Please be as specific as possible. Include varsity sports played in high school and college, dates, letters earned, honors won, records set, post-collegiate achievements, etc.

* Please submit a clear black-and-white or color photo of the nominee.

Nominating Person:

Last name: _____ First: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Please Submit to:

Bill Rubbert
Chairman of the Selection Committee
189 Ridge Road
Valley Cottage, New York 10989
billrubbert@gmail.com

Rockland County Hall of Fame Inductees

1974
 Chuck Aleno*
 Henry "Peck" Artopee*
 Dr. Daniel "Danny" Fortmann*
 Joseph "JoJo" Mackey
 Howard "Howie" Pierson

1975
 Roger Brown*
 Joe D'Auria
 Bill Drescher*
 Billy Hogan*
 Donald "Pop" Sherwood*

1976
 Howard Parker Talman*
 John Koster*
 Jim Ridlon
 Pete D'Auria*
 Gloria Callan Jones*

1977
 Augusta Bradley Chapman*
 Nick Gamboli*
 Ed Greene*
 Harry Jackson*
 Paul Toscano
 Richard "Gus" Shankey*

1978
 Jim Brown*
 Harold "Hale" DeChelfin*
 Jim Faulk*
 Ira Shuttlesworth*
 Jim Schnaars
 Nick Mottola*

1979
 Bob Bacheller*
 Frank Cosentino*
 Harry "Dee" Dembnicki
 Jerry Hollahan*
 Bob Grossman*
 E.J. Maurer*
 Bruno Ablondi*

1980
 Dr. Jeffrey Munson
 Art Orlando*
 Brit Paterson*
 Nick Ryder
 Horace Tyrus
 Emil Willis*
 Mickey Wittman*

1981
 Art Hopper*
 Frank Horan
 Howard Johnson
 Lester Lepori*
 Walter Ostrom
 Victor Shankey*
 Bill Yuda*

1982
 Frank DePatto*
 Tony Gamboli, Jr.
 Bill Perry*
 George Jakowenko
 Ed McGrath*

1983
 Warren Austin*
 Jim Brechbiel
 Frank Dawson*
 Jeanette Paddock
 Walter Sickles*

1984
 Jim Ashcroft
 Marvin Branche*
 Ralph Cordisco*
 Bryan Hassett
 Bob Tierney*

1985
 Wil Arietta*
 Joseph "Josh" Bolack*
 Gene Erickson*
 Tony Gemma*
 Joe St. Lawrence*

1986
 Joe Alleva
 John Jemison
 Harold Lederman*
 Bob Mathias*
 Sylvester "Molly" McGee*

1987
 Fred Hahn*
 Charles Holbrook
 Chuck Scarpulla
 Jim Stamos
 Bob Strack*

1988
 Ron Becraft*
 Darryl Brown
 Tom Canty
 Pat D'Auria*
 James "Sham" Feeney*

1989
 Ralph Consiglio*
 Patty Dillon Solliday
 Vincent "Dugan" Kovalsky*
 Frank Nelson*
 Bob Wolff*

1990
 Denise McGuire
 Guy Guccione
 Abe Schuster
 Robert "Red" Schassler*
 Don Clancy*

1991
 Steve Drummond*
 Lew Brundage*
 Johnny Burns*
 Pete Haubner
 Ethel Doller*
 Dominic Gamboli*

1992
 Murray Olderman*
 Jerome Bonomolo
 Joseph "Biscuit" Picarello*
 Dale Lydecker
 John Mercurio

1993
 Jim Kane*
 Kathy Miller Dapolito
 Jay Bohnel
 Mike Deane
 Don Driscoll

1994
 Hubert Nealy*
 Martin "Hawk" Jacobs*
 Joe Goldsmith
 Tom Collins
 Ron Tellefsen*

1995
 Ron Edwards*
 Walter "Red" Levy
 Max Talaska*
 Joe Klopchin*
 Joe McDowell*
 Paul Urban*

1996
 Harry Babcock*
 Gerald Kapusinsky
 John Orlando
 Al Simonds
 George Garrecht*
 Marty Springstead*

1997
 Mike Hagon
 Hank Kapusinsky
 Tom Mounkhall
 Dennis Pozsar
 Steve Wanamaker*

1998
 Kevin Kane
 Lou Kliewe*
 Rocco Marano*
 Howie McNiff
 Blaise Winter

1999
 Jim Cann
 Joe Casarella
 Ervan Levine*
 Gibby Sweet
 Dick Yerg*

2000
 Rich Conklin
 Kevin Houston
 Dawn Royster
 Sarah Will
 Alex Zilko*

2001
 George Dalzell
 Gerald D'Auria*
 Seth Joyner
 Tod Giles*
 Debbie Grant
 Bill White

2002
 Ken Harniman*
 Derrick Lassic
 Norinne Powers
 Kris Snider
 Dick Teetsel*
 Walt Weiss

2003
 Genny Mulderig Allard
 Jeff Bryant
 Peter Hackett*
 David Hirsch
 Bill Kurisko
 ‡ Joe Grasso*
 † Charles "Jumbo" Strack*

2004
 Jim Gallo
 Dave Hanson
 Joan Neuendorf
 Nancy Rosenfeld Lewis
 Ed Rubbert
 Frank Samoylo

2005
 Jane Ronner-Beckley
 Mike Carroll*
 Tom Doherty
 Jamie Kempton
 Lee Klepper
 ‡ Leon Pesner*
 Rudolph Rejholec*

2006
 Tony Harlin
 Jon Hess
 Jim Pollard
 John Scanlan
 Jeff Van Wie
 John Van Wyck*

2007
 Julius D'Agostino*
 John Flaherty
 Barbara Hebel
 Robert Neuendorf
 Richard "Dixie" Reilly*
 ‡ Dan White

2008
 Noreen Annunziata Apicella
 Charles Dittmer*
 Reid Hoffer
 Randy Nelson
 Paul Pietropaolo
 Tim St. Lawrence
 † Elizabeth "Pat" Ryan*

2009
 Joe Biddy
 Jeff Brown
 Jim Horvath
 Mike Longuil*
 Janice Olszewski
 John Sottile

2010
 Joe Conace*
 T. J. Ford
 Sol "Spike" Israel*
 Barbara Mellen-Speerin
 Margie Sahlstrom-Jaxel
 Mike Sparago
 Robbie Woods

2011
 Jeff Becker
 Dan Keeley
 Gene Martin
 Kristen Conklin-Sullivan
 Shulton Whitley
 † Wilbur "Web" Wanamaker*

2012
 Marcel Cooper
 John Diffley
 Tom McTaggart
 Dennis O'Sullivan
 Dawn Sugrue
 Victor Veltidi
 Dan Sullivan*

2013
 Keith Bulluck
 Khyl Farrison
 Gary Gray
 Bud Kast*
 Mike Rotundo*
 Jodi Schlesinger Salsberg
 Ed Wanamaker
 ‡ Vic Alfieri Sr.*
 Ernie Capobianco*
 Vic Alfieri Jr.
 Deer Head Inn & Softball
 Tournament

2014
 Rick Carey
 Don Fischer
 Ed Kolakowski
 Lorraine Moylan
 Richard Schumacher*
 Thaddeus Wilson
 ‡ Al Witt*

2015
 Joe Clinton
 Bob Corvino
 Jennifer Feeney Lovell
 Ed Matott*
 Bob Nadal*
 Lintz Rivera Adams
 Homer Wanamaker
 ‡ Nick Picarello*

2016
 Virgilio Hernandez
 Buster Keyes, Jr
 Joe McGuinness*
 Ronnie Morgan*
 Katherine Nowell
 Steve Silverberg
 Linda Soto
 John Stephens
 ‡ Michael Coffey*

2017
 Coach John Castellano
 Tom Mulroy
 Al Taylor*
 Jerome Whidbee*
 Phil Donnelly
 ‡ Fred Adler

2018
 Thomas Dickson*
 Bobby Lawson
 Chuck Maze
 Jackie McCracken Houck
 Thomas Sanders
 Willie Worsley
 1989 Nanuet High School Football
 ‡ Tom O'Brien

2019
 Phil Bogle
 George Coates
 Kristen McGarvey Miedreich
 Sherry Murphy McGill
 Tommy Rowe
 Todd Sinclair
 Gene Dall
 1990-91 Albertus Magnus
 Girls Basketball Team
 1981-82 Spring Valley
 Boys Basketball Team
 ‡ Bob Veltidi*

2021
 Emil Willis
 Bob Willis
 Tom Lawson
 1971 North Rockland Football Team

Phil CONSIGLIO

North Rockland High School Class of 1985

There have been many great wrestlers to come out of Rockland County but only 14 have had the distinction of being a New York State high school champion. Phil Consiglio is one of those select 14. In 1984, his junior year, Phil became Rockland's first state champion since 1975. In that tournament, Phil's weight class was loaded with two returning state titleholders. Phil defeated one of them in the semifinals and his opponent defeated the other, setting up a final match that no one expected. Phil defeated fellow junior Paul Lamphier of Canandaigua, 7-1, to claim the 105-pound title.

In fact, all four years of Phil's high school career he made it to the podium in the New York State wrestling championship tournament, held in Syracuse. As a freshman and sophomore he placed sixth, and in his senior year, 1985, he finished a very respectable third. He defeated the same opponent he wrestled the year before in the finals, Paul Lamphier, 14-3, in the consolation round for third place. Along the way, Phil was a four-time Rockland County and Section 9 champion. He placed in all 26 tournaments his team entered over four years, and won 19 of them. Phil finished his career with 132 victories, breaking the previous Rockland County record of 106 by a huge margin. He wound up with a record of 132 wins and only 13 losses. "Winning the states in 1984, it was the win that put me on the map," Phil said, when asked which accomplishment he was most proud of. He also cited winning the County tournament and making All-State as a freshman as major thrills. At the time, only 25 or so wrestlers from New York State had ever earned four All-State designations.

Out of Season, Still A Champion

In the off-season Phil continued to train and wrestle competitively. He was a two-time Eastern Regional freestyle titleholder and the Cadet Greco-Roman national champion in 1983. In the Eastern Regionals that year, his sophomore year, Phil pinned a future NCAA Div. I champion and the Pennsylvania state champ, Sean O'Day. "It was maybe the best I ever wrestled," he recalled. The Regionals were a qualifying tournament for a training camp to the schoolboy world championships. At that camp he won the wrestle-offs and represented the USA in the Greco-Roman schoolboy world championships. At the Worlds, he won one of two matches.



In 1984 Phil was voted onto the Gatorade All-America team and in 1985 was chosen for the Scholastic Wrestling sixth-team All-American. Locally, he was voted North Rockland wrestling team MVP for three years. In 1984 Phil was a Westchester Rockland Newspapers Top Ten Award winner and also received the 1984 Rockland County CYO Meritorious Award. In 1985 he was the Rockland County Athlete of the Season in the winter, the unanimous choice as Most Outstanding Wrestler in the County tournament, and the Most Valuable Wrestler in the Section 9 tourney.

A Brother's Inspiration

Phil got into wrestling through his brother Michael, who wrestled for Clarkstown North back when the Consiglio family lived in New City before moving to Stony Point. Phil would tag along with Michael at tournaments and "roll around the mats" with other kids before Michael's match started. He would also wrestle his other brother, Peter, on their living room floor. Peter would play the role of Joey Goldsmith, Ramapo's two-time state champion, and Phil would play his brother Michael.

When Michael Consiglio died of a massive heart attack at age 21 in 1977, the traumatic event triggered a spark in Phil, who was 10 at the time. Wrestling was the common bond that brought Phil closer to Michael. "It was a defining moment in my career," said Phil, who lost another brother, Richard, to a heart attack 14 years ago. "Wrestling helped bring our family past this. There was a connection to my brother through wrestling."

Contributing to the Rise of the Red Raider

Phil began wrestling as a seventh grader at Farley Middle School in Stony Point, under Coach Lou Avino. He also wrestled for the mat club started by his dad, Al Consiglio. In high school, coaches Jerry McGuire and Roman Rodriguez expertly guided Phil through his progression to state prominence. Rodriguez, a former North Rockland grappler, wrestled with the lower-weight wrestlers in practice. He taught Phil the “crab ride,” a leg ride move that Phil perfected en route to his state championship. Teammate Jose Munoz was another major influence on Phil, pushing him hard in workouts during Phil’s sophomore season. When Phil was a freshman, seniors Joey Santiago and Benny Blackwell welcomed him to the team. “I felt special because usually freshmen get picked on but they both protected me,” said Phil, who stands 5-foot-5. He also credited Coach Bucky Rehai with teaching him the value of wrestling in the off-season. Phil had met him through Coach Tom Canty’s camp at Rockland Community College.

Who was Phil’s toughest adversary in high school? Suffern’s John Canty. “He was as tough a customer as I ever wrestled,” said Phil, a North Rockland Sports Hall of Fame inductee. “He was so explosive. We pushed each other to be better. When I beat him my junior year it was right after he won the Kohl tournament [when Canty defeated two state champions]. Winning that match gave me the confidence needed to win the states later that season.”

College Challenges

After his ultra-successful high school career, Phil was awarded a full wrestling scholarship to Syracuse University, where he made the varsity team as a true (non-redshirted) freshman. During that season he went 10-9 and was voted most valuable wrestler in a dual meet against powerhouse Lehigh University. Perhaps his finest match was a close 18-16 loss to two-time NCAA Div. I runner-up Dennis Semmel of Army in the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association (EIWA) quarterfinals.

Phil was ruled academically ineligible after his first year at Syracuse. He then transferred to Central Connecticut State, where he received financial aid amounting to just short of a full scholarship. The combination of challenging academics and Division I wrestling proved a bit too difficult, however, prompting Phil’s departure from school in the middle of second semester. He worked for a brief period building fences for Yaboo Fence in West Nyack before launching a career in the video business in 1987, at a small post-production facility in New York City.

Career Success, Family Felicity

Phil worked at ABC-TV for a short time, while concurrently working at CBS, where he continued to work until 2004. He joined NBC Universal in 1993 and has spent 29 years with the organization. Phil started as a videotape operator, moved up to on-air supervisor, and has been an on-air systems engineer for the past 14 years. His engineering training came from taking system networking classes in his free time. “I literally trained myself for the position by staying after work and learning about our systems,” he said. Phil won an Emmy Award for his video editing for CBS Sports at the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan.

Phil, who’s 54, resides in Clifton, N.J., with his wife of 24 years, Beth-Ann (Falk), and son, Carson, a sophomore at George Washington University majoring in pre-law. Outside of work and family, Phil remains deeply involved in the sport of wrestling as the director and head coach of the Clifton Recreation Junior Mustang wrestling program. He also established the wrestling program at the Clifton Boys and Girls Club, leading the team to numerous Passaic County championships. “I like being able to give back to the kids,” Phil said. “I can’t say enough good things about what wrestling has done for me and continues to do for me.”

The rigors of training and conditioning for competitive wrestling have served Phil well throughout his life, he said. “Wrestlers have a saying that we run more miles than a runner, lift more weights than a weightlifter, and all the while losing more weight than someone on weight watchers. The dedication needed for wrestling has carried over into my career and set me up for future success.”



Congratulations, Phil!

Will CUNNANE

**Clarkstown North High School
Class of 1992**

The late summer of 1992 proved to be a turning point in Will Cunnane's baseball career. All spring he had waited for contact from a major league club, believing that his senior year stats at Clarkstown North would be enough to attract the interest of at least one big league team. After all, that season he had gone 6-2 with a 0.38 ERA, allowing just 3 earned runs in 56 innings while striking out 90 and pitching a no-hitter. But the MLB draft came and went and Will's name was not called.

In the summer Will pitched for the Rockland-based OTB Pirates American Legion team. In mid to late August the Pirates played in a tournament in Binghamton, NY. Will performed well in a pitching assignment against a team from West Virginia. In the stands to scout the West Virginia team was Florida Marlins scout Ty Brown. Brown was so impressed with Will's performance that he offered him a free agent contract to play for the Marlins. Immediately after that came a phone call from Jack Leggett, a coach for the Clemson Tigers, one of the top collegiate teams in the country. Leggett offered Will a scholarship to come play for Clemson. Now it was decision time. If he accepted the college offer and got hurt while playing there, it would surely jeopardize his chances of going pro. After considerable thought, he chose the Marlins.

And thus began a career that would encompass eight years in the major leagues – with the San Diego Padres, Milwaukee Brewers, Chicago Cubs and Atlanta Braves – as well as 13 minor league seasons and four seasons of independent league baseball. Will Cunnane, the willowy 6-foot-2 right-hander from Congers, NY, etched his name into the annals of Rockland County sports history by making it to the major leagues. He stands alongside Rockland standouts of the recent past such as Walt Weiss, John Flaherty, C.J. Nitkowski and (currently) Patrick Kivlehan, and old-time stars Chuck Aleno, Bill Drescher, Fred Hahn, Bill "Lefty" Kalfass, Jim and Larry Eschen, and others.

Stardom in High School and Club Ball

Will got his start playing in the Congers Little League. He was a Yankees and Cardinals fan who envisioned himself as Dave Winfield or Willie McGee when playing with his friends. He is grateful that his dad, Joseph Cunnane, "never said no" when young Will asked to play catch. When Will got to Clarkstown North, he made the JV team as a freshman.



His role model was Rams varsity pitcher Rich Wirchansky, whose work ethic and sense of purpose Will aspired to emulate. By sophomore year Will had made the varsity. He was coached by Nick Farese on the JV level, by Fred Bruntrager his sophomore and junior years and by Bob Bauer his senior year. During that final season, Will allowed only 2 extra-base hits (both doubles) and 26 hits total in 56 innings. His strikeout to walk ratio was almost 9 to 1 – 90 strikeouts and only 11 walks, two of them intentional. He was named Pitcher of the Year for League I-B, composed of the Rockland County large schools. He was also chosen All-League, All-County and All-Section 1.

Will's career record at North was 16-6 with a strikeout to walk ratio of 4 to 1. He set school single-season records for shutouts with 2, in both 1991 and '92; fewest earned runs allowed, 3, in 1992; and ERA, 0.38. He also holds school records for a career in strikeouts, 196; shutouts, 5; and ERA, 1.36. Will pitched a no-hitter against Scarsdale and a one-hitter in defeating North Rockland – the Red Raiders' only loss in a 33-1 season that culminated in a NYSPHSAA championship. Although most noted for his pitching prowess, Will was also a solid third baseman who hit .335 for his scholastic career.

The Rams were competitive in League I-B, led by guys like Will, Chris Lemonis, who reached the Triple-A level with the Detroit Tigers, and Tim Casey. [Tim's older brother, Dan Casey, was an outstanding athlete and "All-American" boy who Will idolized as a "superhero." Sadly, Dan Casey was killed in an auto accident in 1993.]

Will also ran indoor track his senior year, competing in distances ranging from 200 to 800 meters. His best event was the 600 meters, in which he finished fifth in the Section 1 State Qualifier. Although Coach Bob Dillon had to share Will with the baseball team during the winter, he said Will was a hard worker and natural athlete who could have done quite well had he devoted himself to track earlier. "He was a pleasure to coach," said Dillon, a former star distance runner for the Rams.

Will spent three summers playing for the OTB Pirates, a kind of Rockland all-star team drawing top players from Clarkstown North, North Rockland and Suffern. Will played alongside such marquee players as Keith Finnerty, Mike Sidoti, Darren Luzon and the Algozzino brothers, all from North Rockland, and Suffern players Jim McCarthy and Greg Murphy. The OTB Pirates' coaching staff of Nate Salant, Nick Farese and Jay Bohnel was highly regarded as well.

By that time Will was starting to mature physically, filling out from 157 lbs. eventually to 195. He was also beginning to throw harder and break off his curveball more crisply. The curve was his "money" pitch at first, but as he got stronger his fastball emerged as his No. 1 weapon. He also used a change-up to polish off hitters when ahead in the count.

On A Path to the Big Leagues

Will spent four years in the Marlins' minor league chain as a starting pitcher – one year each in Rookie and Class A ball and two years in Double-A. He amassed a win-loss record of 50-43, including an 11-3 mark in 1994 with a 1.43 ERA and 4 shutouts for the Class A Kane County Cougars of the Midwest League. After the 1996 season he was selected by the San Diego Padres in the Rule 5 Draft, for a purchase price of \$50,000. Although still slotted as a starting pitcher, Will was soon to be converted into a reliever by the Padres. He made his major league debut on April 3, 1997 against the Mets, pitching two innings, surrendering two hits and two walks but no runs. He earned his first big league victory in a start against the Houston Astros, and also went 2-for-3 at the plate with a triple and 3 RBI. In his rookie season Will appeared in 54 games and notched a fine 6-3 record along with chalking up 8 saves.

Unfortunately, he was injured for much of the 1998 season, although he did post an 0.98 ERA with 54 strikeouts in 35 innings for the Padres' Triple-A affiliate in Las Vegas. The Padres went to the World Series that year and were swept by the Yankees. Will remembers being intimidated a bit when he joined San Diego, which was a veteran team of ballplayers such as Tony Gwynn, Wally Joyner, Ken Caminiti, Andy Ashby, Greg Vaughn and Steve Finley. But that apprehension did not extend to the pitching mound. "That was my mound," he said. "When I'm on my mound, nothing bothers me."

Shuttling Between Majors and Minors

Between 1998 and 2004 Will made frequent trips back and forth between the majors and minors. He was traded to the Brewers in December 2000 to complete a 2-for-2 player swap. In Milwaukee for that one season, Will appeared in 31 games and was teammates with guys like Jeromy Burnitz, Devon White, Curt Leskanic, Richie Sexson, David Weathers and Ray King.

In 2002 he signed as a free agent with the Cubs and went 1-1 in 16 games. Although Cubs fans are known to be among the most rabid in baseball, when Will was out of uniform he was barely noticed. He lived in a hotel during the season and took the 'L' train to Wrigley Field every day, drawing hardly a glance. "Nobody recognized me," he said. Teammates on the Cubs for that one season included Kerry Wood, Sammy Sosa, Moises Alou, Fred McGriff, Joe Girardi and Mark Bellhorn. Late in the season Will committed a rare error while on the mound, and took out his frustration by punching a paper towel dispenser, fracturing his right pinky. The Cubs eventually released him and he was picked up by the Braves in mid-season 2003. A major highlight during Will's two-year stint with Atlanta was filling in for injured closer John Smoltz. In the 2003 NL divisional playoffs the Braves lost in five games to the Cubs, Will's team the previous year. The Braves star-studded lineup included Chipper Jones, Andruw Jones, Greg Maddux, Smoltz, Gary Sheffield and Javy Lopez.

In his eight big league seasons, Will fashioned a 13-12 record with a 5.26 ERA, 234 strikeouts and 12 saves in 274 innings pitched. On the Triple-A level he appeared in 325 games, gaining 19 wins and 26 saves. Injuries to his right arm loomed larger starting in mid-season 2004. All told, he underwent four surgeries – two for his shoulder (labrum, rotator cuff) and two arthroscopic procedures on his elbow.

For the Love of the Game: Independent Ball

From 2006 to 2011 Will continued to pursue his love of baseball by signing with the Bridgeport Bluefish and Newark Bears of the independent Atlantic Coast League. After a couple of years off, the baseball bug bit again and at age 36, Will re-signed with the Bears for one season, appearing in 12 games. In 2011 he again pitched for the Bluefish, compiling a 4-2 record in 28 appearances.

Will does not maintain any connections to professional baseball these days, but he occasionally runs into fellow Rocklander John Flaherty, his first catcher when he joined the Padres. Flaherty used to invite Will to work out with him and John Doherty, Flaherty's teammate on the Detroit Tigers, in Eastchester, NY, the Westchester County town where Doherty resided.

For the past nine years Will has served as a Town of Clarkstown police officer. He had lived in Arizona and in

Plainfield, Ill., outside Chicago, before moving back to Congers, where he lives with his wife of 18 years, Shannon; son Jace, an 18-year-old senior at Clarkstown North, right-handed pitcher like his dad, and member of the Rams' Section 1 championship baseball team last year; and daughter Teigan, a 13-year-old eighth grader at Felix Festa Middle School.

Will, who is 47 and a Clarkstown North Hall of Fame inductee, also serves as the police department's school resource officer (SRO) at Felix Festa. On a wall near the

pool area of the school is a display featuring plaques of all the Clarkstown North, Clarkstown South and Congers high school graduates who have been inducted into the Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame.

Will has passed by that display often during his rounds as SRO at Festa. He was disappointed when the schoolkids told him they didn't know anybody on the wall. He told them to just wait a few months. Then they would know at least one person on the Clarkstown athletic "Wall of Fame": William Joseph Cunnane.

Congratulations, Will!

Congratulations!

“WILL”

On your induction into the
Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame

A much deserved and “WILL” earned honor

You’ve Made “RAM BASEBALL” Proud!

Coach F. Bruntrager

Wilbur ESCHEN

**Suffern High School
Class of 1940**

Born in Suffern, NY, Wilbur Eschen was exposed to athletics at a very young age. His father, James “Jimbo” Eschen, played amateur baseball in the New York/New Jersey semipro leagues in the early 1900s and eventually made it to the Cleveland Indians in 1915. Dad Jim coached Wil and brother Larry (who had a short stint with the Philadelphia A’s during the war in 1942) in those early days as they played on teams in northern New Jersey.

When Wil entered Suffern High School, he was fortunate to have future Rockland Hall of Famer Ed Greene as his coach in football, basketball and baseball. “Dad loved playing for Coach Eddie Greene, who later became our neighbor,” said Rich Eschen, the middle of Wil and Mabel Eschen’s three sons. “He thought Greenie was way ahead of his time in play-calling and innovative game strategy.”

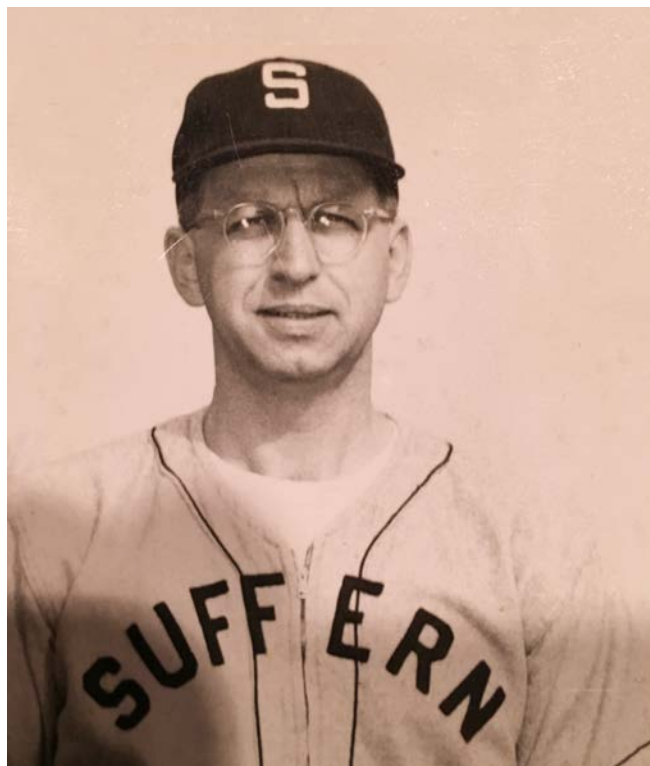
Multi-Sport Star for the Mounties

Under Greene’s guidance, Wil went on to become an All-County athlete in three sports and played on six Rockland County championship teams. In fact, Wil lettered in all three sports three years in a row while also lettering on the track team, running the 220-yard dash and throwing the shot. Wil was a member of the famed Suffern championship football dynasty in 1938-1940 that went undefeated against Rockland County schools in those three seasons, and unscored upon by Rockland opposition in the 1940 season. Wil was a unanimous choice for All-County in 1939 and led the county with 10 interceptions, including four in one game versus Spring Valley. He was acknowledged as the county’s premier punter, too. “Dad took great pride in his punting along with his other football talents,” Rich Eschen said. “He told the story of a game at Nyack, under the lights, when his punt soared over the lights, was lost to the receiving team, and recovered by the Mounties, leading to a game-winning touchdown.”

On the basketball court Wil achieved second team All-County in 1940 and was honorable mention the other two years. But it was on the baseball diamond that Wil really shined. He was first team All-County in 1939 and 1940, and voted as captain of the team in 1940.

War-time Service, College Studies

After graduating from high school Wil continued to play football and baseball at Suffern High School as a post-graduate or “PG,” taking additional classes. He then attended Colgate College before entering the Army as a member of



the 103rd Infantry Division. Wil was wounded in action and received the Purple Heart in November 1944. During the post-war occupation, he distinguished himself once again athletically, leading his unit, the 60th Regiment “Go Devils” baseball team, on the playing fields. His athletic exploits were not forgotten by the leader of those teams, William Westmoreland, who was a colonel at the time and later rose to become a five-star general and superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Westmoreland described Wil as “the best athlete in the ETO (European Theater of Operations)” during a chance encounter at West Point many years later. “This was a moment dad remained proud of until the day he died,” Rich Eschen said.

After the war, Wil attended Wake Forest University, receiving a bachelor’s degree in 1950. He returned home to Suffern after college graduation and immediately was hired to teach math and coach at Suffern High School. Initially Wil coached junior varsity baseball, junior varsity basketball, and freshman football. In 1954 he was named as the varsity baseball coach, a position he held until 1972.

“I learned pretty much all of my baseball knowledge from my father,” said Tom Eschen, the youngest Eschen son. “A good portion was learned at home – playing catch, pitching to him, playing pepper, or having batting practice. Sometimes, just sitting watching games [with him] on TV. He had tremendous knowledge of the game and taught me and my brothers the basics, fundamentals, the subtleties of the game, and more importantly how to play the game with pride and dignity.”

Man of Many Hats

While coaching at the high school Wil was also involved in many other aspects of Rockland County athletics. He officiated high school and college basketball. Wil played and managed in the Rockland County industrial softball and baseball leagues in the 1950s and 1960s, managing the Avon team to a county softball championship in 1960, and managed and played on many Suffern Kiwanis and Connie Mack baseball teams. In addition, Wil oversaw the Ramapo Recreation Commission and Ramapo Summer Basketball leagues during most of the 1960s.

Wil became the “voice” of Rockland County sports when he landed a job as sports announcer for WRKL in the 1960s. The radio station would broadcast local football, basketball and baseball games. It was kind of hard for him to broadcast and coach baseball at the same time but he managed to do a weekly baseball update for the station that included all games played.

“Like most teachers, dad moonlighted at many different things, refereeing, summer jobs, milkman, then as the color commentator for WRKL during high school football season, with George Dacre as the play-by-play man,” said Rich Eschen. “He was thrilled about doing this, and we usually trailed along with him. Later he produced his own morning radio show, recapping Rockland sports from the night before. Naturally it was called ‘Session with Eschen,’ with the Michigan fight song as the intro. We were so proud to hear him on our radio!”

Baseball the Eschen Way: A Class Act

Despite all of his other interests it was always baseball that Wil devoted most of his time to. From 1954 to 1972 Coach Eschen’s baseball teams won two Rockland County championships, 1966 and 1970, and amassed more than 100 victories. In 1970 Wil was honored as Coach of the Year by both The Journal-News and the New York Daily News. Coach Eschen was most known as an innovator in high school baseball in Rockland County. His teams were always the best dressed, having a variety of uniforms to wear depending upon the weather, batting helmets in the field for player protection and personalized bats for the varsity players. In addition, the Suffern varsity baseball field was the most finely manicured field in the county. He brought in Yankee Stadium red dirt for the infield, whitewashed and covered the bases and pitching rubber, and even dragged the infield after the fifth inning of most games.

“We grew up alongside the Mountie baseball team,” said Rich Eschen. “We admired those players and grew to know them and their families very well. We worked and played alongside them as we got older and helped groom the field, get the uniforms in order, and watch practice. During the season baseball consumed (Wil). He was always looking for ways to have the best for the team: multiple uniforms, major league quality equipment, perfect field conditions. He was taking his teams on trips to North Carolina and upstate New York, raising money on his own.”

Testimonials From All Quarters

More than wins and losses, it was the lives that Coach Eschen touched that made him a great coach and man. Some of his former players extolled his many virtues. Nick LaBruna, 1957 team captain: “Eschen expects too much. He expects his players to be on time, to maintain their grades and give 100 percent. Isn’t there room for such a man? Isn’t there room for such character?”

Ron Croyle, pitcher for the 1955 team: “I am just one player out of hundreds whose lives he touched. While Wil loved baseball and could talk about it endlessly, baseball never defined him. I have always considered myself fortunate to have played for Wil but more so to have known the person.”

Joe Alleva Sr., a former parent of one of Coach Eschen’s players, stated: “I have found Esch to be the most knowledgeable coach in Rockland and surrounding counties. He teaches citizenship, and he demands it and gets it from his players. He is a fine gentleman and inspiration to his players. He has been the finest coach my son ever played for.”

Dick Yerg, the former Journal-News Sports editor, commented, “He made his teams reflect his dedication to detail right from the way his players dressed, the way the field looked, and the way the game was played.”

From Suffern to Potsdam

In 1973 Coach Wil Eschen left Suffern and became the head baseball coach at Potsdam State College in upstate New York. Tom Eschen holds the distinction of being one of the few people who played for their father in both high school and college. Wil was Tom’s coach at Suffern for part of his freshman year and all of his sophomore year, and for one year at Potsdam. At both Suffern and Potsdam, Wil carried on his tradition of taking his team south for a preseason trip to prepare for the upcoming campaign. While at Suffern, Wil also had a summer job at a camp near Cooperstown, NY, where he “brought most of his team [including me] there for a week of pure baseball,” Tom Eschen said, “and playing games including playing at Doubleday Field in Cooperstown.”

Once he completed his tenure at Potsdam in 1978, Wil retired to Florida to play golf and be a part-time scout for the New York Mets.

After Mabel Eschen died in February 2008, Wil suffered from depression while living alone in Winston-Salem, NC. He eventually moved to an assisted living facility in Jacksonville, FL, then moved again to Hernando, Fla., to be near his son Rich. Sadly, Wilbur Eschen died on February 20, 2018, at age 94, leaving behind three sons: James Eschen and wife Nancy of Jacksonville, Fla.; Richard Eschen and wife Carla of Hernando, Fla.; and Thomas Eschen and wife Mary of Cazenovia, NY; as well as 9 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

George "Doc" LEITNER

Deceased Veteran

George "Doc" Leitner, a renowned physician and a founder of Nyack Hospital, became the first Rocklander to play major league baseball when he pitched for the Indianapolis Hoosiers of the National League during the 1887 season. Leitner, a 5-foot-11, 185-lb. right-hander, compiled a record of 2 wins and 6 losses with a 5.68 earned run average and eight complete games.

Born and raised in Piermont, Leitner played college baseball at Fordham University, played for the Nyack BBC (Base Ball Club) in 1886 and 1887, and in the early 1900s sponsored a team that played on a field adjacent to Nyack Hospital on the west side of Midland Avenue. The team used a nearby barn as a clubhouse, and members paid for their own uniforms, equipment and travel.

Leitner attended St. John's College, a preparatory school, Fordham University, and Bellevue Hospital Medical College, graduating in 1888 with a degree in medicine. He had been drafted by Indianapolis, under manager Horace Fogel, in 1887, and played the one year to finance his education. He turned down a professional baseball career and went on to become one of the first physicians of Nyack Hospital, playing an instrumental role in its founding in 1895.

Dr. Leitner performed his internship at St. Francis Hospital in Manhattan in 1888-1889. Running on the Democratic ticket,

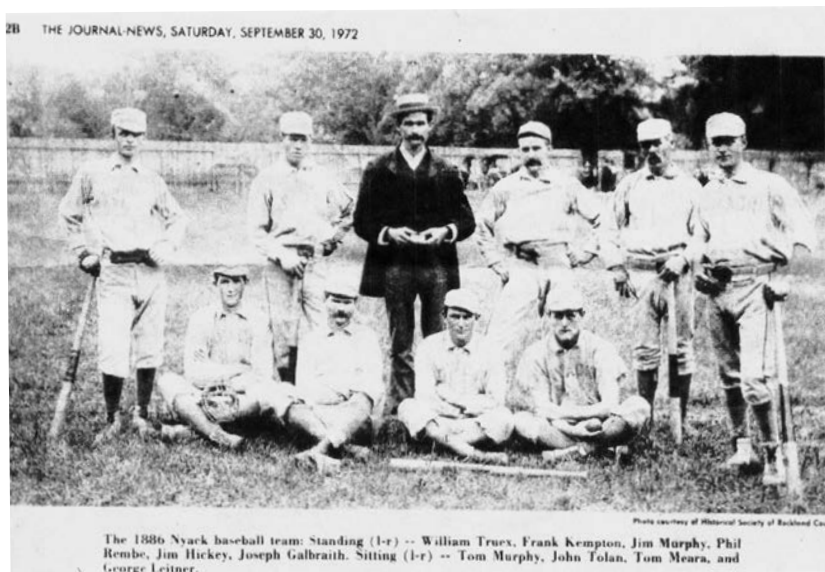


he was elected Coroner of Piermont in 1891. In addition to his role as a surgeon and attending physician at Nyack Hospital, he was also attending physician at St. Agnes in Sparkill and St. Joseph's in Blauvelt. Dr. Leitner served as president of the Rockland County Medical Association. He was a delegate to the New York State Democratic Convention in 1900 and the New York State Constitutional Convention in 1915. Locally, he served as a trustee in the Village of Piermont and as a member of the school board. He was also manager of the New York State Orthopedic Hospital for Children.

Among his other affiliations, Dr. Leitner served on the board of directors for the Nyack National Bank and Closter (N.J.) National Bank, and as a member of the Golf Club of Rockland, Knights of Columbus, Elks, Royal Areamum, and the Foresters of America.

Dr. Leitner's parents emigrated from Bavaria in Germany and eventually settled in Rockland County, where they raised four children to adulthood. Their two oldest daughters had died in childhood before George was born, in 1865. George's father opened a boot and shoe store in Piermont in 1866.

George Aloysius "Doc" Leitner died in 1937 at age 71. He is buried in Rockland Cemetery in Sparkill.



Jose SAINT-VICTOR

**Nyack High School
Class of 1973**

Jose Saint-Victor was born in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti, on January 21, 1955. At a very young age, Jose left Haiti with his family and lived in the Congo of Africa for two years due to his father taking on an assignment as a civil engineer. After his father's contract expired, the Saint-Victor family decided to relocate to the United States, making their home in Nyack, NY.

Growing up in South Nyack, Jose played pickup games with friends in his neighborhood. He did not start playing organized sports until high school. Jose attended the Nyack Public Schools and graduated from Nyack High School in 1973. At Nyack, Jose participated in football and track & field, earning All-County honors in both sports. Jose played under football coaches Paul Lankau, Mike Longuil, Bob Lankau, Bob Audevard and Al Pesner, and enjoyed the company of teammates such as David Bryant, Steve Anderson, Steve Wanamaker, Pat Arlotta, Sheldon Hudson and Larry White. In track, Jose was coached by Joe McDowell and Paul Lankau. Teammates included David Bryant, Jerry Jackson, Dave Billings, and Jerry and Shulton Whitley. Jose's top track highlight was sweeping the shot put and discus with teammate Bryant in the Section 9 championships.

College, Professional Success

Through the encouragement and guidance of his high school football coaches, Jose was able to earn a full scholarship to attend and play at Syracuse University. He became a starter on the Orangemen's offensive line for three years as a tackle. Among Jose's notable teammates at Syracuse were future NFL players Art Monk (Redskins), Keith Moody (Bills) and Ray Preston (Chargers).

While at Syracuse, Jose earned his degree with a B.S. in physical education, and was named to the Associated Press All-East football team. He also earned the Pat Miller Outstanding Athlete/ Student/ Citizen Award from Syracuse University in 1976. This award is given to only one player per year. After his senior year, Jose was chosen in the eighth round of the 1977 NFL draft by the Cincinnati Bengals. He also spent time as a free agent with the Dallas Cowboys of the NFL and the New Jersey Generals of the United States Football League (USFL). His pro highlights included working with Ken Anderson, Archie Griffin and Pete Johnson with the Bengals, and Randy White, Tony Dorsett and Ed "Too Tall" Jones with the Cowboys.



During the 1980s, Jose participated in the Goals for Youth Program, providing one-on-one counseling and mentoring to migrant students at Manalapan and Freehold high schools in New Jersey. He also worked with the Valley Cottage Indians football program. Prior to his return to Nyack, Jose taught and coached at Edwin Gould Academy in Chestnut Ridge, NY, working with troubled inner-city youth placed there by the court system. Jose taught physical education and coached football and basketball alongside Spring Valley's Jimmy Pinkston. "It was a great experience," Jose said, "teaching, molding and exposing young people to sports, work ethic, dedication and sportsmanship."

Coming Back to Nyack

Jose returned to Nyack High School in the late '80s and coached track and began coaching football in 1998. Working with head coach John Castellano, Jose helped the Nyack football team win five Section 1 titles and two New York State championships, in 2000 and 2003. Other coaches he worked with include James Case, Scott Reynolds, Mike Ramponi, Bruce Reingold and Jim Massaro. Among the many talented Nyack football players Jose coached were such standouts as Terrence Fede, Terrence Baltimore, Nigel Morris, Jermaine Harris, Bobby Nodelman, Shawn Harris and Ted Rene. In 2002, AFLAC named Jose Assistant Football Coach of the Year.

In track Jose has guided such star throwers as Nina Victorin, a state champion in the shot put, as well as Rickssen Opont, Bobby Nodelman, Andrea Case and Maria Doherty. The fraternity of Nyack track coaches during Jose's tenure

encompassed Annie Oakley, John Castellano, Miles Taylor, Shulton Whitley, Edgar Lambert and Russell Stevens.

Jose was a physical education teacher at Nyack from 2001 until his retirement from teaching in 2020. From 2001 to 2016, he also served as dean of students, where he had the opportunity to reach and mentor many students. He continued to coach spring track and serve as strength coach in the winter until the close of the 2021 school year. In 2006, Jose was given the Service to School Award from the national sorority Phi Delta Kappa. In October of 2014, Orange and Rockland Utilities and WHUD named him Teacher/Coach of the Month. In 2017, he received recognition for his commitment to the Nyack Center. Jose is also the recipient of a 2020 award from the Nyack chapter of the NAACP.

Jose continued his athletics exploits well into his adult years. He received numerous awards and holds records in the sport of powerlifting. His all-time best marks in the major powerlifting categories are quite impressive: 625 pounds in the

squat, 425 lbs. in the bench press, and a remarkable 722 lbs. in the dead lift. Jose competed with local standouts such as Tony Harlin, Eric Poitevien and Willie Foster, and trained with those three in addition to his brother, Alex Saint-Victor, former NFL star Blaise Winter, and local chiropractor Larry Forgacs.

Jose, who is 67, retired from teaching in 2020 and completed his Nyack coaching career in 2021. He and his wife of 42 years, Diana, moved to Houston, Texas, after Jose's retirement. They have two grown children, Lawrence, 39, and Jacqueline, 37. Lawrence and his wife, Shay, have a son, Christian, age 3 ½, while Jacqueline and her husband, Jon Hogg, have a daughter, Hunter, 7, and a son, Hudson, who turns 3 in two months.

When asked to sum up his coaching philosophy, Jose replied: "Perseverance, never saying 'I can't,' bettering yourself each day in everything, being a good student-athlete and citizen, and earning and giving respect."

Congratulations, Jose!

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Charlie WHITE

**Spring Valley High School
Class of 1972**

Charlie White parlayed his blazing speed and savvy running ability into All-America prominence at Bethune-Cookman College and an eight-year pro football career with four teams, including his hometown New York Jets.

Charles Frankie White, the youngest child of Harry and Vivian Pearl White, ran to glory on the track cinders and football gridiron for Spring Valley High School. In track, Charlie sped to victory two straight years in the 100-yard dash at the Rockland County championships, clocking a stellar time of 9.9 seconds in an era when breaking 10 seconds was considered the gold standard of high school sprinting. He made first team All-County both years. Charlie was coached in track by none other than “Jimmy the Jet” Ashcroft, who set the still-standing County record of 9.5 seconds in 1964.

Glory on the Gridiron

In football, Charlie was an All-County running back his senior year and an All-County defensive lineman his junior year. At 6-feet, 200-plus pounds, he had the size to battle the offensive-line behemoths in the trenches and the speed to overhaul running backs from behind. Just ask Nyack’s Tom Sanders, who was tackled by Charlie on a downfield run during Spring Valley’s stirring 12-7 victory over the Indians in Charlie’s junior year.

Charlie didn’t make the varsity football team his sophomore year, but thanks in part to some valuable guidance from teammate David Stedje, he earned a spot the following year on the defensive line, playing middle guard while Stedje played left tackle. “He took me under his wing and gave me advice,” Charlie said. “If he hit high, I hit low, and if I hit high, he hit low.” Charlie’s best friend at Spring Valley was Marvin “Tank” Watson, a track and football star whom Charlie has known since seventh grade. “He was like a brother to me,” Charlie said. “We pushed each other, to [exceed] our ability. When you see me, you see him, and when you see him, you see me.” Charlie was coached in football by Paul Sbrollini.

Tearing Up the Track

In track, Charlie matched strides with many outstanding sprinters, including Glenn Weiser of Nanuet, Mark Connors of Suffern and Michael Powell of Ramapo. After capturing the 100-yard dash in the County meet his sophomore and junior years, Charlie sustained a serious hamstring injury at



the start of his senior track season, thwarting his bid for a third consecutive title. “I was good until 40 yards,” he said. “After that, the hamstring blew out.” Stu Helfgott of Clarkstown North ended up outsprinting the field for the gold medal in the County meet.

Charlie played football for two years at Fort Dodge Junior College in Fort Dodge, Iowa, making the junior college All-America team both years. He then transferred to Colorado State, but his father felt the academics offered at that institution was not rigorous enough, so he had Charlie apply to Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach, FL, where he earned a scholarship. “My father was set on me getting an education,” Charlie recalled. “He said, ‘You’re not in school to be a dummy.’” Charlie became the first Wildcat running back to earn All-America honors, reaping that distinction in back-to-back seasons as a featured halfback. Another highlight was shutting out archrival Florida A&M in 1976.

Making the Pros

Charlie intended to complete his degree immediately in physical education and health at Bethune-Cookman, but took a detour when he was chosen in the 1977 NFL draft by the Jets. He worked out for only two teams, the Pittsburgh Steelers and Jets, but wound up being selected the first pick of the seventh round, 168th pick overall, in the draft. He beat out former Heisman Trophy runner-up Ed Marinaro for a berth at halfback and helped push Clark Gaines, the NFL Rookie of the Year in 1976, to fullback. Along with fellow

rookie Scott Dierking, Charlie saw plenty of action in the backfield that season, rushing 50 times for 151 yards and one touchdown in 13 games. The Jets, under new coach Walt Michaels, endured their third straight 3-11 season.

Charlie was then picked up by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, who were shorthanded at running back with injuries to Ricky Bell and others. Charlie got into seven games with the Bucs during the 1978 season, rushing 11 times for 42 yards. When Bucs backfield coach Joe Gibbs relocated to San Diego to reunite with Coach Don Coryell, Charlie moved on to the Chargers as well. However, an injury to his left knee required surgery and placed him on injured reserve for the season. He then latched on with the Baltimore Colts, but the knee faltered again during the preseason and necessitated further surgery to remove damaged cartilage. He finally called it quits in 1985. "If I kept playing I would have done more damage," he said. "I wanted to walk away while I still could."

Life After Football: Successful Businessman

After completing his degree from Bethune-Cookman in 1985, Charlie tried teaching for a while but then switched to business. "I wanted to be a businessman like my father," said Charlie, whose dad owned a trucking company and converted homes into rental properties. "He only had a 10th-grade education but he worked hard to better himself and his family." Charlie took a collections job with American Express, then started a pair of companies, in collections and construction. He maintained his company for almost 20 years before retiring in 2017, due in part to health issues. He came down with kidney cancer but is now free of cancer

symptoms. He has also had six heart stents and closely monitors his heart, exercising whenever possible.

Despite undergoing 24 major operations over the years for injuries "all over my body," Charlie feels good and is enjoying life in Lithia, Fla., giving talks to school children about the value of education and not pinning all their hopes on a professional athletic career. He has frequently returned to Spring Valley High School to reinforce this message and encourage young people to work toward a dream or a goal. "They have to learn and realize that you don't set a goal on sports alone," he said. "There are other opportunities out there. The average pro career is three to five years. The odds of making pro are very small. You need something to fall back on, for your second, third or fourth opportunity. It's about making your life better and providing for your family."

Charlie appreciates the sacrifices made by his parents to enable him and his siblings to receive a quality education. That includes his sister, Nancy Mary White; brother Harry Richard White Jr., a former tight end for Virginia Union College; and brother Robert Donald White, whose athletic career was derailed by a broken leg from a chop block in junior high football.

Charlie, who is 68, has five stepchildren from three previous marriages. He stays in touch with former teammates from Bethune-Cookman, helps support the college, and keeps busy with church activities. Charlie's football uniform number at Spring Valley, 48, was retired in an alumni ceremony in November 2009. "Sports was an outlet for me," Charlie said. "The people I met and became friends with was the most important thing for me. I didn't look for the achievements."



Congratulations, Charlie!

JOSEPH HOLLAND LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Margaret "Babs" STEAD

Official

If you have attended a scholastic track & field, swimming, volleyball or girls' basketball contest in Rockland County in the past 45 years, chances are you saw Margaret "Babs" Stead in action officiating at one or more of those competitions. You see, Babs doesn't have an offseason as an official. In the fall, it's volleyball and girls' swimming. In the winter, it's indoor track, boys' swimming and, until recently, girls' basketball. In the spring, it's outdoor track. Her longevity is mighty impressive: 45 years and counting in both track (boys and girls, winter and spring) and swimming, 29 years and still going in volleyball, and a 25-year tenure as basketball referee. Add it all up and the credentials are impeccable – good enough, in fact, to earn her the Joseph Holland Lifetime Achievement Award from the Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame. Babs is the 11th recipient of the award since its inception in 2003, and the first female to be so honored. The award is named after Hall of Fame founder Joe Holland.

Trusted Arbiter of Multiple Sports

Babs played basketball in CYO as a youth and at Aquinas High School in the Bronx, and was a natural to continue her association with the sport as a referee. She officiated high school and college games in New York City with many male and female referees. One of those officials, Meg Feerick, had moved to Rockland County, as had Babs and her husband, Guy Stead. Meg suggested that Babs and Guy join her as a track & field official in Rockland, and that is how they got started in that sport in the mid-1970s. Around the same time, Ned and Lila McEwan, longtime track and swimming officials in Rockland, recruited Babs and Guy to try their hand at officiating swimming. "I knew nothing about swimming," Babs said, "but I learned pretty quickly. We paid the most attention to safety, because accidents can happen in swimming."

When the Steads' daughter, Peggy, decided to play volleyball for North Rockland, Babs and Guy added that sport to their officiating repertoire. "I love that game," Babs said. "It's very strategic, a thinking-man's game. It's the hardest sport to officiate. You make thousands of decisions in a regular volleyball match. You can't relax for a moment."

Taking A Lead Role

Babs has assumed leadership positions in multiple sports. In volleyball, she is serving her 12th year as president of



the Rockland County chapter, and has worked the state tournament. She and Guy were honored in 2015 as inductees into the Section 1 Volleyball Hall of Fame. In swimming, Babs is in her 11th year as president of the Rockland County officials association. She has also coached CYO girls' basketball in the Bronx and at St. Gregory Barbarigo School in Garnerville.

Babs also officiates at club volleyball tournaments year round. She fondly recalls daughter Peggy's years of participation in high school volleyball, with trips to the New York State finals under Coach Mike Carroll, and travel with her club team to the Junior Olympics and other competitions in such places as Austin, Texas, Albuquerque, NM, and New Orleans. Virtually all of the North Rockland players on Peggy's teams received scholarships to play in college, including Peggy's scholarship to LIU-C.W. Post. Peggy is now an English teacher at North Rockland High School.

Once A Teacher, Always A Teacher

Babs retired in 2010 after a 34-year teaching career at St. Gregory's. She was eighth-grade homeroom teacher and taught sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade social studies. "It was the saddest day when I had to retire from St. Greg's," she said. "I loved the kids I taught; it was a lot of fun." Although she no longer teaches, she still applies a teacher's perspective to the athletic competitions she judges, citing the "tremendous sportsmanship" and striving for success that the athletes demonstrate. "We should celebrate that effort," she said.

Babs has earned three post-secondary degrees: an associate's degree from Rockland Community College, a bachelor's degree in social science from St. Thomas Aquinas College, and a master's degree in social science from William Paterson College. She is a few credits shy of a second master's, in Spanish, having taken courses at RCC and STAC.

Keep On Keeping On

Although she is a lifelong asthmatic, Babs has not allowed her diminished lung function to stop her from pursuing the activities she loves. At age 82 – she'll turn 83 next month – she continues to proudly serve the youth of Rockland County. "I'm amazed that I'm still reffing as much as I am," she said. "It's still a lot of fun. It keeps you sharp."

Aside from the volleyball hall of fame honor, Babs and Guy were bestowed with the Dick Teetsel Memorial Award

in 2003 for their meritorious service to Rockland County track, and they both received the 25-Year Service Award from the prestigious Loucks Games track & field meet in White Plains.

Babs recently moved to Sloatsburg after having lived in Hillburn for almost 17 years and Garnerville for 31 years. Besides daughter Peggy, 45, Babs has a son, Frank, 55, in North Carolina; a stepson, Guy, 54, in Chester, NY; and a stepdaughter, Leah, 50, in Tennessee. Peggy has a daughter, Julia, 13, while Frank has a son, James, 20, and Leah has two sons, Blake, 23, and Garrison, 20.

As noted, Guy Stead officiated alongside Babs in track, swimming and volleyball, and also refereed basketball, primarily girls and CYO. Guy, a retired lieutenant with the Ramapo Police Department, passed away in 2015.

Congratulations, Babs!

Congratulations to all the 2022 Inductees

SPECIAL PRAISE TO OUR OWN

"Babs" Stead

Half-century of dedicated service to Rockland County Track & Field



**The Rockland County
Track & Field Officials Association**



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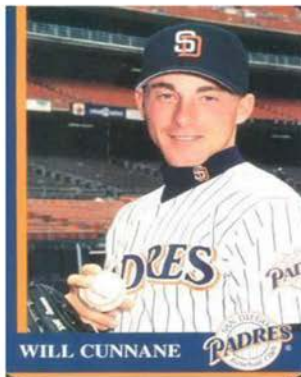


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Margaret “Babs” Stead
Joseph Holland Lifetime Achievement Award

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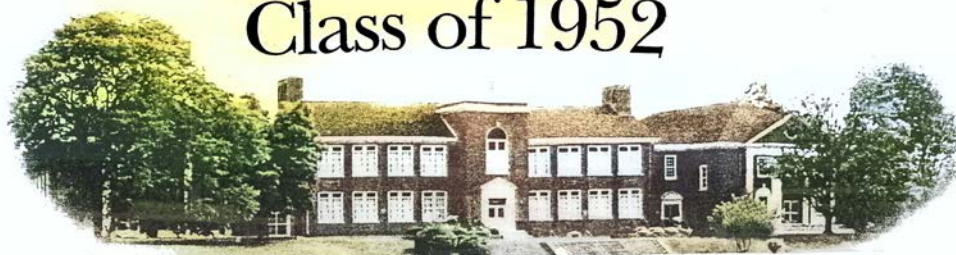
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North Rockland

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A Half-Century of Devoted
Service to the Youth of
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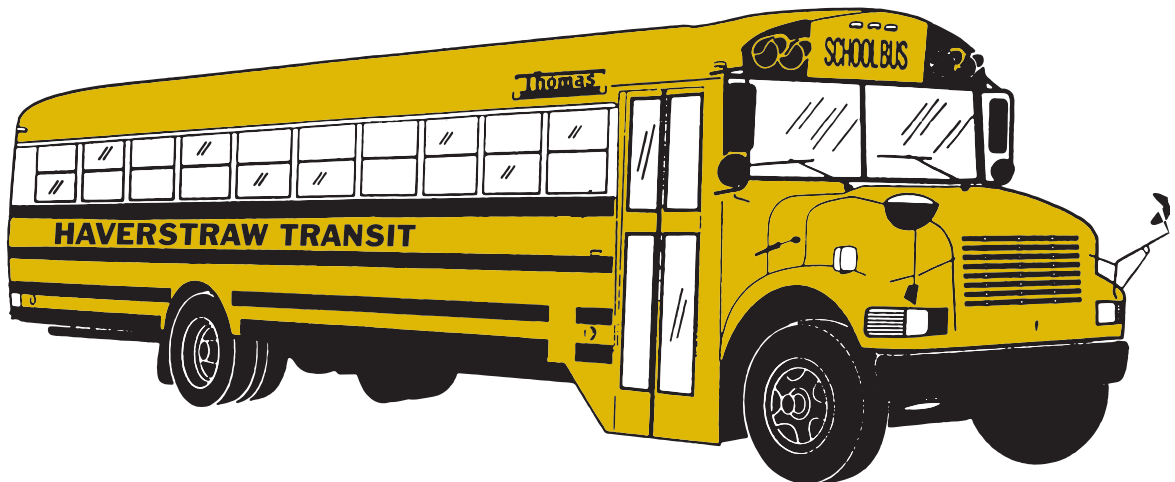
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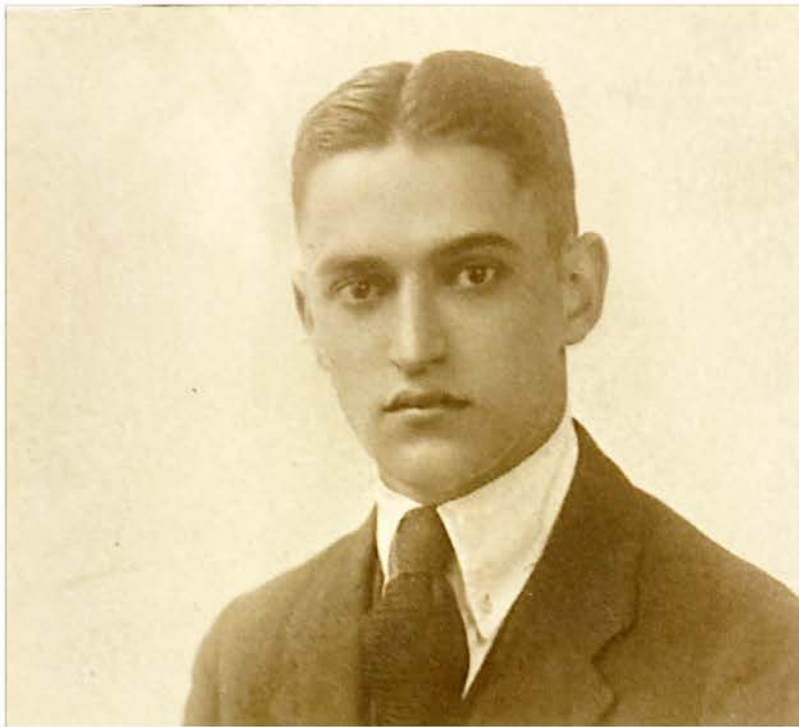
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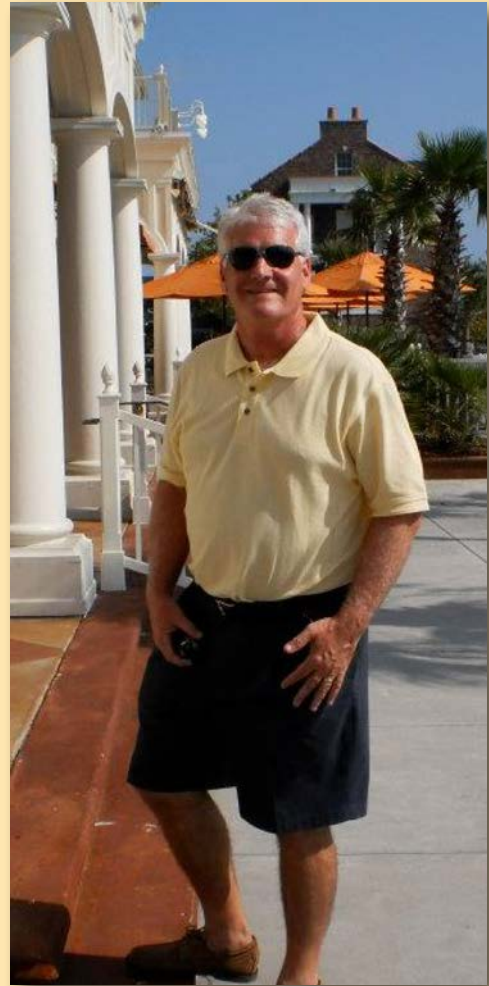
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Love and Best Wishes,
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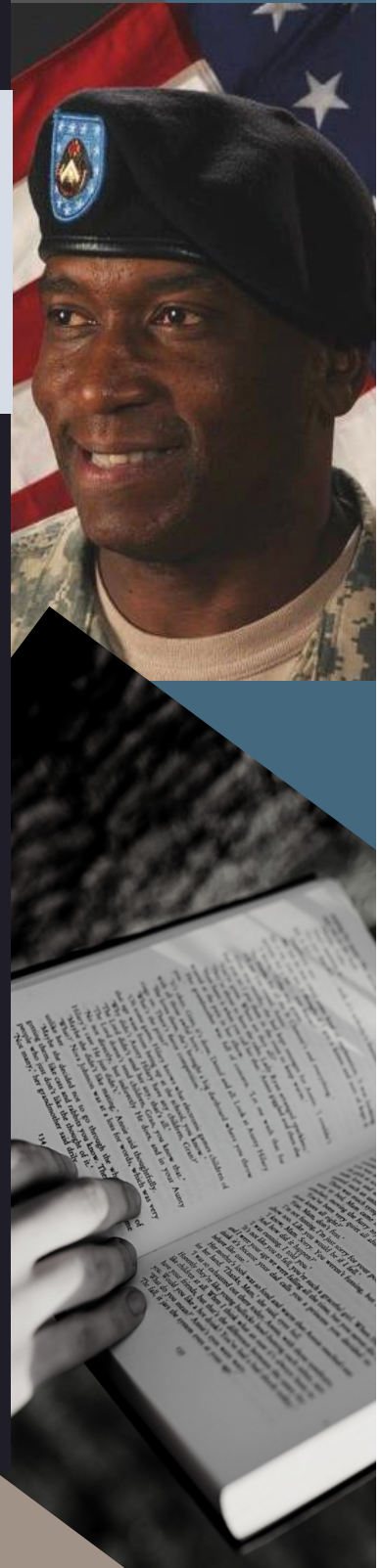
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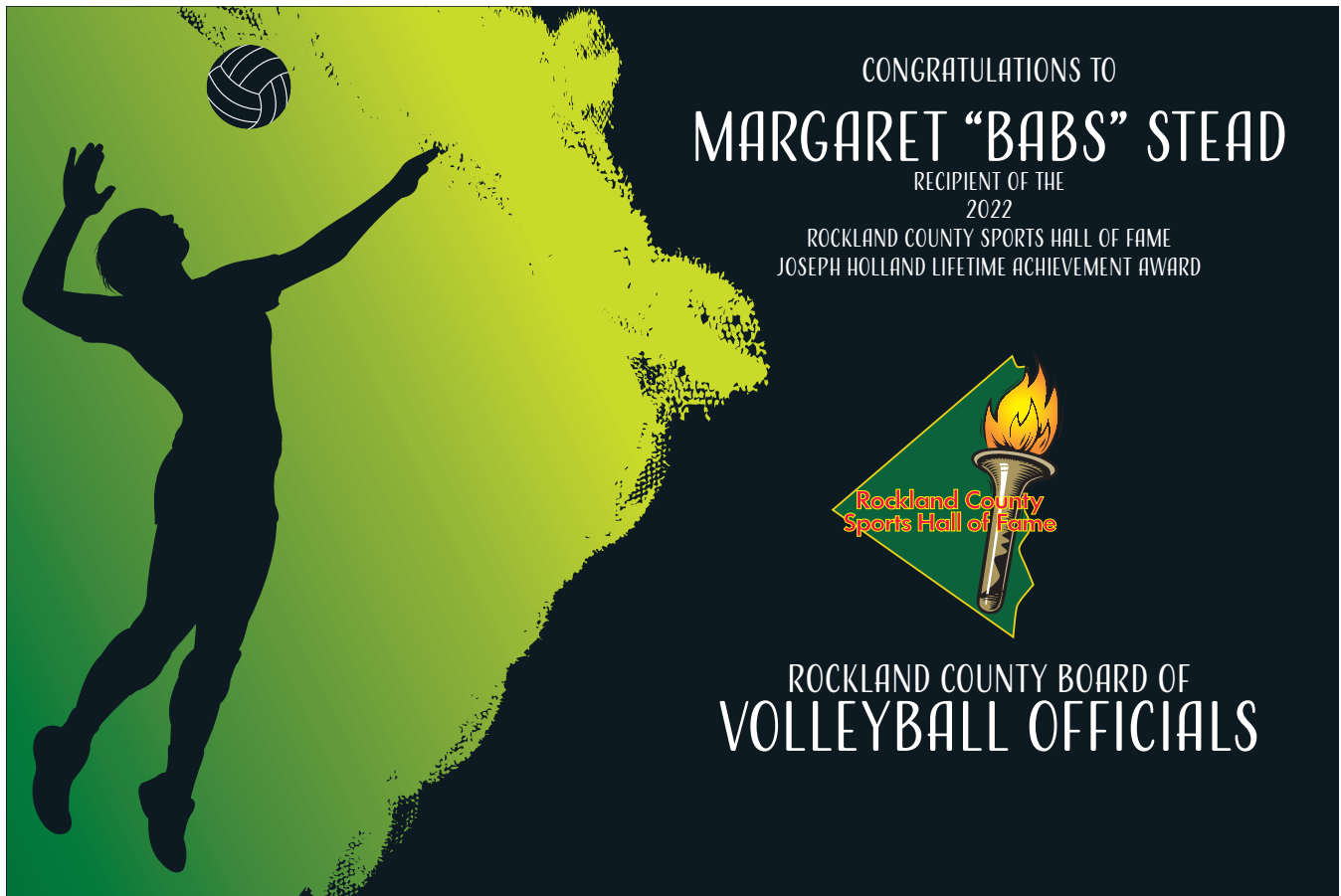
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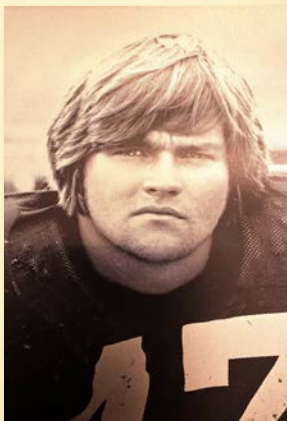
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Will Cunnane – Clarkstown North
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III Seminari Internacional dels Arxius de l'Esport
III Seminario Internacional de los Archivos del Deporte

We invite you to take part in the III International Seminar on Sports Archives "Sports and human rights", which will take place in Girona on 9 May, 2022, at the EspaiCaixa Girona of the Obra Social "la Caixa" (Pl. Poeta Marquina, 10, baixos). It will also be possible to participate in webinar format.

Information and registration at:
esportarxiu.ddgi.cat

#SIAE2022 #ISSA2022 #esportarxiu #sportarchive
#ICASPO #ICASAHR

SPO ICA Section on Sports Archives
SAHRO ICA Section on Archives and Human Rights
Diputació de Girona
Ajuntament de Girona
Generalitat de Catalunya
Associació de Professionals de l'Arxivística i la Gestió de Documents de Catalunya

WHAT IS SPO?

SPO, the Section on Sports Archives, was founded in 2004 during the ICA Congress in Vienna. The mission of ICA is to promote the preservation and use of archives and records around the world through international co-operation. SPO's members are institutions, associations and individual persons who work with, or have an active interest in, sports archives. SPO's mission is the preservation and safe-guarding of sports archives worldwide. In trying to achieve its goals, the section arranges seminars and workshops for increasing information about sports archives, cooperates with institutions, sports research organizations and authorities, and spreads information through publications and its own web page.

SPO PROJECTS

- Seminars and workshops on sports archives.
- Sessions on sports archives issues during congresses, with the attempt to approach sport history from a broad perspective (economy, law, philosophy, health, media gender etc.).
- Raising the awareness of governments and the general public on the needs to preserve sports archives in private and public sports associations and institutions.
- Elaboration of archiving guidelines and norms to sports archives institutions and sports organizations (federations and clubs).
- A directory on sports archives institutions worldwide.

SPO BUREAU

The work of SPO is carried out by a Bureau who is elected at the SPO General Assembly during the quadrennial Congress of ICA. For joining SPO: fill in the application form at: http://www.ica.org/sites/default/files/preapplication%20form_0.pdf