



ANNIVERSARY

Annual Award Dinner

Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame

Saturday Evening, May 9th, 1998

**Pearl River Elks Club
Nanuet, New York**



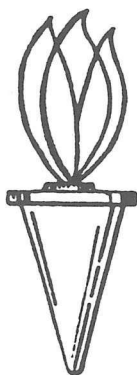
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DINNER PROGRAM

Call to order and WelcomeChairman Peter Scheibner
InvocationJoe Cassarella
Pledge of AllegianceSenator Joe Holland
Master of CeremoniesJim Kane

COMMITTEES

Dinner Kathy Dapolito
Program Book Harry Jackson
Screening Joe Grasso
Shrine F. McGarvey
Tickets Dan White

NEW INDUCTEES FOR 1998

LOU KLIEWE
BLAISE WINTER
ROCCO MARANO

HOWIE McNIFF
KEVIN KANE

Concluding remarks and Thanks Peter Scheibner

Flowers donated by Dykstra Florist

ENSHRINEMENT REQUIREMENT

The Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame was established to honor outstanding professional and amateur sportsmen or sports-women, living and deceased, who have gained prominence while competing or 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 either a resident of Rockland County or competed here at the time of his or her prominence.
- C. Be a person of integrity and good character.

Written nominations, with achievements, 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.

Each inductee in the Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame receives a nice trophy and is further honored with an individual plaque, currently housed in the Alison-Parris County Office Building in New city.

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 126 such people have been honored since the Hall inception in 1974.

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

- * ARC
- * Varsity Athletes Against Substance Abuse
- * Haverstraw Little League Save the Fields Fund
- *American Cancer Society

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Dan White	Bob Veltidi	Edward C. Hampson
Joe Holland-Chairman Emeritus		

SPORTS HALL OF FAME PAST RECIPIENTS

* Deceased

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 Tallman*
John Koster*
Jim Ridlon
Pete D'Auria*
Gloria Callan Jones

1977

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

1978

James "Jim" Brown
Harold "Hale" DeChelfin*
James "Jim" Faulk*
Ira Shuttleworth*
James A. Schnaars
Nicholas "Nick" Mottola*

1979

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

1980

Dr. Jeffery 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 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

Wilbur J. "Wil" Arietta*
Joseph "Josh" Bolack
Eugene "Gene" Erickson
Anthony John Gemma
Joe "The Saint" St. Lawrence*

1986

Joe Alleva
John Jemison
Harold Lederman
Bob Mathias
Sylvester McGee*

1987

Fred Hahn*
Charles Holbrook
Chuck Scarpulla
James Stamos
Robert Strack

1988

Ronald Becraft
Darryl Brown
Tom Cauty
Pat D'Auria
James (Sham) Feeney*

1989

Ralph Consiglio
Patty Dillon
Vincent Kovalsky
Frank Nelson*
Bob Wolff

1990

Denise McGuire
Guy W. Guccione
Abraham Schuster
Robert Schassler
Don Clancy*

1991

Steven Drummond
Lewis Brundage
Johnny Burns*
Peter Haubner
Ethel Doller
Dominic Gamboli

1992

Murray Olderman
Jerome Bonomolo
Joseph (Biscuit) Picarello
Dale Lydecker
John Mercurio

1993

Jim Kane
Kathy Miller Dapolito
Jay A. Bohnel
Mike Deane
Don Driscoll

1994

Hubert Nealy
Martin "Hawk" Jacobs
Joe Goldsmith
Thomas F. Collins
Ronald Tellefsen

1995

Ronnie Edwards
Walter "Red" Levy
Max Talaska
Joe Klopchin
Joe McDowell*
Pat Urban

1996

Harry L. Babcock*
Gerald T. Kapunsinsky
John Orlando
Al Simonds
George Garrecht
Martin J. Springstead

1997

Mike Hagon
Hank Kapusinsky
Tom Mounkhal
Dennis Pozsar
Steve Wanamaker

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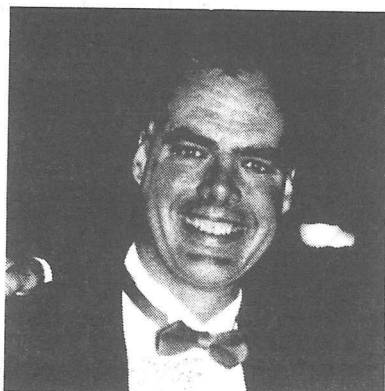
1974
First Rockland County
Sports Hall of Fame
Installation Dinner

Joe Holland - Chairman
 Sally Holland



SENATOR JOE HOLLAND
 "FOUNDER OF THE ROCKLAND
 COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME"

KEVIN KANE
Nyack



Kevin Kanes home address is Nyack, NY. In 1976 he was a four sport star in high school: Basketball (All County), lacrosse (All-State), tennis (ranked in the state of New York), soccer (All-County). Turned down lacross scholarship at Rutgers to play soccer for North Carolina. Outstanding tennis player, could play at varsity level at North Carolina (the team is ranked nationally in tennis) but gave everything up to concentrate on soccer.

In his 32 starts for North Carolina, Kevin never allowed more than two goals. He has allowed two goals on only two occasions. He has allowed one goal on 16 occasions. Kane has shut out the opposition 14 times.

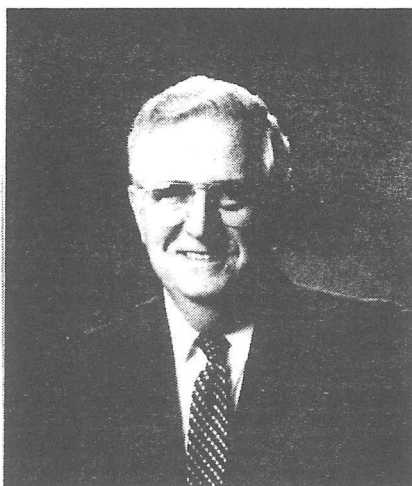
In his eight Atlantic Coast Conference starts he has allowed only two goals. The Atlantic Coast Conference is now considered by many to be the premier soccer conference in the country with Clemson, Virginia, N.C. State, Duke, Maryland and Wake Forest as soccer members (Georgia Tech has yet to develop a team).

In 1978 Kane shut out Clemson and Appalachian State. He shut Clemson out in Clemson, South Carolina and it was the first time they had been shut out in three years. He has never been scored on by Appalachian State as he shut them out again in 1979. In 1978, North Carolina was considered one of the top defensive teams in the country. This can be attributed in part to Kane's ability. Kane was injured before the Clemson game in 1979 and the score demonstrated the magnitude of his value as we were beaten 6-2 without him in goal.

During the three years to date that Kane has lettered on the UNC varsity soccer team we have accumulated a 42-9-10 record against a very imposing schedule. In 1979 for example, we played eight matches against teams that at some time in 1979 were ranked in the nation's top 20. Fifteen of our opponents were ranked regionally. We also played more matches than any team in the South (24) in

1979. We have been ranked 6th in the South each of the past three seasons and finished 2nd in the rugged Atlantic Coast Conference the past three years. The Acc plays the highest level of soccer in the country top to bottom. For example, Maryland, who was 0-5 in Acc competition in 1979 beat Penn State who finished 3rd nationally. There are no weak teams in the Acc. In 1980, we feel he will be a National All- American.

ROCCO MARANO
North Rockland



Graduated from Haverstraw High in 1945, He played Basketball and Football. He was born in West haverstraw N.Y.. He varsitied in 10th, 11th, and 12th grade in FWD position in Basketball. He was Jr. Champs RCPSAL 0-champs in 43-44. Sr.Sectional champs in 44-45, Sr. All County, and Sr. Team Captain.

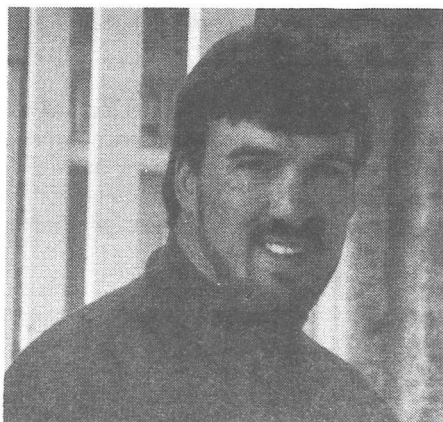
Football his position was DE/OE. In 11th and 12th grade he was sr Co-Champions.

Ten years semi-pro basketball with haverstraw Knights of Columbus; St Peters Holy Name, Letchworth "Big 5" in Rockland County and Metropolitan New York/New Jersey. Teammates of Bill Babcock, Jim "Sham" Feeney, Paul and George Urban, Richie Mc Nicoll, "Owl" Riccen, Bob Zartnsky, Played with Haverstraw Veterans Basketball.

Currently retired, and living in Chatham Township, N.J. with his wife Mary. His children are Peter, Susan, Thomas and John.

BLAISE WINTER

Tappan Zee



1979 Captain/M.V.P./All Area Honors for Tappan Zee High School.

1980 Graduate of Tappan Zee High School, Tappan, New York.

An eleven year veteran of "war in the trenches" of The National Football League, he started as a defensive lineman for the Indianapolis Colts, San Diego Chargers, and the Green Bay Packers. Blaise began his football career under the tutelage of Joe Hince at Tappan Zee High School, where he graduated in 1980, after being an All-County selection his senior year. He entered Syracuse University unheralded, and as captain of the 1983 team, he was also selected as its MVP and garnered All-East honors.

In 1984, Winter was drafted in the second round by The Indianapolis Colts. Not only was he the best Colts' rookie, but he made First Team NFL All Rookie.

After 2 plus seasons with the Colts, he moved on to the San Diego Chargers for the balance of 1986 and the entire season of 1987. From San Diego, he joined the re-building Green Bay Packers in 1988 and was with them for three years. With nagging injuries due to his position of nose guard and defensive lineman, it looked like his successful seven year NFL career was finished.

But not to the "Over-achieving" Blaise Winter, for he fought his way back. After sitting out the 1991 season, he convinced the San Diego Chargers, who had their sights set on getting to the Super Bowl soon, that he could still play well.

In 1992, his return and superlative play for the Chargers was the NFL Comeback Story of the Year. His inspiring led to numerous awards.

In 1994 San Diego, with Winter as one of its motivational leaders, did indeed make it to the Super Bowl, only to lose to the invincible Forty-Niners.

Blaise finished his NFL career in 1995 with Buffalo, unfortunately on injured reserve.

Over the years of his professional football career, he has been extremely active in community service work, donating many of his hours to help those in need. Today he works as a professional motivational/inspirational speaker, as well as doing some radio/television broadcasting involving the Green Bay Packers.

LOU KLIEWE

Spring Valley



Biography- born in Tappan, N.Y.-1935.

resident of Pearl River for entire life grandfather bought land in Pearl River.

Athletic Achievements- Pearl River High School.

9th grade-J.V. Basketball and Baseball.

10th grade-Varsity Basketball and Varsity Baseball.

Last Pearl River PSAL Basketball Champions-Coach Ira Shuttleworth.

11th grade-Varsity Basketball-2nd team All-County-averaged 14 points per game, Varsity Baseball-Honorable Mention All County.

12th grade-Varsity Basketball-All County.

Varsity Baseball-All County-centerfield.

College Years-attended Cortland State and Manhattan College.

Began Officiating in Rockland football, basketball, baseball.

Varsity Basketball Coach at Albertus Magnus-

7 years Varsity Coach.

Started program at Albertus

1963-1964 Rockland County Coach of Year.

Started Baseball and Cross Country programs at the school.

Varsity Basketball Coach at Spring Valley High School-

1967-1995-28 years.

11 League championships: 1972-73, 1973-74, 1979-80
1980-81, 1981-82, 1982-83, 1984-85, 1985-86, 1990-91
1991-92, 1993-94 4 Sectional Championships-1974-75,
1978-79, 1981-82, 1982-83, 1 State Championship-1981-
82-Class A.

Rockland County Coach of Year Awards-

9-1973-74, 1079-80, 1980-81, 1981-82, 1982-83, 1985-86,
1990-91, 1991-92, 1993-94

Daily News-All Star High School Basketball Coach-

1974-Top 25 Coaches-Boys' Basketball in N.Y. State-1995
Most Wins in Rockland County Basketball History-***447.

Additional Honors and Contributions-

Served on Sectional Basketball Committee for 20 years as
Athletic Director at Spring Valley High School. Introduced
girls' athletics in the early 1970's. Produced at least 30
college players. Developed at least 5 high school and
college coaches. Selected to speak as high school coach
at the "Final Four" in the early 1990's. Coached high school
basketball in Rockland County during 5 decades: 50's, 60's, 70's
80's 90's.

HOWIE McNIFF

Albertus Magnus



Cross Country

Rockland County meet champion, 1972, Section 9 Class B
runner-up, 1972 New York State Intersectional Class B
Champion, 1972. Undefeated in dual meets, 1972 Eastern
States "C" race champion, 12:50.1 for the 2.5-mile course at
Van Cortlandt Park, Bronx. N.Y., 1972. Won every dual meet
except one in 1971. Led Albertus to the Rockland County
Public School Athletic League title in 1971. First-team
All-County, 1971 and 1972.

Indoor Track

New York State Intersectional 2-Mile Run Champion, 1973
Section 9 mile and 2-Mile Run Champion, 1973 Section 9
State Qualifier meet 2-mile Run Champion, at West Point.
Time: 9:07.3, the fastest indoor time ever in New York up
to that time. However, it was not counted as a record because
West Point's track was 300 yards; anything over 220 yards (or
200 meters) is considered "oversized". The time still stands as
a Rockland record. Won Bishop Loughlin Games 2-mile Run at
168th St. Armory in New York City in 9:09.8. Missed breaking the
existing national flat-floor record by six-tenths of a second. In this
race, he nipped Matt Centrowitz of Power Memorial, who later was
a two-time Olympian, at 1,500 meters (1976) and 5,000 meters (1980).
Won Cardinal Hayes Games 2-mile Run at 168th St. Armory.
(During McNiff's scholastic career, All-County teams for winter track
had not yet come into existence. The first Rockland County championship
Winter track meet took place in 1974, the year after McNiff graduated.)

Spring Track

New York State Intersectional Mile Run Champion, 1973. Time: 4:15.1,
sixth-fastest ever in Rockland County. Section 9 Class B Two-Mile Run
Champion, 1973. Section 9 State Qualifier Mile Run Champion, 1973.
Rockland County meet Mile Run Champion, 1973. Penn Relays 2-mile
Run runner-up, 1973, 9:15.8. This race included premier distance
runners from the East Coast. McNiff was beaten by a top runner from
Virginia. Undefeated in dual meets, 1973. Rockland county meet Mile
Run Champion, 1972. Undefeated in the mile run in dual meets, 1972.
First-team All-County, mile run, 1973. First-team All-County, mile run
and two-mile relay, 1972.

Fordham University (1973-1977)

Total number of varsity letters: 12. Best mile run time of 4:07. This
time has been bettered by only 3 other Rocklanders. Best two-mile
run time of 8:50. This time has been bettered by only 1 other Rocklander ever.
Qualified for the NCAA Division I Cross Country Championships, 1974
Ran leadoff leg on Forham's 4x1500-meter relay at the 1976 Penn Relays.
The team placed third in 15:12, faster than the national record at that time.
McNiff's 1,500-meter time was 3:49, equivalent to a 4:07 mile.

Post-College

McNiff ran several high-quality marathons in the late 1970s and early
1980s. In the 1981 New York City Marathon, he clocked 2 hours 24
minutes 11 seconds. That is the second-fastest marathon (26.2 miles) ever
by a Rocklander.

Personal

McNiff has been a New York State Court Officer for 19 years. He is currently
a Senior Court Officer based in White Plains. He is married and lives in
Pearl River with his wife, Laura, and two sons. Brad, 9 , and Steven, 3.

Thanks for your friendship
and support.

LOU KLIEWE

Congratulations to you
on your induction into
**THE ROCKLAND COUNTY
SPORTS HALL OF FAME**

Always,

Tom & Sandy Collins

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Larry and Stephen Beckerle

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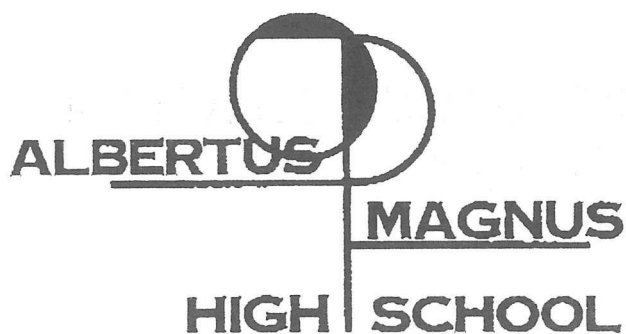
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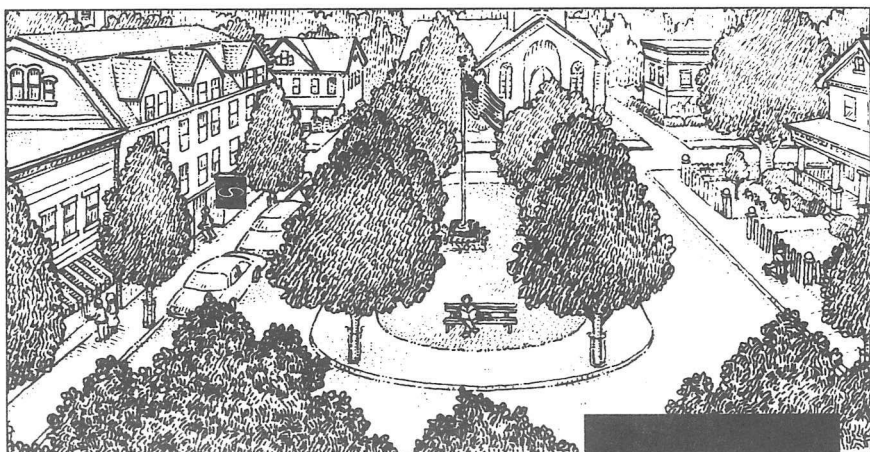
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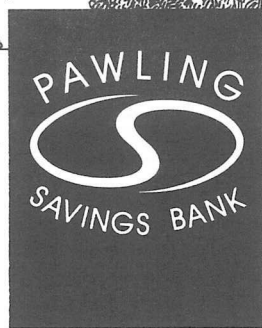
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Lou Kliewe — 1998



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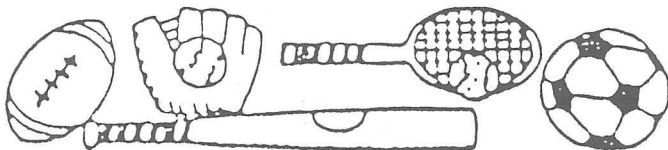
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**KEVIN KANE
LOU KLIEWE
HOWIE McNIFF
ROCCO MARANO
BLAISE WINTER**

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*Special praise to Lou Kliewe!
A great coach, a great gentleman*

**Compliments of the
Rockland County Coaches Association
*Ray Zebro, President***



HAPPY SILVER ANNIVERSARY
CONGRATULATIONS TO

KEVIN KANE
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ROCCO MARANO
BLAISE WINTER

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Special praise to our own colleague, Lou Kliewe.

*Special praise to Jim Kane and Kevin Kane
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1998

**Rockland County
Sports Hall
of
Fame
Inductees**

KEVIN KANE

As a soccer goalkeeper, Kevin Kane is without peer in Rockland County. Listen to the words of his former coach at the University of North Carolina, Anson Dorrance: "Without question he was the best goalkeeper I ever trained in 20 years of coaching male or female and I have trained national team players in goal."

Kane played four years of varsity soccer at North Carolina, and he also lettered in tennis. During his three years as the starting goalkeeper on the soccer team, he had a 0.40 goals-against average and nine shutouts as a sophomore; a 0.76 goals-against average and five shutouts as a junior; and a 0.81 goals-against average and 11 shutouts as a senior. He still holds school records for most shutouts in a season (11) and career (25), and best goals-against average in a season (0.40) and career (0.67). Kane was a second-team All-Atlantic Coast Conference honoree in his sophomore and junior years, and a third-team All-South selection his senior year.

At Nyack High School, from which Kane graduated in 1976, he made All-County in four sports. He was the Rockland scholastic tennis champion, and was state-ranked in that sport. He also made All-New York State in lacrosse. In basketball, he was the county's second-leading scorer his senior year. And in his best sport, soccer, he was an All-Rockland goalkeeper.

After graduating from North Carolina, Kane remained in Chapel Hill to serve as an assistant soccer coach in charge of men's and women's goalkeepers. During that time the North Carolina women's team won five national championships. Dorrance wrote this about Kane: "He is also a brilliant coach ... He knows the game, people, how to win, how to compete, how to make someone better."

Kane was also an assistant coach for the North Carolina women's basketball team for two years. The team earned a trip to the NCAA Tournament both years and won one Atlantic Coast Conference championship, the team's first. Kane also was responsible for recruiting Dawn Royster, the outstanding player from Nyack, to attend North Carolina.

Kane joins his father, Jim, a 1993 inductee, as the only father-and-son pairing in the Rockland Sports Hall of Fame. Kevin Kane lives in Raleigh, N.C., with his wife, Katharine, and two young daughters.

BLAISE WINTER

He was born with a cleft palate and lip, and lost hearing in one ear as a child, all of which affected his ability to speak. But when Blaise Winter puts his mind to a task, his actions speak volumes.

Winter, a 1980 Tappan Zee High School graduate, parlayed a measure of talent and a ton of heart into an 11-year National Football League career. Not the most physically gifted of players, Winter combined mental toughness, a will to persevere, and a tireless work ethic in rising to the pinnacle of his profession. He credits the daily encouragement he received from his mother as the spark he needed to tackle and conquer life's challenges.

At Tappan Zee, under Coach Joe Hince, Winter was team captain, MVP, and an All-County performer his senior year. From there he enrolled at Syracuse University and began as an unheralded defensive lineman. By the close of his college career, he was no longer unheralded. In his senior year with the Orangemen, he was team captain and MVP, and earned All-East accolades.

Winter was drafted in the second round by the Indianapolis Colts, and proceeded to make the NFL All-Rookie team. After two-plus seasons with the Colts, he moved on to the San Diego Chargers and played there for almost two full seasons, through the end of the 1987 campaign.

Winter then joined the rebuilding Green Bay Packers in 1988 and spent three productive years in Tittletown as a nose guard and defensive lineman. Nagging injuries forced him to sit out the 1991 season, but Winter then went on a promotional blitz to try to convince NFL teams that he still had the skills and desire to succeed among the behemoths on the line of scrimmage in the NFL.

The Chargers took a chance on Winter by inviting back their prodigal son, and he justified their faith by playing three more solid seasons, including the 1994 campaign, when the Chargers reached the Super Bowl (and wound up losing to the 49ers). Winter finished his NFL career with Buffalo on injured reserve in 1995.

After motivating himself to reach for his dreams, Winter now motivates others to do the same. He works professionally as a motivational and inspirational speaker, traveling around the country to share his story as a way to spur others to find the hidden potential that many people never tap. His recent autobiography, "A Reason To Believe," conveys a similar message of self-confidence as a springboard to success.

During football season, Winter serves as a local radio and television broadcaster and analyst for the Packers, and he currently resides in Appleton, Wis. He also devotes himself selflessly to many charitable causes, including: Cleft Palate Foundation, national spokesperson; Special Olympics; Children's Hospital; Veterans' Hospital; Cystic Fibrosis Foundation; Children's Developmental Center; American Cancer Society; Indian School for the Deaf; Drug Awareness Program; National Multiple Sclerosis Society; March of Dimes; Athletes Against Drunk Driving; Big Brothers/Big Sisters; Spina Bifida Foundation; DARE/Stop-Drug Awareness Programs; and the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

meter relay at the 1976 Penn Relays. Fordham's time surpassed the existing national record. McNiff's time is equivalent to a 4:07 mile.

After his college days, McNiff ran several high-quality marathons in the late 1970s and early 1980s. In the 1981 New York City Marathon, he clocked 2 hours 24 minutes 11 seconds, the second-fastest 26.2-miler ever by a Rocklander.

McNiff has been a New York State Court Officer for 19 years. He is currently a Senior Court Officer based in Manhattan. He is married and lives in Pearl River with his wife, Laura, and two sons, Brad, 9, and Steven, 3.

McNiff is also a charter member of the Albertus Magnus High School Hall of Fame, established in 1994.

LOU KLIEWE

Lou Kliewe devoted 35 years of his life to guiding, developing and molding young student-athletes. He coached basketball at Albertus Magnus - indeed, he started the program - for seven years, up through 1966, before enjoying a successful 28-year tenure as head coach at Spring Valley.

How successful was he? Kliewe racked up 447 victories, making him the winningest coach in Rockland scholastic boys' basketball history. He also ranks 30th all-time in New York State with that total. Furthermore, his 1981-82 Spring Valley team won the New York State Class A championship, the only Rockland boys' basketball team ever to win a state title.

Any recitation of Kliewe's coaching career requires mention of some pretty impressive numbers. His teams won 12 league championships and four Section 9 (Rockland, Orange, Ulster, Sullivan counties) crowns: 1974-75, 1978-79, 1981-82, 1982-83. Ten times Kliewe was honored as the Rockland Coach of the Year, once with Albertus and nine times with Spring Valley.

Some years his teams were almost unbeatable. Just three years after Albertus first fielded a varsity team, Kliewe led the Falcons to an 18-1 mark in 1963-64 and their first title — the Orange and Rockland Parochial League. At Spring Valley, his 1972-73 squad duplicated that 18-1 record, the following year the Tigers went 20-2, and in the 1979-80 campaign Kliewe guided them to a 21-1 mark. From 1978 to 1981, his teams won 44 consecutive league games.

And how's this for longevity: Since his first year at Albertus was the 1959-60 school year, Kliewe coached high school basketball in Rockland County over five - count 'em, five - decades.

At Albertus, Kliewe served as athletic director and launched that school's baseball, basketball and cross country programs. As the longtime athletic director at Spring Valley, he introduced girls' athletics in the early 1970s. He also served on sectional basketball committees for 20 years; produced at least 30 college players; developed several high school and college coaches; and was chosen to speak representing high school coaches at an NCAA Final Four in the early 1990s.

Kliewe, a lifelong Pearl River resident, graduated from Pearl River High School in the early 1950s. As an athlete at Pearl River, he was a first-team All-County center fielder and twice was a second-team All County guard in basketball. He attended Cortland State and Manhattan College and graduated from Manhattan. He also has officiated football, basketball and baseball in the county.

ROCCO MARANO

Haverstraw High in the mid-1940's was stocked with a wealth of quality athletes, and Rocco Marano was one of the stars of that vaunted group. Marano, a 1945 Haverstraw High graduate, made his mark in basketball and football.

In basketball, he earned three varsity letters as a forward. His senior year, he was team captain and made All-County, and led Haverstraw to the Section 9 championship. In his junior year, he was instrumental in the Bricktowners' co-championship of the Rockland County Public School Athletic League.

In football, Marano merited two varsity letters as a defensive and offensive end. He played a significant role on Haverstraw's Rockland PSAL co-championship club his senior year.

Marano later enjoyed a solid 10-year semipro basketball career, playing with such teams as the Haverstraw Knights of Columbus, St. Peter's Holy Name, Letchworth Big Five and others in Rockland and the greater metropolitan area. He was a teammate of such noted players as Bill Babcock, Jim "Sham" Feeney, Paul and George Urban, Rich McNichol, "Owl" Ricker and Bob Zarinsky.

Marano served in the Navy from 1945 to 1947 as a seaplane tender aboard the USS Norton Sound in the North Atlantic. He enrolled at Syracuse University, but transferred to Fordham University, from which he graduated in 1953 with a business degree in accounting. He then attended Fordham Law School and graduated in 1957 before entering the world of business.

Marano held positions of comptroller, vice president and president at New York Bell from 1968 to 1979. He then was a vice president at AT&T from 1979 to 1983; was president of Bell Core from 1983 to 1991; and was CEO of New Jersey Blue Cross/Blue Shield from 1991 to 1994.

He is now retired and lives with his wife, Mary, in Chatham Township, N.J. He has four grown children.

HOWIE MCNIFF

"Falcons' stoic star craves competition." That 1972 headline in the Journal-News aptly summarized Howie McNiff, who never met a challenge he didn't like - or couldn't conquer. Some athletes perform best when there's nothing on the line, nothing riding on the outcome. Not McNiff. The higher the stakes, the better he competed. McNiff didn't run to establish fast times. He ran to win.

And oh, how he won. After suffering his lone defeat of the 1972 cross country season, to nemesis Kurt Alitz of Highland Falls in the Section 9 Class B meet, the Albertus Magnus ace rebounded to defeat Alitz and capture the New York State Intersectional Class B championship over a sodden course at Rochester Institute of Technology. He had the fastest time of the three races that day and sorely needed it; he nipped Alitz by a single second.

In the indoor track season the winter of 1972-73, McNiff's competitive mettle again was on display. In the Bishop Loughlin Games 2-mile run in New York City, he upset Matt Centrowitz of Power Memorial — who later was a two-time Olympian — by less than a second. McNiff's time of 9:09.8 missed the existing national flat-floor record for a 220-yard track by just six-tenths of a second. Later that season, he won the Section 9 State Qualifier on West Point's oversized 300-yard track in 9:07.3, a Rockland County record and the fourth-fastest time in New York state indoor annals under any conditions. He then added the state 2-mile run championship at the indoor state meet at Cornell.

McNiff completed his trifecta in the spring of 1973 at the outdoor state meet in North Tonawanda, near Buffalo. Lagging in next-to-last place with one quarter-mile lap remaining in the mile run, McNiff spread-eagled the field with a sizzling 59.8-second final lap that carried him to victory in a superb 4:15.1. With that win, McNiff became the first runner in New York State history to win state individual titles in all three seasons of one school year.

Since Albertus Magnus did not take part in public high school sectional or intersectional competition until McNiff's senior year, he was deprived of the opportunity to compete in state meets his junior year. He was widely regarded as one of the best milers in the state that year and would have had a legitimate shot at another state crown.

But there were plenty of other moments of glory in the Howie McNiff highlight reel. His pounding pursuit of prosperity left a lasting imprint, regardless of the season. In cross country, he won his division in the Eastern States Championships in 1972, set eight course records, and captured the Rockland County meet. In 1971, he led Albertus to the Rockland Public School Athletic League title with Neil Coleman and Steve Maloney, and was first-team All-County both years.

In indoor track, he was the Section 9 mile and 2-mile champ in 1973 and also won the Cardinal Hayes Games 2-mile. In spring track, he was the Rockland County mile champion two straight years; first-team All County in the mile run and two-mile relay in 1972 and in the mile in 1973; the Section 9 Class B 2-mile and State Qualifier mile titlist in '73; undefeated in dual meets in '73; and runner-up in the 2-mile at the prestigious Penn Relays, losing to a top runner from Virginia.

McNiff's running career didn't cease when he graduated from the hallowed halls of Albertus Magnus. He earned a full scholarship to Fordham University and won 12 varsity letters. He recorded personal best times of 4:07 for the mile, a time bettered by only three other Rocklanders ever, and 8:50 for the 2-mile, second-fastest ever by a Rockland collegian. He also ran a 3:49 leadoff leg on Fordham's third-place 4 x 1,500-