



**28th Annual Induction Dinner
Saturday Evening, May 12, 2001**

**Pearl River Elks
Elk Drive, Nanuet, NY**

Congratulations to all inductees
past, present and future.



The Pearl River
Sports Hall of Fame



Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame

Welcome to the 28th annual induction ceremony of the Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame. Once a year, we get to put on our Sunday best, so to speak, and throw a party celebrating a freshly minted class of Famers. It's also a time to recognize the positive developments within the organization.

Of course, the reason we exist is to honor the crème de la crème in Rockland athletics. Judging by the constellation of stars spearheading this year's roll call of inductees, our humble little county ranks as a heavyweight in the sports headlines category. An ultra-successful NFL football star, a standout athlete and coach from wrestling, an outstanding basketball player, a women's track star, and a baseball/basketball stalwart constitute this year's class, bringing the total to 152 enshrined since 1974.

The Old-Timers category instituted two years ago seeks to shine a spotlight on high-quality athletes who attained fame before 1950. This year's recipient is Gerald D'Auria, a two-sport star from Nyack in the late 1930s. This category is especially important for recognizing those early trailblazers of whom written coverage is spotty or hard to obtain, such as Rockland's Olympic athletes from the 1920s and 1930s.

One of the plans afoot that I as chairman wholeheartedly endorse is the creation or renewal of local sports halls of fame in Nyack, Spring Valley, Ramapo and South Orangetown. These organizations can serve as feeders of future resumes and may lead to greater cooperation between our organization and those halls of fame that already have done so much in supporting athletes and community spirit.

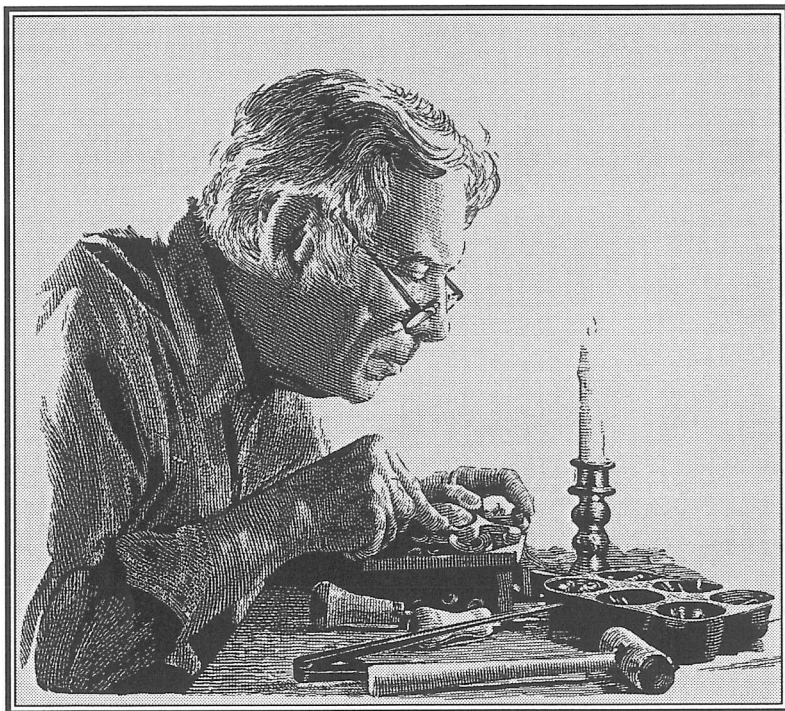
As is our custom on this page, we pause to mark the passing, in the past year, of individuals who have had an impact on our organization. Harry Jackson, a true friend and spirited advocate of Rockland County sports, was a charter member and longtime treasurer of the Hall of Fame committee. Paul Urban was a 1995 Hall inductee from Haverstraw who was team captain in three sports and excelled in five sports. Al Bogitsh, who kept our organization prospering in the 1970s and '80s, served as chairman and a longtime committee member. Our prayers go out to them and their families.

As always, we wish to thank those people who contribute their time and effort in driving the organization forward: Kathy Dapolito, vice chairman; Ethel Doller, secretary; Marie Aussner, treasurer; Dan White, ticket chairman and this year's master of ceremonies; Jamie Kempton, screening committee chairman and program editor; Gibby Sweet, dinner arrangements; Frank McGarvey, Hall of Fame shrine; Bruce Schweizer of Quality Graphics, Pearl River; Tom Collins and Tom Doherty of the Pearl River schools. A special note of congratulations goes to all the excellent athletes who represented Rockland in national, regional or state events this past year.

Regards,

Pete Scheibner, Chairman

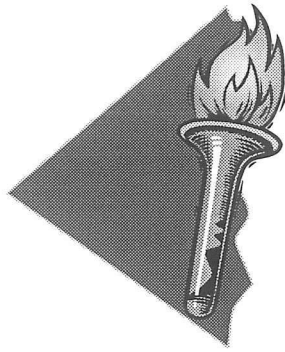
CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL INDUCTEES



BRUCE & PHYLLIS SCHWEIZER

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19 NORTH WILLIAM STREET • PEARL RIVER, NY 10965
PHONE 845-735-2523 • FAX 845-735-0182



Dinner Program

Call to Order and Welcome.....Chairman Peter Scheibner
Invocation.....Rev. Jack Branford
Pledge of AllegianceJoe Holland
Master of CeremoniesDan White

United Church of S.V.

Committees

DinnerPat D'Auria
Program Book.....Peter Scheibner
Screening/Editor.....Jamie Kempton
ShrineFrank McGarvey, Kathy Dapolito
TicketsDan White

2001 Inductees

GEORGE DALZELL
GERALD D'AURIA
SETH JOYNER

TOD GILES
DEBBIE GRANT
BILL WHITE

Concluding Remarks and ThanksPeter Scheibner

ENSHRINEMENT REQUIREMENTS

The Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame was established to honor outstanding professional and amateur sportsmen and sportswomen, living and deceased, who have gained prominence while competing or residing in Rockland County. To be considered for nomination to the 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.
- 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 Jamie Kempton: 55 Prospect St., Nanuet, NY 10954. Nominees are reviewed by this committee and, if accepted, voted upon for enshrinement by the committee as a whole.

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 Allison-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 152 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 significant force 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
- Haverstraw Little League Save the Fields Fund • American Cancer Society
- Special Olympics • Venture

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (OFFICERS)

Peter Scheibner	<i>Chairman</i>
Kathy Dapolito	<i>Vice Chairman</i>
Ethel Doller	<i>Secretary</i>
Marie Aussner	<i>Treasurer</i>

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Frank McGarvey	Joe Grasso	Peter Castellano	Steve Drummond
Bryan Hassett	Dick Yerg	Jamie Kempton	Jim Kane
Pat D'Auria	Gibby Sweet	Dan White	Bob Veltidi
Gene Erickson	John Hanlon		

Rockland County Hall of Fame Past Recipients

1974

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

1975

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

1976

H. Parker Talman*
John Koster*
Jim Ridlon
Pete D'Auria*
Gloria Callan 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 Schnaars
Nicholas "Nick" Mottola*

1979

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

1980

Dr. Jeffrey Munson
Arthur Orlando*
Britain Paterson*
Nicholas 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 "Molly" McGee*

1987

Fred Hahn*
Charles Holbrook
Chuck Scarpulla
James Stamos
Robert Strack

* Denotes Deceased

Rockland County Hall of Fame Past Recipients

(Continued)

1988

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

1993

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

1998

Kevin Kane
Lou Kliewe
Rocco Marano
Howie McNiff
Blaise Winter

1989

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

1994

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

1999

Jim Cann
Joe Casarella
Ervan Levine*
William "Gibby" Sweet
Dick Yerg

1990

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

1995

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

2000

Rich Conklin
Kevin Houston
Dawn Royster
Sarah Will
Alex Zilko*

1991

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

1996

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

1992

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

1997

Mike Hagon
Hank Kapusinsky
Tom Mounkhal
Dennis Pozsar
Steve Wanamaker

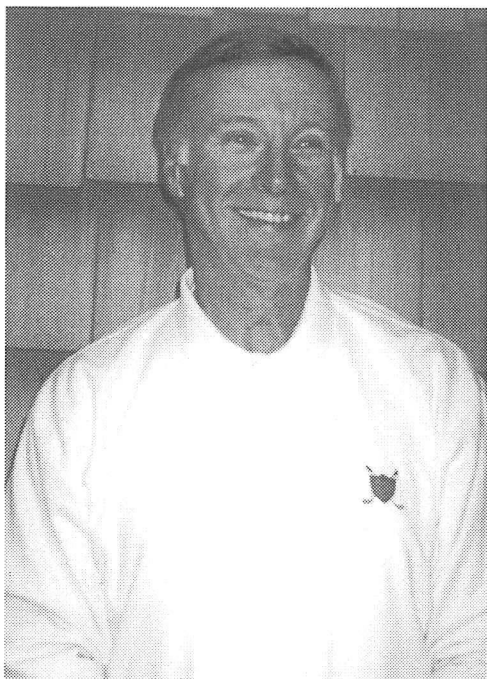
* Denotes Deceased

GEORGE DALZELL

Maybe you've heard of George Dalzell, maybe you haven't. Although he didn't compete against Rockland scholastic competition, Dalzell, a New City resident, left an indelible mark at every stop in his storied athletic career.

Take his post-collegiate basketball career, for example. Dalzell played for three and a half years on a traveling U.S. All-Star team that toured every continent but Antarctica. Dalzell averaged close to 30 points per game during that barnstorming odyssey.

Although he never reached the highest level of professional basketball, Dalzell was chosen in the fourth round of the 1967 National Basketball Association draft by the Detroit Pistons, and was selected in the third round of the 1968 American Basketball Association draft by the Dallas Chaparrals, who promptly traded his rights to the Denver Rockets. After returning from his extended tour with the U.S. team in 1971, Dalzell attended the Rockets' training camp, but was cut in the preseason.



Opponents in the Metropolitan Basketball League knew the name George Dalzell. Boy, did they know it. In the 1971 season, Dalzell averaged a Chamberlain-esque 48 points per game while playing for a team sponsored by the Rockland County Carpenters Union. That year, he broke scoring records in the Kingston, Poughkeepsie and Staten Island tournaments. He also scored 50 points against the Letchworth Five, then a highly regarded Rockland semipro team that featured such stars as Paul Toscano and Al and Art Orlando.

Dalzell's collegiate career was nearly as sensational. At Colgate University, he earned All-America honorable mention accolades his senior year, 1967. In his freshman year, he broke the school one-game scoring mark of 46 points, which had been set by future NBA great Carl Braun. Dalzell averaged 24 points per game his junior year, which ranked 23rd in the nation, and averaged 26.5 points a game as a senior, when he was team captain. He also earned All-East honors in 1966.

At the Hackley School in Tarrytown, from which he graduated in 1963, Dalzell excelled in basketball, cross country and baseball. Hackley competed in the eight-team Ivy League and the 61-team Metropolitan (New York) Prep School League. In basketball, Dalzell was a three-year team captain and three-year All-Ivy League player. In both his junior and senior years, he was: league MVP; All-Westchester County first team; Metropolitan Area Prep School Player of the Year; and Metropolitan Area All-Prep first team.

Dalzell set the following basketball scoring records while at Hackley: career school record, 1,485 points; season school record, 591 points; Ivy League one-season record, 402 points; and Ivy

League career record, 997 points. Additionally, he was Westchester County scoring leader in his junior (24.2 ppg) and senior (28.7 ppg) seasons. Led by Dalzell, Hackley was Westchester County Private/Parochial School team champion in 1963 and runner-up in 1962.

In cross country, Dalzell, the team captain, broke the 14-year-old Hackley course record and earned All-Westchester County laurels his senior year, when he won 12 duals meets and took one second place in 14 meets. He also finished second in the league both his junior and senior years. He also captained the baseball team his senior year and earned All-Ivy League acclaim as a pitcher. Dalzell tossed two one-hitters, six two-hitters and registered seven shutouts, en route to a career mark of 15-5.

Although he had minimal experience in organized football, the 6-foot-2, 190-pound Dalzell showed enough athletic ability to be chosen as a free agent by the Dallas Cowboys in 1967, after graduation from Colgate. He opted to pursue basketball, however.

Dalzell, a 55-year-old New City resident, is a commercial real estate broker specializing in leasing and management. He and his wife Susan, have two grown children, Christopher, 28, and Lauren, 21.

HACKLEY

GERALD D'AURIA

If you listen to longtime Nyackers, when they get to reminiscing about their athletic stars of yesteryear, you'll hear the name D'Auria bandied about quite frequently. Who was the best athlete? Pete D'Auria? Pat D'Auria? Jerry D'Auria? Each of the brothers (there were six of them) has his supporters. In the 1930s, it seemed like a D'Auria was always making headlines, driving in the winning run, making the game-saving play, sinking the clinching shot.

The argument will go on as long as Nyackers' institutional memories freeze those athletic moments in their mind's eye for posterity, and probably longer. There's no arguing one fact, however: now there are three D'Aurias who will have the title "Rockland Hall of Famer" affixed to their names.



Jerry D'Auria, this year's recipient in the Old-Timers category, joins Pete (inducted 1976) and Pat (1988) in the Hall of Fame pantheon. A 1939 Nyack High School graduate, Jerry excelled in baseball and basketball. In basketball, he was a four-year starter for the Indians and made the All-County team twice, in the 1937-38 and 1938-39 seasons.

Baseball, though, was the sport in which he attained his greatest measure of fame. At Nyack, he played varsity ball for five seasons – from eighth through 12th grades. D'Auria was an All-County shortstop four consecutive years – 1936, 1937, 1938 and 1939 – and led the Rockland County Public School Athletic League in home runs in the 1938 and 1939 seasons.

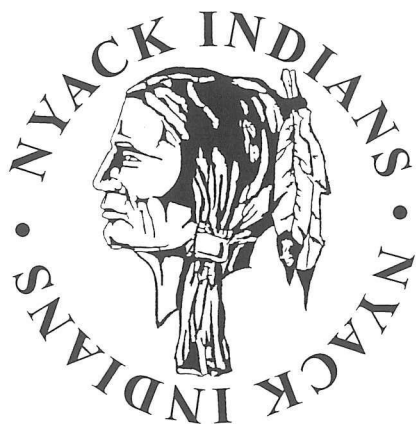
After graduating from Nyack, he attended Southwestern University in Lafayette, La., for one year, 1939-40. At Southwestern, he batted a robust .421 for the baseball team, and also played point guard for the basketball team.

In 1940, D'Auria was drafted by the Lafayette (La.) White Sox, a Class D farm team of the Chicago White Sox. Just three weeks into his tenure with the team, in April 1941, he was drafted into the United States Army. In his 34-month military stint, during which he earned five Battle Stars, D'Auria played on the All-Service baseball team, competing with and against major league players and touring all over European war zones.

After obtaining his honorable discharge from military duty in 1946, D'Auria played one year of professional baseball, batting .287 for the Nyack Rockies of the Class D North American League. He set a league record with 11 RBI in a doubleheader (two grand slams and a bases-clearing triple). He then retired from baseball to run Jerry's, a candy store and soda

fountain on Main Street in Nyack, until 1995. He also coached CYO basketball at St. Ann's in Nyack for 20 years, and was elected a Nyack village trustee for two terms.

A longtime Nyack resident, D'Auria, who is 82, now lives in Stony Point. His wife, Alice Welsh D'Auria, died in 1994. Jerry and Alice D'Auria had 10 children, three of whom are deceased.



TOD GILES

In the sport of wrestling, a sport of patience and perseverance and tolerance of pain, Tod Giles has persevered more than just about any wrestler in Rockland County history. Although he did not reach the pinnacle of amateur sport, the Olympic Games – Charles Strack of Nyack, a 1928 Olympian, is the only Rockland wrestler to climb that peak – Giles can be justifiably proud of his enduring body of work while striving to attain the Olympic ideal.

The 1980 Ramapo High School graduate parlayed the lessons learned under Coach Tom Canty into a sterling two-decade portfolio of success at every level. Twice he was in contention for an Olympic berth and twice he came tantalizingly close to his goal.

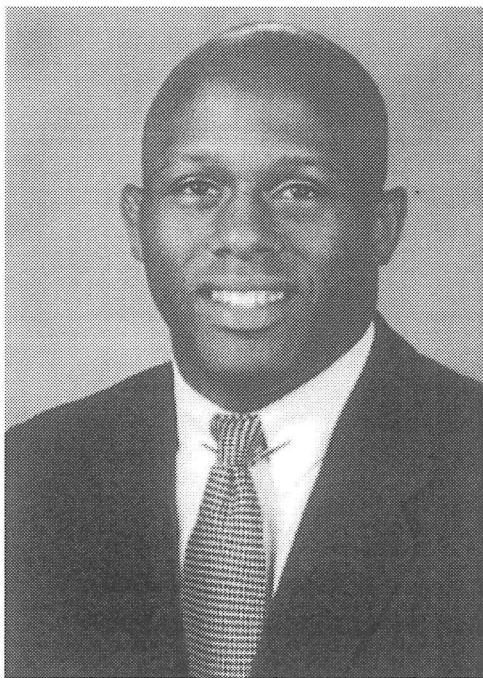
In the 1996 U.S. Greco-Roman Olympic Trials, competing at 180.5 pounds, Giles finished third, which means he was second alternate to the Olympic team. And eight years earlier, in the 1988 Greco-Roman Olympic Trials, competing at 198 pounds, he finished fourth (despite wrestling with a dislocated collarbone), thus becoming the third alternate to the Olympic team. That same year, he defeated two-time world champion Vladimir Popov of the Soviet Union en route to winning the Haparanda Cup in Sweden.

The life of an elite wrestler is one of physical hardship and health maintenance; injuries are an almost inevitable byproduct of such rigorous one-on-one contact. Like other grapplers, Giles has had his share – bulging neck disk, broken foot, dislocated collarbone, other ailments – but each time he was able to overcome the setback and re-establish his presence on the national level.

Three times Giles finished second in the U.S. Greco-Roman National Championships, competing at 198 pounds in 1988 and 1989, and at 187 pounds in 1997. All told, he is a nine-time place-winner at the World Championship team trials and a seven-time place-winner at the Greco-Roman National Championships. Furthermore, he's a five-year Team USA member; four-time member of the U.S. Marine Corps All-Marine wrestling team; and the 1988 World Military Games freestyle champion.

At Ramapo, wrestling at 177 pounds, Giles was a two-time New York State place-winner – third his senior year and sixth his junior year; a two-time Section 9 (Rockland, Orange, Ulster, Sullivan counties) and two-time Rockland County champion; and a two-time runner-up in the Empire State Games scholastic division. He also was a second-team All-County running back in football twice for the Gryphons and competed in track as well.

At Boston University (he wrestled his freshman year at Rhode Island), Giles became the school's first All-America wrestler, achieving the feat in his senior year, 1984, at 190 pounds. He was a four-time New England Conference tournament titlist and four-time NCAA qualifier, and



also won an Empire State Games gold medal in the open division while a student at BU.

Giles felt an obligation early in his career to give back to the sport that has given him so much. In 1985-86, as a 23-year-old, he was head coach of the combined Spring Valley/Ramapo (East Ramapo) wrestling team. He followed that up with stints as assistant coach at BU, Georgia State, East Ramapo again and Army, followed by a two-year head-coaching assignment at Army.

As a U.S. Marine, he earned a National Defense medal for his involvement in Operation Desert Storm. Giles, who is 39, and his wife, Leonie, reside in Harriman in Orange County. They are expecting their first child in July.

RAMAPO GRYPHONS

DEBBIE GRANT

From Ramapo High School to Villanova University to national and international fame, Debbie Grant has represented Rockland County better than any female track and field athlete ever has.

In fact, based on the quality and longevity of her 22-year athletic career, the graceful, quietly confident Grant has put together one of the greatest records of achievement in Rockland County, in any sport. To reduce her career to a set of numbers would not do justice to the impact the 1983 Ramapo graduate has had on the track and field landscape. But since the facts and figures best illuminate her greatness, they bear retelling here:



- Only three Rocklanders have ever competed in the Olympic Games. Grant came within four one-hundredths of a second of being the fourth overall and first for track and field. In the 1988 U.S. Olympic Trials, she placed fourth in the 800-meter (half-mile) run in 1 minute, 59.97 seconds. The third-place finisher ran 1:59.93 in a photo finish. The top three finishers qualify for the Olympic Games. No Rockland track athlete has come closer to making the Olympics.

- In the 1992 U.S. Olympic Trials – the trials are held every four years – Grant finished fifth in the 800 meters, missing an Olympic berth by two places. And just last year, in the 2000 Olympic Trials, she placed sixth in the 1500 meters (the metric mile). In all, she has competed in five U.S. Olympic Trials (1984, 1988, 1992, 1996, 2000), more than any other Rockland track athlete.

- At Ramapo, Grant won the U.S. Junior National (under age 20) championship – Rockland County's first – in the 400-meter hurdles, and thus earned high school All-America status. Her time, 59.83, is sixth-fastest ever in New York State. She was a five-time New York State champion; three-time Rockland County Track and Field Athlete of the Year; County record-holder in the 400-meter hurdles and 400-meter relay, and the indoor 600-yard run (1:22.61); and holder of numerous school records.

- At Ramapo, under the direction of Coach Jim Pollard and his staff, Grant helped lead the Gryphons' small but talented squad to four straight Rockland County team championships and four consecutive Section 9 (Rockland, Orange, Ulster, Sullivan counties) team titles.

- At Villanova, she was a seven-time collegiate All-America; 14-time Big East Conference champion; member of the fastest collegiate 4x800-meter relay team in history; Villanova women's record-holder for the 800-meter run (2:00.47); and a member of the Villanova University Hall of Fame.

- In her post-collegiate career, aside from her Olympic Trials performances, Grant was 1988

U.S. Olympic Festival champion in the 800 meters; 11 times she has been ranked in the top 10 in the U.S., primarily in the 800; 14 times she has been a U.S. Championships finalist at 800, 1,500 or 3,000 meters; and twice she competed in the U.S. versus Great Britain Dual Meet. She also registered several high finishes in track meets on the competitive European circuit.

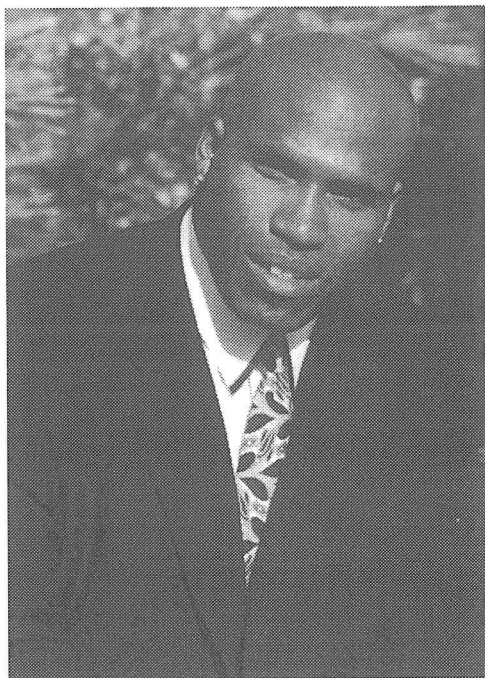
Today, at age 35, Grant, who is a native of Kingston, Jamaica, continues to compete in track and field, and is still one of America's better 800- and 1,500-meter female runners. After earning her bachelor's and masters degrees in civil engineering from Villanova, she embarked on a career in that profession. Currently she is a facilities engineer for North Brunswick, N.J.-based Equiva Technical Services, a company that manages maintenance and construction for Shell and Texaco gas stations. She has two children, Kyle, 10, and Myles, 3.

RAMAPO
GRYPHONS

SETH JOYNER

Few athletes in Rockland County have staked out a niche in the sporting firmament like Seth Joyner. The 1982 Spring Valley High School graduate is one of the three finest football players this county has ever produced. Only Danny Fortmann, the NFL Hall of Fame lineman from Pearl River, and Howard Parker Talman, the three-time collegiate All-America from Spring Valley, share the rarefied gridiron prominence claimed by Joyner.

In the 1991 season, Joyner, an outside linebacker for the Philadelphia Eagles, was named NFL Player of the Year by Sports Illustrated magazine, was the Associated Press runner-up for Defensive Player of the Year, and earned the first of his three Pro Bowl selections. He spearheaded a tenacious Eagles defense that ranked first in the league in total defense (221.8 yards per game), rushing yards (71 yards) and passing defense (150.8 yards). Joyner wound up with 6 sacks, 3 interceptions, 6 forced fumbles and 4 fumble recoveries. Two of those recoveries he returned for touchdowns, equaling an NFL seasonal record.



At 6-foot-2, 230 pounds, Joyner – who also played middle linebacker early in his pro career – could rush the passer, drop back into coverage and stuff a short-yardage play with equal proficiency. In an era of specialization and situational substitutions, Joyner was a novelty – he played on all defensive downs.

After being drafted in the eighth round of the 1986 NFL draft by Philadelphia, Joyner enjoyed a stellar 13-year career with the Eagles (1986-93), Arizona Cardinals (1994-96), Green Bay Packers and Denver Broncos. Joyner developed a reputation as a fierce, outspoken competitor who thrived under Coach Buddy Ryan's regime in Philadelphia. After a six-year absence from the postseason, the Eagles reached the playoffs four times in five years from 1988 to 1992.

After three solid years with the Cardinals, Joyner joined the defending champion Packers and started the last 10 games of the 1997 season, which culminated in a Super Bowl loss to the Broncos. Ironically, he was acquired by Denver the following season and, in his final NFL game, helped the Broncos to a 34-19 victory over the Atlanta Falcons in Super Bowl XXXIII.

Joyner showed early signs of promise as a linebacker for the Spring Valley High School football team. He garnered first-team All-County and second-team All-State honors as a linebacker, and also starred as a running back for the Tigers. Joyner's coach at Spring Valley, Mark Katz, saw him as a driven, goal-oriented role model:

"Seth is a prime example of a kid who did everything right. He gives other kids in the Spring Valley community someone to look up to. They can say, 'I know that guy,' and strive to be like

him. I'm proud of him, but I was proud of him way back. He's a self-made player."

At the University of Texas at El Paso, Joyner starred at outside linebacker, leading the Miners in tackles in his junior and senior years. When Joyner reached the NFL, his coach at UTEP, Bill Yung, recognized the storybook aspect of Joyner's rise from humble beginnings to the pro ranks.

"A lot of young men have dreams of making the NFL. They watch the games on TV, but for almost all of them, that's as far as it goes. The dream vanishes. But Seth wouldn't give up. For him, the dream visualized."

In May 2000, Joyner signed a contract with the Eagles so he could officially retire with the team that gave him the opportunity to make it in the NFL. Joyner, who is 36, lives in the Phoenix suburb of Paradise Valley.



BILL WHITE

There are certain athletic programs in Rockland County that have developed reputations as consistently successful, state-caliber systems, year in and year out. The common denominator among those programs is stability derived from an established coaching staff. Oftentimes the greater the continuity of the coaching staff, the higher the likelihood of success in the program.

Such is the case with Suffern High School wrestling. In the past half-century, you can count on one hand the number of head coaches who have guided the Mounties' fortunes. Current Suffern coach Mickey DeSimone has inherited a legacy of prosperity begun by George Fuge and continued by Guy Guccione. A pivotal link in that chain is Guccione's successor and DeSimone's predecessor, Bill White.



Bill White and wrestling are the perfect fit: a stoic man for an austere sport. It's been said that effort is making someone do what they don't want to do. Bill White made high school wrestlers do what they didn't want to do, and that act of persuasion – with a little hands-on help from "Whitey" – led to a Mountie victory monopoly on the wrestling mats.

During his 18-year reign as Suffern head coach, 1970-1988, White won eight Rockland County Public School Athletic League championships; five sectional titles, three in Section 9 (Rockland, Orange, Ulster, Sullivan counties) through 1983 and two in Section 1 (Rockland, Westchester, Putnam, Dutchess counties) from 1984-88; and coached 29 individual sectional titleholders and seven state place-winners.

White compiled a career dual-meet record of 179 wins, 54 losses and 3 ties for a .727 winning percentage. His total of 179 wins stood as the Rockland County record for scholastic wrestling coaching victories until Rich Conklin of Nanuet – who's also a Rockland Hall of Famer – surpassed it in 2000.

Like Fuge, Guccione and DeSimone, White always sought out the best competition he could find to forge a hardened, battle-tested Mountie unit ready to withstand the rigors of postseason competition. His 1979, 1980 and 1981 clubs put together a 39-match winning streak, second longest in county history to Suffern's 84-meet win skein under Fuge in the 1950s. White team's also attained several top-10 state rankings, with a high of No. 4 in his final year of coaching, 1987-88.

And how's this for single-match supremacy: in the 1980 Rockland County Tournament – White rates the 1979-80 Mountie team as one of his two best, along with the 1972-73 edition –

Suffern placed 12 wrestlers in the 13 championship finals; 11 of them won.

White was no slouch as an athlete himself. In wrestling, the 1958 Suffern High School graduate won four Rockland County championships and four Section 9 titles as well. He also was the starting varsity quarterback for the Suffern football team in his junior and senior years.

After graduating from Penn State University (where he was a wrestling teammate of Guccione), White spent three years as a teacher and coach at Newburgh Free Academy. At Newburgh, he produced several Orange County champions, four Section 9 titlists and one New York State champ. White then returned to Suffern and spent three years as assistant varsity wrestling coach to Guccione, also a Rockland Hall of Famer.

White was inducted into the New York State Wrestling Hall of Fame in 1993, and he currently serves as president of that organization.

Since 1990, White has enjoyed a second successful coaching career, in skiing. His Suffern skiing teams have won numerous league and county titles in both boys and girls competition, and both programs are closing in on 100 wins under his tutelage.

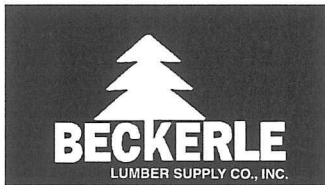
White, who is 60 and lives in Sloatsburg, was a longtime physical education instructor at Suffern High School. In 1999 he completed a 10-year tenure as the school's director of physical education. His philosophy as a physical educator carried over to his work in wrestling.

"I considered [wrestling] an extension of the educational situation," says White, who has been married for 41 years to wife Carol and has four grown children. "I wanted it to be a positive experience for every kid. I may have sacrificed some individual (success) for the good of the team, but I'm a team person and that's how it's been done at Suffern."



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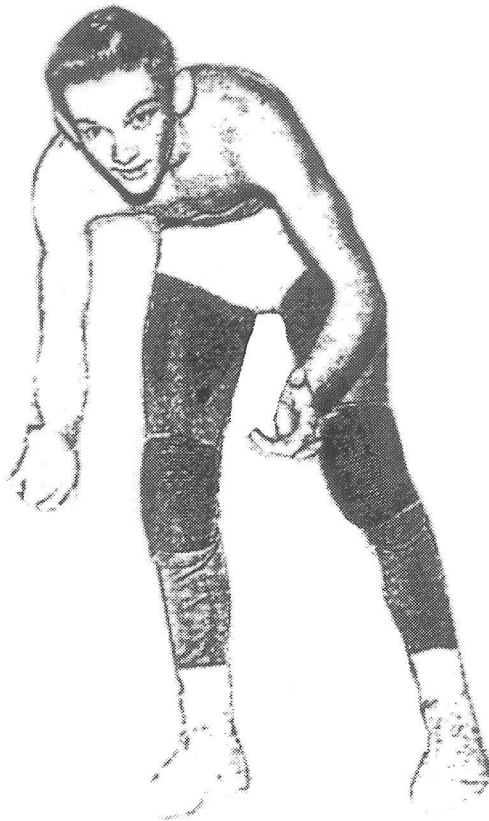
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Seth Joyner - Spring Valley

Bill White - Suffern

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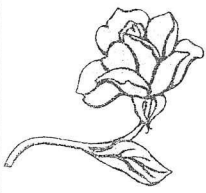
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Bill White - Suffern

On Your Induction Into
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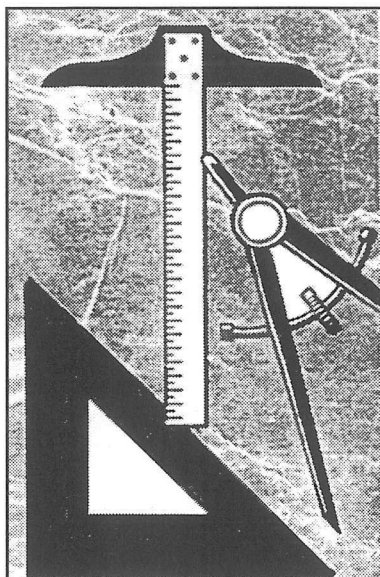
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Sports Hall of Fame**



C. Scott Vanderhoef
County Executive

Congratulations to

Tod Giles
Debbie Grant
and
Seth Joyner

upon you induction into

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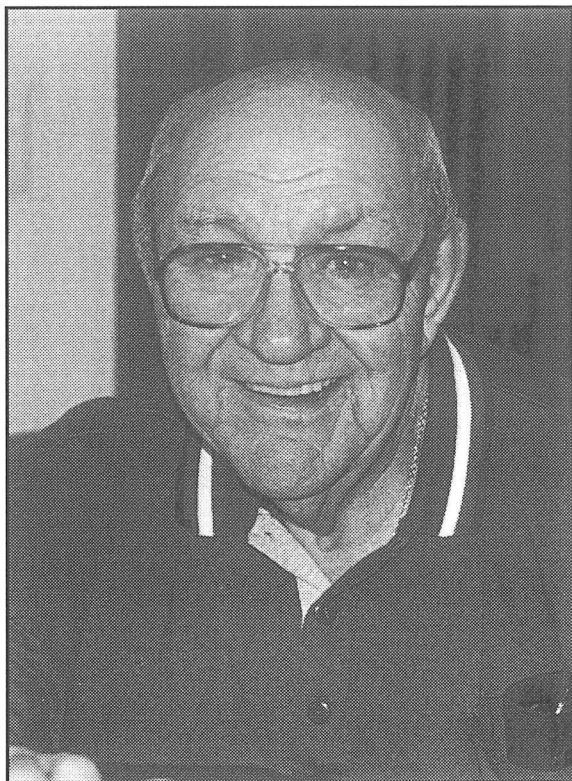
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In memory of Al Bogitsh,
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committee member. We mourn
his passing, and salute his
years of dedicated service.

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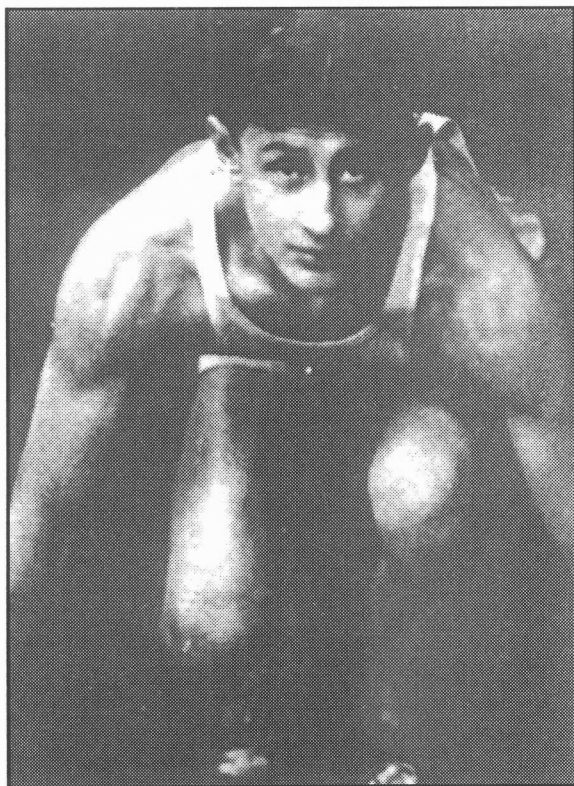


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Rockland County Hall of Fame

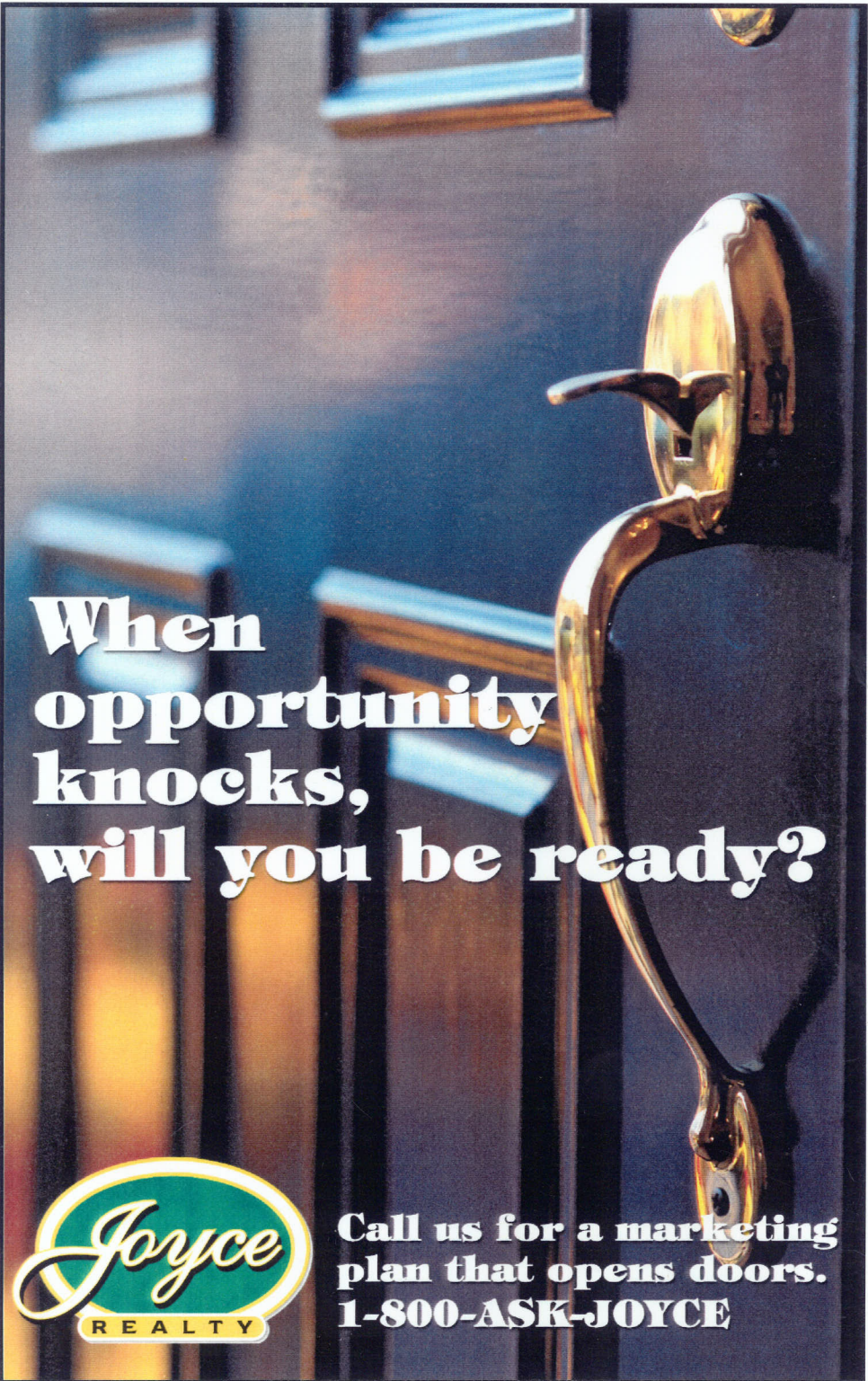
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