



Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame

Welcome to the 29th annual induction ceremony of the Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame. This is our annual showcase, a chance to bring together the local athletic community in a collective celebration of a new class of Hall of Famers. We also use this forum to update you on positive developments within the organization.

The Hall of Fame committee is heartened by the quality and volume of athletic résumés submitted in recent years, which supplement the many strong holdover nominations from prior years. Because of this wealth of high-quality candidates—and we are continually seeking more submissions (see page 4 for details)—our voting is virtually guaranteed to produce a bounty of star-quality inductees.

This year is no exception. Major league baseball shortstop Walt Weiss of Suffern; NFL running back Derrick Lassic of North Rockland; Albertus Magnus track and cross-country coach Dick Teetsel; Nanuet basketball standout Norinne Powers, who played professionally in Europe; and Suffern lacrosse star Kris Snider constitute this year's class, bringing the total to 158 enshrined since 1974.

The Old-Timers category initiated three years ago attempts to give proper recognition to accomplished athletes who were active before 1950. This year's recipient is Ken Harniman, a multi-sport star from Nanuet who attended Nyack High School (1929-33).

The Hall of Fame is only as strong as the constituencies that support it, and we are encouraged by the groundswell of interest shown by many local high schools in establishing their own athletic halls of fame. With the recent addition of Nanuet and the revival of Spring Valley's hall, eight of the 11 Rockland high schools now have halls of fame. These groups can serve as feeders of future résumés to us, as cooperative ties are forged between the county body and the respective school entities.

In keeping with our tradition on this page, we take a moment to note the passing in the past year of inductees and friends of our organization. Joe Klopchin, a 1995 inductee, starred in baseball and soccer for Congers High (1944-48) and in amateur and semipro baseball. Bob Mathias, a 1986 inductee and 1972 Clarkstown High alumnus, was one of Rockland's greatest basketball players. Our prayers go out to them and their families.

Finally, a nod of appreciation to those people who help keep our organization strong via their diligent efforts: Kathy Dapolito, vice chair; Ethel Doller, secretary; Pete Castellano, treasurer; Marie Aussner, past treasurer; Dan White, ticket chairman and master of ceremonies; Jamie Kempton, screening committee chair and program editor; Gibby Sweet, dinner arrangements; Bruce Schweizer of Quality Graphics, Pearl River; and Tom Doherty, Pearl River schools.

Regards,

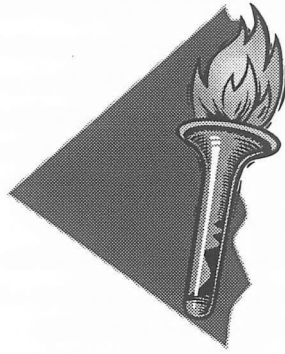
Pete Scheibner, Chairman

***Rockland County
Sports Hall of Fame
List of Inductees***

<u>INDUCTEE</u>	<u>PLAQUE SPONSOR</u>	<u>INTRODUCED BY</u>
KEN HARNIMAN	Sponsor Needed	Dick Harniman
DERRICK LASSIC	Sponsor Needed	Pete Matone
NORINNE POWERS	Sponsor Needed	Dave Powers
KRIS SNIDER	Sponsor Needed	John Orlando
DICK TEETSEL	Rockland County Track Officials Association	Larry Beckerle
WALT WEISS	Sponsor Needed	Ron Gamma

*The Hall of Famers social hour (6 p.m. to 7 p.m.)
is being sponsored by Gibby Sweet, Gene Erickson and George Dalzell..*

*The regular cocktail hour (7 p.m. to 8 p.m.)
is being sponsored by Paul Miller Toyota.*



Dinner Program

Call to Order and Welcome.....Chairman Peter Scheibner
InvocationRev. Raymond Caliman
Pledge of AllegianceJoe Holland
Master of CeremoniesDan White
VocalistRev. Rosie Jackson

Committees

DinnerPat D'Auria, Gibby Sweet
Program Book.....Peter Scheibner
Screening/Editor.....Jamie Kempton
Shrine..... Kathy Dapolito
TicketsDan White

2002 Inductees

KEN HARNIMAN	KRIS SNIDER
DERRICK LASSIC	DICK TEETSEL
NORINNE POWERS	WALT WEISS

Concluding Remarks and ThanksPeter Scheibner

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 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.

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, N.Y. 10980, or e-mail him at scheibner@erols.com.

Each inductee in the Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame receives a commemorative 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 158 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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (OFFICERS)

Peter Scheibner*Chairman*
Kathy Dapolito.....*Vice Chairman*
Ethel Doller*Secretary*
Peter Castellano*Treasurer*

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Steve Dugandzic	Joe Grasso	Peter Castellano	Chris Michie
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Pat D'Auria	Gibby Sweet	Dan White	Bob Veltidi
Gene Erickson	John Hanlon		



Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame Nomination Form

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

Current
Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ 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:

Jamie Kempton
Chairman, Selection Committee
Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame
55 Prospect St.
Nanuet, NY 10954

The Rockland County
Sports Hall of Fame
wishes to thank the
following businesses for their
generous support of our organization:

Posa Posa, Nanuet
Eureka House, Suffern
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very
important
to us!

Rockland County Hall of Fame Inductees

1974	1979	1983
Chuck Aleno	Bob Bacheller*	Warren Austin*
Henry "Peck" Artopee*	Frank Cosentino	Jim Brechbiel
Dr. Daniel "Danny" Fortmann*	Harry "Dee" Dembnicki	Frank Dawson
Joseph "JoJo" Mackey	Jerry Hollahan*	Jeanette Paddock
Howard "Howie" Pierson	Bob Grossman	Walter Sickles*
	E.J. Maurer*	
	Bruno Ablondi*	
1975	1980	1984
Roger Brown	Dr. Jeffrey Munson	Jim Ashcroft
Joe D'Auria	Art Orlando*	Marvin Branche
Bill Drescher*	Brit Paterson*	Ralph Cordisco
Billy Hogan*	Nick Ryder	Bryan Hassett
Donald "Pop" Sherwood*	Horace Tyrus	Bob Tierney*
	Emil Willis*	
	Mickey Wittman	
1976	1981	1985
Howard Parker Talman*	Art Hopper*	Wil Arietta*
John Koster*	Frank Horan	Joseph "Josh" Bolack*
Jim Ridlon	Howard Johnson	Gene Erickson
Pete D'Auria*	Lester Lepori*	Tony Gemma
Gloria Callan Jones	Walter Ostrom	Joe St. Lawrence*
	Victor Shankey*	
	Bill Yuda*	
1977	1982	1986
Augusta Bradley Chapman*	Frank DePatto*	Joe Alleva
Nick Gamboli*	Tony Gamboli, Jr.	John Jemison
Ed Greene	Bill Perry*	Harold Lederman
Harry Jackson*	George Jakowenko	Bob Mathias*
Paul Toscano	Ed McGrath	Sylvester "Molly" McGee*
Richard "Gus" Shankey*		
1978		1987
Jim Brown		Fred Hahn*
Harold "Hale" DeChelfin*		Charles Holbrook
Jim Faulk*		Chuck Scarpulla
Ira Shuttleworth*		Jim Stamos
Jim Schnaars		Bob Strack
Nick Mottola*		

* Denotes Deceased

Rockland County Hall of Fame Past Recipients

(Continued)

1988

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

1993

Jim Kane
Kathy Miller Dapolito
Jay Bohnel
Mike Deane
Don Driscoll

1998

Kevin Kane
Lou Kliewe
Rocco Marano
Howie McNiff
Blaise Winter

1989

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

1994

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

1999

Jim Cann
Joe Casarella
Ervan Levine*
Gibby Sweet
Dick Yerg

1990

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

1995

Ron 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
Lew Brundage
Johnny Burns*
Pete Haubner
Ethel Doller
Dominic Gamboli

1996

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

2001

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

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

KEN HARNIMAN

Name a sport, and Ken Harniman has probably done it. In his era—1929 to 1933—athletes were not steered toward specializing in one or two sports, as is frequently the case today. The former Nyack High School standout excelled or had an impact in six sports: track and field, cross country, football, basketball, tennis and bowling.

Harniman was the most versatile track athlete of his day. He ran the 100-yard dash, the 220-yard dash and the mile, did the running broad jump (now called the long jump), high jumped, threw the discus and shot put, and pole vaulted, usually earning points in each event.

In 1933, Harniman won the mile run in the Rockland County Public School Athletic League championships by more than 125 yards. In cross country, he was the 1931 Rockland County PSAL champion. He started the season on the Nyack football team, but switched to cross country after sustaining a broken wrist in the first game of the season. His standard strategy on cross-country courses was to start out in the back of the pack to push Nyack's other runners, then move ahead and usually wind up winning the race.

In basketball, Harniman, a 5-foot-7 guard, played three years of varsity ball. He was a defensive whiz; no opposing player ever scored more than 4 points off him. He also had a lower total of fouls than number of games played.

After graduating from Nyack in 1933, Harniman continued to flourish in a variety of sporting pursuits. At Western Illinois University in Macomb, Ill., he was the Leathernecks' top quarter-miler in track for two consecutive seasons, 1938-39 (he did not enter college right out of high school during the difficult Depression era).

Harniman also was Western Illinois' No.1 singles player in tennis those same years. Since tennis and track were both contested in the spring, some days he had to compete in the 440-yard dash and then play singles and doubles. On one occasion, the track meet ended in a tie. Harniman had to go play his tennis matches, then change back into his track equipment and run in a 440-yard relay to decide the meet.

Rockland County at that time offered a wealth of opportunity for post-scholastic athletes. In track, Harniman shone in Amateur Athletic Union-sanctioned open events. In football, he played guard, center and end at 131 pounds for the undefeated Nyack Alumni Chieftains in 1934, '35 and '36. And in basketball, from 1935 through 1937, he was a member of the famed Nyack Y Arrows, who played all over New York City, New Jersey, Long Island and Connecticut.

The Arrows played against such outstanding teams as the Detroit Clowns; Jamestown, the



perennial New York State YMCA champion; and Gregory's All-Stars of New York City. Some of Harniman's teammates were Ed Greene of Suffern, Jim Faulk of St. Agnes, Al Pennel, Glenn Ausbury and Bill Perry.

Harniman also played a major role in expanding the sports of tennis and bowling in Rockland. In tennis, he was instrumental in originating the Rockland County Men's Singles Tournament in 1935. At the time he was working as a physical director at the Nyack YMCA and assistant coach at Nyack High School. He umpired the later stages of matches, maintained the courts and even wrote articles on the tourney for The Journal-News. (He later was a longtime reporter for that newspaper.)

Following World War II, Harniman, as president of the Pearl River Tennis Club, started up the men's singles and doubles and women's singles tournaments on the Merritt Tennis Courts in Pearl River.

In addition, Harniman was a prime mover in women's bowling in Rockland, believing that everyone should be able to enjoy the sport equally. Upon taking over the Nyack YMCA Bowling Alleys and being put in charge of the pinboys, Harniman persuaded Ed Maurer, chairman of bowling at the Y, to set aside Wednesday nights as women's bowling night. He also convinced Maurer (a Rockland Hall of Fame bowler) to bring his experienced colleagues to the Y to teach the women how to bowl correctly. The women soon formed a league of their own.

Harniman, who is 86, served in the U.S. Army during World War II as a captain and main navigator for the 9th Army Air Force. He was shot down behind enemy lines and captured by the German Army. He managed to escape while interned as a Prisoner of War, but was later recaptured.

A longtime Nanuet resident, Harniman has suffered physical setbacks in recent years and now resides at the Castle Point Veterans Administration Hospital in Dutchess County. He has two grown children—Patricia, 56, and Robert, 55. His wife, Vera, is deceased.



DERRICK LASSIC

He had the speed: he outran all his Dallas Cowboys teammates with a 4.29-second 40-yard dash. He had the moves, once hurdling completely over an upright defender en route to a scholastic championship game-clinching touchdown. And he had the drive, possessing one of the finest work ethics his high school coach had ever seen.

Put it all together and you've got a football player for the ages. Derrick Lassic, North Rockland High School Class of 1988, parlayed his physical gifts and inner fortitude into one of the greatest gridiron careers in Rockland athletic history. He went on to star at the University of Alabama and spent three years in the NFL with the Cowboys.

At the conclusion of his high school career, Lassic—then known as Derrick Owens—was dubbed "the best pure tailback I've ever coached" by Joe Casarella, North Rockland's head football coach. At 5-foot-11, 180 pounds (200 in the pros), Lassic's ability to immediately zip through holes in the line of scrimmage set him up for long ground-gainers and scoring dashes.

And oh, could he score. In his senior season, 1987, Lassic scored a county-record 194 points—more than any other entire team in Rockland that year, and fifth-best ever in New York State up to that point. County records were ripe for his picking that year: he set marks for yards in a season, 1,719; touchdowns in a season, 31; and rushing touchdowns in a season, 26. The sure-handed tailback carried the ball 245 times that season without a fumble, and wound up his scholastic career with 2,846 rushing yards.

He led North Rockland to a 10-0 record that season (as well as a 9-1 mark the previous year) and its third straight Section 1 Class A bowl win, a 29-19 thriller over Roosevelt of Yonkers. In that game, Lassic leaped completely over a stunned Roosevelt defender in the open field and completed a spectacular, game-clinching 60-yard touchdown run that is still talked about today.

Lassic's milestone season earned him 1987 New York State large-school Player of the Year honors from the state sportswriters association. He was also named to USA Today's High School All-America football team and received the MVP Junior Heisman award for the New York metropolitan area from the Downtown Athletic Club in New York City.

After enrolling at the University of Alabama, Lassic redshirted his freshman season and played sporadically until his junior year, when he was one of two primary ball-carriers for

