

### The Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame

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(6–7 pm)
is being sponsored by
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The regular Cocktail Hour (7–8 pm) is being sponsored by INTERSTATE TOYOTA



#### Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame

Welcome to the 37th annual induction ceremony of the Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame. This anniversary affords us an opportunity to honor past enshrinees while saluting a new group of exceptional athletes.

The Class of 2010 continues the tradition of excellence that has epitomized the Rockland Hall of Fame. Included among this year's headliners are T.J. Ford, a highly successful multi-sport athlete for Nanuet who received the New York State Class C Football Player of the Year award as leader of an undefeated and unscored upon 1989 football team; Barbara Mellen-Speerin, a four-sport standout for Clarkstown North in the mid 1970's; Margie Sahlstrom-Jaxel, a 1992 Nanuet graduate who was a seven-time All-County performer and first team All-State soccer player; Robbie Woods, a first team All-State selection in football and basketball in the mid 1970's who then went on to become a successful football and girls basketball coach at Ramapo; Mike Sparago, a 1982 Suffern graduate and three sport athlete who was the fourth-leading rusher in RCPSAL football and went on to play Class 1 professional hockey; Joe Conace, 1941 Nyack standout who played baseball, football and wrestled and is a decorated World War II veteran; and Sol "Spike" Israel, Spring Valley class of 1946, who was an outstanding football and wrestling champ and became a highly regarded wrestling referee. Unfortunately Spike, who lives year round in Deland, Fla., will not be able to attend this year's induction ceremony due to his fragile health.

The Hall of Fame is always seeking high-quality candidates to consider for induction. We applaud the continuing efforts of local high school halls of fame to honor their past stars and to assist us in obtaining the resumes of top candidates from the respective schools.

We acknowledge and congratulate Tom Collins, a distinguished Hall of Fame inductee (1994), board member and colleague who will be retiring as Pearl River athletic director in June. We wish him much success.

We also wish to thank those people who make our organization an indispensable contributor to the Rockland sports community: Joni Neuendorf, vice chair; Ethel Doller, secretary; Pete Castellano, treasurer and ticket chair; Bob Veltidi, master of ceremonies and screening committee chair; Gibby Sweet, for dinner arrangements; Dan White, Gene Erickson, Tom Doherty and Jamie Kempton for their behind-the-scenes support; Phyllis and Bruce Schweizer of Quality Graphics; and the entire Board of Directors who all contribute to the support of the organization throughout the year.

Regards,

Pete Scheibner, Chairman

Visit our Web site at www.rcshf.org

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

INDUCTEE: **SOL** "**SPIKE**" **ISREAL** INTRODUCED BY: *Skip Feinberg* (*Nephew*)

#### INDUCTEE: JOE CONACE

INTRODUCED BY: Angela Weygant (Daughter)
TROPHY SPONSOR: Nyack American Legion Post 310, Nyack, NY
PLAQUE SPONSOR: Nyack American Legion Post 310, Nyack, NY

INDUCTEE: BARBARA MELLEN-SPEERIN INTRODUCED BY: Chris Markam (Softball Coach)

INDUCTEE: **T.J. FORD**INTRODUCED BY: *Mike Hussey* (Co-Capt, Teammate)

INDUCTEE: MIKE SPARAGO
INTRODUCED BY: John Orlando (Coach)

INDUCTEE: MARGIE SAHLSTROM-JAXEL INTRODUCED BY: Dave Powers (Coach)

INDUCTEE: ROBBIE WOODS
INTRODUCED BY: Derik Davis (Brother-in-law)
PLAQUE SPONSOR: Nyack High School



#### Dinner Program

Pledge of Allegiance	Gene Erickson		
National Anthem	Jean Marie Beckerle		
Master of Ceremonies	Bob Veltidi		
Committees			
Dinner	Gibby Sweet		
Program Book			
Screening/Editor	Bob Veltidi		
Tickets	Pete Castellano		

#### 2010 INDUCTEES

JOSEPH CONACE

T.J. FORD

SOL "SPIKE" ISRAEL

BARBARA MELLEN-SPEERIN

MARGIE SAHLSTROM-JAXEL

MIKE SPARAGO

ROBBIE WOODS

#### **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 Bob Veltidi, 400 Jersey Avenue, Greenwood Lake, NY 10925. 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 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 178 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)

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Joan Neuendorf	.Vice Chairman
Ethel Doller	Secretary
Peter Castellano	Treasurer

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Alan Veltidi	Dan White	Jim Kane	Jamie Kempton
	,		



#### Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame Nomination Form

Nominee:		
(Last)	(First)	(M)
Current Address: _		
Phone Number:		Date Submitted:
* If deceased, please gi	e name, address and pho	one number of family member.
H.S. and Year of C	raduation:	
College and Year o	of Graduation:	
nominee, both a possible. Incl	s a Rockland County ude varsity sports pla	st all of the significant accomplishments of the y resident and otherwise. Please be as specific as ayed in high school and college, dates, letters s set, post-collegiate achievements, etc.
* Please s	ubmit a clear black-a	and-white or color photo of the nominee.
	Non	ninating Person:
Last name:		First:
Address:		
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Please Submit to:

Bob Veltidi Chairman, Selection Committee Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame 400 Jersey Avenue Greenwood Lake, NY 10925

#### 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 Shuttleworth\* 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

#### Rockland County Hall of Fame Inductees

#### 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 Ruppert Frank Samoylo

#### 2005

Jane Ronner-Beckley Mike Carroll Tom Doherty Jamie Kempton Lee Klepper ††Leon Pesner\* Rudolph Reiholec\*

#### 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

\* Denotes Deceased † Old Timers Special Award †† Joe Holland Lifetime Achievement Award

#### JOSEPH CONACE Nyack High School

Joseph Conace is a proud member of "Our Greatest Generation", born in the 20's, raised in the 30's, served our country in 40's, then spent his life working to make this country a better place. Along the way loe, like many others of his age, realized the value of athletics in the total development of one's maturity. Joe Conace was a three sport athlete at Nyack High School, he lettered in wrestling, baseball, and football. On the mat, Joe was a fierce competitor, and on the baseball team he was known as a terrific clutch hitter, but Joe's forte was football. Joe was a tackle on Nyack High School's varsity football team and in 1940 was voted 1st team All Rockland County at that position. The Journal News cited Joe as the reason for Nyack's late season surge to a final position of 2nd place in the P.S.A.L. in 1940, calling him one of the "sturdiest linemen Nyack has ever seen". Playing both offense and defense, it was said that when loe tackles someone, "he tackles them for keeps!" Joe's biggest thrill was in his senior year, against rival Haverstraw High School when he scooped up a fumble on Haverstraw's twelve yard line and returned it for a touchdown. Nyack went on to win that game 7-6 on the strength of Joe's touchdown. Joe was a great student at Nyack High School as well as a great athlete. He was an American Legion Award winner, a member of the National Honor Society, a participant at Boys State and the class president.

After graduation from high school, Joe entered the army in 1943. He was a member the 35th Division of the 134 Infantry Regiment Company and served in the European theater. Joe was promoted to Sergeant in the field while serving in France and was wounded in 1944. Before his Honorable Discharge in 1946, Joe earned the following medals; Combat Infantry Badge, Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Conspicuous Service, Good Conduct, World War II Victory, and the Diplome Republique Francaise.

Back home in Nyack, Joe went to work for New York Telephone Nynex in March of 1947. Joe continued to stay active in athletics, playing



softball in Rockland County. While playing for Aero Mufflers in the Piermont Softball League, Joe went 5-5 with 3 runs scored in a victory over Gair Office. That 5-5 day ran his league leading streak to 11 hits in a row. Joe retired from New York Telephone in 1984 after 34 years of service to the company.

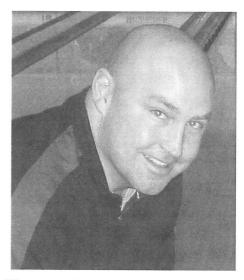
As a tribute to Joe's prominence as a Nyack personality, in 2005 he was selected as the Grand Marshall of the Nyack Memorial Day Parade. He was married to Victorine, who has since passed away, and raised two children, Angela (Weygant) and Anthony. Joe currently resides in West Nyack.



#### T.J. FORD Nanuet High School

Nanuet High School has had many championship football seasons, but there are none more memorable than the 1989 season. That year the football team was not only undefeated, and untied, but they were unscored upon on their way to a Section I Championship. T.J. Ford was the leader and moving force behind that team. But that was just in the fall; T.J. was also a standout for the Knights on the basketball court and lacrosse field. Playing on the football team, at running back, T.J. was a threat to score any time he touched the ball. One of 13 individual school records he amassed during his illustrious career with the Golden Knights was scoring 27 touchdowns, in just his senior year! T.J. was a threat on both sides of the ball. Playing linebacker, in the Section I championship game against Bronxville, T.J. hit a Bronxville player so hard, the crowd at Mount Vernon Stadium gasped in disbelief. Among his school records were: 5 rushing touchdowns in one game, 33 rushing attempts in one game, 27 touchdowns in a season, 1331 rushing yards in a season, 223 career points scored, 37 career touchdowns, and a career average per rush of 5.9 yards. For his efforts on the football field T.J. was voted All County twice, All League twice, and first team All Section in his senior year. To top it all off, T.J. was selected as the New York State Class C Player of the Year, as well as a New York Daily News First Team All Star.

T.J. was a leader in all three sports he played, serving as captain of the football, basketball, and lacrosse teams, and playing varsity ball for three years in each sport. In lacrosse, he was a two time All Section I midfielder who scored 31 goals and had 23 assists for the 1990 team, which posted a 16-1 record and was undefeated in the regular season. He also scored 20 goals and added 26 assists in 1989. As a point guard in basketball, T.J. was a vital contributor to the 1989 Nanuet team that advanced to the Section I Class final, scoring 245 points and averaging 12.9 points per game to earn All Section and All League honors. In his senior year T.J. scored 247 points with a 12.3 point average per game and again made All League. Being a Member of the National Honor Society,



T.J. was named a Journal News Scholar Athlete of the Week.

T.J. continued playing football in college at St. Cloud (Minn.) State University, an NCAA Division II school, for two years before suffering a severe ankle injury. He played well enough to win freshman of the year honors in the 1990 season. He later transferred to Dominican College in Blauvelt where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. T.J. has also earned an MBA from Iona College, and currently works in surgical sales for Stryker Orthopedics. He and his wife Deirdre live in Mahwah, New Jersey, with their two children Cailey, 6 and Ryan, 4.



Nanuet Golden Knights

#### SOL "SPIKE" ISRAEL Spring Valley High School

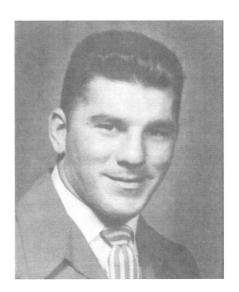
Beginning as an outstanding Rockland County high school athlete from Spring Valley, Sol "Spike" Israel went on to become one of the most respected and accomplished wrestling officials in Rockland County, and the United States. His career as an athlete, coach, and referee has spanned over 40 years.

Spike graduated from Spring Valley High School in 1946, earning 10 varsity letters. Along the way he was selected as a three time All County football player, a three time Rockland County finalist in wrestling and, in 1946 was the 154 lb. county champion. Being a three sport athlete, Spike also lettered in baseball three times.

Upon graduation from Spring Valley High School, Spike enrolled at Bergen County Community College in New Jersey, and played on the varsity football team. The following year, Spike transferred to Stetson University in DeLand, Florida, and played varsity football for three years - 1949, 50, 51. Spike is a proud member of the Stetson University Hall of Fame as starter on their 1951 Championship football team. He also managed to make the varsity golf team in 1950 and 51.

After Spike graduated from Stetson in 1952, he spent some time in Florida and Georgia as an assistant football coach. In 1959 Spike returned to the Northeast and his hometown of Spring Valley to teach and coach in New Jersey. Spike coached football, golf, and wrestling at a variety of schools in Bergen County. As a football coach Spike had the good fortune to coach four future NFL players: Jack Tatum of the Oakland Raiders being the most notable. In addition, in 1981 Spike was selected as the Bergen County Golf "Coach of the Year".

It was in the early 1960s that Spike began his career as a wrestling official. He started out officiating Rockland and Bergen County high school matches and soon became the most sought after referee in the area, especially for crucial matches. Spike worked many Rockland



County and Section Nine tournaments and has also officiated at the New York State Public High School Championship Tournament. Spike's wrestling officiating did not stop at the local high school level; he moved on to the collegiate level and had an outstanding career. As a member of the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Officials Association, Spike worked the Eastern States Wrestling Championship Tournament for over 15 years. Spike also officiated the Big 8 and the New York State Collegiate wrestling tournaments, and was elected "chief official" by his peers at both of these tournaments. Three times during his career, Spike was selected to officiate at the N.C.A.A. Division I Wrestling Championships. In 1989 Spike was inducted into the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Officials Association Hall of Fame.

Spike has since retired to DeLand, Florida, home of Stetson University, his alma mater.



#### BARBARA MELLEN-SPEERIN

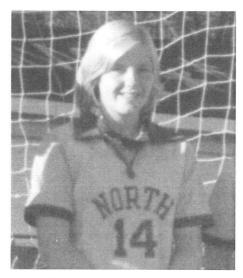
#### Clarkstown North High School

While many athletes excel at one or two sports, at Clarkstown North High School, Barbara Mellen excelled at four. Barbara played soccer, volleyball, basketball, and softball and was voted MVP and team captain of each of her teams in both her junior and senior years.

On the soccer field as a right inner, Barbara earned 3 varsity letters and was All County twice. She set Rockland County records for the most goals scored in a game (7), and the most goals scored in a season (20). Barbara was a setter on the volleyball team where she earned 3 varsity letters and was voted All County in her junior and senior years. As a guard on the basketball team, she was a two year starter who averaged 14 points a game. In the springtime, Barbara played softball. As a left-handed short stop, she was a four year starter for Clarkstown North; not only was she the MVP three years, but also an All County selection in both her junior and senior years. Her senior stats were amazing: a batting average of .667 (leading the county), 43 RBIs, 19 triples, 20 stolen bases, and 9 home runs.

During the summer months of her high school years, Barbara remained very active. She went to the Junior Olympics in Chicago for volleyball one year, and competed in the New York State Empire Games twice on the girls' soccer team.

In 1976 Barbara enrolled at Westchester Community College and competed on the volleyball, basketball, and softball teams. As a guard on the basketball team, Barbara averaged 21 points per game and was selected All Region for the New York City area. In softball, Barbara developed into a pitcher, where she pitched both right and left handed. During her time at Westchester, Barbara played outside volleyball for a travel team named The East Team for Volleyball that competed all over the United States and Canada.



In 1979 Barbara accepted a full scholarship to play volleyball at Florida State University. While playing at FSU Barbara was named to numerous All Tournament teams, and was voted Collegiate All State, MVP, and Conference All Region in her Senior year. She graduated from FSU with a degree in Biology and a minor in Chemistry.

After college Barbara continued to stay active participating in many recreational softball leagues, but now spends most of her time with her husband Thomas Speerin watching their children compete on the athletic fields. They live in Lake Worth, Florida and have three children: T.J., 25, Danny, 23, a recent graduate of Northwood University where he was a scholarship baseball player, and Carly, 20, who is currently enrolled at Indian River State College and is on the softball team. This fall Carly will be playing softball for Florida Atlantic University on scholarship.

In 1998 Barbara Mellen-Speerin was voted into the Clarkstown North Sports Hall of Fame.



#### MARGIE SAHLSTROM-JAXEL Nanuet High School

When a freshman gets selected to play on the varsity basketball team, usually it's a big deal. But by the time Margie was a freshman that was old hat; she had already played seven varsity games as an eighth grader. As a ninth grader, Margie began her four year run as a starter on the varsity team. And what a run it was: she made a clean sweep of All league, All County, and All Section I accolades each of the four years. In her junior year Margie was named fourth team All State in Class C, and she capped her brilliant high school basketball career by garnering first team All State laurels her senior year.

Sophomore year brought Margie her first team MVP award, an honor she would receive in her junior and senior years as well. During her sophomore year, Margie attained her career high of 20.2 points per game. She averaged 13.8 as a freshman, 17.7 as a junior, and 16.8 as a senior. By the time Margie graduated from Nanuet, she was one of the top five scorers in Rockland County girls' basketball history with 1,514 career points. She also topped Nanuet's charts in single season assists (150) and single game steals (13). Margie was named the Rockland County Small School Player of the Year and The Journal News Player of the year in 1992, her senior year. The 1991-92 team, of which Margie was the captain, finished the regular season undefeated and held the Number 1 ranking in New York State heading into the postseason playoffs.

Nanuet's lone blemish that season was a loss in the Section I Class C championship game to Our Lady of Lourdes of Poughkeepsie, a perennial state power. Down by only 2 points at halftime, Nanuet started the third quarter with confidence when the unthinkable happened. While going up for a layup, Margie went down with a serious knee injury, a torn anterior cruciate ligament (ACL). For all intents and purposes, Nanuet's hopes for a sectional title went down with it. "That was devastating," says



Dave Powers, who was Margie's coach in both basketball and soccer. "We lost our best player. Psychologically the team couldn't recover from that."

After graduating from Nanuet, and following months of rehab for reconstructive knee surgery, Margie went on to play four years at St. Thomas Aquinas College in Sparkill, where she was a 1,000 point scorer. Margie attributes her prowess on the court to playing with her older brothers and their friends in front of their house growing up. "My brothers and their friends never gave me any mercy," she says. "I'd say they gave me my toughness, if I really have any, and I learned how to really play."

Basketball was a sport in which Margie made headlines, but she also enjoyed an outstanding soccer career at Nanuet with a pattern similar to her basketball achievements - playing varsity as an eighth grader, starting on the varsity team all four years of high school, and serving as captain her senior year. Margie played on the Golden Knight team that advanced to the Section I Class C championship game four straight years, including the 1988 team that made it to the New York State quarterfinals, where they lost in a shootout to Highland. Margie became only the second player in Nanuet girls' soccer history to score more than 100 points in her career. Ironically, she tied her older sister, Susan (a star

in her own right), with 74 goals, which at the time was a Rockland County record. She was named team MVP both her junior and senior years, All Conference B for four years, and All County and All Section I for three years. As a senior, Margie was named fourth team All State. Additionally, Margie had three career hat tricks.

"I never knew any of my stats playing over four years, I just played," Margie says. "When I scored my 74th goal to tie Susan, I didn't even know until after the fact. People thought I was aiming for it."

"Margie always was a very classy player," Dave Powers says. "She's definitely one of the top five players I ever coached at Nanuet."

Today, Margie continues to stay active in a variety of activities including long distance training for half marathons and triathlons while maintaining her career with PDR (Physician's Desk Reference). She resides in Congers with her husband, Kevin Jaxel, and their two children, Katie, 8, and Kevin, 5.



Nanuet Golden Knights

# Quality Graphics Tristate, Inc.

#### Phyllis and Bruce Schweizer

19 N. William Street Pearl River, NY 10965 T 845 735-2523 F 845 735-0182 qgpr.com

#### MIKE SPARAGO Suffern High School

Mike Sparago is a rarity - an outstanding hockey player who played three sports in high school, and excelled in all three. This Suffern High School graduate started on Suffern's renowned varsity hockey team as an 8th grader, being only the second 8th grader to ever make the team. Mike played 5 years of varsity hockey for Coach John Orlando and along the way was voted All County 3 times. He wound up being the 7th leading point scorer and 4th all time leader in goals for the Mounties. In 1980, while still competing in high school, Mike was selected by the United States Olympic Committee to play in the 16 years and under Best 100 Players Showcase.

During the fall season Mike played football for the Mounties. He was a two year starter on the varsity team and in his senior year, Mike was voted All County Honorable Mention by The Journal News. That year he was the 4th leading rusher in Rockland County. In the spring time Mike played lacrosse. He was a 4 year varsity starter on Suffern's highly successful varsity team. In his junior year Mike was selected 2nd team All County and, as the senior captain of the lacrosse team, Mike was voted to the 1st team All County list.

After Mike graduated from Suffern High School in 1982, he joined the Sioux City Musketeers of the United States Junior Hockey League and played with them through 1984. During that time he was selected as a first team league All Star and scored 54 goals, had 36 assists in the 46 games that he played. Also in 1984 Mike was selected to play for the USA in the World Junior Cup in Switzerland where the USA team was the Gold Medal winners.

For his efforts on the USA team, Mike earned a hockey scholarship to Ferris State University in Michigan, where he competed in the NCAA Division I Central Collegiate Hockey Association and was a three year starter. Mike scored 27 goals and had 17 assists in the 88 varsity games he played in. He graduated from Ferris State in 1988 with a degree in Business.



Mike continued his hockey career by being invited to the training camp of the St. Louis Blues of the NHL. After training camp with the Blues, he signed with the Virginia Lancers of the Atlantic Coast Hockey League. The Lancers are a Class A professional team. In his rookie year Mike was 4th on the team in scoring with 26 goals and 48 assists in 41 games as he helped them to the Atlantic Coast Championships. Mike lead the Lancers in scoring during the playoffs. For his efforts, Mike won the Rookie of the Year award in the Atlantic Coast Hockey League.

Now retired from competitive hockey, Mike works as a financial advisor with Morgan Stanley. He lives in Hohokus, New Jersey and is married to his wife Deborah and has three children, Jack, 8, Lindsay, 7, and Charles, 5. He spends his free time coaching youth hockey and football in Bergen County.



#### ROBERT "ROBBIE" WOODS Nyack High School

To say that Robbie Woods was a football player or a basketball player would be a gross understatement. Robbie Woods is one of the most gifted athletes ever to set foot on the playing fields and gyms of Rockland County. He excelled in every aspect of sports and athletics that he attempted.

His high school career at Nyack spanned three years and during that time Robbie achieved as much as anyone could on an individual level. In his sophomore year he was All County 1st team in track and football. In his junior year Robbie was 1st team All County and All League and a Daily News All Star in football and basketball, and also made the 1st team All-State in both of these sports. Robbie led the county in touchdowns, receptions and yards per catch in his junior year. Not to be outdone, his senior year was even better. Robbie was again voted a unanimous choice as an All County football and basketball selection, as well as repeating his All League and Daily News All Stars selections.

In addition, in football, Robbie was again selected as a 1st team All-State player on both offense and defense, and was voted as the All- State lineman of the year. In 1975 Robbie Woods was one of 12 high school football players in New York State to be honored with All-American status. On the basketball court, Robbie was again selected All League, All County, Daily News All Star and 1st team All State. He also led the county in receiving touchdowns, yards per catch, and in basketball he led the county in scoring.

On March 3, 1976, after his high school career was over, The Journal News stated that Robbie Woods was perhaps "the greatest all around athlete of his time", and rightfully so. At the 1975 Albertus Magnus Christmas Tournament Robbie scored a Rockland County record of an amazing 60 points in one game. Perhaps Robbie's best day as a high school athlete was October 12, 1974, in a football game against Nanuet. The final numbers for Woods that day were startling: 5 touchdowns, 30 points scored,



nine rushes for 95 yards, 4 receptions for 65 yards, 2 punt returns for 47 yards, 1 fumble recovery, 1 interception, and several tackles. His high School football coach Al Cann stated, "It was a magnificent display of raw talent getting loose. In all the years I've been associated with Nyack football, I never saw a more impressive individual display on the football field." Nanuet football coach, Dale Abeling said, "It was the best individual football performance I ever saw in Rockland County."

The University of Delaware offered Robbie a full football scholarship in 1976 and he enrolled there expecting to be a wide receiver. He started right away on offense but things were about to change. "There was no feature receiver there, we all got about the same amount of footballs," Robbie said. In his sophomore year defensive backs were needed, and Robbie was picked to move over the defensive side. He wound up as a mainstay in the Blue Hens' defensive backfield. In his junior year Robbie earned a place on the weekly All East Division II Honor Roll after getting 2 interceptions and returns of 55 yards against Westchester State. And in his senior year Robbie led the league in intercep-

tions and was selected as an All East Coast Defensive Back for the University of Delaware.

After college Robbie Woods returned to Rockland County and accepted a teaching position at Ramapo High School, and has been a very successful coach at Ramapo and Nyack High Schools. He was the Ramapo head football coach, Ramapo head boys' track coach, Ramapo head girls' basketball coach and Nyack girls' head basketball coach over the years. While at Ramapo High, Robbie coached the boys' track

team to a state championship in the 4x400 relay and the girls' basketball team to a Section I championship. Serving as the girl's basketball coach at Nyack, Robbie led the team to the state championship finals.

For the past ten years, Robbie has been the Dean of Students at Ramapo High School. Robbie and his wife, Dwanda, have two children, a daughter, Lyndsey, 25, and a son, Robert T, 21. They make their home in Spring Valley.



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### THE NYACK H.S. CLASS OF 1952 WISHES TO CONGRATULATE MICHAEL "MIKE" LONGUIL, CLASS OF 1950, ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE ROCKLAND COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME FOR 2009

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\*Deceased but still alive in our hearts.

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SOL "SPIKE" ISRAEL, BARBARA MELLEN,

MARGIE SAHLSTROM, MIKE SPARAGO,

ROBBIE WOODS

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The Nyack High School Athletic Department

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BARBARA MELLEN – CLARKSTOWN NORTH
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Best Wishes for our colleague

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"The Dean of Rockland County Athletic Directors" on a long, happy & healthy retirement

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JOSEPH CONACE
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GO ROCKLAND COUNTY SPORTS!

# The Mounties of Suffern High School

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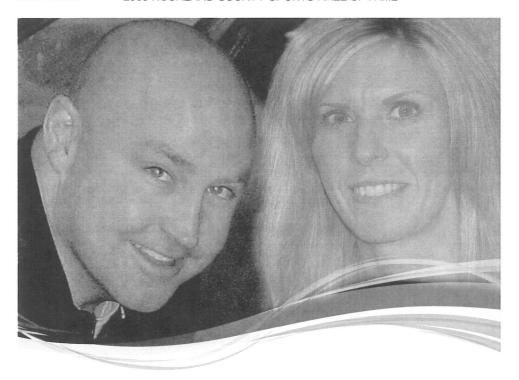
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Induction Ceremony: Sunday, November 7, 2010 – Colonial Inn, Norwood, NJ For more info, call Liam Frawley, TZHS Athletic Director @ 845-680-1640 or E-mail at <a href="mailto:linewise.cs.

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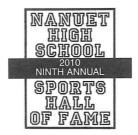
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#### T.J FORD & MARGIE SAHLSTROM

and all of the 2010 inductees on their enshrinement into the Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame



Nanuet High School Sports Hall of Fame

#### Congratulations

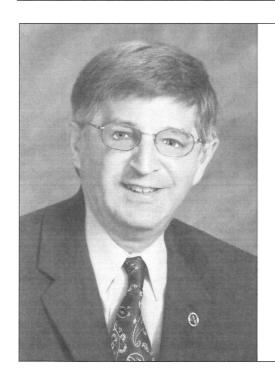
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