



ROCKLAND COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME

A History of Sports Excellence

Founded in 1974

2024



RYAN DALL



1953-54 TAPPAN ZEE HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM



1999 NORTH ROCKLAND HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' SOCCER TEAM



CLASS B NEW YORK STATE AND FEDERATION CHAMPIONS

2008-2009 NANUET HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM

2024 HONOREES

RYAN DALL

NRHS Class of 1994 Track - Pole Vault
National Outdoor Champion 1994
State Champion Indoor & Outdoor 1993

1953-54 TAPPAN ZEE HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM
Section 9 Champion

1999 NORTH ROCKLAND HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' SOCCER TEAM
New York State Class A – Team Champion 23-0 Record

2008-2009 NANUET HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM
New York State & Federation Champion

AUGUST 3, 2024 | ROCKLAND BOULDERS CLOVER STADIUM



**ALL THE BEST TO THE ROCKLAND COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME
ON YOUR HALL OF FAME NIGHT**

**&
CONGRATULATIONS TO YOUR HONOREES**

**RYAN DALL - NRHS Class of 1994 Track - Pole Vault
National Outdoor Champion 1994
State Champion Indoor & Outdoor 1993**

**2008-2009 NANUET HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM
NEW YORK STATE & FEDERATION CHAMPION**

**1999 NORTH ROCKLAND HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' SOCCER TEAM
NEW YORK STATE CLASS A TEAM CHAMPION 23-0 RECORD**

**1953-54 TAPPAN ZEE HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM
SECTION 9 CHAMPION**



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



Chairman's Message – Pete Scheibner



Welcome to Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame Night at the New York Boulders Clover Stadium. Tonight, we continue a recent tradition of honoring Rockland's outstanding individual athletes and our greatest athletic teams in conjunction with a summer outing at a Boulders baseball game.

Congratulations to **Ryan Dall**, a 1994 graduate of North Rockland who excelled in track & field, capturing two New York State pole vault championships, followed by successes for the Miami Hurricanes. Ryan currently has gained national recognition as track and cross-country coach at Texas A&M University at Kingsville.

Special accolades go out to the **1953-54 Tappan Zee High School Boys' Basketball Team**, the Section 9 champion, which overpowered opponents with a high-octane offense, including twice scoring more than 100 points, an unheard-of feat in that era. Five members of that prominent squad are also individual RCSHOF inductees: head coach Nick Mottola, Howie Pierson, Mike Rotundo, Joe D'Auria and Hubie Nealy.

The **2008-09 Nanuet Girls' Basketball Team**, coached by Carlos Fidalgo, overcame several early losses and jelled at the right time to run the table against the top Class B schools and capture the New York State and Federation championships. Led by first team All-State players Lauren Kahn and K.C. Jentzen and a high-quality squad, they certainly got the job done.

We also applaud the success and excellence of the **1999 North Rockland Girls' Soccer Team**, the New York State Class A championship unit, led by head coach John Westbrook. With an incredible 23-0 season, the team was rated No. 2 in the country – one of only two Rockland teams ever to rank that high nationally. Led by its three captains – Margaret Denman, Nicole DePalma, and Allison Schulman – the Red Raiders created a winning formula. All 11 starters were recognized on the All-Section 1 team and Coach Westbrook was named Section 1 and New York State Coach of the Year.

It is a distinct honor that in our 51st year of existence, we induct such top-notch teams into the Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame. As is our custom at Boulders team inductions, we will be raising funds for a charitable cause. This year's recipient is Pete Capello, a 1983 graduate of Spring Valley High School who was an exceptional baseball player for the Tigers, went on to Pace University and was drafted by the Kansas City Royals in the 14th round of the amateur draft. Pete suffered a serious stroke and financial support is required.

Please visit our website, www.rcshf.org, to view bios of all our inductees. The website includes enshrinement requirements for selection, as well as a nomination portal for future candidates and teams. We very much look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming 52nd anniversary induction, which will be held on Sunday, April 27, 2025, at Paramount Country Club in New City.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Peter Scheibner'.

Peter Scheibner, *Chairman*
Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame



VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT WWW.RCSHF.ORG



ROCKLAND COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME AUGUST 3, 2024

List of Inductees

RYAN DALL

NRHS Class of 1994 Track - Pole Vault

National Outdoor Champion 1994, State Champion Indoor & Outdoor 1993

Introduced By: Jamie Kempton

Plaque Sponsor: Tom & Katie Doherty

Trophy Sponsor: NRHS Class of 1980 Track and Cross Country Teams

1953-54 TAPPAN ZEE HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM

Section 9 Champion

Introduced By: Pat Dizzine

Plaque Sponsor: Tappan Zee Athletic Sports Hall of Fame

1999 NORTH ROCKLAND HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' SOCCER TEAM

New York State Class A Team Champion 23-0 Record

Introduced By: Chuck Maze

Plaque Sponsor: North Rockland Sports Hall of Fame

2008-2009 NANUET HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM

New York State & Federation Champion

Introduced By: Alan Veltidi

Plaque Sponsor: Alumni Knights of the Round Table

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The Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame
*wishes to thank the following businesses for
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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

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 Mounkhal
Dennis Pozsar
Steve Wanamaker*

1998

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

* Denotes Deceased

† Old-Timers' Special Award

‡ Joe Holland Lifetime Achievement Award

Rockland County Hall of Fame Inductees

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 Joynier
Tod Giles*
Debbie Grant
Bill White

2002

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

2003

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

2004

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

2005

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

2006

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

2007

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

2008

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

2009

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

2010

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

2011

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

2012

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

2013

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

2014

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

2015

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

2016

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

2017

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

2018

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

2019

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

* Denotes Deceased

† Old-Timers' Special Award

‡ Joe Holland Lifetime Achievement Award

Rockland County Hall of Fame Inductees

2021

Emil Willis Jr.*
Bob Willis
Tom Lawson
1971 North Rockland High School
Football Team

2022

Phil Consiglio
Will Cunnane
Wilbur Eschen
George "Doc" Leitner
Jose Saint-Victor
Charlie White
Margaret "Babs" Stead
1954 Tappan Zee High School
Cross Cross Country Team
1972 New City Little League
1991-1992 Suffern High School
Hockey Team

2023

Lance Arietta*
Dave Billings
Mary Brechbiel-Agnetti
Heidi Higgins-Sermabekian
Shawn Kapusinsky
Kimberly McDole-Gordon
Jim Scaringe
Joseph M. Famellette
1969 –70 Clarkstown High School
Boys' Basketball Team
1993 North Rockland High School
Football Team

2024

Jean Cary
Jim Eschen
Scott Finlay
Kurt Lundgren
Mike Schroer
Kelvin Smith Jr.
Dana Williams
Pete Scheibner
Ryan Dall
2008-2009 Nanuet High School
Girls' Basketball Team
1999 North Rockland High School
Girls' Soccer Team
1953-54 Tappan Zee High School
Boys' Basketball Team



* Denotes Deceased

† Old-Timers' Special Award

Joe Holland Lifetime Achievement Award

ENSHRINEMENT REQUIREMENTS

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

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

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

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

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

The Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame is more than awards and trophies and dinners, however. It is really about people – Rockland County people who have had an impact in the world of sports. A total of 303 have been honored since the hall's inception in 1974.

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

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



VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT WWW.RCSHF.ORG



Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame Nomination Form for Individuals and Teams

Individual Nominee:

(Last)

(First)

(M)

Current Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Date Submitted: _____

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

HS and Year of Graduation: _____

College and Year of Graduation: _____

.....

Team Nomination:

High School, Year and Sport: _____

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: _____

Email: _____

Please Submit to:

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

Ryan DALL

RYAN DALL NORTH ROCKLAND HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1994

As the son of a track coach, Ryan Dall was exposed to the sport at an early age. Ryan's parents, Gene and Lonnie, are both former athletes and Ryan's athletic potential became evident at age 3 when his parents enrolled him in gymnastics school. The flexibility and kinesthetic awareness Ryan developed during his seven years in gymnastics equipped him with fundamentals that would springboard his eventual pole-vaulting career.

EARLY EXPOSURE TO TRACK & FIELD

Ryan would tag along with his dad to Saturday morning practices at North Rockland simply because he enjoyed being around the team and soaking up the atmosphere. He tried his hand at a gamut of events in age group meets, never practicing beforehand. He absorbed knowledge about all the events with close-up views of top athletes, even photographing pole vaulters and high jumpers at meets like the Millrose Games in New York and Golden West Invitational in California.

North Rockland has developed a constellation of pole vaulting stars, but none more stellar than Ryan. Thoroughly grounded in the event as a youngster and loving the exhilarating rush of going airborne, Ryan pushed the vertical envelope higher than anyone in Rockland ever has. That's no mean feat, considering Rockland County has produced a parade of state champions and record holders in the event, from Dave Mumme and Tim St. Lawrence in the '60s, to Lance Arietta, Brendan



Murphy and Stanley Thomas in the '70s, to Ryan's teammate Rob Ossman in the '90s.

STATE & NATIONAL TITLES

During his six-year varsity career (starting in seventh grade), Ryan won two New York State championships, capturing both the winter and spring titles his junior year, 1993. He established state records indoors, 15 feet 9 inches, and outdoors, 16-4¾ (both since broken). At one time he held state class records for grades 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11.

Ryan's list of blue-ribbon performances spans all levels of competition. He won the National Scholastic outdoor championship in 1994 and finished second indoors the year before. He also had second- and fifth-place finishes at the U.S. Junior Nationals in 1993 and '94, respectively, won the Penn Relays title in 1993 and was runner-up at Penn in '94.

A pulled hamstring at the indoor State Qualifier threw a monkey wrench into his senior-year plans. He missed a solid

month of training and didn't return to competition until the Penn Relays, where he finished second on misses after less than a week of practice. Ryan cites his Penn victory during his junior year (held indoors due to a cold rain and hail) as one of his two most memorable performances. "I had been going to Penn as long as I could remember," he says. "It was a big meet to me personally, watching people win championships and knowing everyone's reactions to someone who had been Penn champion!"

NEW YORK STATE RECORD POLE VAULT AT JUNIOR NATIONALS

His other prominent highlight was an unexpected runner-up showing at U.S. Junior Nationals in Spokane, Wash., his junior year. Although he was seeded in the bottom quarter of the field and opening height was equal to his best jump at the time (15-9), he mastered the shifting winds that day and outperformed all but Lawrence Johnson, a Tennessee freshman who later was silver medalist at the 2000 Sydney Olympics. Ryan made opening height on his first attempt and proceeded to keep clearing until maxing out at 5.00 meters - 16-4 $\frac{3}{4}$ - a state record by 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches and a mark that stood for six years.

"I went in with the attitude that it was a fun experience and that I had nothing to lose," Ryan remembers. "I didn't have aspirations of the top two. But I didn't want to no-height, come all the way across the country to take three jumps and go home. Being from the Northeast, I was used to all kinds of conditions. Guys were coming in at higher heights and no-heighting. I moved up to a pole I hadn't used before and I kept clearing bars until it was just me and Lawrence jumping."

On the local level, Ryan was a gold-medal machine at the County meet, winning the outdoor crown four straight years - one of only two male athletes

to win an individual County title four years in a row (Jerry Blow of Nyack, 100 meters, is the other). He also won the County indoor championship twice. Displaying great versatility, he was County champion in the 110-meter high hurdles and made the State finals in that event, and also was Section 1 Class A champ in the high jump.

VAULTING TO SUCCESS AT MIAMI

An outstanding student, Ryan graduated 15th in a class of 450 and was heavily recruited by several schools. He accepted a full scholarship offer from Miami and took full advantage of the hospitable Florida climate to excel for the Hurricanes. Ryan, a team captain for two years, won two Big East Conference titles in the pole vault and added a third-place Big East finish in the vault and fourth in the decathlon. He scaled a personal-best and stadium record 17 feet $\frac{3}{4}$ inch at the USATF Regional championship at the University of Albany at the end of his freshman year.

NATURAL PROGRESSION INTO COACHING

After graduating from Miami in 1999 with a degree in history, Ryan followed his father's footsteps into the track coaching profession. He spent four years as assistant coach at Florida International, where he groomed one All-America athlete - a 234-foot javelin thrower - and Sun Belt Conference champions in the javelin, hurdles, high jump and long jump. He then served as assistant coach at Duke for five years, handling the pole vaulters, sprinters, hurdlers and multi-event athletes, before landing a head coaching job for track and cross country at Texas A&M University at Kingsville, a Division II school.

Ryan has flourished as coach of A&M-Kingsville since earning the position in 2008. He piloted the Javelinas to the 2018 NCAA Division II outdoor national team champion-

ship and gained national Coach of the Year honors in the process. He was also named 2010, 2011 and 2014 Lone Star Conference (LSC) outdoor track & field Coach of the Year while leading the 2014 and 2016 men's squads to conference titles. Indoors he's been recognized as LSC men's track Coach of the Year twice, in 2013 and 2016. Ryan has developed numerous All-America performers during his tenure at the program's helm, including 15 individual national champions.

The 2024 outdoor season was pegged as a rebuilding year but Ryan was "pleasantly surprised" at the team's success. The men's team finished second in the conference and the women's team was only five points out of third. At Nationals, Javelina athletes placed second and third, respectively, in the men's pole vault and javelin, and fifth in the women's discus. Next year holds great promise, Ryan affirms, with a solid recruiting class and a group of talented athletes returning from red-shirt status.

POSITIVE INFLUENCES RECOGNIZED

Ryan attained a measure of notoriety by appearing as a hurdler in ads for the 2008 U.S. Olympic Trials and in Track & Field News, as well as on the cover of Rotary International's magazine, The Rotarian. He also appeared in a short video clip on the popular quiz program Jeopardy! showing him vaulting at the Duke facility to illustrate a question about the vault's planting box.

Ryan cites former teammate Rob Ossman, a 1992 state champion vaulter, as having a major influence on his

budding career. Others who were instrumental in helping him include teammates Dave Walsh (a former County champ) and Marcus Colucci, Pearl River vaulter Chris Nicholson and John Napolitan, then a rep for UCS, the track equipment company.

Above all, Ryan credits his dad with helping nurture his love for the sport and guiding him toward a successful athletic and coaching career.

"There was never any pressure on me to be a track athlete," he says. "While I was growing up, my dad never said I had to do it. I did it because I enjoyed it. Being at the track and going to meets was just a lot of fun for me. Watching people do the events helped me understand how they should be done. It paid off for me in coaching, too. Since I've watched the events so many times, I can focus in on the athletes and pick up a lot of little things."

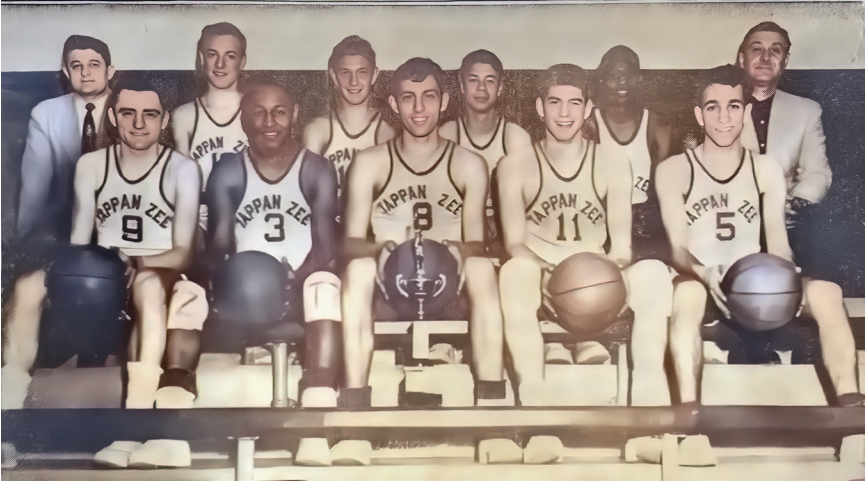
A FAMILY AFFAIR IN KINGSVILLE

Ryan, who's 48, resides in Kingsville, in southeast Texas, with Susana, his wife of 15 years, and daughters Sofia, 13, and Cora, 11. His parents, Gene and Lonnie, relocated from Rockland County to Kingsville soon after Gene retired from North Rockland in 2017. Gene, a 2019 RCSHOF inductee, joined the Javelinas coaching staff in 2017 and has assisted Ryan since then.

Ryan was previously enshrined in both the Rockland County Track & Field Hall of Fame and the North Rockland Sports Hall of Fame in 2009.

Congratulations, Ryan Dall!

THE ROCKLAND COUNTY JOURNAL-NEWS



TAPPAN ZEE BASKETBALL 1953-54

Section 9 Champion

FIRST ROW (L-R): Ed Spiegel, Howie Pierson, Mike Rotundo, Hubie Nealy, Joe D'Auria
BACK ROW (L-R): Tony DeSevo, Coach, Terry Tumulty, Frank Van Cura,
 Joe D'Innocenzo, Richie Pierson, Nick Mottola

NOT PICTURED: Tom Hogan, Rich Pforte, Richard Clark, Art Cosentino, Carlton DeLoatch

1953-1954 TAPPAN ZEE HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM

The 1954 boys' basketball team culminated an exhilarating four-year streak of dominance for the Flying Dutchmen hoopsters. Beginning in 1951, they rattled off four consecutive Section 9 Class C championships and put the exclamation point on the run with back-to-back Rockland PSAL titles in 1953 and '54. They shared the '54 crown with Haverstraw, losing the season opener but winning the rematch versus the Bricktowners and finishing the regular season with a sparkling 11-1 record. [After the season it was revealed that Tappan Zee had used an ineligible player during one game, necessitating a forfeit.]

The '54 Dutchies were an unstoppable offensive machine, averaging 70 points per game and setting numerous County scoring records. They were the first

team in County history to score 100 points in a game, which they accomplished twice in that magical season: a 103-65 verdict over Pearl River, and an even more lopsided 112-28 decision over Spring Valley. The 84-point margin of victory in the latter contest also established a Rockland record, as did their total of 49 field goals - all of them 2-pointers, of course, since there was no 3-point shot in those days.



The team's single-game high of 112 points stood as the County benchmark for 16 years, and their season total of 840 points in 12 PSAL games remained the record for 10 years. (Both marks were eclipsed by Clarkstown teams.) Coach Nick Mottola's starting five consisted of 6-foot-3 center Hubie Nealy, forwards Mike Rotundo and Ed Spiegel, and guards Howie Pierson



and Joe D'Auria. Pierson was the point guard and floor general while Rotundo, the team captain, and Nealy were the big men underneath. Pierson was Rockland Player of the Year, he and Rotundo made first-team All-County, Nealy made second team and Spiegel earned honorable mention.

PRESSING DEFENSE TRIGGERS FAST-BREAKING OFFENSE

Tappan Zee's explosive offense was initiated by a smothering 1-2-2 defensive alignment with Nealy (and his long arms) out front, creating a major road-block for the ballhandler. "We pressed them. That's how we got our points," Joe D'Auria said when the team was inducted into the Tappan Zee Athletic Hall of Fame in 2010. "We'd score and press immediately and get the ball back again. It was difficult for other teams to inbound the ball in our gym."

The Dutchies loved playing in the tight confines of their home "bandbox" in Piermont where the wall was out of bounds on three sides, the bleachers

was out of bounds on the other, and the low-hanging ceiling was also out of bounds.

When you were hitting the courts as often as these guys were, it's no secret how they became such a cohesive unit. "We practiced so much together, it was instinctive," said Pierson, adding that TZ also won the St. Peter's CYO post-season tournament, beating teams of local college players. "I knew where the other guys were and where they would wind up, the exact spot. It was all from practicing and being together so much. We played after school in the street, on weekends, all the time. Nick Mottola would give us the keys and we would open up the gym on weekends. We would play for eight hours straight."

Other members of the team were Rich Pierson, Rich Clark, Art Cosentino, Joe D'Innocenzo, Carlton DeLoatch, Tom Hogan and Rich Pforte. Nealy, Howie Pierson and Joe D'Auria were charter inductees into the Tappan Zee Hall of Fame in 2009 and all three are also individual members of the Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame, along with Rotundo and Mottola.



COACH NICK MOTTOLA

Installed in 1978 ... came to Rockland in 1948 as a coach at Tappan Zee H.S. ... during the next six years, his teams proceeded to win six Rockland PSAL titles, one co-championship, and four Section 9 titles, all in basketball (1951 through 1954) ... under Mottola, the Flying Dutchmen, led by a group of multi-talented athletes like Joe D'Auria, Howie Pierson and Hubie Nealy, won the county football title in 1950 and 1953, shared the championship with Pearl River in 1949, captured the PSAL basketball crown in 1953 and 1954 (as well as those four Section 9 Class C banners), and repeated as county baseball champs in 1953 and '54 ... in six years coaching football at TZ, he posted

a 39-5 record with two undefeated seasons... after a two-year stint as athletic director and football coach at East Meadow H.S. on Long Island, Mottola returned to Rockland in 1956 to become football coach at Suffern.

PLAYER HOWIE PIERSON

Charter Hall of Fame member, inducted in 1974 ... 1954 Tappan Zee H.S. alumnus ... one of the most accomplished of all Rockland athletes ... multi-talented scholastic athlete, college baseball star, pro baseball player, amateur golf champion, outstanding coach, physical education teacher and athletic director ... at Tappan Zee, was awarded 13 letters in four sports and merited All-Rockland honors in football, basketball and baseball his senior year ... in baseball, he earned All-County acclaim four straight years ... also high jumped, pole vaulted and ran on 880-yard relay for track team ... he played on 1953-54 TZ basketball team, the first in Rockland ever to score more than 100 points in a



game (they did it twice)... at Manhattan College, he played basketball two years, then focused on baseball ... in 1957, his junior year, Pierson, a short-stop, batted .421 to lead the Metropolitan Conference in hitting and spark Manhattan to the conference title ... upon graduation in 1958, he signed with the Philadelphia Phillies and played one season at Williamsport, then during two years of Army duty he led Fort Dix to service titles in baseball

and football ... he played one more season of minor league ball before starting a career in education at Tappan Zee ... he taught science and coached baseball, football and basketball there for three years before moving to Rockland Community College in 1965, where he taught physical education and coached basketball and golf ... his first year RCC won the Region 15 basketball crown ... Pierson was RCC athletic director from 1972 to 1997, and remains the school's golf coach ... Pierson took up golf in his late 20s and became one of the top amateur players in the country by the early 1970s ... he won the Metropolitan Amateur golf championship in 1980, qualified for the U.S. Amateur twice, and played in eight events on the PGA Seniors Tour ... Pierson was the first black baseball captain at Manhattan, the first black high school coach in Rockland, the first black athletic director of a New York State community college, the first black to play in the U.S. Amateur golf championship, and among the first black players signed by the Phillies organization.

PLAYER JOE D'AURIA

Inducted in 1975 ... Tappan Zee H.S., class of 1955 ... magnificent all-round athlete ... earned 17 varsity letters in four years: four in baseball, three each in football, basketball, golf and bowling, and one in track ... at 5-feet-7, 140 lbs., dubbed "the greatest little athlete there ever was in Rockland County" by Nick Mottola, D'Auria's coach in three sports at Tappan Zee ... D'Auria helped lead Tappan Zee to County titles in golf three times, and in baseball, basketball and football twice each, including a co-championship with Nyack in football ... he also was instrumental in two Section 9 titles in basketball and one each in golf and bowling ... in golf, he won the County tournament three times (1953-55), captured the Section 9 tourney twice, and finished second in the New York State tournament in 1955... in football, he was second-team

All-County left halfback on TZ's undefeated 1953 County title team, and Rockland Offensive Player of the Year as quarterback in '54 ... in basketball, he was a speedy, ballhandling guard who, as a senior, averaged 20.2 points a game and tied the existing Rockland one-game scoring record of 45 points ... in baseball, he was a third baseman for three years and a pitcher his senior year ... he was the 1955 County batting champ at .375, and third as a freshman at .371 ... at Tusculum College in Greenville, Tenn., he ranked second nationally in free throw percentage (89.5) his junior year...made All-Smoky Mountain Conference in basketball and baseball three times each ... later won more than 30 amateur golf tournaments in the area.

PLAYER JOE D' INNOCENZO

Joe D'Innocenzo was a multi-sport athlete who made his greatest mark in track & field and cross country but also was a reserve player on the outstanding 1953-54 Tappan Zee boys' basketball team, which pressed and charged their way to the Rockland PSAL co-championship. He later enjoyed a successful coaching career at Clarkstown North in track & field and other sports.

PLAYER HUBERT NEALY

Entered in 1994 ... 1954 Tappan Zee H.S. alumnus ... in the early 1950s, Tappan Zee was blessed with an abundance of versatile, multi-sport athletes, and Nealy was one of the linchpins of those Flying Dutchmen squads ... deaf since childhood, but didn't let it deter him at all .. three-time first team All-County pitcher in baseball, helping lead TZ to Rockland PSAL titles in 1953 and 1954 ... in basketball, he made first-team All-County twice and second-team once ... he was instrumental in Tappan Zee's county PSAL basketball championships in 1953 and 1954, and in the Dutchies' four straight Section 9 Class C titles ... he also was a two-time first team All-County performer in football, and a key member of the Dutchmen's undefeated PSAL championship squad

his senior year ... Nealy's high school pitching record was 23 wins and only 3 losses, with two no-hitters and two one-hitters ... Nealy played one season of minor league baseball for the New York Giants' affiliate in the West Texas/ New Mexico League ... in basketball, he was named Most Valuable Player of the 1954 Rockland County Invitational Basketball Tournament while playing for the Tappan Zee All-Stars ... he also was the Most Valuable Player in the 1957 St. Peter's Basketball Tournament in Haverstraw.

MIKE ROTUNDO



Mike Rotundo epitomized the multi-talented Tappan Zee athlete of the early 1950s. He earned an astonishing 16 varsity letters - four each in cross country, basketball, baseball and track - and helped propel the Dutchmen to six County championships and nine Section 9 titles, including four each in basketball and cross country. He also garnered seven All-County citations - three in basketball, two in track, and one each in baseball and cross country. In 1953 he was accorded All-America status by a sports magazine as one of the premier high school basketball players in New York State. By Mike's count he won 26 team and individual championships in County and Section 9 competition.

Mike spent one year at Bowling Green State University in Ohio, playing fresh-

man basketball for the Falcons, before embarking on a year-long tour in the West and Midwest with the Harlem Clowns traveling basketball team. Mike played for the foil team that opposed the Clowns, like the Washington Generals to the Harlem Globetrotters.

Coaching became one of Mike's passions in his adult life and he got

his start skipping the Cornhuskers, a team sponsored by Doctor Davies farm in Congers, in a local independent basketball league. He then spent 21 years, from 1964 to 1984, as freshman basketball coach at Albertus Magnus High School under Lou Kliewe and later, Tom Collins, both of whom he cites as models of coaching excellence.

1953-54
**Tappan Zee High School
Boys' Basketball**
Section 9 Champion

In *The Journal News* article entitled
Sportsmen's Corner
by J. Fred Geist on March 17, 1954,
he writes:

"The victory gave Piermont its fourth straight Section 9 title, one D, two C and now the grand daddy of them all. This was the first attempt in this type of tournament where the top 12 teams from five counties were entered and it was proven to be a tremendous success. The Dutchies and Warriors both were presented with trophies after the game. It was the final high school game for Rotundo, Spiegel, Nealy and the Pierson brothers. Tournament averages show Howie Pierson with 22, Joe D'Auria 20, Mike Rotundo 19 and Eddie Spiegel 11. Nealy the workhorse of the group, gets them the ball and they do the rest".

1953-54 Tappan Zee High School Boys' Basketball Team

Section 9 Champion

12/01/1953	Tappan Zee	74	Highland Falls	51
12/09/1953	Tappan Zee	70	Fort Lee	41
12/11/1953	Tappan Zee	56	Haverstraw	62
12/19/1953	Tappan Zee	103	Pearl River	65
01/08/1954	Tappan Zee	45	Spring Valley	16
01/15/1954	Tappan Zee	79	Nyack	38
01/19/1954	Tappan Zee	59	Congers	51
01/22/1954	Tappan Zee	63	Suffern	49
01/30/1954	Tappan Zee	71	Haverstraw	49
02/02/1954	Tappan Zee	55	Pearl River	39
02/05/1954	Tappan Zee	112	Spring Valley	28
02/20/1954	Tappan Zee	90	Nyack	44
02/23/1954	Tappan Zee	86	Congers	65
02/26/1954	Tappan Zee	65	Suffern	48

Section 9 Semi-Final

Tappan Zee 73 Highland Falls 54

Section 9 Finals

Tappan Zee 82 Otisville 67





1999 NORTH ROCKLAND HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' SOCCER TEAM

New York State Class A Team Champion 23-0 Record

TOP ROW: Jennifer Schassler, Jillian Schassler, Nicole DePalma,
Justine Brennan, Megan Smith, Emily Kellner
SECOND ROW FROM TOP: John Westbrook, Megan Hanley, Caitlin O'Shaughnessy,
Allyson Heady, Kaitlyn Fisher, Steve Shepardson
THIRD ROW FROM TOP: Heather McSherry, Julienne Krause, Abigail Collyer,
Candice O'Brien, Meghan Pearson
BOTTOM ROW: Lauren Gurski, Margaret Denman, Katie Wachausen,
Allison Schulman, Stephanie Tamburri, Natalie Loucas

At the end of the regular season, Coach John Westbrook penned a letter to members of his 1999 North Rockland High School girls' soccer team. In that letter, he urged the team to subscribe to the philosophy of "carpe diem," or "seize the day." The Raiders took that advice to heart, running the table in the postseason to capture the New York State Class A championship - the first and, thus far, only state title in the program's illustrious history.

North Rockland finished the dream season with a perfect 23-0 record, including 17 shutouts. They registered 117 goals - averaging more than 5 goals a game - and allowed only 8, with five of those coming in three early-season games against state-ranked opponents. The Raiders wound up as not only the No. 1-ranked team in New York State, but the No.2-ranked team in the United States, behind only unbeaten Germantown of Tennessee.

They are one of only two scholastic teams from Rockland County to end the season as high as No. 2 nationally, and own the distinction of ranking No. 1 in the country for part of the season.

To keep the squad focused, Westbrook and assistant coach Steve Shepardson adopted a team motto for each game: Go 1 and 0. That is, start afresh each game day, don't dwell on the past or anticipate the future; play in the moment. In other words, "seize the day."

"It's an overused cliché in sports to say things like, 'Our goal is to go 1 and 0,' or 'The next game is the most important game,'" Shepardson said in an acceptance speech when the team was inducted into the North Rockland High School Sports Hall of Fame in 2014. "But there are very few teams who are able to embrace the mindset to actually make that a reality ... and this team did that. We did it 23 straight times."

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

The Raiders entered the 1999 campaign with high hopes after advancing to the state semifinals the previous year and returning 19 of 21 players, including nine starters. They got off to a rousing start by defeating a pair of state-ranked teams, Niskayuna (4-1) and Ithaca (2-1), to claim the Supervisor's Cup, held at the Soccer Hall of Fame's campus in Oneonta, site of the New York State tournament later that fall. Three of the four teams in the Supervisor's Cup tournament had made the Class A Final Four the previous year.

One of North Rockland's toughest contests came in the fourth game of the season, a come-from-behind 4-3 victory over host Shenendehowa of the Albany area. The Raiders then swept through the remainder of the regular season unchallenged. They ousted Clarkstown North, 6-0, in the Section 1 Class A semifinals and then white-washed Clarkstown South, 8-0, in the Section 1 championship game.

After a bye in the Regional semifinals - the Section 1 representative played



the winner of the Section 4-Section 9 semi - North Rockland took on Monroe-Woodbury of Section 9's Orange County in a rematch of a regular-season game won by North Rockland, 5-0. This time the Crusaders of Monroe-Woodbury adopted a purely defensive posture, but the Raiders managed goals by Justine Brennan and Meghan Pearson to emerge with a 2-0 triumph and a trip back to the Final Four in Oneonta.

Taped above the exit of their charter bus for the Final Four were a pair of signs reading, "Do This Raiders: 1-0" and "Make This The Year!" Each team member touched the signs for good luck as they departed the bus. Whether the ritual had a tangible effect on North Rockland's performance is debatable, but any mental edge a team can derive in its game preparations is worth pursuing, the coaches believed.

North Rockland's adversary in the state semifinal was Liverpool from the Syracuse area, who Shepardson viewed as the "most difficult opponent of the season." It wasn't until the 113th minute, in sudden death overtime, that midfielder Nicole DePalma snapped a 1-1 tie with a 20-yard shot into the upper right corner to send the Raiders to the championship game.

Playing in a cold, misting rain in the final, North Rockland parlayed goals by forward Margaret Denman and midfielder Heather McSherry into a 2-0 state-clinching victory over Walt Whitman of Long Island's Suffolk County. Just as they had done 22

previous times, the North Rockland Red Raiders went 1-0 in the biggest game of the year to “seize the day” and depart Oneonta as New York State champions.

Such is the top-end quality of New York State girls’ soccer that Walt Whitman was ranked #3 in the nation that year and Liverpool was rated #6.

POSTSEASON HONORS

Anchoring the team were tri-captains Denman, DePalma and goalkeeper Allison Schulman. Denman blew past the previous Rockland County record of 84 career goals to finish with 106 and was named to the All-America team. DePalma, a junior that year, was named New York State Class A Player of the Year, while Schulman posted 17 shutouts in goal. The entire 11-person starting team earned a berth on the All-Section 1 team, and Westbrook was tabbed Section 1 and New York State Coach of the Year.

The attack was powered by Denman, Jill Schassler, Pearson, Meghan Hanley, Candice O’Brien, Lauren Gurski and Natalie Loucas. Controlling the midfield were Caitlin O’Shaughnessy, DePalma, McSherry, Jenn Schassler, Allyson Heady, Kaitlyn Fisher and Megan Smith. Defending the back line were Katherine Wachausen, Brennan, Emily Kellner and Stephanie Tamburri, while Schulman, Julienne Krause and Abigail Collyer protected the net as the goalkeepers.

North Rockland had advanced four times to the state Final Four in earlier years but the 1999 club was the first to go all the way. The team posted a remarkable 65-2-1 record over the three seasons from 1997 to 1999. The championship team “left a legacy that lives on for North Rockland girls soccer,” Shepardson said in the acceptance speech. “They all measure themselves by you.”



JERRY MCGUIRE & COACHES OF THE 1999 NORTH ROCKLAND GIRLS’ SOCCER TEAM

Jerry McGuire successfully coached soccer at the JV and varsity level at North Rockland HS for 17 years and was known affectionately as the “Bear” for his strong encouragement and motivation to the players. Coach Shepardson observed that “Many of the JV players that Jerry coached moved up to the varsity team and had a big impact.”

Working closely together throughout the season, Head Coach Westbrook, Coach Shepardson, and Coach McGuire developed a talented team of skilled athletes to achieve a NYS Girls’ Soccer Championship in 1999.

Coach McGuire subsequently passed away while serving as an assistant coach during the soccer season of 2003 and was posthumously named 2003 Coach of the Year by his fellow Rockland County coaches.

One of the strengths of the North Rockland coaching staff is that they were excellent teachers and coached in the same school district for their long careers. They developed a good rapport with their student-athletes and motivated them to do their best in the classroom and on the athletic field. Westbrook, an Ithaca College graduate, taught physical education at Thiells Elementary School and both Steve Shepardson, a SUNY Geneseo alumnus, and Jerry McGuire, a graduate of Lehigh University, taught social studies at NRHS.

Carol Cosenza, the longtime athletic trainer at North Rockland High School, was instrumental in treating injuries and helping the girls’ soccer team maintain their health through a good diet and exercise program throughout the long season. Coach Shepardson said, “Carol was with us every step of the way to the state championships !

RAIDERS WIN CHAMPIONSHIP, 2-0

In defeating Long Island, Walt Whitman, girls and season with perfect record.

Sam Weinman
The Journal News

ONEONTA - Since girls soccer season began in the late summer days of September, John Westbrook had always advised his North Rockland team to worry only about getting 1-0 each game. It is a simple philosophy. It has produced extraordinary results.

In defeating Long Island's Walt Whitman, high school 2-0 under a steady rain in the Class A final at the Wright National Soccer Campus yesterday, the Red Raiders win 1-0 for a 23rd consecutive game. The result is a perfect record - and the first state championship in the team's history.

The Raiders needed just one goal to dispose of a Whitman team that had also entered yesterday undefeated. Ever the overachievers, they got two - one in the first half off the foot of senior forward. Margaret Denman, and one late in the second half by junior midfielder, Heather McSherry.

Until that last goal, at 34:23 of the second half the Raiders would not allow themselves thoughts of gripping the state championship plaque, just as all season they had never allowed themselves to have thoughts beyond the opponent standing beside them.

If there is one defining difference between this team and the previous North Rockland teams that made the trip to the state final four, that would seem to be it.

"There's a lot of talent on this team," said Westbrook, the Raiders coach since 1979. "But more than anything, they were focused and they believed in going 1-0."

Through the lofty expectations of pre-season, through both state and national polls ranking them No. 1, the Raiders never descended from a level seemingly no opponent could reach. They went unscored upon in league play, then ended up, allowing just one goal - in their state semi final overtime win Friday - through the entire post season.

"It was tough in the beginning of the season to not look too far ahead, Denman said. "But we were able to do it."



1999 North Rockland High School Varsity Girls' Soccer Team



#	NAME	POSITION
1	Jennifer Schassler	Midfield
2	Heather McSherry	Midfield
3	Meghan Hanley	Midfield
4	Katie Wachausen	Defense
5	Nicole DePalma	Midfield
6	Meghan Pearson	Forward
7	Candice O'Brien	Forward
8	Caitlin O'Shaughnessy	Midfield
9	Emily Kellner	Defense/Midfield
10	Margaret Denman	Forward
12	Natalie Loucas	Forward
14	Lauren Gurski	Forward
15	Kaitlyn Fisher	Midfield
16	Justine Brennan	Defense
18	Megan Smith	Midfield
21	Allyson Heady	Midfield
22	Jillian Schassler	Forward
24	Stephanie Tamburri	Defense
GK	Allison Schulman	Goalie
GK	Julienne Krause	Goalie
GK	Abigail Collyer	Goalie

STAFF:

John Westbrook, Head Coach
Steven Shepardson, Asst. Coach
Jerry McGuire, Asst. Coach
Carol Cosenza, Athletic Trainer

A Season to Remember

Undefeated 1999 New York State Champs 23-0

DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE
September 3	Niskayuna	4-1
September 4	Ithaca	2-1
September 13	Clarkstown South	5-0
September 18	Shenendoah	4-3
September 23	Clarkstown North	6-0
September 27	Suffern	3-0
September 29	East Ramapo	9-0
October 2	Minisink	4-1
October 4	Yorktown	6-1
October 7	Clarkstown South	7-0
October 1	Washingtonville	5-0
October 16	Monroe Woodbury	5-0
October 19	Suffern	5-0
October 21	East Ramapo	10-0
October 23	Newburgh	5-0
October 25	Yorktown	4-0
October 27	Clarkstown North	7-1
October 30	Pearl River	6-0



	DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE
Sectional Semi-Final	November 3	Clarkstown North	6-0
Sectional Final	November 6	Clarkstown South	8-0
Regional Final	November 13	Monroe Woodbury	2-0
State Semi-Final	November 19	Liverpool	2-1
STATE FINAL	November 20	Walt Whitman	2-0

1999 North Rockland High School Girls' Soccer Team



SOCCER TEAM RECEIVES CHEERS AND APPLAUSE AT NORTH ROCKLAND PARADE

By Peter W. Sluys

Editor-in-Chief
Rockland County Times

21 members of the State Championship Raider Ladies Soccer Team were cheered and applauded as they were taken on a victory lap around North Rockland, by the firefighters of the West Haverstraw, S.W. Johnson and Relief Hose Fire Companies. The afternoon was kicked off by Congressman Ben Gilman, who came to the school

to give each of the Raiders' members a special commendation.

"Women's sports is more important than ever, and these young women have demonstrated superior leadership, superior citizenship, and superior athletic ability. The whole congressional district is proud of them", Congressman Gilman said.





DEAR TEAM,

AS WE APPROACH THE FINAL STAGES OF THE SEASON, I WOULD LIKE YOU TO REMEMBER ALL THAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED; TAKING THE TOURNAMENT IN ONEONTA, RISING TO THE CHALLENGE AGAINST OPPONENTS IN OUR COUNTY AND LEAGUE, AND EMERGING VICTORIOUS AFTER COMPETITION AGAINST OUR FOES FROM OTHER SECTIONS. NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT OUR ABILITY TO BELIEVE IN A PHILOSOPHY THAT IS BEST EXPRESSED WITH THE PHRASE "CARPE DIEM."

"SEIZE EACH DAY AND CHERISH IT DEARLY." OPPORTUNITIES AWAIT US EVERY DAY AND WE MUST CHOOSE TO EITHER PLAY IT SAFE OR GO FOR THE BRASS RING. I ENCOURAGE YOU TO TAKE THE RISK. ALL OF THOSE THINGS THAT ARE WORTH HAVING IN LIFE REQUIRE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF RISK TAKING. PLAY EACH GAME WITH "THE DESIRE TO WIN, NOT THE FEAR OF LOSING."

WE HAVE FIVE STEPS LEFT TO OVER COME, EACH OF THESE IN THE FORM OF A GAME. VICTORIES ALLOW US TO MOVE EVER CLOSER TO THAT FINAL PLATEAU, THAT FINAL GAME. WE MUST TAKE EACH STEP TOGETHER. WE MUST MOVE AT THE SAME TIME AND WITH THE SAME INTENSITY; THE INTENSITY OF A CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM.

SHEP AND I ARE PROUD TO BE PART OF WHAT WE KNOW IS SUCH A SPECIAL GROUP. SO, LET THE ECHOES OF THE PHRASE, "CARPE DIEM," BE HEARD! SEIZE THE MOMENT! SEIZE THE DAY! RELISH IN THE BOUNTIES THAT LIFE HAS TO OFFER YOU.

John Edward Westbrook



NORTH ROCKLAND CLAIMS STATE SOCCER TITLE





Back Row, L to R: Coach Charlie Slaybaugh, Head Coach Carlos Fidalgo, Christine Brezovsky, Kiera Dooley, Cristina Fitzgerald, Amy Delva, Morgan Miller, Elizabeth Zoda, Lisa Kahn, Nikki Saponaro, Coach Phil Carbone Front: KC Jentzen, Ryan Mulligan, Lauren Kahn

2008-2009 NANUET HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM

New York State & Federation Champion

True competitors are simply not denied in pursuing their goals. Those teams don't let adversity derail their efforts and ultimately, they find a way. The 2008-2009 girls' basketball team found a way as they entered the season with a coaching change and shift in philosophy, a certain level of roster flux with players returning or not returning, and the same challenge to come together as a team that all clubs must face. In the end, the combination of smarter play and a consistently high level of competitive athleticism resulted in an historic end to the season. Nanuet girls' basketball would not only become our school's first NYS and NYS Federation basketball champion, but also the first Rockland County public high school to win both a NYS and Federation title.

When I recall that season, it's the players that stand out in my memory. The depth that let us run the playoff table wasn't evident immediately. All teams have to go through some battles, either in practice or in games, before the team personality is chiseled and established. However, we were blessed with what would turn out to be two First Team All-State players in Lauren Kahn and K.C. Jentzen. So we had some star power. The true strength of the team though would be measured in its eventual depth. Amy Delva and Ryan Mulligan were simply warriors in the paint. They did whatever was asked and defended whomever had to be defended regardless of giving up size in the process. Christine Brezovsky and Nikki Saponaro were the perfect guard complements.

They were high basketball IQ players that were outside threats and very smart defenders. As a role player Kiera Dooley played less minutes throughout the year but in a super high leverage moment of the Sectional Championship game, she played huge minutes because of some foul trouble and didn't let us diminish inside. Elizabeth Zoda was an exceptional teammate and role model every day in practice and prepared herself as best she could. Morgan Miller was a young player brought up to the varsity level to fill our roster she also sustained us for minutes in the Sectional Tournament. Finally, Christina Fitzgerald and Lisa Kahn provided long range threats that would burn a defense if they neglected them. This was a multi-faceted roster that would eventually be able to burn a defense inside and outside and apply tremendous pressure starting with Lauren Kahn's on the ball defense that would just stifle opponent guards and cause them nightmares. This was simply the best collection of competitors I ever had the pleasure of coaching in my career.

The post season string of playoff victories gave our team the deserving attention of our community. My fun and joy came in our practices. As a coach we live for developing game plans and devising strategies. Each day I was in practice with these champion athletes was a joy. But aside to winning both NYS and Federation championships,



#13 Christina Fitzgerald, #14 Ryan Mulligan,
#15 Christine Brezovsky, #21 Lauren Kahn,
#22 Lisa Kahn, #24 Nikki Saponaro, #25 K.C.
Jentzen, #30 Elizabeth Zoda, #31 Morgan Miller,
#33 Kiera Dooley, #34 Amy Delva,
Team Manager - Amanda Kole

I won't forget anytime soon the reception our school district administration provided us. After defeating Oneonta in the NYS final, we were able to "cut down the nets" in front of our student body. And nothing can take away the thrill of our entire school district coming out to the football field to welcome us in an awesome rally. Nothing will erase seeing so many young kids cheering on our players and maybe thinking to themselves they might be there some day also.

The 2008-2009 season started like any other. The need to gel together. A new coach establishing a new culture. Players learning how to play together. That happens every year. It ended in a fairy tale way that doesn't happen every year. We literally played in all the games that are legally allowed to be played at the high school level. The truth is if we could play more we would certainly win. Ultimately, the bottom line is that this team will forever be remembered as the mark of excellence for any basketball team, boys or girls, for the rest of Nanuet athletics history. We will all cherish those memories and now cherish our enshrinement in the Nanuet Athletics Hall of Fame along side all the other giants of Nanuet athletics. On behalf of our players and coaches, thank you to the Hall of Fame Selection Committee for this honor.





**2009
LADY KNIGHTS
GIRLS' BASKETBALL
NYS CHAMPION**

ROSTER

- 13 Christina Fitzgerald
- 14 Ryan Mulligan
- 15 Christine Brezovsky
- 21 Lauren Kahn
- 22 Lisa Kahn
- 24 Nikki Saponaro
- 25 K.C. Jentzen
- 30 Elizabeth Zoda
- 31 Morgan Miller
- 33 Kiera Dooley
- 34 Amy Delva

Coach Carlos Fidalgo

Assistant Coaches

Charlie Slaybaugh, Phil Carbone



2008-09 NANUET HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM

COACH OF THE YEAR CARLOS FIDALGO



The first-year coach led Nanuet to Section 1, State and Federation titles in Class B. The Golden Knights (23-6) finished the season on an 11-game winning streak, a roll that included revenge victories over defending state champ Briarcliff and Irvington.

NANUET CAPTURES FIRST STATE CROWN

By Josh Thomson • March 22, 2009

TROY - Christine Brezovsky stood in the corner and waited patiently. Twenty-five seconds. Twenty seconds. The clock hurried, ticking toward zero, yet Nanuet wouldn't leave here without deciding its own fate.

The Golden Knights trailed by a point at the time, just one hoop from a state title. An eager Brezovsky set her feet, held her ground and waited for her moment.

Lauren Kahn finally wrapped a pass around the outside of the zone and into the corner. Brezovsky caught it and calmly buried an 18-footer with 16 seconds left to lift Nanuet over undefeated Oneonta, 39-35, in the Class B state championship game at Hudson Valley Community College.

"Brezovsky hit the biggest shot in school history," coach Carlos Fidalgo said. "Cool as all could be and she

hit a great shot, a shot she's taken a million times in practice."

The shot gave Nanuet its first state basketball championship and just the second state title in school history. The girls' cross country team won one in 1990.

"It's great to be the first team to win it in boys' and girls' basketball," tournament MVP K.C. Jentzen said. "We'll always be remembered as that first team."

The hero, Brezovsky, finished with nine points and all were crucial. She scored seven in the third quarter, then added the two biggest of the game with her team trailing 35-34 in the fourth.

"I knew we needed the best look possible, and we definitely needed to score. I had the open look, and I took it," Brezovsky said. "It feels amazing. I've dreamt of this day and I'm just really excited."

The Golden Knights (21-6) advanced to the state Federation tournament. They will meet the Class B representative from the CHSAA Friday at 11:45 a.m. at the Glens Falls Civic Center.

Taking that next step looked tenuous during the final two minutes. Nanuet had led the entire second half, and by as many as eight points, 26-18.

Oneonta (25-1) finally pulled ahead by a point twice, first 33-32 on a 3-pointer by Sienna Wisse with 1:44 left. Jentzen (14 points, six rebounds) answered the 3 by scoring on a putback 18 seconds later. But the Golden Knights fell behind again, 35-34, when Oneonta's leading scorer, Madie Harlem, slipped into the lane and sank a 12-footer with 56.3 seconds to play.

After a timeout, Kahn, Nanuet's point guard, drove toward the foul line and was fouled on a runner. She missed the first free throw, then missed the second after an Oneonta timeout with 33.5 seconds left.

"I was a little nervous, but I knew once we got the ball back, we'd have the opportunity to score," Brezovsky said. "I didn't think we had lost the game by any means. I was confident we could come back and win."

Jentzen fouled one of Oneonta's 6-footers, Meredith Ridgway, after she rebounded the second miss.

Ridgway misfired on the front end of a 1-and-1, giving the Golden Knights one more opportunity - not to tie with a 2 or a 3, but to win.

After Brezovsky put Nanuet ahead, Kahn and Nikki Saponaro, who helped hold Harlem to 14 points, converged and forced Harlem into a traveling violation. Kahn missed a free throw but grabbed the loose ball.

Jentzen was eventually fouled and hit both free throws. Up three points with 5.5 seconds left, Kahn stole the inbounds pass. Oneonta never attempted a final shot.

After it was over, Kahn, who had 10 points and seven steals, wouldn't have changed a thing.

"I missed those two and that was huge," said Kahn, who was named to the all-tournament team. "I started to feel a little upset, but I wanted the ball back in my hand. The way the game swung, I'm just so happy now. I'm so glad we won."

NANUET THE ULTIMATE CHAMPION

BY JOSH THOMSON - MARCH 29, 2009

GLENS FALLS - On the eve of its final game, win or lose, the Nanuet girls' basketball team debated how best to kill time. The players talked about going bowling or catching a movie, but eventually thought better of it.

Instead, the Golden Knights spent Friday night at the Glens Falls Civic Center relaxing and rooting for the Iona

Prep boys. The journey here had been long and grueling enough, and too much fun and too little sleep Thursday night had almost conspired to end this dream season prematurely. It wasn't going to happen again.

Nanuet proved it yesterday morning. The state PHSAA champs were sharp early and late. They followed the lead of MVP K.C. Jentzen, who scored 11 of her 21 points in the first half and grabbed 19 rebounds as the Golden Knights beat Long Island Lutheran 60-45 in the final of the Class B Federation tournament.

Nanuet (23-6) won the first Federation basketball championship in its history and became the first Rockland County public school ever to win one. Only the Albertus Magnus girls (in 1991 and '92) had won the Federation previously.

"It's a long haul. It's tough. They're drained physically and mentally at this point, but they got up to play," Nanuet coach Carlos Fidalgo said. "And I knew they would. I knew after yesterday that we'd appreciate the moment."

The latest challenge came against the Crusaders (22-6), who won the state independent-schools championship with just one senior. Starting forwards Samantha Milhaven and Ali Herschlein had posted double-doubles in Friday's semifinals and were bigger than any Nanuet player, yet Jentzen and fellow junior Amy Delva appeared unfazed.

The 5-foot-10 Jentzen pulled her defenders away from the hoop to hit jump shots or beat them off the dribble. She scored seven of the Golden Knights' 10 points in the first quarter, then added a pair of baskets in the final seconds of the third to give her team a 48-34 lead.

This was Jentzen's third game of at least 19 points and 19 rebounds in the last five.

"She's done what she wants to do in the paint area for a couple games

now. She's risen to the occasion," Fidalgo said. "She played better today than yesterday. She finished. She played smartly. She controlled her body. She was relentless on the defensive boards.

"She played maybe her best game in the best situation."

Fidalgo offered the same praise for Delva, who erupted for 10 points in the second half after a quiet start. She finished with 12 points and seven rebounds and shifted the focus just as Long Island Lutheran had turned it to Jentzen.

"She played great," said Jentzen, who also was named MVP of the state PHSAA tournament last weekend. "It took a little pressure off me. I know she's capable of that, and she stepped up at the right moment. She did very well."

Nanuet took the lead for the duration after a basket by Delva 90 seconds into the second quarter. She scored off a feed from junior Lauren Kahn, who joined Jentzen and Delva on the all-tournament team.

"We wanted to come out here and finish our season on the highest note," said Kahn, who rebounded from an off-game Friday to score 15 points. "This was the last game for our three seniors. We wanted to win it for them."

Kahn, Christine Brezovsky, Christina Fitzgerald and Nikki Saponaro each hit a 3-pointer in responding to a basket by Long Island Lutheran. The Crusaders, meanwhile, misfired from behind the arc (3 for 19) and were badly outrebounded, 42-20.

The Golden Knights held the Crusaders' three top scorers from Friday - Taylor Brown, Milhaven and Herschlein - to just 19 total points. All three had hit double figures in the semifinal against PSAL champ Lafayette.

"They deserved it," Long Island Lutheran coach John Kiffel said. "They were the better team today."

Nanuet will honor its champions with a parade this week. According to athletic director Frank Mazzuca, a date and location will be determined tomorrow.



ROAD TO THE FEDERATION TITLE

NANUET (23-6)

DEC. 5	NANUET 66	WOODLANDS 43
DEC. 9	NANUET 51	KENNEDY 46
DEC. 11	NANUET 58	PUTNAM VALLEY 50
DEC. 13	NANUET 53	SOMERS 26
DEC. 17	PEARL RIVER 57	NANUET 39
DEC. 29	NANUET 53	NYACK 31
DEC. 30	TAPPAN ZEE 62	NANUET 48
JAN. 8	IRVINGTON 55	NANUET 53
JAN. 14	NANUET 70	HASTINGS 26
JAN. 16	NANUET 58	PEARL RIVER 41
JAN. 17	NANUET 64	ALBERTUS MAGNUS 52
JAN. 18	NANUET 51	TAPPAN ZEE 42
JAN. 21	NANUET 69	SLEEPY HOLLOW 45
JAN. 25	NANUET 49	BOYS & GIRLS 30
JAN. 30	BRIARCLIFF 74	NANUET 64
FEB. 2	NANUET 49	NYACK 43
FEB. 4	ALBERTUS MAGNUS 57	NANUET 42
FEB. 5	IRVINGTON 68	NANUET 45
FEB. 6	NANUET 57	SLEEPY HOLLOW 32
FEB. 9	NANUET 60	HASTINGS 30
FEB. 18	NANUET 62	EDGEMONT 44
FEB. 24	NANUET 59	BRIARCLIFF 38
FEB. 28	NANUET 55	IRVINGTON 44
MARCH 10	NANUET 48	HIGHLAND 45
MARCH 14	NANUET 57	WYANDANCH 45
MARCH 20	NANUET 72	NORTHEAST CLINTON 51
MARCH 21	NANUET 39	ONEONTA 35
MARCH 27	NANUET 50	MOUNT MERCY 45
MARCH 28	NANUET 60	LONG ISLAND LUTHERAN 45

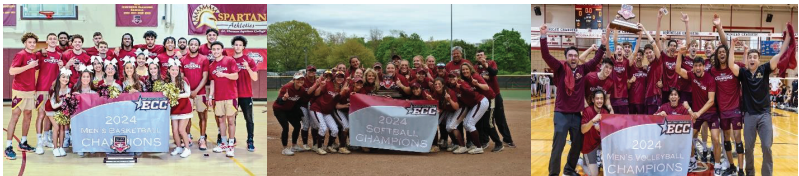


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Frank Horan - 1953
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