



# ROCKLAND COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME

A History of Sports Excellence

Founded in 1974

# 2025



## 2025 HONOREES

CHRIS ALGOZZINO | JERRY BLOW | STEPHANIE CLEARY MILLS

JOHN DIGIROLAMO | LAUREN KAHN | JOHN PANARO

CHARLES "BONES" JONES, JR.  
JOSEPH R. HOLLAND LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT

APRIL 27, 2025

PARAMOUNT COUNTRY CLUB



**ALL OUR BEST TO THE ROCKLAND COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME  
ON YOUR 52<sup>ND</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

**&  
CONGRATULATIONS TO YOUR HONOREES**

**CHRIS ALGOZZINO - NORTH ROCKLAND CLASS OF 1993  
JERRY BLOW - NYACK CLASS OF 1978  
STEPHANIE CLEARY MILLS - TAPPAN ZEE CLASS OF 2001  
JOHN DIGIROLAMO - HAVERSTRAW CLASS OF 1962  
CHARLES "BONES" JONES (POSTHUMOUSLY) - JOSEPH HOLLAND LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT  
AWARD RECIPIENT  
LAUREN KAHN - NANUET CLASS OF 2010  
JOHN PANARO - NANUET CLASS OF 1978**



**The Honorable  
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TOWN JUSTICE



*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 95<sup>TH</sup> CIVIL WAR REGIMENT FLAG CARRIED AT GETTYSBURG*

## *Chairman's Message – Pete Scheibner*



*We* celebrate our 52nd annual Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame induction with a star-studded group of athletes who excelled in multiple sports. The talented lineup includes:

- An all-time leading scorer in girls' basketball;
- A multi-sport basketball player of the year and college lacrosse All-America;
- New York State baseball player of the year as a pitcher for North Rockland who led the team to two State titles;
- A two-time first team All-County shortstop and Rockland baseball player of the year;
- A track & field sprinting legend who won a State championship, set a host of County and Section 9 records, and later excelled at Army;
- A first team All-County football lineman and outstanding football and baseball coach;
- A trail-blazing figure in Rockland County with a 44-year career in Special Olympics.

Rockland County continues to produce outstanding athletes and coaches year after year, so there is no shortage of qualified candidates for future years.

The Hall of Fame's website ([www.rcshf.org](http://www.rcshf.org)) serves as a robust resource for Hall of Fame information, including bios and photos on all 305 inductees and 12 teams. Please visit the site to learn more about the Hall of Fame and its enshrinees.

Sadly, this past year we lost three distinguished members of our RCSHOF inductee roster: Joseph "Jo Jo" Mackey of Haverstraw (1974 inductee), a three-sport star in football, basketball and baseball in the early 1960s who played baseball in the New York Yankees and Washington Senators organizations; Walter Ostrom of Orangeburg (1981), an expert trapshooter who won four North American titles; and Tom Lawson, a 1966 Clarkstown graduate and 2021 inductee, who was a multi-sport athlete, New York Daily News football All-Metro player, and a Notre Dame standout who spent time in the Baltimore Colts and New York Jets organizations.

RCSHOF will hold a second induction outing for 2025 on September 20 at O'Grady's Castle, located at Blue Hill Golf Course in Pearl River. We will present a pair of posthumous inductions, for Suffern wrestling coach Mickey DeSimone and Joseph Lynch of New City, the former world bantamweight boxing champion, recipient of the Old-Timers' Special Award.

Two teams will also be honored at the September induction: the 1974 Albertus Magnus boys' cross country team, known as the Long Red Line, the undefeated New York State champions and No. 2-ranked team in the USA; and the 1996-97 Suffern wrestling team coached by Mickey DeSimone, which won the Rockland League A, Rockland County Tournament, Division 1, and Section 1 championships.

I wish to thank a group of people who help drive our organization forward as an integral part of the sports community in Rockland: Jamie Kempton, secretary and program editor; John Ryan, treasurer and ticket chairman; Bill Rubbert, screening committee chair; Vince Sciortino, vice chairman; Chuck Maze, community relations specialist; Russell Grant, master of ceremonies; Bruce and Phyllis Schweizer of Quality Graphics, who do an outstanding job with graphic design, print and journal production; and to the entire Board of Directors for their contributions to our organization throughout the year.



Peter J. Scheibner  
Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame Chairman



VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT [WWW.RCSHF.ORG](http://WWW.RCSHF.ORG)



# **The Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame**

*wishes to thank the following businesses for  
their generous support of our organization:*

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**Congrats to the RCSHF Class of 2025 Inductees!!**



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## **ROCKLAND COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME 2025 LIST OF INDUCTEES**

### **CHRIS ALGOZZINO, NORTH ROCKLAND CLASS OF 1993**

Nominated By: John Sottile  
Introduced By: John Sottile  
Trophy Sponsor: Haverstraw Town Board  
Plaque Sponsor: North Rockland Sports Hall of Fame

### **JERRY BLOW, NYACK CLASS OF 1978**

Nominated By: Jamie Kempton  
Introduced By: Jamie Kempton  
Trophy Sponsor: Nyack Red and Black Club, Nyack High School Track & Field  
Plaque Sponsor: Willie & Elizabeth Taylor

### **STEPHANIE CLEARY MILLS, TAPPAN ZEE CLASS OF 2001**

Nominated By: Bill Madden  
Introduced By: Pat Dizzine  
Trophy Sponsor: Tappan Zee Athletic Hall of Fame, TZ Red and White Club, Tappan Zee Mart  
Plaque Sponsor: Stephen & Joyce Cleary

### **JOHN DIGIROLAMO, HAVERSTRAW CLASS OF 1962**

Nominated By: Chuck Maze  
Introduced By: Chuck Maze  
Trophy Sponsor: Inertia Switch, Inc.  
Plaque Sponsor: David Evangelista, CPA

### **CHARLES "BONES" JONES, JR.**

#### **JOSEPH R. HOLLAND LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

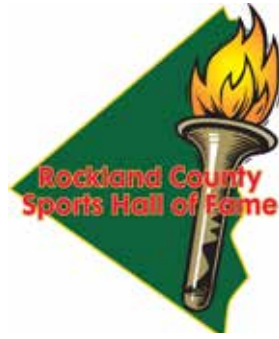
Nominated By: Ray Kondracki  
Introduced By: Karen Leitner  
Trophy Sponsor: Brandon W. Smith Foundation  
Plaque Sponsor: Nancy & Chris Logan

### **LAUREN KAHN, NANUET CLASS OF 2010**

Nominated By: Vincent Sciortino  
Introduced By: Karen Leitner  
Trophy Sponsor: Nanuet Black & Gold  
Plaque Sponsor: Nanuet Friends of Lauren Kahn

### **JOHN PANARO, NANUET CLASS OF 1978**

Nominated By: Vincent Sciortino  
Introduced By: Kurt Lundgren  
Trophy Sponsor: Thwaites, Lundgren & D'Arcy  
Plaque Sponsor: Thwaites, Lundgren & D'Arcy



### **DINNER PROGRAM**

Pledge of Allegiance .....Pat Dizzine

### **INVOCATION**

### **MASTER OF CEREMONIES**

Russell Grant

### **COMMITTEES**

Dinner ..... Gibby Sweet

Program Book ..... Peter Scheibner

Screening ..... Bill Rubbert

Tickets ..... John Ryan

## **2025 INDUCTEES**

**Chris Algozzino**

North Rockland Class of 1993

**Jerry Blow**

Nyack Class of 1978

**Stephanie Cleary Mills**

Tappan Zee Class of 2001

**John DiGirolamo**

Haverstraw Class of 1962

**Charles "Bones" Jones, Jr.**

Joseph R. Holland Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient

**Lauren Kahn**

Nanuet Class of 2010

**John Panaro**

Nanuet Class of 1978

### 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 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 second 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](mailto: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 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:

- Haverstraw Little League Save the Fields Fund • Special Olympics
- Venture • Challenger Little League • YMCA Youth Programs
- Homes for Heroes • Will McCue, a New City volunteer firefighter with disabilities
- Suffern Mat Club • Touching Bases Baseball of Rockland • BRIDGES
- Liam Frawley, former Tappan Zee High School Athletic Director who suffered devastating stroke

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS (OFFICERS)

Peter Scheibner..... Chairmain  
 Vincent Sciortino .....Vice Chairman  
 Jamie Kempton ..... Secretary  
 John Ryan ..... Treasurer

### DIRECTORS

Giulia Adler	Phil Donnelly	Sid McCready
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Pat D'Auria	Laurie Mayernik	Alan Veltidi
Pat Dizzine	Chuck Maze	Bob Veltidi (1998-2021)
		Robbie Woods





## ROCKLAND COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME

### INDIVIDUAL NOMINATION FORM

Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First) (M)

Current Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

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

H.S. and Year of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

College and Year of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

*On a separate typewritten page, list all of the significant accomplishments of the nominee, both as a Rockland County resident and otherwise. Please be as specific as possible. Include varsity sports played in high school and college, dates, letters earned, honors won, records set, post-collegiate achievements, etc.*

*\* Please submit a high resolution black-and-white or color photo of the nominee.*

Nominating Person:

Last name: \_\_\_\_\_ First: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

### TEAM NOMINATION FORM

Team Being Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Designate Men's or Women's

Season: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Won/Loss Record: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_ Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail of Individual Submitting Application \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # of Individual Submitting Application \_\_\_\_\_

Head Coach of Team: \_\_\_\_\_

Notable accomplishments of this team: (This should include league, conference, sectional, state champions, state rankings, winning streaks, tournament championships, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Notable Individual Achievements (this should include players making "All-County", "All-League", "All-Section", "All State", "Player of the Season or Year", etc.):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Team Roster, photo along with sports clip is optional but would be appreciated.

**SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATION ONLINE TO [WWW.RCSHF.ORG](http://WWW.RCSHF.ORG), NOMINATE TAB**  
**OR**  
**EMAIL YOUR SUBMISSION TO**  
**[billrubbert@gmail.com](mailto:billrubbert@gmail.com)**

Bill Rubbert  
Chairman of the Selection Committee  
189 Ridge Road • Valley Cottage, New York 10989

## Rockland County Hall of Fame Inductees

<b>1974</b> Chuck Aleno* Henry "Peck" Artopee* Dr. Daniel "Danny" Fortmann* Joseph "JoJo" Mackey Howard "Howie" Pierson	<b>1985</b> Wil Arietta* Joseph "Josh" Bolack* Gene Erickson* Tony Gemma* Joe St. Lawrence*	<b>1997</b> Mike Hagon Hank Kapusinsky Tom Mounkhal Dennis Pozsar Steve Wanamaker*	<b>2008</b> Noreen Annunziata Apicella Charles Dittmer* Reid Hoffer Randy Nelson Paul Pietropaolo Tim St. Lawrence † Elizabeth "Pat" Ryan*	<b>2017</b> John Castellano Tom Mulroy Al Taylor* Jerome Whidbee* Phil Donnelly † Fred Adler
<b>1975</b> Roger Brown* Joe D'Auria Bill Drescher* Billy Hogan* Donald "Pop" Sherwood*	<b>1986</b> Joe Alleva John Jemison Harold Lederman* Bob Mathias* Sylvester "Molly" McGee*	<b>1998</b> Kevin Kane Lou Kliewe* Rocco Marano* Howie McNiff Blaise Winter	<b>2009</b> Joe Biddy Jeff Brown Jim Horvath Mike Longuil* Janice Olszewski John Sottile	<b>2018</b> Thomas Dickson* Bobby Lawson Chuck Maze Jackie McCracken Houck Thomas Sanders Willie Worsley 1989 Nanuet High School Football Team † Tom O'Brien
<b>1976</b> Howard Parker Talman* John Koster* Jim Ridlon Pete D'Auria* Gloria Callan Jones*	<b>1987</b> Fred Hahn* Charles Holbrook Chuck Scarpulla* Jim Stamos Bob Strack*	<b>1999</b> Jim Cann Joe Casarella Ervan Levine* Gibby Sweet Dick Yerg*	<b>2010</b> Joe Conace* T. J. Ford Sol "Spike" Israel* Barbara Mellen-Speerin Margie Sahlstrom-Jaxel Mike Sparago Robbie Woods	<b>2019</b> 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*
<b>1977</b> Augusta Bradley Chapman* Nick Gamboli* Ed Greene* Harry Jackson* Paul Toscano Richard "Gus" Shankey*	<b>1988</b> Ron Becraft* Darryl Brown Tom Canty Pat D'Auria* James "Sham" Feeney*	<b>2000</b> Rich Conklin* Kevin Houston Dawn Royster Sarah Will Alex Zilko*	<b>2011</b> Jeff Becker Dan Keeley Gene Martin Kristen Conklin-Sullivan Shulton Whitley † Wilbur "Web" Wanamaker*	<b>2021</b> Emil Willis Jr.* Bob Willis Tom Lawson 1971 North Rockland High School Football Team
<b>1978</b> Jim Brown* Harold "Hale" DeChelfin* Jim Faulk* Ira Shuttleworth* Jim Schnaars* Nick Mottola*	<b>1989</b> Ralph Consiglio* Patty Dillon Solliday Vincent "Dugan" Kovalsky* Frank Nelson* Bob Wolff*	<b>2001</b> George Dalzell Gerald D'Auria* Seth Joyner Tod Giles* Debbie Grant Bill White	<b>2012</b> Marcel Cooper John Diffley Tom McTaggart Dennis O'Sullivan Dawn Sugrue Victor Veltidi Dan Sullivan*	<b>2022</b> Phil Consiglio Will Cunnane Wilbur Eschen* George "Doc" Leitner* Jose Saint-Victor Charlie White † Margaret "Babs" Stead 1954 Tappan Zee High School Cross Country Team 1972 New City Little League 1991-1992 Suffern High School Hockey Team
<b>1979</b> Bob Bacheller* Frank Cosentino* Harry "Dee" Dembnicki* Jerry Hollahan* Bob Grossman* E.J. Maurer* Bruno Albondi*	<b>1990</b> Denise McGuire Guy Guccione Abe Schuster* Robert "Red" Schassler* Don Clancy*	<b>2002</b> Ken Harniman* Derrick Lassic Norinne Powers Kris Snider Dick Teetsel* Walt Weiss	<b>2013</b> 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	<b>2023</b> Lance Arietta* Dave Billings Mary Brechbiel-Agnetti Heidi Higgins-Sermabekian Shawn Kapusinsky Kimberly McDole-Gordon Jim Scaringe † Joseph M. Farnellette 1969 -70 Clarkstown High School Boys' Basketball Team 1993 North Rockland High School Football Team
<b>1980</b> Dr. Jeffrey Munson Art Orlando* Brit Paterson* Nick Ryder Horace Tyrus* Emil Willis* Mickey Wittman*	<b>1991</b> Steve Drummond* Lew Brundage* Johnny Burns* Pete Haubner Ethel Doller* Dominic Gamboli*	<b>2003</b> Genny Mulderig Allard Jeff Bryant Peter Hackett* David Hirsch Bill Kurisko † Joe Grasso* † Charles "Jumbo" Strack*	<b>2014</b> Rick Carey Tom DePatto* Don Fischer Ed Kolakowski* Lorraine Moylan Richard Schumacher* Thaddeus Wilson † Al Witt*	<b>2024</b> Jim Eschen Jean Cary † Pete Scheibner Dana Williams Mike Schroer Kurt Lundgren Kelvin Smith Jr. Scott Finlay Ryan Dall 1953-54 Tappan Zee High School Boys' Basketball Team 1999 North Rockland High School Girls' Soccer Team 2008-2009 Nanuet High School Girls' Basketball Team
<b>1981</b> Art Hopper* Frank Horan Howard Johnson Lester Lepori* Walter Ostrom Victor Shankey* Bill Yuda*	<b>1992</b> Murray Olderman* Jerome Bonomolo Joseph "Biscuit" Picarello* Dale Lydecker John Mercurio	<b>2004</b> Jim Gallo Dave Hanson Joan Neuendorf Nancy Rosenfeld Lewis Ed Rubbert Frank Samoylo	<b>2015</b> Joe Clinton Bob Corvino Jennifer Feeney Lovell Ed Matott* Bob Nadal* Lintz Rivera Adams Homer Wanamaker † Nick Picarello*	
<b>1982</b> Frank DePatto* Tony Gamboli, Jr.. Bill Perry* George Jakowenko Ed McGrath*	<b>1993</b> Jim Kane* Kathy Miller Dapolito Jay Bohnel Mike Deane Don Driscoll	<b>2005</b> Jane Ronner-Beckley Mike Carroll* Tom Doherty Jamie Kempton Lee Klepper † Leon Pesner* Rudolph Rejholec*	<b>2016</b> Virgilio Hernandez Buster Keyes, Jr. Joe McGuinness* Ron Morgan* Katherine Nowell Steve Silverberg Linda Soto John Stephens † Michael Coffey*	
<b>1983</b> Warren Austin* Jim Brechbiel Frank Dawson* Jeanette Paddock Walter Sickles*	<b>1994</b> Hubert Nealy* Martin "Hawk" Jacobs* Joe Goldsmith Tom Collins Ron Tellefsen*	<b>2006</b> Tony Harlin Jon Hess Jim Pollard John Scanlan Jeff Van Wie John Van Wyck*		
<b>1984</b> Jim Ashcroft Marvin Branche* Ralph Cordisco* Bryan Hassett Bob Tierney*	<b>1995</b> Ron Edwards* Walter "Red" Levy* Max Talaska* Joe Klopchin* Joe McDowell* Paul Urban*	<b>2007</b> Julius D'Agostino* John Flaherty Barbara Hebel Robert Neuendorf Richard "Dixie" Reilly* † Dan White*		

\* Denotes Deceased

† Old-Timers' Special Award

‡ Joseph R. Holland Lifetime Achievement Award

# Chris ALGOZZINO

## NORTH ROCKLAND CLASS OF 1993

Chris Algozzino came up through the Haverstraw youth baseball system and followed in the footsteps of his older brother Joe, who also starred on the baseball diamond at North Rockland High School and Rockland Community College. Chris was a key member of the first two of three straight New York State championship teams piloted by Red Raider coach John Sottile.

Chris, a lefty ace, never lost while on the mound for North Rockland: 24 decisions, 24 victories. It all started his freshman year, when then-head coach John DiGirolamo called him up at the end of the season to play center field. However, he was pressed into duty as a relief pitcher in a Sectional playoff game against New Rochelle, tapped by DiGirolamo to make his varsity pitching debut under stressful circumstances. With the bases loaded, two outs and six runs already plated in the fourth inning, Chris came in, threw one pitch and got the No. 3 hitter in the order to pop out to the third baseman – his brother Joe, a senior on that year's team. Chris pitched 3 1/3 innings of scoreless relief and was the winning hurler in North Rockland's 13-7 win. That appearance set the tone for what would become one of the finest pitching careers of any Rockland ballplayer.

As a junior in 1992, Chris pitched a complete-game victory in the State championship game, an 11-3 drubbing of Lockport. It was the first State baseball title by a Rockland County team and the first State team championship in any sport for North Rockland High School.

As a senior, Chris went 8-0 with a microscopic 0.98 ERA. He struck out 61 in 58 2/3 innings and held opponents to a .190 batting average. In the State semifinals, he outdueled West Babylon's Billy Koch, a fourth-round major league draft pick who later starred as a closer for Toronto and Oakland. Chris worked through 5 2/3 gritty innings before turning the ball over to Steve Castrello, who saved the 5-3 victory, the 24th and final win of Chris' high school career. The Raiders culminated their season with an 11-6 triumph over Utica Senior Academy for their second consecutive State championship.

Chris was by no means a one-dimensional player. When not on the mound, he patrolled center field flawlessly and hit .353 in '93 with a team-leading 30 hits.

### State Player of the Year

For his outstanding mound performance, Chris was named the 1993 NYSPHSAA Baseball Player of the Year and was also recognized by USA Today as New York State High



School Baseball Player of the Year. He was the first North Rockland baseball player to earn those accolades. Over his career, he was selected first team All-Rockland County three times and first team All-Section 1 twice. He also was tabbed as the WRKL-Bank of New York Athlete of the Season his senior year.

Chris was just one of multiple standout players on those North Rockland teams. Darren Luzon, Mike Sidoti and Keith Finnerty were among the top players in Chris's junior year, while Pat Carey, Mike Stone, Joe Brady and Mike Rooney were leading players his senior year. Carey and Stone played on all three Red Raider state title teams, 1992 to 1994.

### College, Summer League Success

Moving on to Rockland Community College under Coach Dan Keeley, Chris posted a 6-0 pitching record in the 1994 season to help pace the Hawks to Mid-Hudson Conference and Region XV championships. Tendinitis in his left elbow sidelined him in 1995 but he bounced back in 1996 to help the Hawks capture the conference championship. He finished his RCC career with an 8-3 record and also contributed to the team's success as a first baseman, outfielder and designated hitter.

Outside the school and college seasons, Chris played in the Atlantic Collegiate Baseball League (ACBL) for the Generals, and made key contributions for the Rockland OTB Pirates' two New York State American Legion championship teams. He was also a member of the 1989 Haverstraw Senior Little League team (ages 14-15) that was crowned national champion, losing only to World Series champion Taiwan and Canada.



These days Chris, a 50-year-old West Haverstraw resident, works as a supervisor at the Sloatsburg production facility of Warby Parker, the eyeglass company.

Chris adds the Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame recognition to previous inductions into the North Rockland High School (2004) and Rockland Community College (2016) sports halls of fame.

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*Congratulations, Chris!*

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**CONGRATS**  
**CHRIS**  
**ON A WELL-DESERVED HONOR**  
.....  
**COACH SOTTILE**

*To the 2025 Inductees of the*  
***Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame!***



**CHRIS ALGOZZINO**  
**JERRY BLOW**  
**STEPHANIE CLEARY MILLS**  
**JOHN DIGIROLAMO**  
**LAUREN KAHN**  
**JOHN PANARO**  
**CHARLES "BONES" JONES, JR.**

*We celebrate your sports achievement.*  
*It is a testament to your hard work, dedication and perseverance.*

*Congratulations!*  
*Tom & Sandy Collins*

# Terry BLOW

## NYACK HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1978

Home was a moving target for Jerry Blow. He attended four different school districts in junior high and high school, lived in a group home and with friends for various spells, and endured an unsettled family environment while growing up in Rockland.

But there's one place he indisputably felt right at home: the track. From Spring Valley to Nanuet to Clarkstown South to Nyack, Jerry motored past one outclassed foe after another and staked his claim as one of the greatest sprinters in Rockland County history.

### NY State Champ, 9-time County & Section 9 Champ, 9 County Records

His list of honors is long and impressive. He won the New York State 60-yard dash title indoors and was 100-meter runner-up outdoors in 1978. He earned nine Rockland County championships, including the 100-yard crown four straight years and the 60-yard dash twice. Jerry set five individual County records, four of them in the 60, and ran on four record-setting relays. He won nine Section 9 class titles, including three at 100 yards, and eight State Qualifier races, including three in the 60. Jerry also was an Eastern States silver medalist in the 60 and 100 yards.

Known for his hair-trigger start, Jerry led off Nyack's state runner-up 880 relay in '77 – a unit that set the County and Section 9 record of 1:28.9 at the State Qualifier. That record remained on the books for 30 years, until 2007.

### Broke 10 Seconds for 100 Yards More Than Any Other Rocklander

Jerry also ran on the Indians' third-place 4x200 in the 1978 State meet, and finished third in the 60 his freshman year. He broke or tied the state freshman 60-yard record three times and dipped under 10 flat in the 100 yards more times than any other Rockland sprinter. His personal bests also continue to rank high on the all-time County lists: 9.6 for 100 yards, tied for second; 10.5 for 100 meters, third; 6.2 for 60 yards, tied for third; and 21.9 for 220.

### Taking Up Track As A Healthy Outlet

Jerry got started in track "by accident," he recalls. As a Spring Valley Junior High seventh grader, he got into trouble one day and was told he should take up a high-energy activity like track as a constructive outlet. So he gave up baseball, a more passive sport, and opted for the sprinting events in track. An immediate success in the



100-yard dash, he continued his blossoming running career after transferring to Nanuet Junior High, where he thrived under the tutelage of his first true track coach, Colin Minga.

### From Nanuet to Clarkstown South to Nyack

Jerry spent part of the winter season his freshman year at Nanuet before the school district realigned its borders and he ended up at Clarkstown South. The Vikings were only too happy to accept a sprinter of his enormous talents and Jerry starred for South through his sophomore year, after which he moved to the Nyack school district for his last two years. Joining the Indians' tradition-rich sprints corps turned out to be an ideal match for his abilities, but the initial transition proved challenging. Fortunately, the track team's statistician, Hope Johnson, helped ease the transition immensely, Jerry says.

"I'm a very shy person, and here I was going to yet another high school, about to become teammates with someone I had been strong rivals with," says Jerry, whose chief nemesis was soon-to-be-teammate Otto Pearson. "Hope broke down barriers for me meeting people at the high school. She smoothed the waters and made it easy for me."

### Unsettled Home Life

Jerry thrived both on the track and in school – he graduated with honors from Nyack – despite some tenuous family conditions. Besides living in a group home in Haverstraw for a while, he also was sheltered by Dr. Art Lebofsky, one of his coaches at Clarkstown South, and the family of Bill Aney, who was the stepfather of Dave Coffey, his best friend and teammate at Nyack.

“When I was having difficulties in my junior and senior year, they took me in and I lived with them,” he says with gratitude. “Without these compassionate people, I wouldn’t have been able to complete my education. They helped me keep my head on straight to compete and provided a stable environment to allow me to excel in school. I never would have made it to college without their help.”

Jerry appreciated Lebofsky’s positive and encouraging attitude at a time when he needed direction in his life. “Number one, he was a great coach. Number two, he was a great educator, helping me to understand that you need to keep a balance, to have strength of mind with strength of body. And number three, he was a great advocate for the academic development of minority students.”

### **Excelling at West Point**

Jerry received an appointment to West Point and competed with distinction for the Black Knights for three-plus years. He set a school record in the 60-meter dash in his sophomore year, and set the 60-meter dash record, 6.64 seconds (converted from 6.4 hand-timed), in the Army-Navy indoor meet. Forty-five years later, it’s still the meet record! Jerry also won the 100 at the Heptagonal Championships in 10.73, ran a 200 leg on Army’s winning sprint medley relay in the IC4A division at the 1980 Penn Relays, and traveled to Europe to compete on a combined Army-Princeton team against national squads in Ireland and England.

Sprinters can sometimes have a chip on their shoulder and Jerry likes to tell the story of his vanquishing a competitor who hadn’t shown him the proper respect. Nyack had no indoor track program until 1978, when Jerry spearheaded a group that petitioned the Nyack school board to start a program. The effort succeeded, and Jerry relished the opportunity to challenge defending champion Frank Kelly of Westfield, NJ, in the 60-yard dash at the West Point Invitational. Sure enough, Jerry handed Kelly a rare defeat and set a Rockland and Section 9 record (6.3) in the process. Jerry’s satisfaction continued when he competed for Army and Kelly for Navy. “I beat him like a drum,” Jerry says, most notably when he set the Army-Navy indoor record at Navy, Kelly’s home turf.

After three successful and rewarding years at Army, Jerry suffered serious misfortune in the summer before his senior year. He fractured spinal vertebrae in a car accident and could not receive the required medical approval to earn his military commission. Jerry completed his college education at St. Thomas Aquinas, which accepted his credits from West Point. He graduated in 1986 with a Bachelor of Science degree in economics.

### **Distinguished Career in Banking**

Jerry had a long career with Bank of America, where he held a series of senior executive roles including

serving as the operations executive and risk executive for the Customer Service function for the company. He later became the global real estate executive for technology, leading a team that managed the second-largest real estate portfolio in the United States.

Jerry’s last role with Bank of America was as senior vice president, global payments risk, responsible for ensuring the safe and legal transfer of \$2.8 trillion daily via the bank’s payments system. He first retired in 2018, then took on a new opportunity to be the chief operating officer for a medical chain based in Texas. After a successful acquisition, he retired the second time in 2021.

### **Value of a STEM Education and Selfless Mentors**

In 2010, Jerry was invited by Art Lebofsky to speak to the assembled members of the Albert Einstein Congressional Fellowship at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC. Lebofsky, who had been Science Department chair in the Clarkstown schools and coordinator of math and science in the Nyack schools, chaired a symposium celebrating the 20th year of the fellowship, of which he was the founding member, and developing recommendations for education legislation.

Jerry’s well-received presentation wove his personal narrative into the value of a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education. “STEM education is not sexy for young kids to learn, but STEM skills are applicable to the business environment, and you can earn a good living applying those skills,” says Jerry, who has six business patents to his credit. “Every job I had was math-based. All those skills were integral to my success at the bank.”

Jerry also spoke about the value of mentoring, the impact of educators and coaches in his life, and the importance of those who helped him mature as an athlete and student. “These are the people who powered me to success in track and field,” says Jerry, a 2010 Rockland County Track & Field Hall of Fame inductee. “The lessons I learned in Rockland are the lessons I used in my adult life. Just one degree here or one degree there, and my life would have gone in a different direction.”

Jerry, who turns 65 in June 2025, now lives in McKinney, Texas, with his wife of 23 ½ years, Stacey. He has two stepsons, Jason Thomas, an entrepreneur, and Justin Smith, a firefighter in Fort Worth, as well as three grandchildren: grandsons Roman and Tucker, and granddaughter Arlee.

For young student-athletes who may be battling some tough circumstances in their lives, Jerry has some sound advice distilled from personal experience: “Even if you’re going through difficult times, you can end up in a different place from where you started. Despite the challenges, you can succeed.”

*Congratulations, Jerry!*

CELEBRATING OUR 52<sup>ND</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF SPORTS EXCELLENCE



# Stephanie CLEARY MILLS

## TAPPAN ZEE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2001

Given the green light by her coaches to fire away, Stephanie Cleary embraced her role as Tappan Zee's premier shooting guard. By her sophomore year, she had already toppled the 1,000-point benchmark, the first Rockland 10th-grader to do so. By the conclusion of her five-year varsity career, she had put all other Rockland girls' basketball players in the rear-view mirror.

Shooting and scoring; scoring and shooting some more. The final magic number: 2,155 points. The previous Rockland County record was 1,611 points by Nyack's Eva Koehler in 1995. Stephanie did not just break the record; she clobbered it. This was Cal Ripken overtaking Lou Gehrig, LeBron James sailing past Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Wayne Gretzky whizzing by Gordie Howe. In the 24 years since she set the standard, nobody has come within a country mile of approaching it.

Is she surprised the mark has lasted so long? "Yes," says Stephanie, now Stephanie Mills. "The kids start [playing] younger. Every team has three or four good girls." By the same token, she laments how the game has changed. "I was lucky. I had a coach who gave me free rein. Now coaches control the game more. There are more set plays."

We may not see the likes of such a prolific scorer for many a decade. But lest you think Stephanie's prowess was limited to the hoops hardwood, understand that Tappan Zee was the beneficiary of her superior athletic skills in soccer, lacrosse and softball, too. And let's not forget the All-America credentials she racked up in a Hall of Fame career at Ithaca College.

### Four-Sport Star

Stephanie's sports résumé for TZ is peppered with a lot of "alls" – as in All-League, County, Section and State. In basketball, for four years she was All-New York State, All-County and All-Section 1, and five times All-League. In soccer she also earned four All-County and All-Section designations and five All-League citations. She led the Dutchies in scoring all five of her varsity seasons and served as team co-captain for the last three.

As an eighth- and ninth-grader Stephanie gained an All-League accolade as the starting shortstop in softball, then switched to lacrosse in the spring and garnered three more All-League honors.

Although she breached uncharted territory with her 2,000-plus points, Stephanie considers her 1,000th-point game the most



meaningful. Why? Because Tappan Zee scored a major upset of league rival Nyack. Steph calmly sank two free throws with 10.7 seconds left to cap a 10-point comeback and clinch a 55-52 victory over the Erica Lawrence-led Nyack team, which suffered its first league loss. "It was a great program win, and it was fun for me, too," recalls Stephanie, who also hauled down more than 800 rebounds and sank 194 three-point shots over her career.

### Memorable Moments, Coaches, Teammates

Another highlight-reel moment in Stephanie's athletic career was the 3-1 overtime triumph in soccer over archrival Pearl River in her junior year. Steph scored a goal by banging it home off her knee. "It wasn't pretty but it counted," she says. "We were happy for Coach Lynch. He was a great coach and a great person." Bill Lynch coached Stephanie in soccer all four years. Her basketball coach for the first three years was Tom Parke ("tough but fair"), who also coached Eva Koehler at Nyack when she set the scoring record six years before Stephanie. Kristi Steingasser coached Steph in 11th grade and Lynch took over for her senior year. Jim Drivas coached Steph in lacrosse, while Rich Miller coached her in softball for two years and soccer in eighth grade.

Stephanie had many fine teammates in the four sports she played, but a few stand out as exceptional. Maggie Brauer played with Steph in three sports – "She always had my back." Sarah Rooney was a senior who mentored young Steph as an eighth-grader – "She embraced me and took me under her wing." Rebecca Vogel was a trusted teammate in soccer and

lacrosse. Stephanie, Sarah (Kukla) and Rebecca (Zylber) are all Tappan Zee Athletic Hall of Fame inductees.

Stephanie did not have to look far for inspiration. Her brother Michael fit the bill of role model perfectly. "He was my hero growing up and he is still my best friend," she says of Michael Cleary, a three-sport All-County and All-Section athlete who graduated two years before Steph. "We live a mile apart and he has two little girls who are like my own kids."

#### **Making More History at Ithaca**

After graduating from Tappan Zee, Stephanie embarked on a second ultra-successful chapter in her athletic career, at Ithaca College. All she did was produce four more years of scoring magic, netting 1,866 points for a school record that remains untouched 20 years later. Twice she merited All-America honors, second team as a senior and third team as a junior – the first such recognition in program history.

Stephanie led all NCAA Div. I, II and III players in steals her junior year with 154 ("my claim to fame"), an average of 5.7 steals per game, and amassed 457 for her career. She was named Player of the Year in both the ECAC and Empire 8 her senior year, and the school's female Athlete of the Year as well. Spearheaded by Steph's heroics, Ithaca qualified for the NCAA Div. III tournament all four years and advanced to the Sweet 16 once. She was inducted into the school's Hall of Fame in 2015. "I was lucky with the college I chose," said Stephanie, who was coached by longtime mentor Dan

Raymond. "Some people wondered if I should have tried to go Division II or Division I, but at Ithaca I got the full college experience and the full athletic experience."

#### **Teaching, Coaching, Family**

Stephanie graduated from Ithaca with a bachelor's degree in English, and a minor in coaching. She later obtained a master's in special education from SUNY Manhattanville. Steph taught for 10 years in the New York City school system before accepting a position in 2016 at Dobbs Ferry High School, where she teaches special education as well as science and math.

Maintaining strong ties to the sport she loves, Stephanie served as JV girls' basketball coach at Tappan Zee for three years, and as assistant to Pat Buckley at Albertus Magnus for two seasons. After coming to Dobbs Ferry, she held the position of varsity girls' coach for four years. In her first season with the Eagles, she guided the team to the Section 1 semifinals and posted a victory over her alma mater.

Stephanie, who is 41, lives in Blauvelt with her husband of 14 years, fellow TZ graduate Mike Mills. They have three children, all of whom attend school in South Orangetown: Danielle, 13, who made the JV basketball team as a seventh grader; Matthew, 11; and Madison, 9.

Take a bow for your Rockland Sports Hall of Fame honor, Stephanie (Cleary) Mills!



*Congratulations, Stephanie!*

CONGRATULATIONS  
TO THE  
2025 INDUCTEES  
TOM MICELLI

# John DIGIROLAMO

## HAVERSTRAW HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1962

John DiGirolamo was one of the best all-around athletes to come out of Haverstraw High School in 1962. He played on the varsity every game from his freshman through his senior year in football and baseball and was a key player on two Red Raider championship football teams and two championship baseball teams.

John was one of the all-time best linemen and hardest-hitting players in Rockland County. He helped lead the way to two Rockland County Public School Athletic League (RCPSAL) championships in 1960 and 1961, and an impressive record of 25-6-1 over four seasons. He was selected:

- All-County First Team Center (Bergen Record), 1959
- All-County First Team Center (Journal-News), 1960
- All-County First Team Tackle/Linebacker, (Journal-News), 1961

Haverstraw High School recognized John with both the Ernest "Joe" Goods Memorial Award for the Most Outstanding Senior Football Player in 1961, and Joseph Filgueras Memorial Trophy for the Most Outstanding Lineman in 1960.

### Cited in Player of Decade, Team of Decade Voting

Subsequently, when the Bergen Record conducted the Player of the Decade Voting for the 1960s, John was among the top 10 football players long with his teammate Jo Jo Mackey, who was selected first. In addition, John was voted first team All-Rockland County as a tackle for the 1960-69 period by a board of expert sportswriters and coaches. The article chronicling that feat stated: "Almost every voter was not content to merely mention DiGirolamo's name. They usually added that the 195-pounder was one of the hardest hitting players of that period".

Not surprisingly, the Haverstraw football teams that John played on in 1960 and 1961 were among the top 5 teams for Team of the Decade Voting, which included archrivals Nyack (1968) and Clarkstown (1963).

### All-County Outfielder for Haverstraw Baseball Champions

In 1961 and 1962, the Haverstraw baseball teams were RCPSAL champions under Coach Bob Stewart. Haverstraw players Jo Jo Mackey (shortstop) - and hard-hitting John DiGirolamo (outfielder) were among the county's best performers. As a two-time All County outfielder, John was a powerful long-ball hitter. In 1962, in 10 league games he hit .438. He had 14 hits, drove in 32 runs, and cracked many home runs.



### Embarking on Teaching and Coaching Career

Upon graduation, John went on to study at Colorado State Teachers College where he earned a bachelor's degree in education in 1966. Later John earned a master's degree in adaptive physical education from Long Island University. John began his teaching and coaching career at Marlboro Central Schools in New York, and transferred to North Rockland Central School District, where he taught physical education and coached for more than 30 years. From 1970-1988, John coached many young athletes at the freshman and junior varsity levels, teaching them the fundamentals and preparing them to become successful varsity athletes on the football and baseball teams.

### Success as Line Coach for Championship Football Team

In 1988, John was promoted to line coach for the Red Raiders varsity football team, which was a powerhouse both offensively and defensively, winning several Section 1 football championships. In 1993 North Rockland won the inaugural New York State High School Class A football championship. John served as assistant coach with head coach Joseph Casarella for 10 years. Coach Casarella had this to say: "John was meticulous about technique and repeating the sequence of the plays. Most importantly, the players knew that John had gone to school in Haverstraw and was a great football player. They knew that Coach DiGirolamo would help them improve, make them a better team and successful to win."



### **Prosperity as North Rockland Baseball Coach, RCC Assistant Coach**

In 1988, John was promoted to head baseball coach and his team promptly won the Section 1 baseball title, with John earning Coach of the Year honors. The success of his teams can be attributed to John's coaching and the teamwork of many talented players who played together on his JV teams, including his son Brian, who became a stellar first baseman on the varsity Red Raiders. As a result of his success, John was recruited by athletic director Dan Keeley to become an assistant baseball coach at Rockland Community College. Their teams won three Region XV championships – in 1991, 1992 and 1993 – and qualified to compete in the prestigious Junior College World Series at Grand Junction, Colorado.

### **Paying Tribute to His Mentors and Role Models**

Upon reflecting on his athletic career at Haverstraw High School, John is very appreciative of the teachers and coaching staff who always encouraged him to do his best in the classroom and on the athletic fields.

He said that he and his teammates were fortunate to have experienced coaches who taught the fundamentals, special skills, and teamwork necessary to be successful in sports and in life. He offered special thanks to Ralph Cordisco, head football coach and athletic director, and his assistant coaches

Frank Maze and Joseph Nartowicz. He also acknowledged Bob Stewart, who was head baseball coach, and Gerald Neary, his first baseball coach. The lessons that he learned from the teachers and coaches at Haverstraw High and the friendships with his teammates have lasted a lifetime.

John was grateful to work with such a good coaching staff recruited by Athletic Director Joseph Casarella: Joe D'Auria, Pat Amendola, Papo Cancel, Gene Dall, Gary Dworkowitz, Duffy Dwyer, David Evangelista, Danny Keeley, John Sottile, Pete Warner, Charlie Bridgetts and Greg Grasso.

After his successful teaching and coaching career John retired in 1997 and moved to Lakewood Ranch, Florida, where he resides with his wife, Leslie. They have a close-knit extended family and are blessed with six grandchildren. They enjoy time together on family vacations in Florida.

Their son Brian serves as chief engineer of their family-owned and operated engineering company, Inertia Switch, Inc. Brian and his wife, Emily, work in the family business in Orangeburg and they live with their children Brian, Ariana and Ava in New City. John's daughter Nadine and husband Robert Nodhturft live with their three children Addyson, Amber & Joie in Orange County.

Congratulations to John DiGirolamo on your induction into the Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame!

*Congratulations, John!*



**HAVERSTRAW HIGH SCHOOL**

*Home of the Red Raiders*

# Lauren KAHN

**NANUET HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 2010**

Everyone's favorite question to ask Lauren Kahn back in high school was always, "What's your favorite sport?" To this day, she always has the same answer: "Whatever season I was in, that's my favorite." Growing up a three-sport athlete was something that Lauren always took pride in. One thing for sure is Lauren would not be where she is today without the love and support of her family, friends, teammates and coaches.

## **Soccer: Record-Setting County Player of the Year**

Starting in the fall Lauren was fortunate enough to put on a soccer uniform. From a young age soccer was always her first love. It was the first competitive sport she ever joined and that competitive edge did not stop until she finally had to retire the shin guards. Lauren was called up to JV soccer in just the 7th grade. It only took one year on JV for her to get the call up to varsity. From there she only continued to get better. People used to always talk about the goals record and how she would always have a chance to catch it but it was never something she thought about day to day. Fast forward four years later: Lauren scored her 120th soccer goal against Albertus Magnus. This mark left her on the top of that record board.

- 2008 and 2009 Rockland County Player of the Year
- 120 Goals, Rockland County Record
- 54 Assists, Nanuet Record
- 176 Points, Nanuet Record
- Most Goals in a Game, 5
- Most Goals in a Season, 45
- Most Points in a Season, 51
- All-League, All-Section Four Straight Years
- All-New York State

## **Basketball: State Player of the Year**

As the seasons changed so did the sport. Basketball. The sport she was surrounded by from birth. She would live at the gym everyday while her dad coached high school basketball (Ridgefield High School). This is where that love grew. Not only did that love grow, it's always where she met some of her best friends. Lauren was on JV in the 7th grade and by 8th grade was called up to varsity. She was called up during the first state championship run. As just an 8th grader she got a little taste of what being on the big stage meant. Fast forward to 2009, Lauren and her teammates won Nanuet High School's first – and so far, only – New York State and Federation championship for girls' basketball. Individually, Lauren:



- 1,229-point scorer
- 2009 and 2010 All-New York State Team
- 2010 NYS Player of the Year, Class B
- 2009-2010 BCANY Top 50
- All-County, All-Section
- Section 1 Tournament MVP
- 2009-2010 First Team All-State

## **Lacrosse: All-Section, All-County, School Records**

Last and certainly not least there is the lacrosse career. People might find this hard to believe, but Lauren did not start playing lacrosse until the 7th grade. She grew up playing softball and decided to make the switch when all of her friends were. Turns out this was the best decision she ever made. In her four-year high school career she was a part of two state championships runs and broke numerous school records:

- 484 Points (Nanuet Record)
- 244 Goals
- 240 Assists (Nanuet Record)
- 2-Time All-America
- 3-Time All-Section & All-County
- Most Caused Turnovers in a season
- Most Points in a Game, 12 (2009)
- Most Assists in a Season, 80
- Most Ground Balls in a Season (2007)
- April 17th, 2009: Scored 100th Goal, Same Day as teammate KC Jentzen
- April 15th, 2010: Scored 200th Goal, Same Day as Jentzen

Lauren enjoyed playing with many fine teammates across her three sports, including KC Jentzen, Courtney McGrath, Nicolette Saponaro, Caroline Dubreuil and Ryan Mulligan, among others. Lauren was coached by Michael Henderson in soccer, Carlos Fidalgo in basketball, and Karen Leitner and Amy Colon in lacrosse.

#### **All-America Lacrosse Midfielder at UConn**

Lauren found such a love for the sport of lacrosse that she has continued to make a complete career out of it. After graduating from high school Lauren went on to accept a scholarship to play lacrosse at the University of Connecticut. There she was part of the first UConn women's lacrosse team to make the NCAA Tournament. During her four years at UConn, Lauren was:

- 2-time All America
- Big East Midfielder of the Year
- 2-time All-Northeast Region First Team
- 3rd All-Time in Points
- 1st All-Time in Caused Turnovers
- 2nd All-Time in Draw Controls
- 4th All-Time in Goals, 143
- 4th All-Time in Assists, 73

#### **Lacrosse Professional and College Coach**

After her time at UConn, Lauren went on to play professionally for four years with the Boston Storm and the Philadelphia Fire. She has coached college women's lacrosse for the past 11 years, including five years at Columbia and the past six years at Iona.

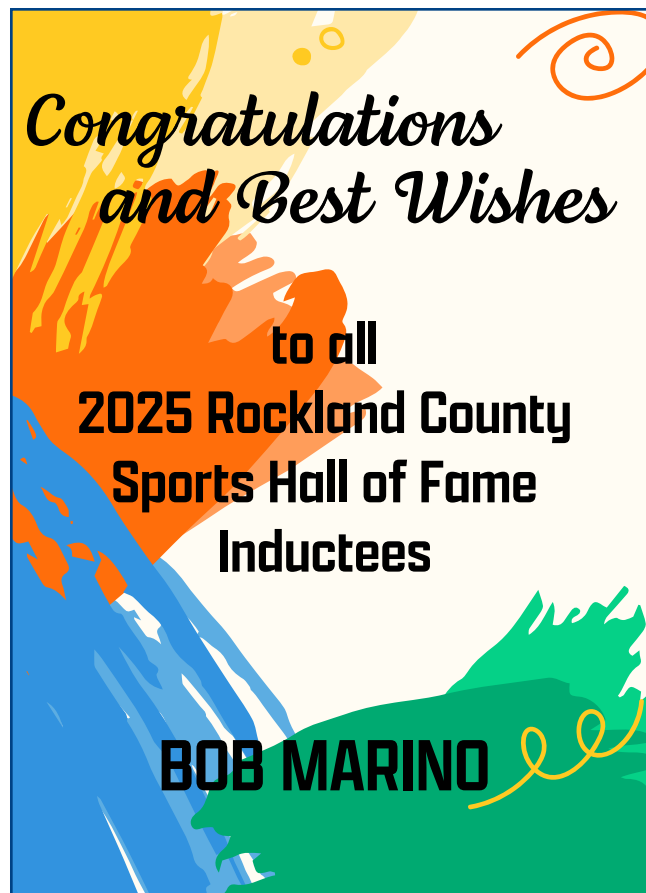
The daughter of Robert and Eileen Kahn, Lauren now resides in Blauvelt with her husband of almost five years, Tyler Esposito, also a 2010 Nanuet High School graduate. Their son, Chase, was born last July 29th.

Lauren was inducted into the Nanuet High School Sports Hall of Fame in 2021 along with teammate KC Jentzen and the championship 2009 basketball team.

Congratulations on your Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame honor, Lauren Kahn!



*Congratulations, Lauren!*





# John PANARO

## NANUET HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1978

A freeze frame from the John Panaro highlight baseball reel: A hot smash deep into the shortstop hole. John races to his right, gloves the ball backhanded on the edge of the outfield grass, whirls in midair and fires a perfect throw to second base to get the forceout.

That's just one snapshot in a collector's album of gems in John's athletic career at Nanuet. A three-year starter, he was a two-time, first-team All-County shortstop, made second team All-County as a sophomore, and culminated his career by earning a unanimous selection from the Rockland County coaches as Rockland Player of the Year in 1978.

That year, John batted .526 with 30 hits in 57 at bats; committed only two errors; and anchored the Nanuet infield with 39 putouts and 43 assists. He was a New York Daily News first-team All-Star and led Nanuet to a share of the first Rockland County championship in program history. The Golden Knights, Clarkstown South and Ramapo each had 15-5 records.

In 1977, his junior year, John batted .361, drove in 21 runs and made only one error all season for an uncanny fielding percentage of .991. Journal-News sports writer Steve Drummond called that feat "great for a major-league shortstop, unheard of for a high school shortstop," and said of the lone miscue. John also reached base at least 50 percent of the time in each of his three years on varsity. He helped lead the Golden Knights to the Section 9 Class B crown in both 1976 and 1977—the school's first two sectional baseball championships.

Upon graduation John held an amazing 15 school records, including season and career marks in batting average, RBI, runs scored, doubles, extra base hits and total bases, season on-base average and career walks. All but the walks record have been broken, some of them by John's nephew, David Fazulak, whose marks in turn were erased by latter-day stars Stephen Prosapio and Jon Winston.

### Rave Reviews

Teammates, coaches and opponents all held John in the highest esteem:

- Several of his teammates asked Nanuet coach Rich Loughlin to retire his uniform No. 15.
- One coach marveled, "He's a hell of a prospect. He's a real blue-chipper. He can hit, he's got speed, great hands and he makes the double play."
- Loughlin, Nanuet's head coach from 1969 to 1981, offered this glowing testimonial after John's milestone 1978



season: "We have some fine prospects coming up, but let's be honest – there will never be another John Panaro at Nanuet High School."

Loughlin is no less laudatory today about his star player, who was inducted into the Nanuet High School Sports Hall of Fame in 2003. "In my opinion John was among the best high school baseball players to ever play in Rockland County. He was a natural, a great talent. His hitting was fantastic and on defense he would make unreal plays."

Phil Carbone agrees with Loughlin's assessment of John's stature as Nanuet's pre-eminent player. Carbone, a 1983 Nanuet graduate, played with John in a couple of leagues for college-level players and saw firsthand the all-around excellence of the Panaro brand. "Everybody who wore a Nanuet baseball uniform wanted to emulate John Panaro," says Phil, who coached the Nanuet baseball team for 30 years [he's the second-winningest coach ever in Rockland] and is now the school's athletic director.

Baseball was not John's only sport. He excelled in football, too. He was the starting quarterback in 1976 and '77 and also started at cornerback in 1976 and safety in '77. John led the '77 team to a record of 6 wins, 2 losses and 1 tie, the best mark in the program's history to that point. His athletic exploits earned him a Jerry Leo Scholarship in 1978.

John paid tribute not only to Coach Loughlin, a tough but fair-minded mentor, but also to his coaching "ABCs" – Mike Achille, Jerry Bonomolo and Rich Conklin. Conklin coached the baseball team for one year after Loughlin stepped down.



Chuck Adrian succeeded him prior to Carbone's appointment in 1990. Carbone had the privilege of coaching Fazulak, a class of 1995 graduate and like his uncle a Nanuet Sports Hall of Fame inductee. He also coached John's son, Luke, in baseball and football. Luke had a big game at Boulder Stadium to help Coach Carbone notch his 300th baseball victory and also quarterbacked the Golden Knights to a Little Brown Jug win over Pearl River his senior year.

### **Playing NCAA Div. II in Florida**

John went on to play at Eckerd College, an NCAA Division II school in St. Petersburg, FL, whose schedule included Div. I heavyweights such as Miami, Florida and Florida State. A right-handed thrower and left-handed batter, he severely injured his throwing shoulder during freshman year but persevered and became a utility first baseman his sophomore year. He became the starting shortstop midway through his junior season, remained a starter through his senior year and batted better than .300 both years. The team was ranked No. 1 in the nation in NCAA Division II his junior year. "I'm proud I was able to play at a high level" despite the damaged shoulder, John says.

Coach Loughlin says John first injured his shoulder during a high school football game his senior year. When coaches Loughlin and Bonomolo drove John down to Shea Stadium for a tryout with the Mets – arranged through Pete Smith, a Nanuet schools assistant principal and longtime Mets scout – John impressed Tommy Holmes, the Mets' director of amateur baseball relations and a former star for the Boston Braves. "John was hitting balls off the wall in right and left field," Loughlin remembers. "Holmes said John's bat was clearly major league material," but his arm strength, weakened by the shoulder injury, cost him a chance at the big leagues, the coach explained.

### **A Taste of Professional Ball in Italy**

After his collegiate career, John fulfilled an ambition by playing professional baseball in Italy, the native country of his late father, Donato. Those two years were chock full of memories and achievements, including a bid that fell just shy of making the Italian Olympic team.

"It was a great way to see my family heritage," John said of his ball-playing odyssey in Italy. "It was amazing visiting my father's hometown [Bella] and seeing the house where he was born. As it turns out, my father and I returned to his hometown a few years after I was done playing ball in Italy and it was one of the most gratifying experiences of my life."

### **Parlaying Passion for Music Into Globe-Trotting Career**

After completing his two-year playing stint in Italy, John launched his own tour-merchandising company, which enabled him to travel on world tours with the Irish rock band U2 and with Amnesty International. Among the historical

sites that John's tours afforded him a bird's-eye view of were Robben Island, the isolated outpost in South Africa where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned for 18 years for his political beliefs; and Sarajevo, the former capital of Yugoslavia, which was still beset by ethnic strife several years after war in the Bosnian region.

"Seeing places like [these] makes me so grateful and fortunate for the family and friends I have here and I'm proud to consider the Nanuet area my home," says John, who moved to Nanuet from Washington Heights in New York City when he was an 8-year-old entering third grade at George W. Miller Elementary School.

### **Lasting Friendships, Close-Knit Family**

John also cherishes his continuing friendships from Nanuet and Rockland: "best friend" relationships with John Tarasco, Gary Bonomolo and Dan Mirro, neighborhood buddies and classmates since grade school; his beloved teammates on the Nanuet baseball diamond, including Billy and Tommy Rodish, Kurt Lundgren ("the most dominant pitcher I ever played behind"), JP Bonomolo, Vin Quiros, Alan Sproul and Jim Rodish, whose untimely death from heart disease proved supremely ironic because "he had the biggest heart". Lastly, John treasures his friendship with Rudi Ringwald, his "baseball" friend at Eckerd and one of his dearest friends today.

John also feels fortunate that he's still close with his three siblings – Mary, Danny and Terri. Although brother Dan now resides in Florida, John and his sisters still live within 10 minutes of each other. "It's a comfort knowing family and friends are nearby. That's what Nanuet and Rockland is all about—family and friends."

John spent most of the 2000s as general manager of the PNC Bank Arts Center in Holmdel, N.J. The venue hosted some of the world's most famous entertainers, such as Bruce Springsteen, The Who, Pearl Jam, David Bowie, Luciano Pavarotti and Taylor Swift, among others. For the past 12 years he has worked in the props department at the world-renowned Metropolitan Opera House in New York City.

John, who is 64, is back living in Nanuet after having resided in New Hempstead, town of Ramapo. He met his ex-wife Suzanne at Eckerd College and they have three adult children: Annabella, 32; Luke, 29; and Suzannah, 28, "three of the kindest and most beautiful souls on earth." He dearly misses his mom, Ann; dad, Donato; and sister Rosie.

"I have been so very blessed," he says with a strong conviction. "I always loved family, friends, baseball and music. My entire life has overflowed with all of it!"

John's induction comes one year after his former teammate and good friend Kurt Lundgren earned enshrinement. Reunited again in Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame glory!

*Congratulations, John!*



# Charles

## “BONES” JONES, JR.

JOSEPH R. HOLLAND LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD  
POSTHUMOUSLY

The name Charles “Bones” Jones, Jr. is synonymous with Special Olympics in Rockland County. He initiated a program at his place of employment, Letchworth Village Developmental Center in Thiells, in the mid-1970s, holding competitions on the grounds and in the gym at Kirkbride Hall for several hundred clients who lived at Letchworth. He expanded the program a few years later to other agencies that served people with intellectual disabilities, including St. Agatha’s, St. Dominic’s, Greer Woodycrest, Tanglewood Acres, ARC, Venture, and the Jesse J. Kaplan School at BOCES.

Bones became the Area 4 (Rockland County) coordinator for Special Olympics around 1977 and held that position until Special Olympics NY regionalized in 2005. At that time, Rockland County Special Olympics became part of the Hudson Valley Region. Even though regional staff members assumed supervision for part of the Special Olympics program, Bones continued to run the day-to-day competitions and training programs for the Rockland athletes until his passing in 2021. He championed the cause of Special Olympians for four and a half decades and never wavered in his volunteer commitment to this program and its participants.

“Bones brought Special Olympics to Rockland County at a time when there were no opportunities for people with disabilities,” says Nancy Logan, who worked with Bones in Rockland Special Olympics starting in 1983 and continues to co-administer the program. “He was a pioneer who saw ability in all of the athletes he came across.”

### Deep Roots in the Community

Bones started leagues for team sports in the early 1980s that have run continuously since then. It is the only Special Olympics program in the state that coordinates leagues for team sports, including soccer, basketball, floorball, a type of floor hockey using plastic sticks and ball, and a recent addition, bowling. Logan oversees the programs along with Sue Jones, Bones’ wife. “It takes two people to do what [Bones] did,” says Sue, adding that her husband also launched a popular golf program for Area 4 participants. Today, Rockland County has more than 250 athletes who participate in eight individual and team sports. The program offers year-round play as well as local, regional and statewide competitions. Several athletes from Rockland have even qualified for National and World Games competitions.

Perhaps equally important was Bones’ ability to integrate the Special Olympics mission into the fabric of the community.



For decades, he organized competitions at local high schools and coordinated all of the volunteers needed. “By having competition in the schools,” Logan says, “and exposing students, staff and the community to people with disabilities, we added many volunteers and athletes to our program.”

### State and National Impact

The influence that Charlie “Bones” Jones, Jr. had on Special Olympics extended beyond the boundaries of Rockland County. He was the State sports director for Special Olympics basketball for almost 20 years, and after introducing golf to the Rockland Special Olympics menu in 1995, became the State sports director for Special Olympics golf in 1998 and continued in that position until his passing. At the New York State Level Spring Games, which Rockland hosted for two years, Bones worked with the state to coordinate all of the volunteers and schedules for 700 athletes for basketball and track & field in the Clarkstown schools.

Bones was a member of the State Level Area Coordinator Committee for 27 years, and was also a member of the state-level Games and Training Committee for more than 25 years. Both roles required travel to meetings across the state several times a year.

On the national level, Bones coordinated a golf tournament for Special Olympics participants in Port St. Lucie, FL, in conjunction with the Professional Golfers

Association (PGA). Among the multitude of awards he received for his lengthy service to Special Olympics

was a lifetime achievement award named in memory of Dorothy Buehring Phillips, the founder of the New York State Special Olympics. Not that you would ever hear about that from Charlie. "He was very humble and very passionate," Sue says. "He just went out and did things. He said, 'Let's do it.'"

#### **Hoops Hero, Golf Guru**

Bones was a basketball and golf star at Peekskill High School, graduating in 1966. He earned an academic scholarship to SUNY Oneonta, where he played on the only undefeated men's basketball team in school history, the freshman squad from the 1966-67 season, which went 16-0. He was also second or third man off the bench for the varsity team. "We would play in the freshman game, shower, then go and play in the varsity game," says Bryan Hassett, Bones' teammate with the Red Dragons and his first varsity sub off the bench. Bones stood a wiry 6-foot-2 and had "razor elbows," Hassett says, "and he used them." The freshman team often played to sell-out crowds at home and received blanket coverage in the school newspaper by student staff writer Marty Appel of Spring Valley, later the public relations chief for the New York Yankees.

Bones began working at Letchworth Village in 1972 as senior recreation therapist in the children's unit. His future wife, Sue, a Long Island native, was hired by Bones later that year as a recreation therapist under his supervision. They married in 1980 and had two children: Kyla, now Kyla Basso, 42, a former Nanuet High School golf and volleyball standout and school Hall of Fame inductee; and Charles Jones III, known as CJ, 40, who also was a champion golfer.

#### **Carrying On a Legacy Through the Foundation**

Sue and her children formed the Bones Jones Foundation after Bones died of cancer in 2021 at age 72. The foundation continues to operate the Bones Jones Golf Classic, which Bones established some 40 years ago as a fund-raiser for Area 4 Special Olympics. The tournament, held at the Rotella golf course in Haverstraw and Patriot Hills course in Stony Point, still raises money for that cause as well as for the five-county Hudson Valley regional chapter. Bones' passion for golf also manifested itself in the league he founded in 1991 while at Letchworth and which continues to thrive today, long after the closing of Letchworth in 1996.

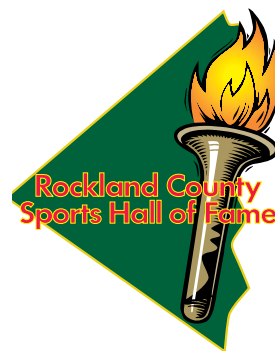
Besides participating regularly in the league he founded, Bones enjoyed coaching golf as much as playing. He coached the Nanuet High School golf team for 17-plus years and was still active in that role at the time of his passing. A longtime Nanuet resident, Bones worked at Letchworth Village for 49 years.

Nancy Logan summed up the driving spirit behind Charles "Bones" Jones, Jr.'s life as an advocate for the Special Olympics movement. "At the heart of Bones' dedication to Special Olympics was his boundless belief in the value of sports training and athletic competition and the positive effect it can have for those among us who may be differently

abled. He was a gentleman who dedicated his entire adult life to improving the quality of life for people with intellectual disabilities and to bringing greater acceptance for them in our society."

For his legacy of steadfast volunteerism, Charles "Bones" Jones, Jr. is a worthy recipient of the Joseph R. Holland Lifetime Achievement Award.

*Congratulations,  
Bones!*



*Congratulations*  
**Charles "Bones" Jones**  
**on your induction into the**  
**Rockland County Sports Hall Of Fame!**

**We couldn't think of a better person**  
**to receive the**  
**Joseph Holland Lifetime**  
**Achievement Award.**

**You were, and will always be,**  
**an inspiration to others!**

**We miss you, our friend!**  
*Nancy & Chris Logan*

## **Congratulations 2025 Inductees Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame**

**CHRIS ALGOZZINO**

**JERRY BLOW**

**STEPHANIE CLEARY MILLS**

**JOHN DIGIROLAMO**

**CHARLES "BONES" JONES, JR.**

JOSEPH R. HOLLAND LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT

**LAUREN KAHN**

**JOHN PANARO**



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**John Panaro** – Golden Knights Shortstop, Greatest Position Player

**Stephanie Cleary** – TZ's Hoops Scoring Record-Setter, All-America

**Lauren Kahn** – Nanuet's 3-Sport Superstar, UConn Lacrosse Ace

**Charles "Bones" Jones, Jr.** – Founder, Rockland Special Olympics

**John DiGirolamo** – Raiders Grid, Diamond Dandy, Coach of Year

**Chris Algozzino** – No. Rockland State Champ Pitcher, Career 24-0

*On your induction into the*  
***Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame***

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2025 Inductees**



**Chris Algozzino**, North Rockland Class of 1993

**Jerry Blow**, Nyack Class of 1978

**Stephanie Cleary Mills**, Tappan Zee Class of 2001

**John DiGirolamo**, Haverstraw Class of 1962

**Charles "Bones" Jones, Jr.**

Joseph R. Holland Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient

**Lauren Kahn**, Nanuet Class of 2010

**John Panaro**, Nanuet Class of 1978



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Class of 2010  
Leader of the NYS Championship  
Basketball Team  
Record-Setting Soccer & Lacrosse Star

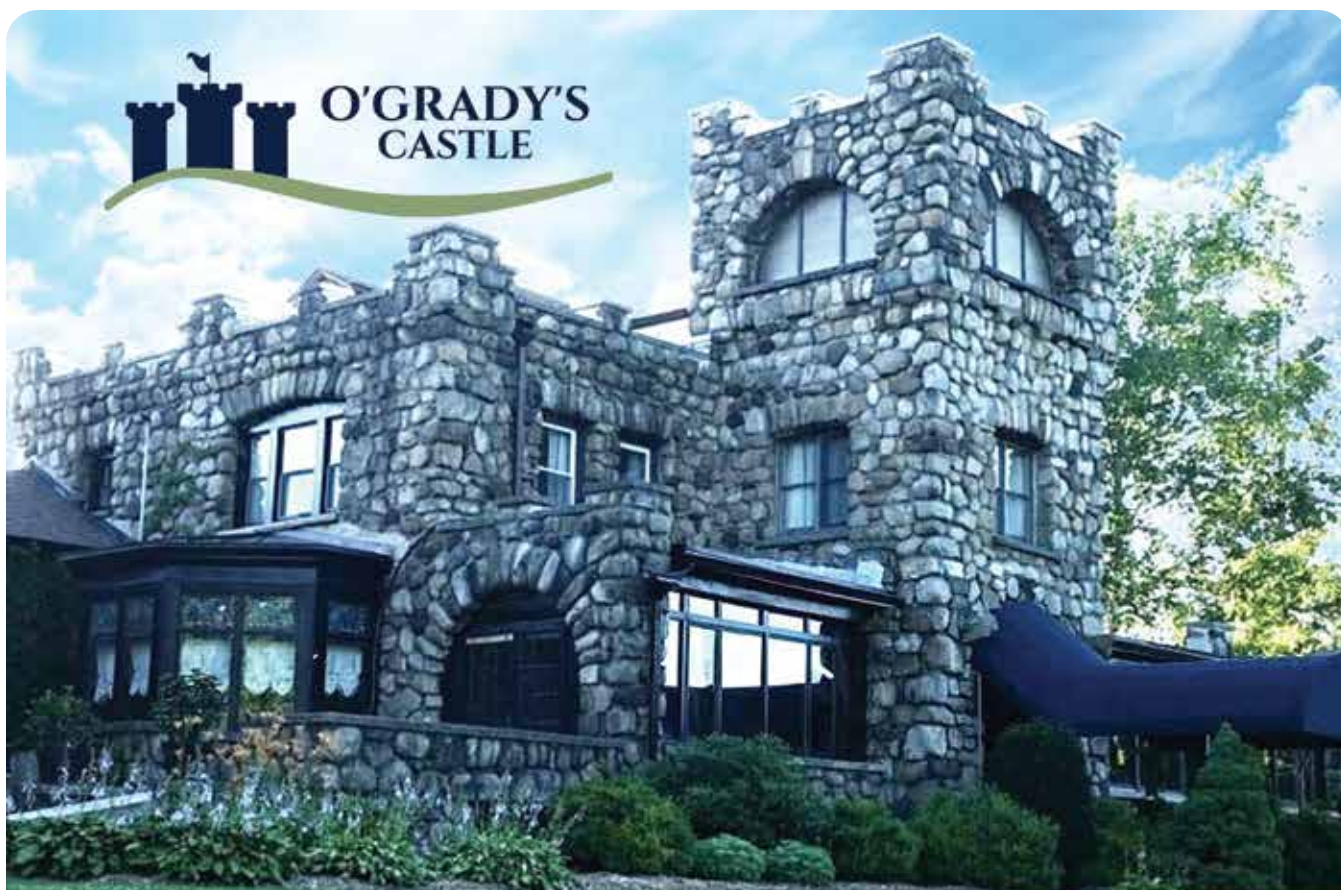
## Charles "Bones" Jones, Jr.

Longtime, Successful Golf Coach  
Special Olympics Trail-Blazer

NANUET ATHLETICS







*Save the Date*

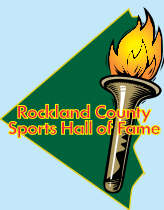
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**ROCKLAND COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME NIGHT**

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*RCSHF will be Honoring the 2025 Inductees*



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- Joseph Lynch (posthumous), Old-Timers' Special Award

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*Bryan Hassett*



# NORTH ROCKLAND SPORTS HALL OF FAME

*Congratulates the*

**ROCKLAND COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME**  
on their 52<sup>nd</sup> Celebration and the Class of 2025 Inductees

**JERRY BLOW** NYACK CLASS OF 1978

**STEPHANIE CLEARY MILLS** TAPPAN ZEE CLASS OF 2001

**LAUREN KAHN** NANUET CLASS OF 2010

**JOHN PANARO** NANUET CLASS OF 1978

*with Special Recognition to our own...*

**Chris Algozzino** — NORTH ROCKLAND CLASS OF 1993

**John DiGirolamo** — HAVERSTRAW CLASS OF 1962

*and to*

**Charles “Bones” Jones, Jr.**

POSTHUMOUSLY

JOSEPH R. HOLLAND LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT

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Gus Shankey – 1917

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Dominic “Babe” Gamboli – 1935

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Ralph Cordisco – Coach

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George Garrecht – 1942

Martin “Hawk” Jacobs – 1944

Rocco Marano – 1945

James “Sham” Feeney – 1945

Paul Urban – 1948

Robert Strack – 1952

Joseph “Biscuit” Picarello – 1952

Robert “Red” Schassler – 1952

Fred Adler – 1953

Frank Horan – 1953

Richard “Dixie” Reilly – 1955

Vincent “Dugan” Kovalsky – 1955

Nick Picarello – Lifetime Achievement

Johnny Burns – Sports Organizer

Hank Kapusinsky – 1959

Nick Ryder – 1959

Marty Springstead – Umpire, MLB

Tom DePatto – 1960

Joe “Jo Jo” Mackey – 1963

Gerald Kapusinsky – 1963

Sylvester “Molly” McGee – 1970

Mike Deane – 1970

Jim Brechbiel – 1972

Dan Keeley – 1972

Chuck Maze – 1973

Joe Casarella – Coach

Todd Sinclair – 1980

Linda Soto – 1984

Phil Consiglio – 1985

Shawn Kapusinsky – 1986

Derrick Lassic – 1988

John Stephens – 1989

John Sottile – Coach

Ryan Dall – 1994

Dennis O’Sullivan – 1994

Jeff Becker – 1995

Kelvin Smith, Jr. – 2002

Gene Dall – Coach

Bob Nadal – Coach

Mike Carroll – Coach

Mary Bechbiel-Agnetti – Coach

“Babs” Stead – Sports Official

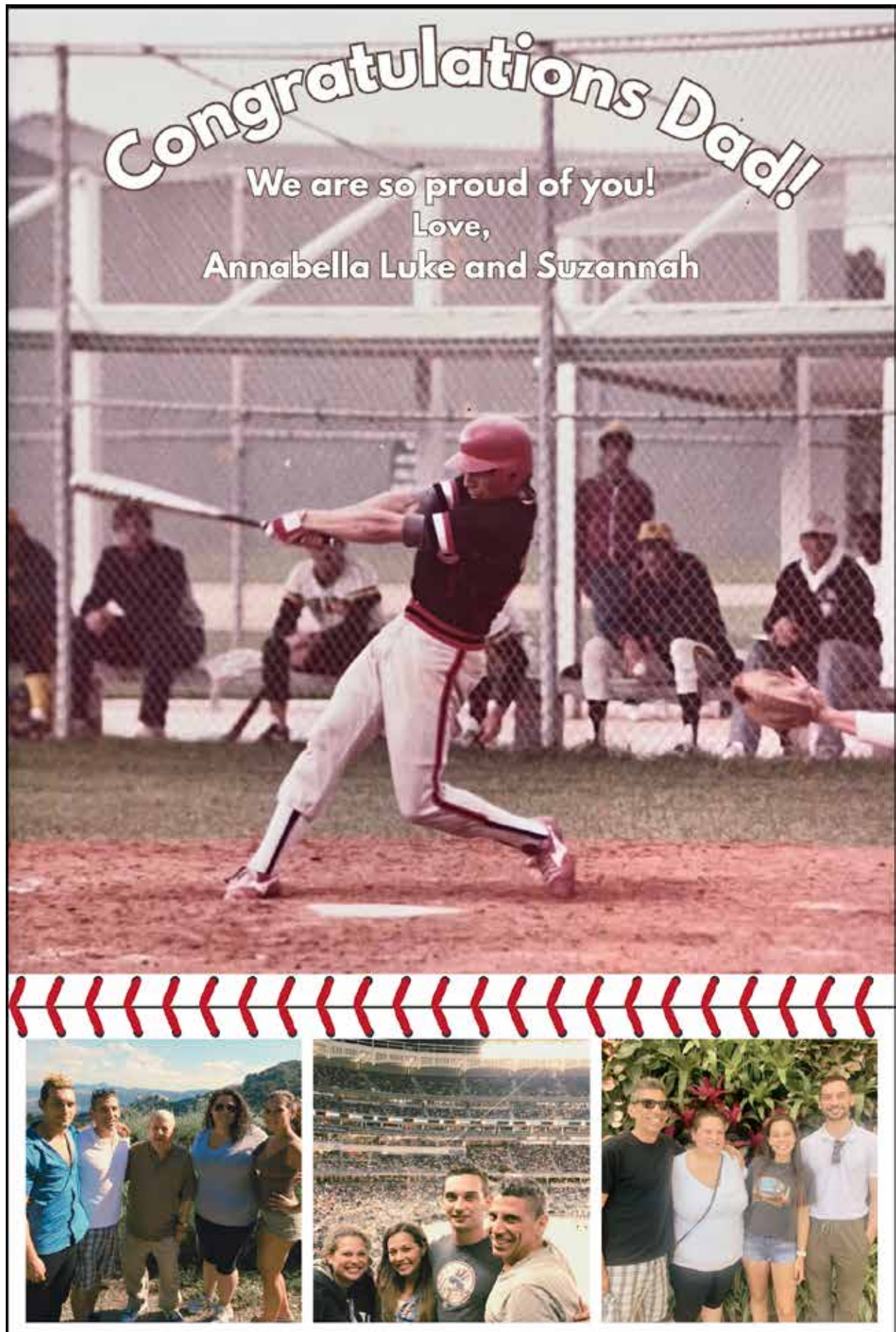
**2025 North Rockland Hall of Fame Golf Outing**

**Monday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 9am – Philip J. Rotella Golf Course in Thiells**

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*from the*

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AND  
NYACK ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME**

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PANARO**

**FROM**

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**&**

**PSAL CHAMPIONS OF 1978**



# *Congratulations*

## 2025 ROCKLAND COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME

### *Honorees*

**CHRIS ALGOZZINO • JERRY BLOW • STEPHANIE CLEARY MILLS**

**LAUREN KAHN • JOHN PANARO**

**JOHN DIGIROLAMO • CHARLES "BONES" JONES, JR.**

*Shawn and Kyle Kapusinsky*  
*Chuck Maze*

## CONGRATULATIONS TO **JOHN DIGIROLAMO!** FROM YOUR TEAMMATES AND FRIENDS.



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*Congratulations and Praise to*  
**THE ROCKLAND COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME**  
*and the*  
**Class of 2025 Inductees**

CHRIS ALGOZZINO

JERRY BLOW

STEPHANIE CLEARY MILLS

JOHN DIGIROLAMO

CHARLES "BONES" JONES, JR.

JOSEPH R. HOLLAND LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT

*and with special recognition to*

**LAUREN KAHN**

*and*

**JOHN PANARO**

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Norinne Powers-2002

Billy Kurisko-2003

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Tony Harlin-2006

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Janice Olszewski-2009

T.J. Ford-2010

Margie Sahlstrom Jaxel-2010

Rick Carey-2014

Thad Wilson-2014

Jackie McCracken Houck-2018

Bob Veltidi-2019

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Kurt Lundgren-2024





CLARKSTOWN NORTH ATHLETICS

**CONGRATULATES THE 2025  
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HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES**

**CHRIS ALGOZZINO**  
NORTH ROCKLAND CLASS OF 1993

**JERRY BLOW**  
NYACK CLASS OF 1978

**STEPHANIE CLEARY MILLS**  
TAPPAN ZEE CLASS OF 2001

**JOHN DIGIROLAMO**  
HAVERSTRAW CLASS OF 1962

**CHARLES "BONES" JONES JR.**  
JOSEPH HOLLAND LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT

**LAUREN KAHN**  
NANUET CLASS OF 2010

**JOHN PANARO**  
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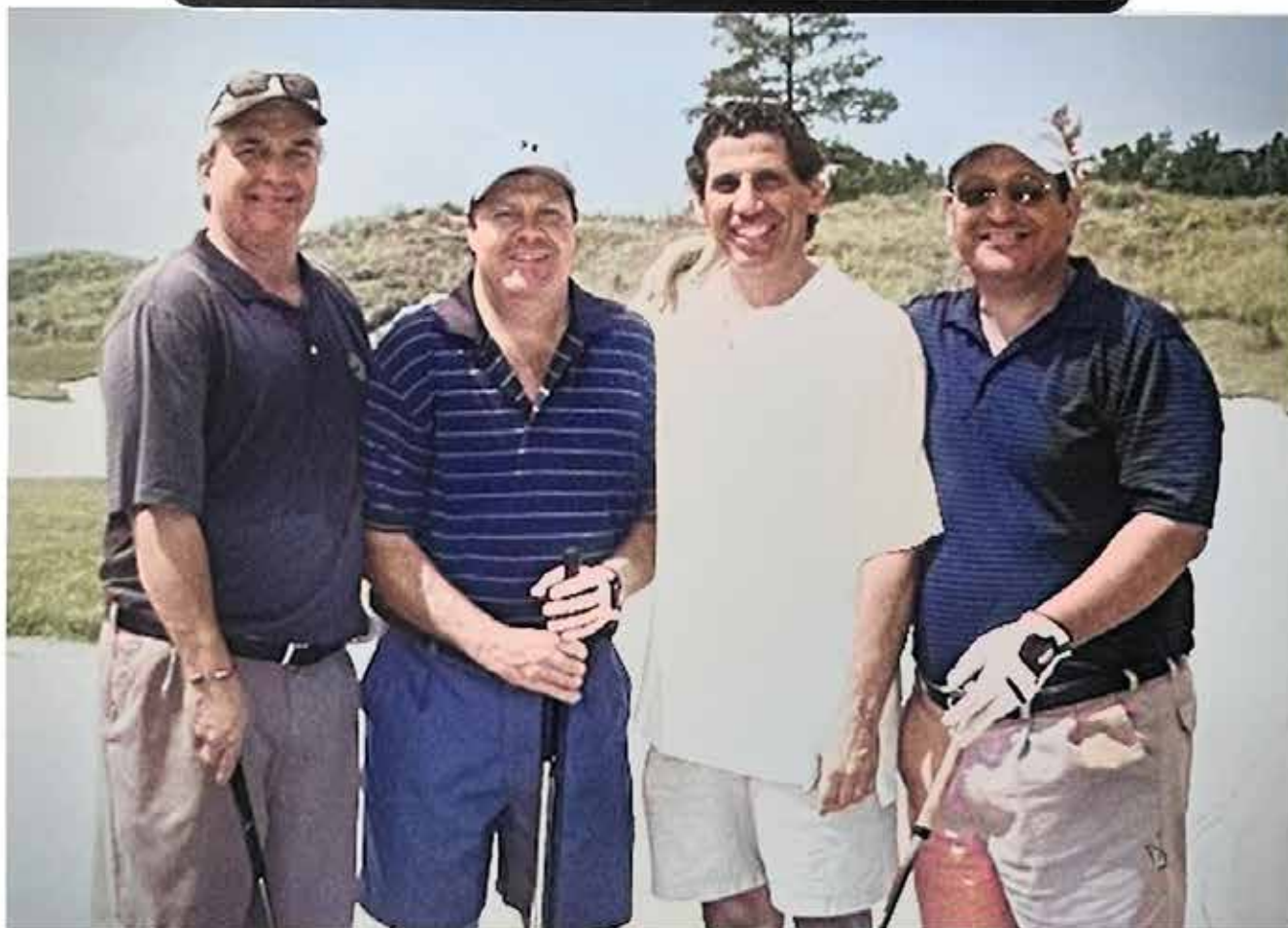
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**Chris Algozzino**, North Rockland Class of 1993

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**Stephanie Cleary Mills**, Tappan Zee Class of 2001

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**Lauren Kahn**, Nanuet Class of 2010

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FALL 2024 TAPPAN ZEE CROSS COUNTRY GIRLS' TEAM



# Congratulations to our Rockland County High School Championship Teams!



2024/2025 ALBERTUS MAGNUS GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM



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JERRY BLOW — NYACK CLASS OF 1978

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LAUREN KAHN — NANUET CLASS OF 2010

JOHN PANARO — NANUET CLASS OF 1978

CHARLES “BONES” JONES, JR.

JOSEPH R. HOLLAND LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT

**Congratulations and Best Wishes**

to

**John DiGirolamo**

Haverstraw Class of 1962

and

**Charles “Bones” Jones, Jr.**

Joseph R. Holland Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient

on your induction to the  
**2025 Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame**

from,

**Pete Haubner**



# JOHN PANARO #15



CONGRATULATIONS, JOHN PANARO, ON ACHIEVING SUCH AN AMAZING MILESTONE.  
YOU FOLLOWED YOUR DREAMS AND MADE IT HAPPEN WITH HARD WORK,  
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WITH MUCH LOVE AND PRIDE,  
MOM, DAD, MARY, DANNY, TERRI AND STEVE



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*Congratulates*

**Stephanie Cleary Mills**

AND ALL INDUCTEES TO THE

**ROCKLAND COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME  
CLASS OF 2025**



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## DAVID EVANGELISTA, CPA

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# JOHN DIGIROLAMO



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*To the Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame Inductees*

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**honor to have you as our**  
**“baseball hero”**

**Love, Amie, David, Chris,**  
**Margie, Dylan, Mackenzie,**  
**Madison, and Luke**





# *In Memory*



**JOSEPH "JO JO" MACKEY**  
**1974**



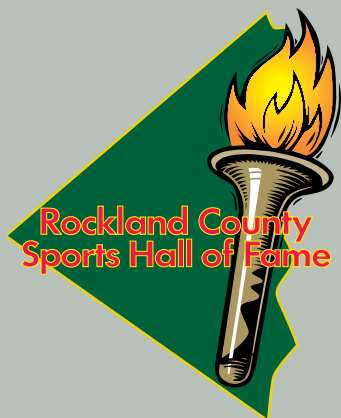
**TOM LAWSON**  
**2021**



**WALTER OSTROM**  
**1981**

*rest in peace*

## RCSHF SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY.....



**Pete Scheibner**, RCSHF Chairman presenting a check to Sister Margo with RCSHF board members Bill Rubbert & Alan Veltidi at Dominican Sisters in Sparkill.

THANK YOU  
TO OUR  
SUPPORTERS



RCSHF

**The D'Auria Family wishes to extend  
their congratulations to the  
2025 RCSHF Inductees.**

**Chris Algozzino**

**Jerry Blow**

**Stephanie  
Cleary Mills**

**John  
DiGirolamo**



**Lauren Kahn**

**John Panaro**

**Charles "Bones"  
Jones Jr.**

*- Joseph Holland  
Lifetime Achievement  
Award recipient*

**D'AURIA**

**In honor and acknowledgment of the D'Auria  
members (Gerald, Pete and Pat D'Auria) who have  
been bestowed the glorious achievement as longtime  
members of the Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame.**



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