

GERALD "JERRY" AHART

A 1968 graduate of Candor Central School. Jerry earned 12 varsity letters. He was a League All-Star in Basketball for two years, Baseball for two years and Track. In Football he passed for 13 touchdowns and ran for 5 others. Jerry also was the Tioga County League scoring champion as a junior and led the newly formed IAC in scoring as a senior. He led the Candor Basketball team to Section IV Finals in both his junior and senior years. In track, Jerry was also the IAC record holder in the mile relay.

Jerry was a coaches' dream. His peers respected him for his athletic accomplishments as well as his exemplary citizenship. His high standards and ideals are still serving the Candor community as he contributes his time on committees, as a village trustee, and a youth coach.

HOLLY APRILE

Was one of the finest female athletes in Afton Central history. She excelled in Field Hockey, Basketball and Softball. Her achievements are monumental from All-Star, All-League, All Metro and All-State. She set many Sectional records as a softball pitcher and also placed in the National High School record book for no-hitters and shutouts. She attended the University of Massachusetts and took them to the Division 1 College World Series. She has competed for the USA in the Pan American games and presently is an assistant Softball Coach at the University of South Carolina.

DR. JOHN BROWN

John Brown was a 3-sport athlete (Football, Basketball, and Track) in Trumansburg from 1975-1978. John still holds the school Track records from 1978 in the Triple Jump with a distance of 43'1" and in the Pole Vault with a height of 13'3". John once scored 36 points in a single basketball game for the Raiders. John attended Colgate University where he started and lettered in Football as a Safety. He was also an Academic All-Star his junior and senior years at Colgate. John is currently Chief of Cardiac Surgeons at Morristown (NJ) Memorial Hospital.

GARY BRECKNER

As a tireless Maine-Endwell running back, Gary belted out 3,492 yards, a career total that 21 years later still remains the all-time record for Southern Tier Athletic Conference athletes. Also, a four-year Track standout, he broke the Section IV shot-put record with a heave of 59 feet, 1/4 inch in the 1978 Eastern States Interscholastic Meet at St. John's University, and it remains the record. He also placed third and fourth in successive years of the New York State Meet. A First Team All State Football back, he later became a backfield starter for the University of Miami.

THOMAS J. CAREY

After bringing his Boston accent to Endicott in the late 1940's, Tom Carey served in six different decades as a Baseball and Softball umpire, including a comeback from 1990 open-heart surgery. Although getting a later start in a striped shirt, 45 of the 46 as a referee and more than 20 as the Southern Tier chapter's designated rules interpreter. The retired IBMer didn't hang up his whistle until after the 1997 season.

TIA DERENBERGER

Tia was Moravia's girls' sports teams "Iron Horse" of the early 80's. She started her Varsity career as a 7th grader in both Field Hockey and Softball. She also played four years of Varsity Basketball. Tia holds the school record for Varsity letters at 15. Tia was a multiple league All-Star and MVP in all three sports. She played goalie in Hockey, guard in Basketball and was a Softball pitcher. Her senior year she was honored as Cayuga County female Athlete of the Year and as a credit to her character, was given the school's Babe Ruth Sportsmanship award.

Tia love was Softball and pitching. Her fierce competitive demeanor on the mound topped off with red hair flying, intimidated many a batter. Tia went on to St. Bonaventure to pitch four years for the Bonnies. She now teaches in the Buffalo area.

PAUL EATON

In 1974, Paul Eaton won two individual swimming state titles for Norwich taking the 100 butterfly and 50 freestyle, while teaming for a third victory in the 400 free relay. He set Section IV records in each event, while being named first team All-State and All-League.

Eaton went on to have a distinguished collegiate career. As a freshman at Alfred State he won four national titles in the 50 free, 100 free, 100 butterfly and 400 free relay in addition to setting national records in each event. As a sophomore in 1976, he transferred to the University of Iowa and was a three-time place winner in the Big Ten Championships. He also was a 1976 Olympic Trials qualifier in the 100 fly and 100 free.

As a coach, Eaton directed 12 High School All-Americans at Boca Raton, Florida, coached one Division II All-American at the University of South Dakota, and coached four high school state champions in Iowa and Florida.

Through this March, Eaton is the only Norwich athlete to win an individual state title.

STAN ELINSKY

In 35 years as Mr. Wrestling in Deposit, Stan Elinsky's team won 10 Section IV Class "D" Championships and six Susquenango East crowns. Although usually competing against larger schools, Deposit won 294 dual matches, losing only 166, and in 1977 won the unofficial overall Section IV Tournament team championship. Three times, his peers voted him Section IV Coach of the Year. More than 220 of Stan's Deposit wrestlers won individual tournament titles. Stan also served as a prominent long-time referee in the sport.

RICHARD "DICK" FOLEY

Since 1962, Dick Foley has made outstanding contributions to high school athletics in Section IV and New York State as a teacher, coach, official, Principal and Athletic Director. He has been a teacher/coach for the Binghamton School District and the Maine-Endwell School District and in 1981 he became the Director of P.E. and Athletics at Maine-Endwell.

Dick has served the STAC League and Section IV on committees such as the Executive, Realignment, Classification and Nominating. He was also the Boys' Volleyball Chairman and served as President of the Southern Tier LaCrosse League.

He has received many distinguished awards such as:

1. Council of Administrators Zone Award
2. Section IV Athletic Director of the Year Award
3. Man of the Year Award for the Southern Tier LaCrosse League, Southern Tier Track Officials and New York State Track Officials.
4. Inducted into the Maine-Endwell Hall of Fame.

Dick retired in 1997 but is still active in athletics by serving as Associate Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the STAC League, on the STOP DWI Tournament Committee and as Lifetime Member of the Southern Tier Track Officials.

Dick will always be remembered in Section IV for his statement "Let's Keep It Consistent."

Congratulations Mr. Consistency!!

PASQUALE GRASSO

Pasquale Grasso has served Laurens Central School as a Teacher, Athletic Director, and Coach for over 30 years. He coached Varsity Football, Basketball, and Baseball. His Football teams were Tri-Valley League Champions in 1958, 1959, 1965, 1967 and 1973. The 1965 and 1967 teams were undefeated. His Basketball teams were Class "C" Champions in 1964, Class "D" Champions in 1973, Western League Champions From 1958-1960, Division Champions from 1972-1975, and Tri-Valley Champions from 1983-1984.

Aside from his illustrious coaching career, Pasquale has been actively involved in Section IV Athletics for over 30 years. He has served as a League Representative, a member of Selective Classification and Safety Committees, and the Tri-Valley League's only Executive Secretary.

STACIE KANE

Stacie gave Afton one of the most truly Dynamic Duos in Section IV sports history, teamed with classmate Holly Aprile on teams with a 198-44 record for their four years, with six state Final Fours, two Championships, two other Finals, plus a Basketball Quarter-Final. A strong-armed slugging third-baseman, talented Basketball point guard and standout Field Hockey center-forward who could have gone NCAA Division I in any of them, Stacie chose Basketball. Despite a broken wrist abbreviating her sophomore season at Afton, she finished with career home runs, triples and runs scored in the national top-10. To cap it off, she and Holly graduated 1-2 in their call academically.

DARYL PAGE

Daryl was an outstanding wrestler who competed for Elmira Notre Dame High School from 1984-1988.

He is one of only two wrestlers to ever win four Sectional Titles. Daryl is also a three-time New York State Place winner. He won the New York State Championship and was named twice as the Section IV Most Outstanding Wrestler. He also won 4 Sectional Championships en route to a career record of 136-9-1. He was a member of the Notre Dame Golf Team and was named to the All STC Golf Team in 1987.

Daryl Continued his career and to excel for the Drexel University Wrestling Team.

STEVE PAVLOVICH

Steve Pavlovich rose to the highest levels of Section IV officiating in Basketball and Baseball as a member of IAABO Board 49 of Binghamton and NYSBUA Binghamton and Endicott Chapters. Over the course of five decades, Steve served as Baseball rules interpreter and chief clinician, assignor-treasurer, and was on Board 49's Executive Committee. His dedication to the improvement of officiating an umpiring through rule knowledge, proper mechanics, and professional presence on the field defined what he was all about. Steve served as interpreter for Section IV and has been an active and contributing member of Section IV's Officials Coordinating Committee for over 20 years.

JAMES RAFTIS, SR.

As a youngster, Jim developed a true love of sports. However, during his freshman year at Owego Free Academy, Jim suffered a career ending knee injury.

Jim remained a champion of sports and channeled his efforts in a new direction. He became a student reporter for the Elmira, Binghamton and Endicott newspapers and started the local sports coverage in the Owego Pennysaver in 1955. Jim was also sports editor of the Owego Gazette for three years.

For 39 years he was a scholastic broadcaster with WEBO-AM for Owego Free Academy events, the Interscholastic Athletic Association and the Owego Little League.

Jim has received numerous awards for broadcasting excellence, special services to the residents of the Owego-Apalachin Central School District, the Tioga County Boys and Girls Club and the Owego Little League.

L. MICHAEL ROTUNDA

From his freshman year on, Mike consistently won honors in three sports - Football, Wrestling and Baseball, regardless of the level. He frequently was All-League for Newark Valley, which was in the Susquenango Association at the time, and again was All-League in all three sports after transferring to Owego and the Southern Tier Athletic Conference for his senior year, during which he added Class "A" and Section IV Wrestling Championships and a fourth-place in the States. At Syracuse University he became a two-year starting tackle who frequently went both ways, besides captaining the wrestling team.

JIM RYDER

Jim set Section IV Basketball records for points in a career (2238), points in a season (774), free throws made in a career (607), and baskets made in a career (806). When Jim left Tioga his 2238 point total was the sixth highest in state history.

Jim led Tioga Central School to 38 consecutive I.A.C. wins from 1985-1988. Tioga's 1998 team won 25 games and made it to the State Finals.

Jim was selected to the following All Star Teams: All League 1984-88; All Metro 1986-88; First Team All State 1988; All Central New York First Team 1988 and Honorable Mention All American USA Today.

Jim attended Siena College on a Basketball Scholarship and was team captain during his Senior year.

DANIEL SMITH

Was an outstanding three sport athlete for Seton Catholic Central High School. He played Varsity Football for three years, was selected First Team All Conference for two years, Athlete of the Week, All Metro and held the Section IV record for passing. He was also selected to All Star status in both Basketball and Baseball. He finished his high school Baseball career by being the winning pitcher in the STAC Championship game and a week later was the winning pitcher in the Section IV Class "B" Championship game.

WESLEY SOMERVILLE

Wes Somerville coached Basketball at Trumansburg from 1968 to 1997, a total of 29 years. Wes compiled an overall record of 462-179, which included the following championships.

- 17 IAC Division titles
- 9 IAC Overall Large School titles
- 7 Section IV Class "C" titles
- 4 State Regional titles
- 13 Christmas Tournament titles
- 1 STOP-DWI Tournament title

The following organizations have honored Wes during his career at their Basketball Coach of the Year: The Ithaca Journal, Interscholastic Sports Conference and the New York State Coaches Association. He was the President of the NYS Basketball Coaches' Association for 10 years.

BILL SZABO

Class of 39', Bill was a four year standout track star at Ithaca High School from 1936-39. He was a three time Section IV Track Champion in the 200 yard low hurdles. Bill was undefeated in the low hurdles form 1937-39. Bill was the captain of the 1939 IHS Track team and lead them to three straight undefeated seasons. At one time, Bill held six track records. Bill also participated in the National High & Prep School Track and Field Championship's held in Madison Square Garden in 1939.

ROBERT ZEH

Bob Zeh is no stranger to the Basketball court at the Broome County Arena where the inductions take place. Before completing 22 coaching seasons at Oneonta High, his teams won three Section IV Class "B" Boys' Basketball Championships and three Susquenango Association Championships, besides several playoffs as Southern Tier Athletic Conference Divisional Champions although Oneonta always was among STAC's smallest schools. Prior to 285 victories in 22 Oneonta Seasons, Bob coached at four smaller schools, including a Section IV Class "D" title at Worcester in his first year as a varsity coach. For 30 seasons, he coached 394 wins, at almost a 2-out-of-3 success rate.