

### Mike Bednar

Mike Bednar is long overdue as an inductee into the Section IV Hall of Fame. Mike was a shining star in three sports among several Johnson City shining stars during the 1946-49 era. The tall, rugged Bednar was a varsity starter for three seasons in football (end), basketball (top scorer) and baseball (big hitter) during his career.

Bednar's JC football powerhouse of 1948 went unbeaten, the start of a 29-game non-losing streak for the Wildcats that lasted into the 1951 season. In both the 1947-48 and 1948-49 basketball seasons Bednar finished second in the STC scoring race, scoring 217 points in STC play in 1947-48 and 233 in 1948-49. Mike was all-STC in both football and basketball and unquestionably would have been in baseball except the STC did not select all-league baseball teams.

The highly-recruited Bednar accepted a scholarship to play basketball at St. Bonaventure.

### Marty Conner

Marty Conner is considered one of the best all-around athletes to graduate from Groton Central School. He earned eleven varsity letters participating in football, wrestling and baseball.

He was named a League All Star in both his junior and senior years in both football and baseball, as well as being named to the Fourth Team All State in football.

In wrestling, Marty earned five varsity letters, and as a senior placed first in IAC League Championships in the 145 pound class, first in the Overall Section, and sixth in the State Meet.

### Charles A. Crandall

Chuck Crandall is considered among one of the best all-around athletes for Lansing throughout his High School career. He earned 8 Varsity letters participating in football, basketball and baseball.

In his junior and senior year of football, he was first in league scoring, second in league rushing, and tied for league interceptions. In one of his best games, he rushed for 232 yards in 23 attempts and scored 6 touchdowns.

Chuck was a three year starter in basketball. His senior year he broke the school single game record by scoring 37 points.

Chuck was an IAC All-Star selection in football and basketball in 1971 and 1972.

### William Creedon

Bill was a champion all-around versatile athlete earning nine varsity letters while participating in football, basketball and track.

He was named to three All-Valley and two Southern Tier Conference Championship football teams. In basketball, Bill was named to two All-Valley and one Southern Tier Conference Championship teams. Bill scored 30 touchdowns during his high school football career.

**Michael Doherty**

Mike was a blue chip athlete at Vestal High School where he played soccer, basketball and baseball. He led the soccer team to two Section IV Championships as well as two Regional Championships. He is the third leading scorer in Vestal Soccer history. He was a two time Soccer All-American at Vestal High School and an NSCAA Soccer All-American at Binghamton University.

In 1992, he was the NSCAA Division I N.Y.S. Soccer Coach of The Year and the Lanzera National College Soccer Coach of The Year. He was the 1992 Patriot League Men's Coach of the Year and his Colgate University Team won the Patriot League Championship in 1992.

**Jim Frazier**

Jim was outstanding as a cross-country and track competitor at Moravia Central School 1975-1978: Section IV Class B Champion 1977-78; IAC Champion and All-Star 1976-78; Individual winner of McQuaid, Whitney Point, Fayetteville-Manlius and Moravia Invitationals.

In track, he was IAC two mile long and triple jump champion. He achieved many school records. He was Sectional A-C Triple Jump Champion.

**Sherri Snowberger Fuentes**

"Bunny" Snowberger amassed 14 varsity high school letters.

She was a four year starter in field hockey and the league MVP in 1979. Her four year softball batting average was .425. In basketball, also over 4 varsity years she averaged 22 points per game, led Dryden to league, section and regional championships in '78 and '79 going 42-0. There was no state championship at that time. Her four year record was 74-2 and she was named "Ithaca Journal" Athlete of The Year in 1979.

**Jeff Lacey**

Jeff captured 9 letters in football, basketball and baseball at Dryden High and was All-League in each sport during his last two years.

Jeff averaged 16 points and 10 rebounds per game for his 11th and 12th basketball years.

As a football offensive end, Jeff led the conference in yards and catches over three years. He was also an All-League defensive back and was a superb punter. Jeff was the first player in IAC history to be named first team All-State in both football polls.

**Richard Leonardo**

Ithaca High Schools' Richie Leonardo wrestled under coaches Orlando Turco and the late Bill Layton from 1959-63. He was a co-captain of the Little Red wrestling team his junior and senior year with a record of 41-4. In his senior year at 133 he experienced only one loss. He won the 1963 Section IV tournament and advanced to New York State's first intersectional championships at Barton Hall in Ithaca, New York. With three convincing victories he became Section IV's first state champion.

The following year he placed second at the National Amateur Athletic Union Championships in New York City and qualified for the final Olympic trials. He went on to wrestle under Coach Myron Roderick at Oklahoma State University.

### Pete Tyra

Pete Tyra is the oldest inductee into the 1994 Section IV Hall of Fame. Pete was a 12 letter winner at Elmira Heights, 1935-36, winning all-league honors in football (end and tailback), basketball and baseball (outfield). As an added touch, Pete won the 165-pound boxing championship in 1938.

Pete never played on a losing Heights team throughout his scholastic sports career. He played on back-to-back unbeaten football teams (1937-38) and was a standout on successive unbeaten (in league play) Heights baseball teams (1938-39).

Pete is an inductee in the Metro-Elmira Sports Hall.

### COACHES

#### Roland Devore

Roland Devore, one of the finest quarterbacks and boxers in Elmira Southside history (1945-49), is a 1994 Section IV inductee in the coaching category.

The Elmira Sports Hall of Famer (football) and boxing champ (1947) was coach/athletic director at Union Springs for 30 years (1961-1991). Devore coached every sport, either JV or varsity, at Union Springs at one time or another, both boys and girls. He was most successful in track, a sport in which he coached a New York State Track Championship competitor for 23 successive years. Devore's standouts were Denise Large (a Section IV Hall inductee) who won 8 Section IV titles, Michele Hastings who won six, and Mark Gaffney who was Section IV champ in both the 800 and 1500 runs.

#### Roland J. (Mike) George

Mike George's induction into the Section IV Hall of Fame is past due.

The Elmira High assistant coach/16-year athletic director is considered to be the Father of the Southern Tier Conference, which he was insistent upon seeing organized soon after being named AD at Elmira in mid-summer 1945. Prior to that, the STC was a conference, but unofficial, because Binghamton Central and Binghamton North would not play Elmira in football after the two Binghamton schools fielded separate teams in 1937. George's first move was to split the Elmira schools from one athletic team to teams representing both EFA and Southside. Then he proceeded to get the Elmira schools, the Binghamton schools, Ithaca, Johnson City and Union-Endicott to agree to a formal league for all sports. Cortland and Vestal joined for basketball and later Vestal joined for all sports.

Mike George also fashioned what was lauded to be among the best New York State intra-mural sports program for both boys and girls at Southside. George, before he became AD, was phys-ed instructor at SHS.

#### Dean Guinther

Dean Guinther was the Athletic Director at Windsor Central School for 20 years.

While there he accomplished the following: 17-year Varsity Baseball Coach with 8 division and 5 Sus. Assoc. championships plus Section IV AA-A champions in 1971, 5 years Varsity Basketball Coach, 2 year Chairman of Section IV baseball, 2 years Section IV Vice President, 6 years a member of Section IV Official's Negotiators Board, 1 year Varsity Track Coach, and an 18-year member of the NYS Council of Administrators.

### William Mott

William Mott of Windsor Central School has accomplished the following: 4 years Assistant Track Coach; 4 years Junior High Wrestling Coach; 4 years Varsity Wrestling Coach; 17 years Varsity Football Assistant Coach; 11 years Girls' Varsity Volleyball Coach with 157 wins and 21 losses, 7 Sus. League championships, Section IV Class A champs 1980, Class B champions 1978-79 and 1982-83 as well as Regional champions in 1982-83; 12-year Section IV Boys' Volleyball Chairman and 8 year Girls' Volleyball Chairman; Southern Tier wrestling association official and 10-year volleyball official.

### Charles Tarricone

Charles Tarricone was and still is considered as one of the finest high school basketball coaches in NYS. He coached at UEHS as the boys' varsity basketball coach from 1972-1992 compiling a win-loss record of 275 wins and 134 losses; at Seton 55-45. Under his leadership at UE, his basketball teams have won 7 STAC league championship and 8 Section IV championships, and in 1979, 1980, 1983 to the NYS Final Four. He has written the book Winning Basketball with Organization and Defense.

He is currently active in basketball as a member of the Board of Directors NYS Basketball Coaches Association, tournament director of the Stop DWI Holiday Basketball Classic and still conducts summer camps.

## CONTRIBUTORS

### David Feldman

Dave served Section IV as a football official for 25 years and as a basketball official for 30 years. During that time, Dave was considered one of the top officials in both sports. His devotion to sportsmanship and fair play, as well as his officiating skill and professionalism, earned him the respect of all those involved with sports, including fellow officials, players, coaches, game administrators and fans.

As a basketball official, Dave officiated numerous Interscholastic Athletic Conference championships and Section IV final games in all class categories. On two occasions, Dave represented Section IV as a basketball official at the New York State Basketball Finals.

### James Runyan

Jim Runyan, athletic director for the Elmira high schools (EFA, SHS) and the architect of a scheduling program that includes almost 500 varsity and JV events for the two schools a year, was elected to the Section IV Hall as a contributor in his first year of eligibility.

Runyan, a tireless worker, was one of the leaders in the restructure of Section IV in 1980 which led to the Section IV football playoffs, which later developed into State play, which Jim endorsed.

Over the years, Runyan has been president of the NY State Athletic Administrators, President of the NY State Association of Health, Physical Education and Recreation; chairman of the NY State Special Olympics; 4-time president of the Sullivan Trail Conference; Chairman/President of the Section IV Football Program; President of the Section IV Athletic Council; a long-time member of the Section IV Sports Hall of Fame selection committee.

Jim, who retired in 1993, is now a member of the Elmira School Board.

### Kristin Banfield McCartney

Kristin Banfield McCartney set seven school records in her four years on the Ithaca High girls' basketball team while scoring 1202 points and having 716 rebounds. She played as a freshman in 1980-81.

She made All-Southern Tier Athletic Conference and All-Metro Binghamton Press in her junior and senior years when her respective statistical outputs were 344 and 392 points and 230 and 201 rebounds. She had a 36-point game in her senior years when her scoring average was 23.1.

The newspaper USA Today regarded her as one of the top 15 scholastics in New York State in 1983-84. As a senior she led the STAC in scoring average and total points. She was the first STAC player to have a Big East scholarship. She was a three-year starter at Villanova University. She was the first basketball player to receive a Division I scholarship from Ithaca. Kris lettered as a varsity softball starter when she was a freshman.

In her three years in the Empire State Games she won, in order, Silver, Bronze and Gold Medals.

### George Palmer

George Palmer is considered to be (along with Don Smith) one of the finest all-around athletes in Watkins Glen history. George lettered in five sports at Watkins from 1967-71: football, basketball, baseball, track and wrestling.

Although George was good in everything he tried, football was his No. 1 sport. Palmer was All-League in 1969 and 1970, an All-Central New York back in 1970 and All-New York State Honorable Mention in 1970. Palmer averaged 6 yards per carry for his football career, gained 915 yards as a junior and was on his way to 1,000 yards as a senior before breaking a leg in the season's sixth game. He had 860 yards at the time. Palmer's greatest game was a 294-yard rushing, 4-TD show when Watkins ended South Seneca's two-season win streak, 38-20.

In basketball he averaged 18 points a game his senior season.

Palmer received a football scholarship to Colgate.

### Andy Peters

Part of the proud Johnson City football tradition, Andy was the starting fullback on two of four straight Section IV Bowl victories by the Wildcats in the early 1980's and also part of the J.C. 26 straight game winning streak.

Andy was a four year starter for coach Chuck Gottfried. He collected many honors including: First Team All S.T.A.C., First Team All Metro, First Team All New York State. Andy was selected as the Binghamton Press "Athlete of the Year" for 1981.

### Elroy Pratt

Elroy was a four sport Varsity letterman at Whitney Point during the years of 1957-61. Elroy started every football game over a four year career being the leading scorer of Section IV his senior season.

Elroy has the distinction of scoring six touchdowns in one game and being selected Susquenango All-League for three seasons. He was selected 2nd team on the Upstate High School All-Star Football team compiled by the Syracuse Herald-American.

An article from the Binghamton Press concerning the All-League selections is indicative of the way he played. "The league standout must be Elroy Pratt. Ironically, of all the mass statistics forwarded to the Press, the only detectable error was on Elroy's information sheet: Weight 118. Actually he hit like 218, although the scales say only 178."

#### Lester Reimsnyder

Les Reimsnyder holds a rare distinction in Elmira Heights sports. He was captain of teams (basketball and football) that won Southern Counties league championships the same year (1942).

Reimsnyder was all-SCD end in football, who occasionally filled in as a back for the Heights. He captained an unbeaten football machine in 1942. He was among the SCD's leading basketball scorers in both 1940-41 and the 1941-42 and was the No. 1 scorer in the league during the first weeks of the 1942-43 season when he left school in his PG year to enter the service. Les was a seven letter winner --four in basketball, three in football. Les played on Elmira College's first basketball team in 1946-47 and is an Elmira hall inductee.

#### Roger Robinson

Mr. Roger Robinson was a 3 sport athlete at Union Endicott in 1939, 1940, 1941. He participated in football 3 years and was a letter recipient 2 years.

He participated in basketball 2 years and lettered in basketball 2 years. Roger was captain of the UE basketball team his senior year.

Mr. Robinson participated in track and lettered in track for 3 years. He held the Southern Tier area record for the discus event his senior year.

Upon graduation from high school, Mr. Robinson attended Syracuse University and participated in football. He left Syracuse to enlist and serve in the Marine Corp. Afterwards he attended the University of Rochester where he participated in football. Later, Mr. Robinson attended Dartmouth University where he participated in basketball.

#### Don Smith

Don Smith was a 10-letter winner at Watkins Glen during 1946-50 but it was basketball in which he made a lasting impression as the No. 1 scorer for Joe Lemak's Glen cagers, setting individual game records (60 points and 24 field goals vs. Newark Valley 1950) that were never topped in the history of the Southern Counties League.

He was two-time league scoring king and two-time All-SCL selection. Don averaged, for his era, an eye-opening 24.1 points per game for the 1949-50 Watkins season. Smith also played three seasons as a football back (he was All-Twin Tiers 1949) and four seasons as a varsity baseball player. He averaged .411 at bat for his four seasons of baseball. Don played pro baseball in the Boston Red Sox system. Don and George Palmer are the first two Watkins athletes inducted into the Section IV Hall.

#### Connie Sweet Tice

Connie Sweet Tice, who displayed her athletic skills for both Elmira Free Academy and Horseheads, won more prestigious awards than any female athlete in Section IV track history.

Connie, a Section IV Hall of Fame inductee in her first year of eligibility, was named to the USA Today All-New York Track Team in 1984, two-time Twin Tier Athlete of the Year, Elmira Athlete of the Year and for the Decade of the 1980's. Connie is the only athlete in history to win state track championship (shot put) in New York and Pennsylvania (1984).

Connie is an Athens, PA native. Connie's specialties were the discus and shot in track and she won both in the NY State Championships. In swimming, Connie competed in the 50 free, 100 butterfly and with the Horseheads relay team. She set Horseheads pool records in all three. Connie is a member of the Horseheads Hall of Fame and the Metro-Elmira Hall of Fame.