



Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame

15 West Third Street - Jamestown, NY 14701

November 2017

Edward Manfred “Bud” Erickson

March 12, 1923 – August 29, 2017



Edward Manfred “Bud” Erickson was born to Swedish-American immigrant parents in Dunkirk, New York. He participated in football, basketball, track and volleyball, but his high school did not have a baseball team which was his favorite sport. After graduating from high school in 1941, he was recruited to play freshman football at Duke University, but instead played baseball and basketball.

Expecting to be drafted, he transferred to Syracuse University in 1942 to be closer to his parents. When World War II broke out he enlisted in the Army Air Corp. Diagnosed with color blindness he was not allowed to pursue pilot training, so he opted for meteorology which included studies at Hamilton College in

Hamilton, New York. While there he played on the basketball team.

Because there were too many enlistees in meteorology, Bud transferred to a new specialty: weather observation. He was posted in Texas and Oklahoma. While in Illinois at Canute Field, he played on a National championship basketball team.

He was discharged from the military and enrolled at Michigan State University in 1946 to pursue a career in broadcast journalism. He resumed playing college baseball in 1947 and 1948, captaining the 1948 team.

After graduating in 1948 from Michigan State, Bud served as an assistant in the MSU sports information department under Fred Stabley.

One of Bud's mentors, Nick Kerbaway, took a position with the Detroit Lions and was instrumental in arranging for Bud to join Van Patrick on the Detroit Tigers baseball broadcasts in 1952. He married Florence "Micke" McCluskie in September 1952 at the First Presbyterian Church, Northville, Michigan.

Bud joined the Detroit Lions in 1952 as Public Relations Director. The team won the NFL championship in 1952, 1953, and 1957 and he remained with them until 1965, having become Assistant General Manager in 1960.

With a recommendation from then NFL commissioner Pete Rozelle, Bud was selected as Assistant to the President of the newly established Atlanta Falcons in 1965. His responsibilities were wide-ranging including hiring coaches and administrators as well as training camp site selection, uniforms, ticket sales and other promotions.

In 1968 he was awarded the WSB Radio "Beaver Award" for meritorious commitment to the community of Atlanta. He chaired the Atlanta chapter of the Leukemia Society of America while living and working in the city.



In 1970 tour player Gloria Armstrong recruited Bud to become Executive Director of the Ladies Professional Golf Association, LPGA. He held that position for 5 years adding new events to the tour and tripling the amount of tournament purses. Foreign tournaments stops were added in Japan, England, and Australia.

In 1976 he served as Executive Director of the Atlanta Golf classic for 2 years and then was recruited by Oakland Hills to serve as Tournament Director for the 1979 PGA championship. He continued at Oakland Hills for the 1981 Senior Open, 1985 US Open, and the 1991 Senior Open. At the same time, he also served as executive Director of the Golf Association of Michigan (GAM).

After retirement he arranged golf excursions to Scotland and Ireland for large groups which gave him great enjoyment. He continued to play golf recreationally whenever possible, including an annual trip to Hilton Head Island every March. He played golf well into his nineties.

Bud remained an ardent Michigan state fan and supporter throughout his life and attended many of the football games as a member of the Varsity Club. He was also an enthusiastic Spartan basketball fan.

He was an active member of First Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, Michigan, and

served as an usher for many years. He also helped with the church's rummage sales as a cashier. He served on the Worship and Music committee and participated in the Christmas Hand-in-Hand Walking tour, often playing a costumed role such as a Roman soldier or Wiseman.

Bud was inducted into the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame, Jamestown, NY, in 2001. He is survived by his wife, Micke, his daughter Linda Erickson of Birmingham, Michigan, his son Jon Erickson of Atlanta, Georgia (his wife Kathy), his granddaughter Katie Erickson Zeek of Atlanta, Georgia (her husband Ryan), and his grandson, 2nd Lieutenant Brian Erickson, USMC (his wife Ciara).

Memorial tributes to the First Presbyterian Church, 1669 W. Maple, Birmingham, MI
OR: Michigan State Baseball 223 Kalamazoo Street East Lansing, MI 48824

CHAUTAUQUA SPORTS HALL OF FAME
ENDOWMENT FUND REPORT
As of September 30, 2017

Legacy Society (\$2,500)

Randy & Heidi Anderson	Dick Barton	Cal & Sharon Cederquist
Lou Deppas	Russ Diethrick	Stan Marshaus
Ken Martin Family	Tammy Rea	Bill Rollinger
Dr. Charles Sinatra, DDS	Rick Rupprecht	Jamestown Mattress Co.
Grace Dolan	Lenna Foundation	Chip & Mary Beth Johnson
TBA	Mike & Pam LaTone	Chris Olsen
Friends of Jack Keeney (M)		Friends of Jack Keeney (F)

Gold Medal (\$1,000)

Russ Ecklund	Tom Heppeler	Dave Polechetti
Bill Race	Pete Hubbell	Lakewood Rod & Gun Club
Ronald Schifano	Denny Lundberg	Anonymous
Gebbie Foundation	Lenna Foundation	Doug & Sue Seamans
In Memory of Lyle Peterson		In Memory of Ramsay Riddell

Silver Medal (\$500)

Lee Johnson	Fred Larson	Ron Melquist
Ed Tomassini	Steve Centi	Marlene Corkery
Michael Heary	Lena's Pizza	Falconer Printing & Design
Sheldon Foundation	Lenna Foundation	Mel/Mary Swanson & Family
Verna Feather	Gebbie Foundation	Sheldon Foundation
DHS-FHS-CMHS Alumni Golf Tournament		

Bronze Medal (\$250)

John Bongiovanni	Joe DiMaio	Wally Huckno
Scott Kindberg	Jay Sirianni	Pete Criscione
Judith Young	J. Paul Lombardo	Jeff Buchholz
Ron Blackmer	Dan Hoard	Walt Brown Family
Saralee Pischera Buck	Dan Turnell	Gary Clark
Angela Pucciarelli	Bob Muscato	Dr. David C. Berg, MD
Joe Sanfilippo Jr.	Gary Peters Sr.	Dr. Thomas Raffa, DDS
Gordon Black	Dr. Patrick Damore	Patricia & Delores Rewers
Erica Annarella Filipek	Jack Lawrence	Al Muck
Coralyn Boehler	Thomas Eakin	Decker Shooting Supplies
James Colby	Lutheran	Jamestown Macadam
Quick Solutions	Bodewell LLC	James B. Schwab Co.
Patsy & Ken Sprinkle	Dan Lunetta	Sammy & John LaMancuso
Ahlstrom-Schaeffer Elec.	Bob Schmitt	Fessenden, Laumer & DeAngelo
Linda Mattison	Doug Hoisington	Doc Malinoski Family
Lenna Foundation	Joseph M. Johnson	Timothy M. Johnson
David Hyde	Lori Lassen	

Other Gifts

Pam Ames	Art Asquith	Chautauqua Metal Finishing
Dr. Jay T. Kearney	Robert Lind	Roger MacTavish
Felix Muzza	Phillip Yates	Jamestown Lodge of Elks
Danny Thorp	Clark Stohl	Tiffany Decker
Randy Anderson	Jim Andrews	Alex Conti
Stacy Conti	Chuck Crist	Russ Ecklund
Lee Johnson	Timothy Johnson	Scott Kindberg
Phil Klinginsmith	Mike/Pam LaTone	Bill/Pat Locke
Don/Louise Long	Denny/Sandy Lundberg	Stan Marshaus
Larry/Norma Marvell	Ron/Waneta Melquist	George/Susan Murphy
Jim Painter	Mark/Renee Prechtl	Tom Priester
Patty/Dee Pewers	Scott Sawyer	Bob Schmitt
Doug/Sue Seamans	Rod/Carol Drake	Tamara Rea