
Preserving the Sports History of Chautauqua County



Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame

15 West Third Street - Jamestown, NY 14701

January 2012

2012 CSHOF BANQUET SPEAKER



Former Buffalo Bills wide receiver **Andre Reed** will be the guest celebrity at the 31st annual Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame induction banquet on February 20 at the Lakewood Rod & Gun Club.

“We are thrilled to have Andre as the guest speaker for our induction dinner,” said Chip Johnson, banquet chairman. “Not only was he a superstar player during the Bills’ streak of four Super Bowl games, Andre was also one of the most popular Bills in the history of the franchise. His appearance will add a special touch to the induction of **Bob Schmitt, Greg Peterson, Jim McElrath, John O’Neil, Betty Bartkowiak, and Ben Bishop.**”

In the words of Buffalo Bills hall of fame Coach Marv Levy, “Andre Reed was one of the greatest and most durable football players that I have ever coached. He excelled in every aspect of the game.”

One of 10 finalists for the Pro Football Hall of Fame Class of 2011, Andre set the all-time Bills receiving record with 941 receptions, 13,095 receiving yards, 86 touchdown receptions, and 36 games with at least 100 yards receiving. Along with Jim Kelly and Thurman Thomas, Reed was a part of one of the most potent offenses ever to play in the NFL and was one of the key members of the Buffalo Bills during their glory years in the early 1990s.

Andre was born on January 29, 1964 in Allentown, Pennsylvania. The seven time pro-bowler actually played quarterback at Dieruff High School where he led the team to an undefeated season in his senior year. Reed was recruited as a wide-receiver by Kutztown University where he set nine school receiving records.

In 1985, Reed was drafted in the fourth round by the Buffalo Bills where he had an immediate impact during his rookie year with 48 receptions for 637 yards and 4

touchdowns. With improving numbers during the next few years, Andre earned his first of seven pro-bowl selections in 1988. He went on to set nearly every Buffalo Bills receiving record and to establish credentials that merit induction in the NFL Hall of Fame.

After 15 years with the Bills, including four Super Bowls, six AFC title games, seven Pro Bowls, Reed played one year with the Washington Redskins before retiring.

Reed finished his career third all-time in NFL history with receptions with 951, sixth all-time in receiving yards with 13,198 yards and seventh all-time with 86 receiving touchdowns. Reed and 2010 Hall of Fame inductee Jerry Rice are the only two receivers in the history of the NFL to have thirteen seasons with at least 50 receptions.

The CSHOF induction banquet on February 20 at the Lakewood Rod and Gun Club will begin with a hospitality session at 5:00 p.m. with dinner at 6:30.

Tickets are available at a cost of \$50. CSHOF members will receive a \$5 discount. To reserve a ticket, contact Chip Johnson at 716-485-6991.

Robert C. Brown 1924-2011



Bob Brown's name has been popping up in area sports for nearly 50 years. It all started at South Dayton High School as an athlete and ended there, now known as Pine Valley Central School, as a long-time coach and athletic director.

Brown played basketball and baseball for four years at South Dayton and was a starting guard on the 1941-42 sectional championship team that had an undefeated record. After a three-year stint in the Army, Brown attended Cortland State where he played baseball and soccer for three years and was the right halfback on the 1948 All-America Soccer Team. During that time, Brown also played baseball with the Steel Partition Bombers who won the New York State Championship and went on to compete in the national tournament at Wichita, Kansas.

In 1949, he signed a contract with the Brooklyn Dodgers and played second base with their farm team in Nashua, New Hampshire. The manager was former Jamestown Falcons manager Greg Mulleavy and some of the Brown's teammates were Billy Hunter, Billy Loes and Gino Cimoli. In one game Brown set a record for handling 17 chances, nine putouts and eight assists, without making an error.

His teaching career began in 1950 at Whitesville Central School and he also coached basketball and baseball. While teaching in 1951, Brown also played second base for the Wellsville Rockets of the PONY League and batted .233 with four home runs and 37 RBI's.

After three years at Whitesville, Brown became a physical education teacher at Pine Valley in 1953 and remained at the school located in Chautauqua County until his retirement in 1984. In addition to holding the post of athletic director, Brown coached football, basketball, baseball, wrestling volleyball and track; and he also was a principal.

Brown's football coaching career involved both six-man and 11-man teams and he finished with over 90 wins. His 1966 team was undefeated and was one of his two championship squads. One of his former players was Bill Bergey. Brown's baseball teams won numerous league and sectional championships. Brown was a representative to the Chautauqua County Athletic Association Executive Council and the Section 6 Athletic Council.

Bob Brown was inducted into the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame in 1986. He died November 27, 2011.

Robert M. Erickson 1917-2011



Known by the nicknames of Swede and Froley, Erickson was born in Youngstown, Ohio, on June 8, 1917 and moved to Jamestown when he was 4. Erickson played basketball at Jefferson Junior High School in 1933 and 1934 and then had an outstanding career in football and basketball at Jamestown High School in 1935 and 1936. He played for coach Denton Moon in both sports. He was captain and high scorer in basketball and was an All-Western New York selection in football as an end.

In non-related school activities in the 1930s, Erickson played football for Ariel Athletic Club. He also helped Art Metal Construction win the YMCA basketball championship in 1937-1938 and was a softball pitcher for Jamestown Moose and baseball pitcher for the Nordic Temple.

While playing in the YMCA tournament, Erickson was approached by Syracuse University, which had been scouting him in both basketball and football. He accepted a scholarship to Syracuse and was then sent to Folk Union Military Academy in Virginia.

He excelled in his one year at Folk Union Military Academy, considered one of the top prep schools in the country. He was named an all-state end in football and an all-state forward in basketball while winning state titles in both sports.

During the post-season in basketball, Folk Union played Durham High School in the finals of the Washington & Lee University Southern Atlantic Prep Tournament in Lexington, Virginia, and lost one of their few games to a team that had won around 60 straight contests. Among the players for Durham was Bones McKinney, who was a very successful coach at Wake Forest.

Erickson decided to go to Richmond University in the fall of 1939 where he played four years of football and basketball for the Spiders and made quite a name for himself. He also won the freshman class senatorship and was named to the all-state freshman basketball team.

Erickson was captain of the basketball team in 1942-1943 when he was a senior and the Spiders scored a big upset of Washington & Lee, 45-36, that knocked the latter out of the Big 6 Championship. Erickson tossed in 13 points to lead the way.

He was always one of the top scorers on the basketball team during his career and during his junior campaign scored 181 points in 19 games. He received honorable mention all-state recognition.

During the 1941 football season, Erickson and Richmond were matched up against North Carolina State, which had Ray Benbenek of Jamestown on its team.

One of his football highlights was a pass he caught in Richmond's 14-13 win over North Carolina in 1940.

Erickson served in the United States Navy in Gene Tunney's Fitness Program from November 1943 through April 1946 and was a First Class Petty Officer. He was captain and high scorer for Philadelphia Naval Hospital basketball team in 1946.

Additionally, he coached junior varsity football at Cardinal McCaskey in Lancaster and coached the Franklin & Marshall College swim teams.

On June 28, 1946, J.D. Holahan of the Pittsburgh Steelers sent a letter to Erickson advising him to attend the training camp in Hershey, Pennsylvania, on August 5. Unfortunately, an injury suffered in softball that summer kept him from getting that opportunity to try out for the Steelers and a shot at making the National Football League.

Among the volunteer work that Erickson was involved in was to raise money for the Duke University Children's Hospital. Also he was involved with the Sertoma Club. Erickson also played semi-pro basketball for the Richmond Barons, comprised of players from various Virginia colleges.

Robert M. Erickson was inducted into the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame in 2002. He died November 21, 2011.

CSHOF to Screen *Brian's Song* and *Hoosiers*

Brian's Song, the moving story of the friendship between Brian Piccolo and Gale Sayers of the Chicago Bears, will be shown Wednesday, January 4, 7 p.m., at the Robert H. Jackson Center in Jamestown. It will be first classic sports film shown in a series of eight CSHOF movie nights that will be held on the first and third Wednesdays, from January through April. The movies are open to the public with no charge.

Two weeks later on January 18, *Hoosiers* will be featured according to CSHOF director Scott Kindberg, chairman of the movie night project.



Thanks to Sara Joly and her fifth grade students at Washington Middle School for creating the festive toy soldiers that fill the windows at the CSHOF. The figures are wearing the emblems of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines participating in the sports of soccer, football, baseball and hockey. Sara is the daughter of CSHOF Director Joe DiMaio.