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*Preserving the Sports History of Chautauqua County*

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## Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame

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15 West Third Street - Jamestown, NY 14701

December 2016

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### **Class of 2017 Inductees**



The Board of Directors of the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame is proud to announce the inductees who will comprise the Class of 2017. The living inductees are **Paul Cooley, Jake Ensign, Charlie LaDuca, Sammy LaMancuso, Deb Palmer, Bob Patterson, Dave Polechetti, Sam Restivo, Michael Sayers and Maceo Wofford**; and the deceased honoree is **Francis "Doc" Malinoski**.

These eleven individuals will be formally inducted at the CSHOF's 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet, Monday, February 20, 2016, at the Lakewood Rod and Gun Club.

The new honorees will bring the total number of CSHOF inductees to 183.

Tickets for the induction dinner are priced at \$50. 2017 banquet reservations can be made by calling chairman Chip Johnson at 716-485-6991.

[www.chautauquasportshalloffame.org](http://www.chautauquasportshalloffame.org)

## **Paul Cooley**

- ✓ born 1935, 58-year resident of Chautauqua County, lives in Gerry
- ✓ 50+ years IAABO basketball official; 35+ years Little League & Babe Ruth umpire
- ✓ coach at Cassadaga Valley Central: softball, baseball, track
- ✓ 1999 Post-Journal Softball Coach of the Year; led CVCS to NYS Final Four
- ✓ 55+ years volunteer at Gerry Rodeo, over 20 as media coordinator
- ✓ coached Little League, Babe Ruth and American Legion baseball in Gerry
- ✓ played 35 years of softball in Church League and Fireman's League
- ✓ Grape Belt Hall of Fame

## **Jake Ensign**

- ✓ born 1956, attended Westfield High, 60 year resident of Chautauqua County, lives in Busti
- ✓ internationally acclaimed bow hunter
- ✓ active mentor, teacher & promotor of hunting & conservation
- ✓ one of less than 20 bow hunters to achieve North American Super Slam
- ✓ took all 29 North American big game animals with a bow and arrow: 4 types of bears, 5 types of caribou, 5 types of deer, 3 types of elk, 3 types of moose, 4 types of deer, mountain goat, bison, antelope, musk ox, mountain lion
- ✓ only person to take all 4 North American sheep with a bow in a single year

## **Charlie LaDuca**

- ✓ born 1951, 42-year resident of Chautauqua County, lives in Fredonia
- ✓ Grape Belt Hall of Fame, Cardinal O'Hara Hall of Fame
- ✓ baseball coach Pine Valley 22 years: 12 league, 5 section & 3 Far West titles
- ✓ 2007 Class D NYS champion and Coach of the Year
- ✓ 4X *Post-Journal* Coach of the Year
- ✓ Baseball field at Pine Valley named "Charlie LaDuca Field"
- ✓ founder of Chautauqua Men's Senior Baseball League
- ✓ accomplished baseball & softball player with several area teams

## **Sammy LaMancuso**

- ✓ born 1929, attended Jamestown High, 87 years in Chautauqua County, lives in Jamestown
- ✓ auto racer for 4 decades ('40s, '50s, '60s, '70s)
- ✓ competed at nearly 20 tracks in NY, PA & OH
- ✓ scored wins at Penny-Royal, Skyline, Jamestown, Stateline & Eriez Speedways
- ✓ subject of 2016 documentary movie "Sammy"
- ✓ master mechanic, ambassador and promotor of stock car racing
- ✓ Sammy LaMancuso Day at Stateline Speedway in 2010 – awarded lifetime pit pass

## **Francis “Doc” Malinoski**

- ✓ born 1926, died 2014, lived in Chautauqua County 57 years
- ✓ teacher, coach, athletic director at former Mayville Central for 27 years
- ✓ Mayville gym named for Doc Malinoski in 1983
- ✓ Mayville Lakeside Park recreation director 31 years
- ✓ pioneered 11 man football for Class C schools in 1960
- ✓ his teams won 5 league titles in football and 2 in basketball
- ✓ won 49 consecutive track and field dual meets
- ✓ captured 8 county and 6 section titles in track and field

## **Deb Palmer**

- ✓ born 1951, graduate Chautauqua Central, nee Williams, 65 years in Chautauqua County, lives in Blockville
- ✓ teacher, coach, athletic director at Panama Central 36 years
- ✓ softball field at Panama named “Debbie Palmer Field”
- ✓ softball coach 31 years: 380-202, 11 division and 4 section titles
- ✓ volleyball coach 35 years: 388-248, 13 division, 3 section and 1 region championships
- ✓ honored by *Scholastic Coach* magazine in 1987
- ✓ outstanding first baseman on many area softball teams

## **Bob Patterson**

- ✓ born 1944, graduate Dunkirk High & SUNY Fredonia, 66 years in Chautauqua County, lives in Dunkirk
- ✓ earned 10 letters in 5 sports in high school, played 3 varsity sports in college
- ✓ City of Dunkirk Recreation and Youth Bureau Director 27 years
- ✓ IAABO Basketball official 39 years
- ✓ 30 year official of rec league softball, basketball, football, floor hockey & baseball
- ✓ Dunkirk Babe Ruth stadium named “Bob Patterson Field” in 2008
- ✓ coached LL, BR and American Legion baseball; outstanding rec league player in basketball, touch football, fast and slo-pitch softball & racquetball

## **Dave Polechetti**

- ✓ born 1950, graduate Dunkirk High, Jamestown Community College & SUNY Fredonia, 49 years in Chautauqua County
- ✓ basketball coach at Fredonia High 21 years: 281-180, 6 league, 2 section, 1 region title
- ✓ 1992 *Post-Journal* Basketball Coach of the Year
- ✓ softball coach at Fredonia High 20 years: 286-116, 7 league, 5 section & 3 region titles
- ✓ 2007 *Post-Journal* softball Coach of the Year
- ✓ served on Section VI basketball committee 1988-2011
- ✓ served on Section VI softball committee 1988-1994

### **Sam Restivo**

- ✓ born 1961, graduate of Jamestown High School, 55 years in Chautauqua County
- ✓ first-team all-state football player in 1979, Connolly Cup finalist
- ✓ set Rich Stadium record for tackles in a game with 22 at 1979 Section VI final
- ✓ received a full scholarship to D-1 powerhouse Florida State where he lettered three years, serving as a long snapper on special teams and splitting time at center
- ✓ played in three college bowl games – Orange (1981), Peach (1983) and Gator (1984)
- ✓ former JHS coach Wally Huckno calls him the “greatest football player in JHS history.”
- ✓ two-year starter JHS basketball, Section VI champs 1980

### **Michael Sayers**

- ✓ born 1954, graduate Fredonia Central, 62 years in Chautauqua County, lives in Lakewood
- ✓ #1 ranked javelin thrower in the world in age group 60-64 - 49.97 meters (about 164 feet)
- ✓ multiple medalist at senior games in javelin, discus and shot put
- ✓ 18-time senior games All-American
- ✓ 1974 Division III All-American at SUNY Brockport for javelin
- ✓ football and track & field at Fredonia Central; gymnastics and track & field at Brockport
- ✓ active in track & field 1969 to present, 35-year Special Olympics volunteer

### **Maceo Wofford**

- ✓ born 1979, 26 years in Chautauqua County, lives in Jamestown
- ✓ scored the most points in Chautauqua County basketball history with 2,259
- ✓ Western New York Player of the Year 1997-98, second-team all-state class AA
- ✓ three-time *Post-Journal* Player of the Year, three-time All-ECIC first-team all-star
- ✓ set JHS record 53 points in a single game
- ✓ holds JHS records for career points, assists & steals, is second in career rebounds
- ✓ played 120 games at D-1 Iona College, 868 points, 2 NCAA Tourneys, team captain
- ✓ has won 25 Gus Macker Tournament titles

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## **Change in Banquet Format for 2017**

The CSHOF Board of Directors has decided to forego the hiring of a celebrity sports star to speak at its 2017 Induction Banquet. The purpose of the Board’s move is to properly focus attention on the 11 honorees of the largest induction class in CSHOF history and the many high school, collegiate and county residents who will be recognized for their outstanding athletic successes of the past year. Although the Board has always enjoyed the presence and

message of our celebrated guest speakers, we believe this decision will better achieve our mission: to honor and preserve the sports history of Chautauqua County.