



## Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame

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15 West Third Street - Jamestown, NY 14701

April 2012

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### Jim Adamczak 1937-2012



Sometimes an injury can be a blessing in disguise and that certainly can pertain to the career of Jim Adamczak.

Adamczak, a Jamestown High School graduate, was playing for Sugar Grove of the Chautauqua County Baseball Association when he suffered an injury in 1957 that ultimately led to a fabulous softball career. He was batting when he caught his spikes on a corner of the plate, resulting in torn ligaments in his knee. That injury was so serious that he had to take six months off of work at Proto Tool.

After recovering, Adamczak and his friends started playing softball in a neighborhood warehouse during the winter months. In the spring of 1958, Adamczak joined the New-Way Restaurant of the Rec Softball League as a pitcher and was very wild with an average of 14 walks per game. But Adamczak worked out daily during the winter to correct the control problem. Without a doubt, he mastered the problem quite well for the rest of his distinguished career.

Known for his riser, which was in the neighborhood of 100 miles per hour, Adamczak averaged more than 17 strikeouts over a 10-year span in the 1950s and 1960s. He averaged 35 wins and only four losses while having numerous no-hitters. He also batted at a .350 clip.

Adamczak recorded his first no-hitter in 1959 when he pitched New-Way Hotel to a 14-3 verdict over the Lakewood Merchants. He fanned 18 and walked 11 in the nine-inning game. He first set an Industrial League nine-inning record with 25 strikeouts for IAM 1791 in 1963 and accomplished that feat again in 1964.

In 1962, Adamczak hurled six wins in one day to win the Most Valuable Player award for Betts at the Duquesne Open in Warren. One of his top performances was having 47 strikeouts in two consecutive days with 25 against Chautauqua Hardware and 22 versus Green Brothers. Additionally, he came on in relief in a St. Mary's Tournament and fanned 17 of 20 batters.

Another high was in the 1963 Great Lakes Tournament when he led Erie's Fulton Club with a 4-0 record with 15 strikeouts a game. That perfect record was the first time any team had gone through the event unbeaten.

Speaking of perfection, it was in 1959 when Adamczak hurled his first perfect game against Wellsville while fanning 16 in a 3-0 win. He went on to hurl at least four perfect games.

Adamczak led Skippy's Grill to the Rec Open League title in 1959 and then over the next three years he pitched National Worsted Club to three titles. He also led the Jamestown Merchants to a championship in 1963 and Stravato's Grill to another crown in 1964. Adamczak hurled the Jamestown All-Stars to a runner-up finish in the New York State championship against host Niagara Falls. He lost a heart-breaking 1-0, one-hitter before 2,000 fans.

Perhaps his most memorable performance was when the well-known pitcher Eddie Feigner of the King & His Court visited College Stadium in 1967 and Adamczak led the Jamestown All-Stars to a stunning 1-0 win. Adamczak allowed the four-man team only two hits while fanning 17 and that win ended a long winning streak for the King & His Court. Feigner, meanwhile, whiffed 15.

The tall right-hander played through 1975 and had more than 25 no-hitters over a 17-year career that covered more than 1,200 games while pitching for teams in Western New York and in Pennsylvania. Some of the most memorable games of the early 1970s were when Adamczak pitched for Stravato's Grill and Ron Frederes hurled for See-Zurh House in the Social League. Those games had so much interest that they would draw hundreds of spectators to see the two elite pitchers and teams battle it out.

A back injury ended the pitching career of Adamczak, but his fantastic accomplishments certainly won't be forgotten. Jim Adamczak was inducted into the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame in 2005. He died March 5, 2012.

## Website Report

Webmaster of the CSHOF website, Doug Hoisington (Earth Spark, Jamestown) recently made his annual report at the March meeting of the CSHOF Board of Directors. Hoisington reported on the usage of the site during the past year as well as the upgrades that have been made. The following table summarizes website activity over the past four years.

| Year | unique views | page views |
|------|--------------|------------|
| 2008 | 2,054        | 6,455      |
| 2009 | 4,422        | 23,344     |
| 2010 | 6,478        | 25,721     |
| 2011 | 7,224        | 26,879     |

The number of unique views increased 12% in 2011 and 350% since 2008. Page views rose 5% in 2011 and 415% over the four year period.

Hoisington reported that three dozen pages and 7 albums were added to the site in the past year. The inductee pages with the greatest number of viewers in '11 were Shane Conlan, Julian Buesink, Don Reinhoudt, Hugh Bedient, and Bill Bergey.

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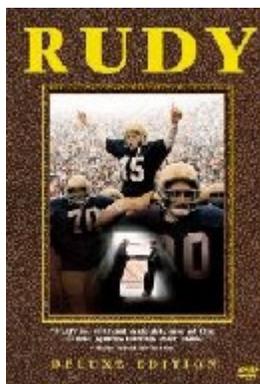
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## Hugh Bedient

This year will be 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Falconer native Hugh Bedient's outstanding 1912 season that thrust the 22-year-old rookie pitcher for the Boston Red Sox into the headlines on sports pages across America. Bedient compiled a 20-10 record for the Sox who christened their newly constructed Fenway Park with an American League pennant. In the World Series, Hugh threw a complete game to defeat Hall-of-Famer Christy Matthewson in the pivotal fifth game and pitched seven innings in the decisive final game that secured the 1912 World Series Championship for Boston.

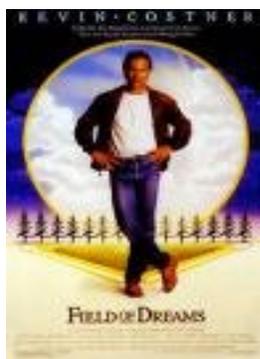
To honor the legacy of Hugh Bedient, the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame, the Village of Falconer, and the Falconer Central Schools are cooperating in a year-long celebration. Details will be announced in next month's newsletter.

## Movie Nights



The final two selections for the CSHOF Movie Nights have been announced by chairman Scott Kindberg: **Rudy** will be shown Wednesday, April 4<sup>th</sup> and **Field of Dreams** will be shown on Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. The films will be shown free of charge at the Robert H. Jackson Center (Jamestown) at 7:00 pm.

**Rudy** is the true story of Daniel “Rudy” Ruettinger who was always told that he was too small to play college football. But he was determined to overcome the odds and fulfill his dream of playing for Notre Dame. WJTN radio personality and Notre Dame football fan, Jim Roselle will introduce the film.



**Field of Dreams** is the fictional tale of Iowa farmer Ray Kinsella who hears a voice in his corn field tell him, "If you build it, he will come." He interprets this message as an instruction to build a baseball field on his farm, upon which appear the ghosts of Shoeless Joe Jackson and the other seven Chicago Black Sox players banned from the game for throwing the 1919 World Series. When the voices continue, Ray seeks out a reclusive author to help him understand the meaning of the messages and the purpose for his field. The movie will be presented by Tim Kindberg who visited the Iowa filming location and will share his remembrances of his trip.

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## Oops!

Thanks to eagle-eyed Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame member Bill Schroeder of Fredonia who spotted an error in our March newsletter. In the listing of persons who have been nominated for possible induction into the CSHOF, Schroeder noticed the names of Al Short, Dent Thorpe, Walt Thurnau, Kristen Treni, and Mike Tramuta had been inadvertently omitted. The complete list can be viewed at [www.chautauquasportshalloffame.org](http://www.chautauquasportshalloffame.org). Click on the “nominate” tab.