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*Preserving the Sports History of Chautauqua County*

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## **Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame**

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*Randy Anderson, editor*

*June 2011*

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### **CSHOF Initiates Membership Campaign**

The Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame is proud to announce that a membership program is now available to persons interested in preserving the history of sports in Chautauqua County and honoring the outstanding individuals who have created our cherished sports memories.

In addition to helping the CSHOF carry out its twin missions of maintaining a hall of fame and an exhibit hall, members will receive several value-added benefits for their membership fee.

- ✓ CSHOF window decal
- ✓ \$5 off 2012 induction banquet ticket
- ✓ monthly newsletter
- ✓ membership card with discounts at selected sports-minded marketing partners:

Jock Shop  
Honest John's  
Pinehurst Golf Club  
Hometown Grille  
Wing City

Jamestown Jammers  
Jamestown Savings Bank Arena  
Gametime Sports Bar & Grille  
South Hills Country Club  
Lakewood Golf Center

One year memberships are only \$25 for individuals and \$100 for businesses. Business members will receive 4 discount cards and plus an acknowledgement at the CSHOF and website ([www.chautauquasportshalloffame.org](http://www.chautauquasportshalloffame.org)).

Memberships can be purchased from any CSHOF Director, on the CSHOF website or by calling Randy at 716-763-2173.

A 2011-2012 membership supports the only organization solely dedicated to preserving and honoring the wonderful history of athletics in Chautauqua County.

## **John Jachym Scrapbook on Website**

Thanks to a generous donation by Audrey Jachym, the CSHOF has added a scrapbook from 2000 inductee John Jachym to its collection. The scrapbook contains newspaper clippings from 1945 and 1946 when John became the owner of the Jamestown Falcons of the PONY League. Also, 1949 clippings reveal the story of Jachym's purchase of 40% interest in the Washington Senators.

Fifty-eight (58) of the most interesting entries have been scanned and are now able to be viewed on Jachym's webpage on the CSHOF website, <http://www.chautauquasportshalloffame.org/johnjachym.php>. They present a fascinating look at the dynamic John Jachym from the perspective of various sportswriters, including CSHOF inductee Frank Hyde, from 65 years ago.

## **Skip Furlow Donates Suit and Trophy**

Ronald "Skip" Furlow, local auto racing legend and 2007 CSHOF inductee has recently made two significant donations to the CSHOF. Skip donated his last fire suit as well as the trophy he earned from the most significant win in his illustrious career - the handsome five and a half foot award from the \$10,000 to win STARS sanctioned 100- lap event at Buckeye Speedway (Orrville, Ohio) in 1984.

A showcase of Furlow memorabilia is currently on display at the Jamestown Saving Bank Arena in the concession area between the two ice rinks.

## **BMX Display at CSHOF**

Jason Farrar and his son, Eric, local bicycle motocross participants, fans, and historians have assembled a collection of BMX bikes, equipment and related items and have set up display at the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame to educate the public about their sport. The CSHOF located at 15 West Third Street in Jamestown, is open Monday-Friday from 1-3 pm, or by appointment by calling Bill Rollinger @ 716-763-8229.

## **Did You Know?**

The first homerun at the old Yankee Stadium, that would later be dubbed "The House That Ruth Built," was slugged by The Bambino on April 23, 1923. The pitcher who served up the pitch was Silver Creek native and CSHOF inductee, Howard Ehmke of the Boston Red Sox, a 166-game winner during his major league career.

## Inductee of the Month



John Jachym, left, with Commissioner of Baseball Happy Chandler during an appearance in Jamestown in 1946.

### **John Jachym**

John James Jachym had a very distinguished career in many fields, including baseball and golf. He was born in the state of Ohio on May 9, 1918, and spent a great deal of his youth growing

up on a dairy farm in South Dayton. "Living on a dairy farm is one of the best ways of maturing," said Jachym.

After graduating from South Dayton High School, Jachym entered the University of Missouri in 1936 and graduated in 1940 with a degree in journalism. While in Missouri, Jachym competed for the Tigers in baseball.

Jachym became a reporter for the United Press International and the *Jefferson City* (Missouri) *Observer*. Jachym once did an interview with Branch Rickey, the general manager of the St. Louis Cardinals who would have a major impact on Jachym's life.

Next Jachym became a sports reporter for the *Dunkirk* (New York) *Observer*. He took the Dunkirk job over a similar one offered by the *Jamestown Post-Journal*.

At one point, Jachym was the youngest scout in major league baseball working for the Cardinals. He wrote for the *Dunkirk Observer* on a full-time basis until 2 p.m. and then would go to his part-time job of scouting the remainder of the day.

Jachym served in the US Marines during World War II and was discharged as a captain.

It was in 1945 that Jachym came in contact with owner Harry Bisgeier of the Jamestown Falcons of the PONY League. Jachym decided to buy the team for \$22,000, which was the most ever paid for a class D team at the time. He had saved around \$5,000, his parents gave him \$2,000 and the remaining \$15,000 was borrowed.

That same fall, he signed a working agreement with the Detroit Tigers and the Buffalo Bisons and for the next three years the Falcons were champions of the league in both standings and attendance. One of his first purchases for his new team was a 28-passenger converted school bus.

At the time he owned the Falcons, Jachym was president of Chautauqua Enterprises (1946-1948) and president of Jamestown Safety Guard (1947-1948).

After the 1948 season, Jachym shocked Jamestown supporters by selling the Falcons to the Detroit Tigers. He joined the Tigers as a director with his first assignment being with the Falcons in the spring training of 1949. It was at that point he remarked for the first time to *Post-Journal* sports editor Frank Hyde that he regretted selling the franchise.

After failing to promote a barnstorming tour with former tennis star Bobby Riggs, 31-year-old Jachym became involved with the Washington Senators of the American League. He formed a syndicate that bought 40 percent of the club from the estate of William Richardson, but Senators president Clark Griffith didn't welcome the young businessman. So, after six months, Jachym sold his shares.

Later Jachym became a multimillionaire in several business ventures and remained an influential businessman for decades. Jachym embarked on an investment banking career as he served as head of corporate finance for Blunt, Ellis & Company in Chicago, Ill., (1953-1958), vice-president of A.G. Becker Company of Chicago (1958-1963) and senior partner of John J. Jachym & Company, also out of Chicago (1964-1974).

Additionally, he served with Kratos, Inc., out of San Diego, which is an international high technology instrumentation company (1974-1980). He was former chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Kratos.

Jachym started playing golf at 43 and joined the Advisory Board of the PGA at age 47 as an advisor on business matters, public relations, tournament sites, television problems, and federal government concerns among other matters. He began serving on the Board in the 1960s.

An outstanding honor was given to Jachym in 1994 when he became just the fifth individual to receive an honorary lifetime membership to the Professional Golfers Association of America. Jachym was also an honorary lifetime member of Western New York PGA, the Illinois Section and the Southern California Section. He was a trustee of the National PGA Junior Golf, former president of National Golf Federation and chairman of the finance committee as well as serving on the executive committee.

Jachym served as trustee and treasurer for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and had memberships in several clubs, including Moon Brook Country Club and the Chautauqua Golf Club.

John Jachym was inducted into the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame in 2000. He died in 2005.

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