
Honoring and Preserving the Sports History of Chautauqua County



Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame

Box 1192 - Jamestown, NY 14702

September 2013

CSHOF Officers Elected



At its August 26th meeting, the Board of Directors elected the officers to lead the organization for the next year. Chosen were Randy Anderson (President), Bill Race, Bill Rollinger and Ron Melquist (Vice-Presidents), Russ Ecklund (Secretary) and Lee Johnson (Treasurer).

**CSHOF officers (left to right):
Melquist, Race, Johnson,
Ecklund, Rollinger, Anderson**

Expansion Project

Your Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame is growing again. For the second time in the past two years, the Board of Directors has approved an expansion project. We will be increasing our exhibition area as well as our archival storage capability.

Frankly, we have been the victim of our own successes. We have recently been overwhelmed by people wishing to donate their Chautauqua County sports memorabilia. Despite our expansion in 2011, once again, we found ourselves in a position of not having the appropriate display or storage requirements.

Fortunately, we were able to secure a lease to a room that adjoins our existing facility. We will need to create a doorway to link the spaces, do some minor repainting and finally purchase and install slot wall sheeting on the walls.

This project will allow us to better meet our mission: To honor and preserve the sports history of Chautauqua County.



Donations to assist with this project will be greatly appreciated. Kindly send your check to CSHOF, Box 1192, Jamestown, NY 14702. Write “expansion project” on the check’s memo line.

CSHOF Supports Legacy Events

Working with community partners, the CSHOF is supporting legacy events that honor two of our inductees, Craig Swanson and Dan Feather.

The 22nd Annual Craig “Swanny” Swanson Memorial Golf Tournament was held August 17th at Cable Hollow Golf Club in Russell, PA. The CSHOF was a hole sponsor for the event. Swanson was a 2001 inductee.

<http://www.chautauquasportshalloffame.org/craigswanson.php>



The 21st Annual Dan Feather Memorial 5K Run will be held Sunday, September 1 at Bergman Park in Jamestown. Chautauqua Striders organizes the race to raise funds for its youth programs and to honor Feather, a 1993 inductee. The CSHOF will be a t-shirt sponsor.

<http://chautauquasportshalloffame.org/danfeather.php>

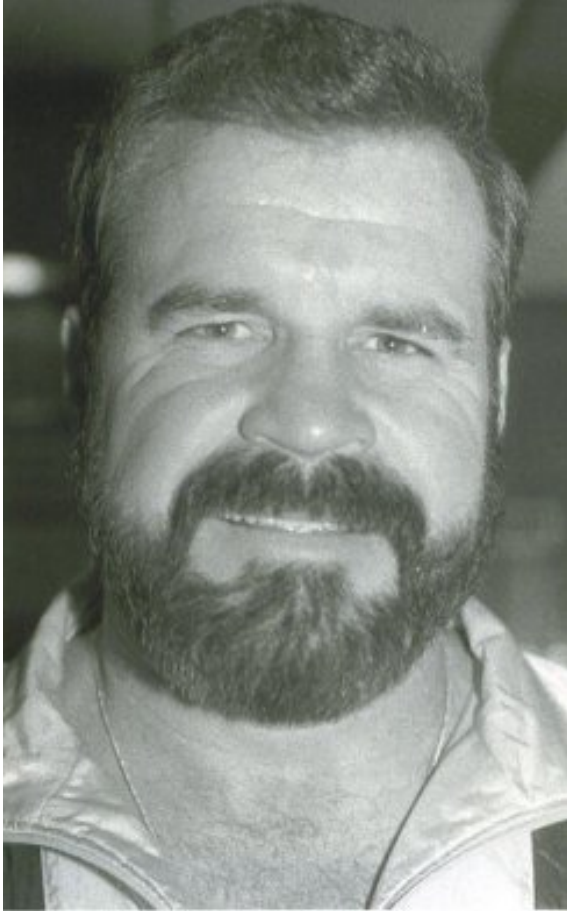
Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame to Induct Suhr



Jennifer (Stuczynski) Suhr, Chautauqua County’s Olympic Gold Medalist, will be inducted into the Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame on October 30 at their annual awards dinner at the Hyatt Regency in Buffalo. Tickets are available at www.gbshof.com.

Jenn will join six others as inductees of both the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame and the Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame: **Bill Bergey, George Carter, Shane Conlan, Wally Huckno, Van Miller and Tara VanDerveer.**

Inductee of the Month



The accomplishments of the 6'3", 245-pound **Bill Bergey**, who went to Pine Valley Central School, are impressive with numerous awards at Arkansas State University and with the Cincinnati Bengals and the Philadelphia Eagles of the National Football League.

Born in Gowanda on February 9, 1945, Bergey graduated from Pine Valley in 1964, where he played fullback and was a Class B Basketball League All-Star. He led the Panthers to an unbeaten league record and 19-1 record overall. In his senior football season, Bergey appeared headed to all-star status after he scored six touchdowns and passed for another. However, illness in the fourth game sidelined him until the last game of the season. Besides playing fullback, the position that eventually made Bergey famous was linebacker.

Bergey received no scholarship offers and contacted Arkansas State coaches Bennie Ellender and Wayne Armstrong when they were in New York City for a coaches meeting. The coaches decided to give Bergey partial aid without ever seeing him play.

In his early collegiate career, Bergey played fullback and nose guard before moving to linebacker as a sophomore. He led the team in tackles for three years and was named a first-team College Division All-American in 1968 by the Associated Press and by the American Football Coaches Association.

That same year he was named the Wornthern Amateur Athlete of the Year and in 1976 he was given the same honor on the professional level for the state of Arkansas. He was also voted by the fans as the top player in Arkansas State history.

Bergey played in the 1968 Senior Bowl and later started for the College All-Stars against the World Champion New York Jets in 1969 at Chicago.

Bergey became the highest draft choice from Arkansas State when the Cincinnati Bengals drafted him on the second round (the 31st player taken) in 1969. Bergey immediately became a star. He was The Sporting News NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year and stayed in Cincinnati through 1973.

The Eagles acquired Bergey on July 10, 1974 in exchange for first round draft choices in 1977 and 1978 and a second rounder in 1978. He had jumped to the World Football League's Orlando, Florida, team and was sued by the Bengals to bring him back. However, the Bengals lost the suit and wound up trading him to the Eagles, who paid Orlando \$20,000 for his services.

In his first six seasons with the Eagles, Bergey led the team in tackles. He set an Eagles' record of 234 tackles in 1976 and was a consensus All-Pro selection.

Bergey was also an All-Pro in 1974, 1977 and 1978 and each year he was invited to the Pro Bowl. Three times (1974, 1976 and 1977) he was named by his teammates as the Eagles' Most Valuable Player.

At the age of 33, Bergey was then the highest paid defensive player in the NFL with a four-year \$1 million contract.

He started 79 straight games before suffering a serious knee injury in the third game of the 1979 season at the New Orleans Superdome. He had surgery and made a comeback in 1980 by leading the team to the Super Bowl with tackles.

The Eagles lost the Super Bowl to the then Oakland Raiders and that turned out to be his last NFL game. It was later revealed he played the game with loose bone chips in his knee and bone spurs on both shoulders. He retired with 27 interceptions, including 18 with the Eagles, which was tops among any active linebacker.

In addition to being inducted into the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame in 1989, Bergey was named to the Arkansas State Hall of Fame, the Philadelphia Eagles' Hall of Fame and the Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame.

Recent Donations to CSHOF Collection



Chuck Dickinson, of the Chautauqua Lake Horseshoe Club (nee Falconer Horseshoe Club), donated a large trove of historical artifacts chronicling 60+ years of horseshoe pitching in southern Chautauqua County.

Bob Lind contributed a 1945 Jamestown Falcons season pass used by his father, Bernhard Lind.

2013 inductee Ron Blackmer turned over the large trophy he was awarded for winning the 1969 Grand Championship race at Eriez Speedway.

Tom and Dayne Priester contributed the prototype for the wrestling card game Grapple.

Linda Erickson deeded a complete 1940s era Blystone Mattress baseball uniform worn by her father, Burwin (Swat Jr.) Erickson.

Bev Weber and Vicki Fiet donated a framed poster and collectible mug from the auto racing career of their father, Julian Buesink, a 2009 inductee.