
Honoring and Preserving the Sports History of Chautauqua County



Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame

Box 1192 - Jamestown, NY 14702

October 2020

CSHOF Board & Officers Elected

The election of the Board of Directors of the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame was held at its June 29th meeting; and at its July 27th meeting the Board elected the officers to lead the organization for the next year.



Randy Anderson
President



Russ Ecklund
Secretary



Lee Johnson
Treasurer



Ron Melquist
Vice-President



Bill Race
Vice-President



Bob Schmitt
Vice-President

2020-2021 CSHOF Board of Directors

NAME	POSITION	YEARS
Anderson, Mike	director	3
Anderson, Randy	president	16
Barton, Dick	director (& inductee)	15
Bongiovanni, John	director	7
Carlson, Franni	director	3
Cederquist, Cal	director (& inductee)	10
Cummings, Mike	director	3
Deppas, Lou	director	12
DiMaio, Joe	director	14
Ecklund, Russ	secretary	30
Heppler, Tom	director	11
Huckno, Wally	director (& inductee)	18
Johnson, Chip	director	33
Johnson, Lee	treasurer	19
Kindberg, Scott	director	14
Larson, Fred	director	17
Lassen, Lori	director	5
Loll, Gary	director	3
Marshaus, Stan	director (& inductee)	9
Martin, Keith	director	7
Melquist, Ron	vice-president	32
Peters, Sr., Gary	director	5
Polechetti, Dave	director (& inductee)	11
Race, Bill	vice-president (& inductee)	25
Rea, Tammy	director	9
Rollinger, Bill	director (& inductee)	23
Schmitt, Bob	vice-president (& inductee)	8
Sinatra, Dr. Charles	director	33
Sirianni, Jay	director	6
Tomassini, Ed	director	10
Diethrick, Russ	founder, emeritus director (& inductee)	
Lundberg, Denny	emeritus director	
Tane, Komo	emeritus director (& inductee)	

Angela Pucciarelli-Rice, the assistant athletic director at SUNY Fredonia, has resigned from the Board after five years of service for three very good seasons. She and her husband Kyle are the proud parents of TRIPLETS – three girls – Madeline, Hannah and Emma. Angela thinks she is going to a little too busy to continue on the CSHOF Board. YA THINK? Congratulations Angela and thank you for your service to the CSHOF.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following article on Silver Creek resident Cindy Miller appeared on MiamiHurricanes.com. It is a compelling and inspiring read about the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Famer, written by Kevin Ivany, the University of Miami's assistant director of communications. Given the length of the story, it will run in two parts over the next two newsletters.

OUTWORKING HER PEERS – THE CINDY MILLER STORY



"You are not good enough."

Individually, five simple words. When combined, it becomes an unpleasant phrase no one wants to hear.

For Cindy Kessler, now Cindy Miller, this became a recurring theme in her life. However, instead of letting it take over, she used this sour expression as motivation.

Born along the coast of Lake Erie, just south of Buffalo, the Silver Creek native grew up in a golf-loving family.

Dragged to the country club by her parents, she explained how the pool became her babysitter growing up before she was bullied away from swimming heading into the eighth grade.

"I got fat and then all the cute boys started to call me 'Ten Ton Tessie,' Miller recalled. "So, I quickly had to find an alternative to swimming and the golf course was my only other option."

At the age of 17, her mother took her to an LPGA Tour event in Buffalo and Miller's world changed forever.

"I saw Laura Baugh play and I was like, 'Oh my God,'" Miller said. "She was a year older than me and I remember realizing then, that was exactly what I wanted to do. So, that was a big dream, but the only problem was: 'You're not good enough.'"

Immediately following the event she returned home and told her father that she wanted to play on the LPGA Tour. Already committed to the State University of New York at Fredonia, her father said, *"You are going to Fredonia."*

Without a golf team present, Miller was not happy and dropped out after a semester at Fredonia. Her dad told her she had to get a job.

Miller spent the spring of 1974 working, but also took the time to write a couple of letters with a hope of pursuing her dreams.

“I wrote letters to Golf Digest magazine and the Ben Hogan [Golf] Company and I asked, ‘What colleges have women’s golf teams?’ It turned out there were two, Odessa Junior College in Texas and the University of Miami. Well, needless to say, I didn’t want to go to a junior college. I lived in Buffalo, so Miami sounded pretty good,” Miller said with a laugh. “So, I wrote to the University of Miami and asked if I could be on its team. I got a letter back from (director of women’s athletics) Isabella Hutchison and she basically said, ‘The worst person on the team has a five handicap and you are not good enough.’”

Miller wrote back to the University of Miami asking if she could at least come and try out and she remembers the head coach at the time, Norm Parsons, wrote back and said, *“Yes, you can try, but you will probably never play.”*

Almost ready to take the risk and move down to the Sunshine State, Miller now just needed to find a way to get there.



A family friend who would play golf with the Kessler family provided this opportunity, as he was a captain for Eastern Airlines and resided in Coral Gables. “I played golf with him a lot. He was pretty good, he was like a 3-handicap and he would help me,” Miller said. “Being my father’s friend he said, ‘Well you don’t have to take her down there, we will drop her off in her dorm since she can hop on the plane once I fly back to Miami.’ So, I ended up getting on his next flight out with just my suitcase and golf clubs, and he dropped me off at my dorm in Pearson Hall. I then sat on my bed and cried.

“Both of my parents were alcoholics and my dad used to beat the crap out of my mother,” Miller continued. “So, part of my fear — I was the youngest of three kids — was that I thought, ‘Oh my God, you are pursuing your dream, but you are leaving your mother and he is probably going to kill her and it is your fault.’”

Unable to keep her family safe and unsure if she would even get to play, all she knew was that she had one year to prove herself or her father was going to force her to come back home, since her family could not afford it.

NEXT MONTH: How Cindy achieved success on and off the golf course.