



Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame

Box 1192 - Jamestown, NY 14702

October 2021

More Honors for Seven CSHOF Inductees

Seven Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame Inductees, Tara VanDerveer, Cindy Miller, Tom Priester, Jim Adamczak, Sheilah Gulas, Jack Lawrence and Jenn Suhr, have added additional awards to their already bulging resumes.

The Atlanta Tipoff Club named Stanford's **Tara VanDerveer** the recipient of the 2021 Werner Ladder Naismith Women's Coach of the Year Award. This season, VanDerveer surpassed Pat Summitt as the all-time winningest coach in NCAA Division I women's basketball history, currently at 1,125 career wins. She was named the Pac-12 Women's Basketball Coach of the Year for the 16th time, led the Cardinal to their 24th all-time Pac-12 regular season title as well as the 2021 Pac-12 Women's Basketball Tournament Championship and ultimately the 2021 NCAA Division I National Championship for the third time. She previously won the Werner Ladder Naismith Women's Coach of the Year honor for Stanford in 2011 and 1990. VanDerveer is a 2010 CSHOF inductee.

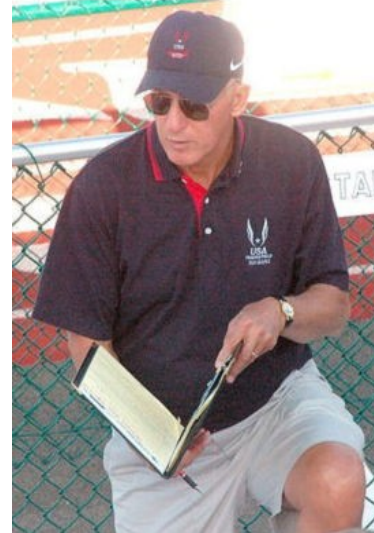


The LPGA Professionals announced **Cindy Miller** as the recipient of the 2021 Nancy Lopez Golf Achievement Award, which recognizes a LPGA professional who gives back to the game in the spirit of Nancy Lopez. Miller, a 2014 Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame inductee, is the current section president for the LPGA Professionals Northeast Section, with a two-term history of serving as the Northeast Section vice president before that. She is member of the "*Legends of the LPGA.*"

Miller is a certified behavior, motivation and emotional intelligence professional who teaches individuals, teams and corporations to improve performance and profitability. She also runs a LPGA USGA Girls Golf site and has written for numerous golf publications as a contributing columnist. Miller has been named a Top-50 Teacher by the Women's Golf Journal and won LPGA National Teacher of the Year (2010), LPGA Northeast Section Teacher of the Year (2001, 2005 and 2010) and LPGA Northeast Player of the Year (2005 and 2007).

It has famously been said that 'you can never go home again,' but **Tom Priester** has proved that wrong. Priester, a 2014 CSHOF, has been inducted into his high school's athletic hall of fame. A graduate of North East (PA) High School and Slippery Rock University, Tom is best known in Chautauqua County as a prominent coach and physical education teacher at Southwestern Central School for 45 years. He coached a wide variety of sports at SWCS, but is best remembered for his highly successful cross country squads.

Priester has also distinguished himself as an outstanding high school track and field official from 1975 to the present day and has been a USA Track & Field official since 1985. He has officiated NCAA Division I, II, II track and field championship meets and also national and international meets, including three U.S. Olympic trials. He also officiated at the World University Games in 1993, the World Veterans Games in 1995 and the 2011 World Masters.



The Western New York Softball Hall of Fame has chosen two CSHOF inductees for enshrinement: Jim Adamczak and Sheilah Gulas.



Jim Adamczak is on everyone's short list as one the greatest softball pitchers in Chautauqua County history. The tall right-hander played from 1958 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 Pennsylvania. Known for his riser, which was in the neighborhood of 100 miles per hour, and drop pitches, Adamczak averaged more than 17 strikeouts per game during one 10-year span. He averaged 35 wins and only four losses per year. Jim hurled at least four perfect games and also batted at a .350 clip.

Perhaps his most memorable performance was when the well-known pitcher Ed 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. Adamczak, who died in 2012, was inducted into the CSHOF in 2005.

Sheilah Gulas, a 2018 CSHOF inductee, is an alumna of Southwestern Central School, class of 1979. Gulas enjoyed a 31-year career as a collegiate head coach, the last 21 at Ashland University. Compiling 30 wins in her final season, Gulas surpassed 900 career victories and won nearly 66 percent of her games with a 929-487-1 record. The 2017 NFCA Hall of Fame inductee collected 723 of those wins with the Eagles.



She compiled a winning record in all 21 of her seasons at Ashland, leading the Eagles to 12 NCAA Division II tournaments and collecting five Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) titles and three conference Coach of the Year awards. In 1998, Gulas guided Ashland to a school-record 53 wins and a No. 3 national ranking. The Eagles collected 40 wins five times during her tenure.

Prior to her stint with Ashland, Gulas made stops as the head coach at Wittenberg (1991-96) and Allegheny (1987-90). In her first head coaching position at Allegheny, she posted a 123-38 mark, guiding the Gators to a national runner-up finish in 1988 and fifth in the country in 1987, 1989 and 1990. Gulas was named the NCAA Division III national coach of the year in 1988 and 1989, and was the regional coach of the year from 1987-89.



Jack Lawrence was inducted into the Watkins Glen Walk of Fame at the 2021 Grand Prix Festival in September. The Walk of Fame was established by the Watkins Glen Grand Prix Historic Commission, the Schuyler County Chamber of Commerce, and Watkins Glen International to honor these great drivers who have competed on the Glen's world-famous facilities over the last 73 years.

Lawrence drove a Saab Sonnett from 1978-2002 and was an SCCA National Champion in 1983. He was named the Northeast Division Driver of The Year in 1983. He is known as a driver, builder, and innovator in the auto racing world. Jack died in 2020.

Lawrence started racing in 1957 with a MGTF 1500 and his first competition race was at the Lake Erie Invitational Race at Dunkirk Airport. Then he became more involved in Sports Car Club of America sanctioned races and remained active for decades.

By the time of his induction into the CSHOF in 1987, he had been involved in over 150 events and earned regional driver of the year awards several times. In 1981 he was awarded the Northeast Division Mark Donahue Sportsmanship Award which is given to the driver who has over the years contributed to the sport and assisted his fellow competitors. Lawrence was the Northeast Division Champion in 1982, 1983 and 1984 and has participated in six National Championship runoffs. He placed first in 1983, thus earning the title of National Champion. He was the runner-up in 1982.

Jenn Suhr, an Olympic medalist and multi-time national champion and former world record holder in the pole vault will be inducted into the NYSPHSAA Section VI Hall of Fame Class of 2021 in December.



Suhr was a standout in soccer, basketball, softball and golf at Fredonia High and in her senior year took up track and field. She ended up

winning the pentathlon at the 2000 New York State Public High School Athletic Association championship meet. It eventually led to her becoming the world's best in the pole vault, a specialty she did not take up until 2004.

She has been an Olympic and World champion, has been ranked #1 in the World, has been the #1 American pole vaulter since 2006, and has won a total of 17 US National Championships (7 Indoor, 10 Outdoor). She holds the world indoor pole vault record at 5.03 m (16 ft 6 in). She holds the American women's pole vault record indoors. In 2008, she won the U.S. Olympic trials, setting an American record of 4.92 m (16 ft 2 in) and won a silver medal in the Beijing Olympics. She won the gold medal at the London Olympics on August 6, 2012. Track & Field News named her American Female Athlete of the Year for 2008 and vaulter of the Decade in 2020.

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