
Preserving the Sports History of Chautauqua County



Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame

15 West Third Street - Jamestown, NY 14701

January 2022

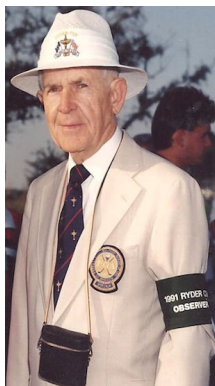
Induction Banquet February 21

The Board of CSHOF John Directors of the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame will enshrine eleven individuals at its 40th Annual Induction Banquet, Presidents' Day, Monday, February 21st, at the Lakewood Rod & Gun Club.

The inductees are **Randall G. Anderson, George L. Barone, Jr., Sarah M. (Bogardus) Burnett, Harry G. Carlson, Andrew J. Creager, Christina M. Kebort, Lewis G. Mack, Larry E. Rodgers, Richard P. Shearman, Michael A. Sirianni, and Marc T. Tramuta.**

Tickets are available by calling Chip Johnson at 716-485-6991 or online at <https://www.chautauquasportshalloffame.org/banquettickets.php>.

Jachym Family Donation



The family of our late inductee John James Jachym (left), Class of 2000, has gifted 2 cherished photographs to the CSHOF. They are autographed and personalized pictures of legendary golfers Arnold Palmer and Gene Sarazen that were given to Jachym by the PGA of America during his tenure on the Board of Directors of the PGA. Jachym served on the PGA Board from 1989-1992. In addition, he served as a member of the PGA Advisory Committee for many years and was a one time Committee Chairman.

In 1994 John received the rare and distinguished PGA Honorary Lifetime Membership. At the time it was bestowed on Jachym only 7 other individuals had been so honored: Thomas Crane, Dwight Eisenhower, Gary Player, Gerald Ford, Bob Hope, Lloyd Lambert, and Dennis Walters.

Since that time an additional elite cadre have been designated PGA Honorary Lifetime Members: George H. W. Bush, Joe Steranka, Joe Louis and Tim Rosaforte.



Jachym had a very distinguished career in many fields, including baseball, business 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* along with the *Dunkirk Observer*.

While being a reporter in Missouri, Jachym did an interview with Branch Rickey, the general manager of the St. Louis Cardinals. They kept in contact and Rickey, who later moved to the Brooklyn Dodgers, asked Jachym to join the front office, but he couldn't because of World War II.

At one point, Jachym was the youngest scout in major league baseball and worked 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.

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 troubleshooter 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.

John Jachym (left) with MLB Commissioner Happy Chandler in Jamestown in 1946.

After a failed barnstorming tour with former tennis star Bobby Riggs, the 31-year-old Jachym became involved with the Washington Senators of the American League. He became a major stockholder with 40 percent, but president Clark Griffith didn't welcome this young businessman. So, after six months, it was Jachym selling 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 in Chicago (1964-1974).

Additionally, he served with Kratos, Inc., 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.

Right: Jachym golfing with former US President Gerald Ford.





An outstanding honor was given to Jachym in 1994 when he became just the eighth 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.

Above: John Jachym with his wife, Audrey, in 1998.

He 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.

Jachym died in 2005 and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. His favorite quote reflects a life well-lived: *Fame is a vapor, popularity an accident, and riches take wings. Only one thing endures and that is character.*



Jachym grave



CSHOF inductees Lyle Parkhurst and Greg Peterson with John Jachym in 1998 in Jamestown