



## Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame

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Box 1192 - Jamestown, NY 14702

October 2022

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### John D. Alm



John D. Alm, 92, of Bemus Point, N.Y., passed away in his home, with his children at his side, on Monday, Aug. 22, 2022.

A lifelong area resident, born June 30, 1930, in Jamestown, N.Y., he worked into his early 80s as a masonry contractor. He was not only a father of six but also the father of area ice hockey. **He was inducted into the Chautauqua County Sports Hall of Fame in 2008.**

His mother, Alice Girts of Oroville, Calif.; father, Louis Alm of Mansfield, Ohio; brother, Gordon "Bill" Alm of Jupiter, Fla.; and granddaughter, Ashley James of Denver, Colo., preceded him in death.

He is survived by six children: Mindy James (Chip) of Hamburg, N.Y., Chris Alm of Nashville, Tenn., Mary Alm of Ithaca, N.Y., Andy Alm (Kimmy, children: Colin and Elyse) of

Colorado Springs, Colo., Greg Alm of Bemus Point and Becky Carlson (Rick) of Hamburg, N.Y.

He is also survived by six grandchildren: Johnathan Alm of Colorado Springs, Colo., Benjamin Cummings of Fredonia, Scott James (Cassie) of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Judge Watkins of Colorado Springs, Jamie Carlson and Tyler Carlson of Hamburg, N.Y.; as well as two great-grandchildren: J.J. Estevan Salazar of Colorado Springs, and Evangeline Kehoe-James of Cedar Rapids.

In his early years, he was an accomplished athlete lettering at both Falconer and Jamestown High Schools and earning a football scholarship to Yuba City College in Marysville, Calif. He also won medals in speed skating, as well as playing baseball. As an adult he continued semi professionally with the Fredonia Orioles Football and Erie Lions Ice Hockey teams.

In 1966, John founded the Driftwood Ice Rink and formed figure skating, youth and adult ice hockey programs which continued to grow until 1975 when “the barn” burned. Fortunately, plans he helped lay for the Allen Park Ice Rink were realized and developed for all programs to transfer uninterrupted following the fire, and which are now held at the Northwest Arena Ice Rink.

John will be missed by family and many in the community he helped to shape.

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## ***The Bullet Doesn't Pick and Choose: The Jehuu Caulcrick Story***



A boy of Liberia is born to a hard-working family. His father runs security for a military general. His mother studies to be a nurse. His grandparents work for the government, and run a farm that produces food for half the neighborhood. They have the only TV in the area and on Friday nights people gather to watch General Hospital, and the news from America. Good food, and drinks and conversation are shared.

When the boy is seven years old, war comes. His world changes. His father is assassinated. His mother is stuck an ocean away with no way to contact the boy or his older sister. The boy and his family run for their lives.

The boy from Liberia runs a football into the New York State prep record books, out of the smallest high school in the state, then into the record books at Big Ten College football power-house Michigan State University, then he runs a football in the National Football League.

It's all true. Help make this amazing story of our 2015 CSHOF inductee come to life.

Register your Kickstarter account today and support *Run! The Bullet Doesn't Pick and Choose: The Jehuu Caulcrick Story*

[https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/runjehuu/run-from-african-civil-war-to-the-nfl?ref=project\\_email&fbclid=IwAR0JhfKzbi9TGr4vKn9DCdj3dSRgyBjk0B3QF85WAgmcWpkhnyQh\\_rMWPGI](https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/runjehuu/run-from-african-civil-war-to-the-nfl?ref=project_email&fbclid=IwAR0JhfKzbi9TGr4vKn9DCdj3dSRgyBjk0B3QF85WAgmcWpkhnyQh_rMWPGI)

AUTHOR'S NOTE BY BILL BURK:

I'm retired from the world of college athletics and academia. I have a Master's Degree in Sport Psychology from San Diego State University, BA's in Psychology and Physical Education and a minor in Literature from Grove City College in Pennsylvania. My Master's thesis is published at San Diego State University, and I wrote a weekly sports article for a local newspaper in Jamestown, New York.

This is the first book I've written. My manuscript is a combination of meticulous research, and interviews with Jehuu and his family. It is also story-telling based on imaginative speculation, and on real-life testimonials of people, especially child soldiers, who survived the war.

Why me? I have particular access to the Caulcrick family. I met Jehuu when he coached my son in football, and spent a lot of time talking with him and his mother Bonita. I was drawn to his story, of the carnage he witnessed, of the world he survived, of the needle he threaded to arrive in the United States.

The puzzle of his life (hiding in the African bush from soldiers wielding AK-47's as a child refugee, to riding in a private jet as a contracted player in the National Football League) is an impossible story of luck, perseverance, and faith. So we talked, Jehuu and I, about his memories of Africa, about his experiences as an elite athlete, about his family. The conversations evolved into interviews, the interviews into a narrative, the narrative into a belief that Jehuu's story is worth telling. That sequence of enlightenment is this book.

Jehuu's story hits a niche of a very successful college football player and lesser level professional athlete with a remarkable past, upbringing, and history. The backstory is the story, and it's a doozy.

***When he was seven years old Jehuu Caulcrick (Jay-you Kahl-crick) walked the Liberian coast with his family, passing through checkpoints armed with child soldiers not much older than him, blank faces, teeth yellowed by jungle-juice and heroin, AK47's hanging off gaunt bodies. It was 1990, the middle of country's second civil war in ten years. He walked for nearly seven-hundred miles, until he was nine-years-old.***

***When he was twenty-seven years old Jehuu carried a football for the Buffalo Bills in the NFL for one yard and a first down, his only carry in a five-year nomadic career as a professional football player.***

***This is the story of a boy and his family threading an impossible needle of luck, coincidence, fate, fortune and perseverance to escape the devil's playground and make it to the promised land. The Caulcrick family fled war torn Liberia for the United States to***



*make a life. But war torn doesn't capture the horrific, barbaric inhumane things that happened from 1989 to...actually the country is still a hot mess; murder in every way you can conceive, rape, torture, mutilations so creative you wonder how the perpetrators dreamed them up, the human capacity for creative destruction on full display.*

*This historical biography takes the reader through Jehuu's childhood in Liberia to his life in the United States where he was an all-state high school football player, running back at Michigan State University, eventually signing an NFL contract. His early years at his grandma's house in the middle-class suburb of Buchanan were care-free and middle-class -Jehuu in the Liberian Bassa dialect means fussy-baby, and spoiled child - but the narrative changes when war breaks out in his front yard, and the Caulcrick family flees their rich neighborhood for a life on the road with hundreds of thousands of other refugees. It culminates in his escape from Liberia, and starts a life in a place called Clymer, New York, while at the same time in his native country a rebel offensive called Operation Octopus, the Siege of Monrovia was happening, a battle that would see thousands of child soldiers killed in and around the swamps of the Liberian capital city.*

*And through it all the child soldiers anchor the story. A boy named Hope, and his story of recruitment into the rebel army, coming up through the ranks of rebel forces to not only survive but thrive in a world you and I can't conceive, except to read Jehuu's story.*



*Jehuu in the United States, playing football in Clymer, New York, the smallest school in the state. His journey through a life without his precious soccer, a high school career placing him in the New York State football record books, his recruitment and career at Michigan State University, and his career as an NFL player. Jehuu's story was the feature of a segment on ESPN College Gameday in November of 2004.*

*It's a relatable story of perseverance, courage, great timing and luck. A horror story of murder, betrayal, and human suffering. It's a story of redemption and the American dream.*

[https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/runjehuu/run-from-african-civil-war-to-the-nfl?ref=project\\_email&fbclid=IwAR0JhfKzbi9TGr4vKn9DCdj3dSRgyBjk0B3QF85WAgmcWpkhnyQh\\_rMWPGI](https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/runjehuu/run-from-african-civil-war-to-the-nfl?ref=project_email&fbclid=IwAR0JhfKzbi9TGr4vKn9DCdj3dSRgyBjk0B3QF85WAgmcWpkhnyQh_rMWPGI)

Use the link above to support the publishing of this book about our CSHOF inductee.