



Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame

Box 1192 - Jamestown, NY 14702

October 2023

Roger MacTavish



Roger E. MacTavish Sr., 89, of Jamestown, NY, formerly of Lakewood, NY, passed away Thursday, August 10, 2023 at Heritage Park Rehab & Skilled Nursing Facility.

He was born March 20, 1934 in Johnsonburg, PA. The oldest child of Paul E. & Fern A. Crotzer MacTavish, his family located to the Jamestown area when he was 12.

Roger was a 1953 graduate of Southwestern Central High School, where he was active in basketball, baseball and volleyball. Following high school, he was drafted to play the position of catcher for the Brooklyn Dodgers organization PONY league from 1953 to 1955 in Hornell and Olean, NY. He then went on to serve 2 years in the U.S. Navy.

Throughout the years, he was employed at Blackstone Corp., Tradeco Dist., Don Gage, Inc., and AVI Food Systems, Inc.

He dedicated his life to his love of basketball which began at the age of 17. He was a well-known local basketball official at the high school and college level for more than 66 years. During those years he held many positions at the local and national level of IAABO, the International Association of Approved Basketball Officials. He served as the local IAABO Board 39 President from 1969-1973 and the board's rules interpreter for more than 25 years. He was also a member of CBOA, the College Basketball Officials Association, since 1967. He held the position of IAABO national rules examination committee chairperson for more than 33 years. In 1990 he was appointed to prepare and implement the NCAA rules examination for officials, which he did for more than 28 years.

In 2000, the executive committee made him a lifetime member of the national IAABO organization. His knowledge of basketball rules made him the "go to" person for basketball officials from all over the country. When a basketball rule was called into question, he was always very willing and happy to pass on his knowledge, discussing and clarifying any rule.

He was inducted into the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame (CSHOF) in 2011 and was a past member of the Lakewood Rod & Gun.

He is survived by his children, Tamara (Mike) Williams, Meredith MacTavish, and Roger MacTavish II; grandchildren, Kari Seiberg and Jordan Seiberg; great grandson, Maxis Bindics and his father Matthew Bindics; step-grandsons, Benjamin (Marissa) Williams and Jacob Williams; step-great grandchildren, Eleanor Williams and Jack Williams; his siblings, Thomas MacTavish, Cynthia(Alan)Watson and Paula (Dan) Gorman; as well as several nieces, nephews and many cousins.

Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by his loving wife of 50 years, Marion, on July 18, 2008.

No visitation will be observed. A private graveside service will be held at the convenience of the family. Inurnment will be in Sunset Hill Cemetery. Arrangements are under the direction of Lind Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers or gifts, please consider making a memorial contribution in Roger's name to the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame, 15 W. Third St., Jamestown, NY 14701; Star Hospice House, 20 W. Fairmount Ave, Lakewood, NY 14750; or your favorite charity.

Online condolences may be offered at www.lindfuneralhome.com.

More Honors for CSHOF Inductees



Tom Priester (CSHOF 2014) was inducted into the Slippery Rock University Soccer Ring of Honor in September. Priester, a well-known coach at Southwestern Central during his teaching career, and a national-caliber track and field official, was a 1962 graduate of SRU.

Lori Franchina (CSHOF 2018) has been notified that she will become an inductee of two more halls of fame. Franchina will be enshrined in the Western New York Softball Hall of Fame in October joining other CSHOF inductees **Jim Adamczak, Betty Bartkowiak, Sheilah Gulas, Joe Mistretta, Dale Till, Luella Kye, and Leda Peterson.**



Franchina, a resident of West Warwick, Rhode Island, will also be enshrined in the Rhode Island Slow Pitch Softball Hall of Fame in November.



Greg Peterson (CSHOF 2012) will be honored by the Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce at its annual awards dinner on October 5th. Peterson will be presented the Chamber's Person of the Year Award in recognition of his lifetime of service to so many organizations in our county.

Jenn Suhr (CSHOF 2009) will be inducted into the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Section 6 Hall of Fame on December 5. Suhr (nee Stuczynski), a 2000 graduate of Fredonia Central School, who achieved world-wide recognition as a pole vaulter. Now retired from competition, she has recently returned to her alma mater, Roberts Wesleyan College, to be their pole vaulting coach.



Suhr will join 8 other CSHOF inductees in the Section 6 Hall: **Tom Priester, Cheryl Bailey, Bill Bergey, Wally Huckno, Bob Barlette, Jehuu Caulcrick, Tim Nobles and Walt Thurnau.**

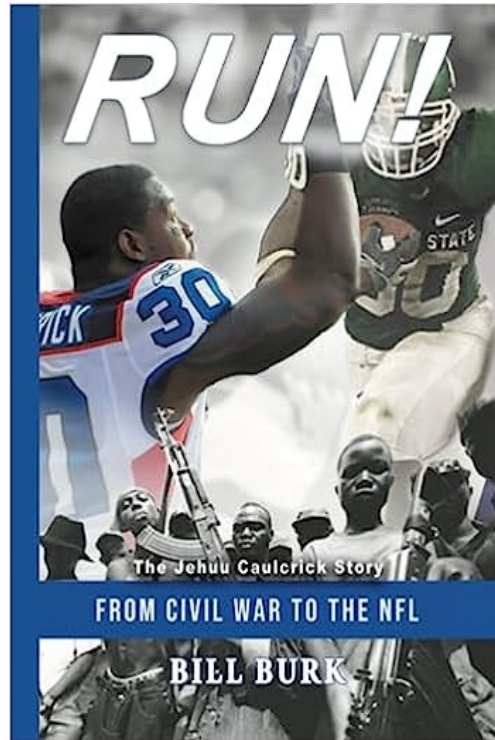


Alex Conti (CSHOF 2016) was recently honored by the National Wrestling Coaches Association. Conti, from Fredonia Central School, received the 2023 Girls National Scholastic Head Coach of the Year for his long-standing advocacy and leadership of girls high school wrestling. Back in 2015 Conti was a coach for the USA Women's Freestyle Wrestling Team at the Pan-American Games in Toronto.

Run, The Jehuu Caulcrick Story, From Civil War to the NFL

Jehuu Caulcrick was inducted into the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame in 2015 on the basis of his outstanding football career at Clymer Central, Michigan State and the NFL. I knew some of the background story about Caulcrick's journey from war-torn Liberia to Western New York from various media sources over many years. However, Bill Burk's recently released book, Run, gave me a whole new perspective about our cherished inductee.

Burk's deep-dive into Caulcrick's almost-unbelievable journey from civil war to the NFL is simply outstanding. Combining the indisputable facts about the humanitarian crisis that overwhelmed Liberia and a contrived story about a child soldier named Ghost with the actual recollections of Jehuu and his family make this book incredibly interesting to read.



I've always been a Jehuu Caulcrick fan, but after learning even more from Burk's well-researched and well-written book, my admiration for him has grown. What Jehuu witnessed and experienced as a young boy in Liberia is shocking. His ability to overcome unimaginable adversities in his native country and to achieve notable successes in America is truly remarkable.

Available on Amazon. Search for "Caulcrick."

Reviewed by Randy Anderson, President, Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame