
Honoring and Preserving the Sports History of Chautauqua County



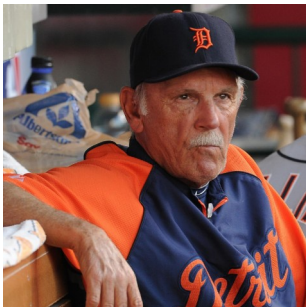
Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame

15 West Third Street - Jamestown, NY 14701

May 2024

From Jamestown To Cooperstown

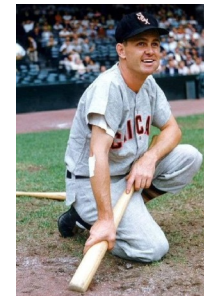
On July 21 this summer, Jamestown will lay claim its third Baseball Hall of Famer when former major league manager Jim Leyland will be enshrined in Cooperstown. Leyland was a 20-year-old catcher for the 1965 Jamestown Tigers of the NY-P League. Previous Baseball Hall of Famers who played for the Jamestown team at Diethrick Park, nee College Stadium, nee Municipal Stadium, were Randy Johnson and Nellie Fox. Johnson played for the 1985 Jamestown Expos while Fox played for the 1944 Jamestown Falcons.



Jim Leyland

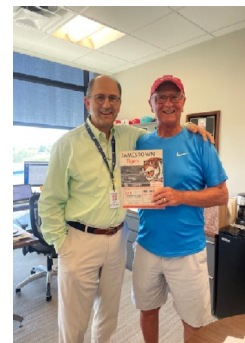


Randy Johnson



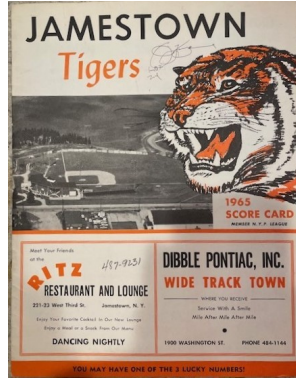
Nellie Fox

CSHOF president Randy Anderson attended a Detroit Tigers spring training game in Lakeland, Florida this past March 14 as a guest of Detroit's Director of Minor League Operations Dan Lunetta, a 2014 inductee of the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame. Lunetta has graciously hosted Anderson several other years with seats among Tiger VIPs, including Leyland, who works for Detroit as a consultant.



Left: Dan Lunetta and Randy Anderson

Knowing that he would encounter Leyland again this year, Anderson came bearing gifts: a 1965 Jamestown Tigers program listing Leyland on the roster, plus a stack of 55 photos of the players, coaches and staff of that squad.



1965 program book



Jim Leyland in '65

When Leyland arrived, Anderson slid over a couple a seats and showed his “goodies.” Leyland was astounded and without prompting began to share stories and quips about his season in Jamestown almost 60 years ago. To Anderson’s amazement. Leyland was able to identify from the pictures a good many of his former teammates, most who never made it to the major leagues. “Left-handed first baseman from California” or “tall shortstop from New York City.”



Randy Anderson with Jim Leyland, HOF '24, at Lakeland, Florida



It was a magical moment for both Leyland and Anderson.

Leyland graciously autographed the 1965 Jamestown Tigers program “Jim Leyland, HOF ‘24.”

Thanks to Dan Lunetta for making it happen.

Paul Cooley And Art Asquith Recognized

Cooley, Asquith Do The Honors As Cassadaga Valley Christens New Fields

Two retired coaches and teachers from Cassadaga Valley Central School threw out first pitches at the newly renovated softball and baseball fields on campus. At right is Paul Cooley, the former Cougars' softball coach, who is seen with softball catcher Hailey Myers before a game last week. At far right is Art Asquith with Cassadaga Valley baseball catcher Calvin Hilliker before the Cougars' game against Pine Valley on Tuesday.

Submitted photo at right P-J photo at far right by Scott Kindberg



Cassadaga Valley Central School unveiled its new baseball and softball fields by choosing legendary CVCS teachers and coaches Paul Cooley and Art Asquith to throw out the first pitches at the home openers of the Cougar softball and baseball squads. Asquith is a 2010 CSHOF inductee, while Cooley was enshrined in the Class of 2017.

Tara VanDerveer Retires From Stanford



Congratulations to 2010 CSHOF inductee Tara VanDerveer on her retirement as the head women's basketball coach at Stanford University. During a 45 year career that includes stops at Idaho and Ohio State, she amassed 1,216 wins, the most in NCAA Division I women's or men's basketball history, 3 national championships (1990, 1992, 2021) and an Olympic gold medal (1996).

Read *Post-Journal* sports editor Scott Kindberg's excellent article titled "Legendary Career: VanDerveer Never Forgot Chautauqua During Her Record-Breaking Career."

<https://www.post-journal.com/sports/local-sports/2024/04/legendary-career/>

Jim Beichner To Another Hall of Fame



The Upstate New York Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame will be inducting James Beichner into this year's Hall of Fame class. Jim was the head coach at Buffalo for many years and in 1996 he was named the Rookie Coach of the Year by Amateur Wrestling News. Jim wrestled at Clarion University for Bob Bub and was the captain of the only Clarion team that went undefeated. He was a 2 time All-American at Clarion.

This latest award will be Jim's 5th Hall Of Fame enshrinement. He was first chosen to the Cassadaga Valley Hall of Fame in 1982 followed by the Eastern Wrestling Hall of Fame in 1993, the Clarion University Sports Hall of Fame in 2000 and the

Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame in 2004.

After a highly successful career as the Athletic Director at Roger Penske Racing for more than a decade, Jim recently became the General Manager at MAC's Performance Manufacturing/Pit Viper Racing Jacks in Mooresville, NC.

Photos below: Jim as a wrestler at Clarion University (1984); Jim coaching at University of Buffalo (1997); Jim and Delaney visit CSHOF (2022)

