



## Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame

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*Box 1192 - Jamestown, NY 14702*

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### Crist, Johnson, Swanson Elected to Section VI Hall of Fame

By Scott Kindberg, *The Post-Journal*, August 2, 2024

Three Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame enshrinees will be adding another entry on their impressive athletic resumes later this year.

The late Chuck Crist, Bruce Johnson and Mel Swanson will be inducted into the 10th annual Section VI Hall of Fame during ceremonies Dec. 6 at The Columns Banquets in Elma.



The Section VI Hall of Fame was established to honor and recognize those, within its organization, who excelled in their roles as athletes, administrators, coaches, officials or contributors who have provided meritorious service.

Crist, Johnson and Swanson are certainly deserving.

**Chuck Crist:** A 2015 CSHOF inductee, Crist had a decorated athletic career, beginning as a four-sport athlete at Salamanca Central School.

He chose basketball over football at Penn State University where he was captain his senior year. Incredibly, he earned a free-agent NFL tryout, which began a seven-year career that ran from 1972-78 with the New York Giants, the New

Orleans Saints and the San Francisco 49ers.

**Bruce Johnson:** A former physical education teacher and athletic director at Frewsburg Central School, the Jamestown native has been the swimming coach for the Bears and their merged program since 1977. Along the way, he has recorded more than 950 career wins, dozens of Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Athletic Association team championships, and sent many swimmers to the state championships. In addition, he was the Section VI girls swimming committee chairman, a member of the New York State girls swimming committee for 25 years and the meet director for the state girls championships for 10 years. Johnson was inducted into the CSHOF in 2023.



**Mel Swanson:** A 2015 CSHOF inductee, Swanson coached at Sherman Central School for nearly 40 years, collected 607 career wins as the girls basketball coach; served as the school's athletic director for nearly 20 years; and, at various times, also coached junior varsity football; boys junior high, junior varsity and varsity basketball; girls junior high, junior varsity and varsity basketball; boys varsity baseball; and varsity golf.

CSHOF inductees who have already been enshrined into the Section VI Hall of Fame are Jenn Suhr, Tom Priester, Wally Huckno, Cheryl Bailey, Bob Barlette, Bill Bergey, Jehuu Caulcrick, Tim Nobles and Walt Thurnau.

The Dec. 6 banquet will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a cash bar and dinner followed by the induction ceremony. Dinner reservations are \$45 per person and \$25 for children ages 4-12. Reservations and ticket purchase deadline is noon Nov. 24 and can be done online at <https://gofan.co/event/1567478>.

## Miller Joins LPGA Pros HOF

*The Post-Journal*, September 5, 2024

**Cindy Miller** has added yet another honor to her bulging golf resume.

And the latest — announced Wednesday — may be the biggest of all.

The LPGA professional and former LPGA Tour player from Silver Creek joins Marvol Barnard, LPGA professionals national president from Green Valley, Arizona, as 2024 inductees to the LPGA Professionals Hall of Fame. The honor, according to a press release on the LPGA website, is in recognition of their “extraordinary dedication, outstanding achievement, and steadfast commitment to encouraging golf enthusiasts worldwide. These two women are considered among the greatest professionals in the game of golf.”



Miller, also a 2014 graduate of the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame, has been called a Master of Mulligans; an underdog and leading expert at taking another shot. For most of her life, she was used to people telling her she wasn’t good enough. Those words would generally inhibit some, but for Miller, it motivated her to achieve more.

Miller has had a distinguished career as an accomplished player. She started as a walk-on at the University of Miami and graduated as an All-American, captaining her team during two NCAA Championships. She played on the LPGA Tour for three years, competing in five U.S. Women’s Opens, before losing her card. Twenty-five years later, she hoped to compete on The Legends Tour of the LPGA Tour, but again, was told she was not good enough. She later qualified, and in 2005, finished second on their money list. Her motto — it’s never too late to take another shot.

In 1983, she became an LPGA Professionals member and for more than 40 years has taught thousands of golfers from beginners to the PGA TOUR Comeback Players of the Year. As a Top 50 Master U.S. Kids Instructor certified in TPI and Golf Psych, she also runs the LPGA\*USGA Girls Golf Program of Buffalo and is league director of the Under Armour Junior Tour of Buffalo.

Miller is now a Top 50 Elite LPGA Teacher in the World and has made it her lifelong mission to help those who want to get better and become better. She and her husband,

Allen Miller, a PGA TOUR past champion and life member, teach golf in Buffalo. They also administer golf Bootcamps in Florida in the offseason months.



Miller is not only a respected instructor but a skilled communicator. She is an author, radio co-host, and a highly sought-after speaker and corporate trainer. She is a regular contributor to instructional programs on Golf Channel and can be seen on NBCUniversal's GolfPass. Miller also appeared on Golf Channel's hit series Big Break III, Ladies Only for several seasons and returned for the Big Break 7 Reunion, reaching a new generation of golfers.

Her commitment to service is another reason Miller is an influential leader. She has served her section and given back greatly to the LPGA, holding many leadership positions. She was elected president for six years and vice president for two separate terms in the Northeast Section. She was chairman of the Professional Development Committee and the Education Committee.

Her list of accolades is impressive. She was the recipient of the Nancy Lopez Golf Achievement Award in 2021. She was named the LPGA National Teacher of the Year in 2010, as well as the LPGA Northeast Section Teacher of the Year on four separate occasions (2001, 2005, 2007, 2010). She won the LPGA National Professional Championship in 2004 and the LPGA Northeast Section Player of the Year in 2005 and 2007. She was named a Women of Influence by Business First in Buffalo and an Ignite Award recipient by the Women's Business Center in 2023. She was also inducted into the Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame.

But even more impressive is her ability to transform lives through the game. A lifelong learner, Miller is a certified behavior, motivation and emotional intelligence professional and an entrepreneur who has dedicated her career to helping people unlock their game and reach their true potential. Knowing how to motivate, communicate, and empower her students is paramount to helping them find their true purpose. She believes that if you have a big dream, it is worth all the effort to go after it. Miller realizes that her impact goes way beyond the LPGA and the golf industry, it has grown beyond the game.

Her nonprofit, The Pursue Your It Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization aligned with the New York State School's social and emotional learning benchmarks. The program

teaches social awareness, interpersonal skills, establishing and maintaining positive relationships, decision-making skills, and responsible behaviors. It provides you with the opportunity to succeed by finding your purpose.

“I am humbled and thrilled to be inducted into the LPGA Professionals Hall of Fame,” Miller said. “I remember when I first started learning to teach after playing on the LPGA Tour and was in awe of the knowledge of Ellen Griffin, Kathy Murphy, Debbie Crews, Jane Frost, and so many others who helped me in my journey. Thank you so much for giving me the knowledge and love for what I do. I hold this honor as one of the highest of my lifetime.”

## **Nagel Earns 500th Career Volleyball Victory As Duke Coach**

*The Post-Journal*, August 31, 2024

Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame inductee **Jolene Nagel** reached another significant career milestone on Friday.

The Panama Central School graduate tallied her 500th win as volleyball coach at Duke University when the Blue Devils outlasted Colgate 3-2 at Cameron Indoor Stadium.

Five-hundred of Nagel’s 703-career wins have come in Durham, and she captured her 700th-career win a season ago. She is one of eight active head coaches to have 700 or more wins.



“I am proud of our team today to persevere and win in five against an always good Colgate team,” Nagel said on Duke’s athletic website. “Things weren’t always smooth, but the team stayed with it and got better as the match progressed. We had some great contributions off the bench, which were key.”

The 2024 season marks the 54th iteration of Blue Devils’ volleyball and the 26th year for Nagel.

“This 500th win at Duke was very special today to share with Team 54,” she said on the website. “We have been talking about the teams that have come before us and discussing what kind of legacy 54 wants to leave. I’m encouraged by their grittiness today and

grateful for our many teams in the history of Duke volleyball who have laid the groundwork for excellence on the court and in the classroom.”

Nagel became Duke’s fifth head volleyball coach in 1999, joining the Blue Devils’ staff after successful stints at Cornell and Georgetown. Along the way she has led Duke to 12 NCAA Tournament appearances, including an ACC-record seven consecutive trips to the postseason event from 2005-2011.

Nagel graduated from Panama Central in 1979 after earning 12 varsity letters, including in volleyball where she played for Deb Palmer. Nagel is a 2007 CSHOF inductee while Palmer was enshrined in 2017.

## Kebort Earns 9<sup>th</sup> Dan Blackbelt

Congratulations to 2022 CSHOF inductee **Master Christina Kebort** for earning a very rare 9<sup>th</sup> Dan Blackbelt in the art of Shotokan Karate.

