
Preserving the Sports History of Chautauqua County



Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame

15 West Third Street - Jamestown, NY 14701

January 2026

CSHOF Banquet February 16

The Board of Directors of the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame will enshrine eight individuals at its 44th annual Induction Banquet, Presidents' Day, Monday, February 16th, at the Lakewood Rod & Gun Club. The inductees are **Kenny Betts, Jennifer Giebner Donato, Dr. Karl Englert Jr., Brianne Prince Hazelton, Trevor Hitchcock, Brian Hull, Kerry Kellogg and Dan Wolfe.**

Notable accomplishments by our Class of 2026 enshrinees include:

1. A 2-time NYS wrestling champion, plus a 2-time NYS wrestling runner-up, and an inductee of the WNY Wrestling Hall of Fame, **Kenny Betts.**
2. A 4-time recipient of the Abbott World Major Marathon Six-Star: Tokyo, Boston, London, Chicago, Berlin and New York City, **Jennifer Giebner Donato.**
3. A Buffalo District Golf Association Champion, a WNY Amateur champion and a multiple club champion at Moon Brook and Maplehurst CC, **Dr. Karl Englert Jr..**
4. A 3-time All-WNY 1st Team softball player, a WNY Pitcher of the Year, a Division I player at St. Bonaventure and the coach at Forestville, **Brianne Prince Hazelton..**
5. A 4-time NCAA Division III Track & Field All-American at SUNY Fredonia in the hammer throw and 35-pound weight throw, **Trevor Hitchcock**
6. A NYS cross-country champion, a NYS two mile run champion and a NAIA All-American in both cross country and track & field, **Brian Hull.**
7. A NCAA Division 1 pitcher for Florida, a minor league pitcher for the Jamestown Expos and a 200-win coach at Jamestown Community College, **Kerry Kellogg.**
8. A winner of 15 varsity letters, a National Catholic All-American and the greatest all-around athlete in Cardinal Mindszenty High School history, **Dan Wolfe.**

Tickets are available for \$50 at the CSHOF, by calling Chip Johnson at 716-485-6991 or online at <https://www.chautauquasportshalloffame.org/banquettickets.php>.

*The Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame is mourning the passing of **Joe DiMaio**, our friend and 19-year member of our Board of Directors, who died on November 17th.*

The following story was written by Scott Kindberg and appeared in the Jamestown Post-Journal on November 20th.

DiMaio's Loss Felt By Everyone



On the first day of his freshman year at Jamestown Community College in 1965, Bob Schmitt arrived for French class and sat down next to a guy by the name of Joe DiMaio. The connection between the teenagers — one from suburban Buffalo (Schmitt) and the other from Jamestown (DiMaio) — was immediate. Before you knew it, Schmitt had a standing invitation to DiMaio's house for spaghetti dinner every Sunday.

A lifelong friendship had been forged.

Whether it was on the Jayhawks' basketball team — Schmitt was a player, Joe was the manager — on the softball field or, years later, in weekly gatherings with old teammates, the pair became inseparable.

And when DiMaio married Cheryl Carr on June 23, 1973, guess who was the best man?

That's why Schmitt spoke in a sometimes halting voice from his winter home in Florida earlier this week, just days after DiMaio died unexpectedly at 78.

"It doesn't seem fair," Schmitt said. "He meant so much to so many different people."

Below is just a sampling of just how much.

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Wally Huckno, the Hall-of-Fame football coach at Jamestown High School, met DiMaio when the latter walked into Lincoln Junior High for the first time in 1972.

"At that point, he had hair down to his shoulders," said Huckno, who was then an English teacher at the school. "I looked at him and thought, 'Well, I wonder where they picked up this guy.'"

As it turned out, it was a match made in heaven.

Although DiMaio had limited football playing experience, he quickly picked up the nuances of the game and became a valued member of Huckno's junior high staff and, later, as an assistant coach on the JHS varsity for 23 seasons and three state championships.

"Joe joined the staff and it was obviously the best of the very best hiring I could ever do," Huckno said. "He wasn't an assistant coach, we were co-coaches. He was so knowledgeable and willing to do anything."

Huckno said he received the news of DiMaio's passing from Sam Restivo, one of the greatest players in Jamestown history, who showed up at his front door Monday morning.

"Early on, he was a father figure, but later on I'd talk with him like I would talk to my brother or close, close friend," Restivo said of his relationship with DiMaio.

During COVID, in fact, Restivo said he would show up at DiMaio's home one morning a week, they'd watch SportsCenter on ESPN and they'd "share everything, good and bad."



"He had his chair, I had my chair, and I got to know Joe intimately," Restivo said. "I got to know about his politics, his family, his children and his grandchildren."

Fittingly, Restivo will be one of the speakers at DiMaio's funeral, which is scheduled for 11 a.m. Saturday at Strider Field. His eulogy will include references to "Tuesday's With Morrie," the best-selling book by Mitch Albom, which tells about a series of visits Albom made to his former Brandeis University sociology professor, Morrie Schwartz, as the latter was dying from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease.

"I'll reference Mitch and Morrie, (because) I had Joe DiMaio," Restivo said. "(Mitch and Morrie) were different circumstances, but they had the same kind of respect, loyalty and love that I shared (with DiMaio)."

Chris Olsen (JHS, Class of 1982) described DiMaio as "the epitome of a perfect coach," adding he was "tough, but fair; demanding but a tremendous motivator; intense, but kind."

A prime example of that kindness came in 1979 when Olsen's father, Ted, was stricken and died while playing a softball game in Jamestown.

"Coach drove me to and from the WCA Hospital the night my father died at Jones & Gifford," Olsen recalled. "In those difficult moments, he told my sister, Cindy, '(To) carry on and live and keep doing all the things you know your dad would want for your lives.'"

“Somehow in the most difficult times, Coach D was at his very best. At the right spot, at the right time, quietly lending a hand.”

Olsen learned later that his family’s story wasn’t unique.

“Coach D was quietly there for many in our community,” he said, “lending a hand or a pat on the back at just the right moment. (He) was, and shall remain, a cornerstone for the Jamestown community and all who were fortunate enough to know him.”

Earlier this week, Olsen saw a sign in a store that read, “Good coaches change lives.”

“All the clerk could do was watch as I knowingly (nodded) my head, ‘yes,’ and wiped away more than a few tears,” he said.

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Following his retirement from teaching, DiMaio was elected to the Jamestown Public Schools Board of Education in 2004, spending 12 years as a board member and serving as the board’s president for four of those years. He also was a board member of the New York State Association of Small City School Districts, including one year as president of the organization; was the recipient of the New York State School Boards Association prestigious Everett Dyer Award for Distinguished School Board Service; and was honored in 2015 by the Western New York Educational Service Council with an Award of Excellence for Board of Education Member.

In other words, DiMaio was an “all-star” in fields other than in the classroom or on the gridiron, confirming that his character — defined as “doing the right thing when no one is looking” — was in operation 24/7. That prompted Rauh, who now lives in Florida, to note in his Facebook post how “grateful” he was to have had the opportunity to visit with DiMaio in his most recent trip to Jamestown.

“It was good for my soul,” Rauh wrote.

Being in DiMaio’s orbit, which always seemed to include a handshake, a smile and/or a hug, has been a good game plan. Now, in his memory, we should try to execute it to the best of our ability.

Noted Ken Ricker, the JHS girls varsity basketball coach, in his Facebook post: “(DiMaio) is on the Mount Rushmore, not only of coaches in Jamestown, but also of humans. (I’m) not sure anyone else ever has been on both.

” ... All of us who were blessed with Joe in our lives know that we have to love more, work harder and always have that Raider Pride. I love you, Coach.”

Jolene Nagel Retires From Duke Volleyball After 27 Years

DURHAM, N.C. – Following nearly three decades of dedicated leadership, Duke volleyball head coach Jolene Nagel has announced her retirement, concluding an extraordinary era for the Blue Devils.



Nagel's retirement allows her to prioritize her long-term health and well-being as she prepares for upcoming knee surgeries.

"I'm proud to be a Blue Devil, and I want to thank Duke University, Duke Athletics, our administration and staff, our alumni, fellow coaches, fans and, most importantly, the Duke student-athletes I've had the privilege to coach," said Nagel. "I'm also grateful for the associate and assistant coaches who have worked tirelessly for Duke Volleyball throughout the years.

"A special thank you goes to my husband, Sam, and to our sons, CJ and Tyler Carpenter, for being the greatest support system and biggest cheerleaders of Duke Volleyball. They always understood the demands of the job and supported me wholeheartedly.

"I am grateful, blessed and appreciative to have coached the many talented and gifted student-athletes that Duke University attracts, and it has been an honor to lead this program for 27 seasons."

Named Duke's head coach in 1999, Nagel guided the Blue Devils to 13 NCAA Tournament appearances, including seven consecutive postseason trips from 2005-11.

Duke recorded 20 or more wins in 14 of Nagel's 27 campaigns and regularly finished among the top three in the conference. She led the Blue Devils to four ACC Championships (2001, 2006, 2010, 2013) and was named the ACC Coach of the Year four times (2001, 2006, 2010, 2013).

One of just 39 coaches in Division I volleyball history to eclipse 700 career wins, Nagel concludes her 38-year coaching career with 717 victories. She is Duke's all-time winningest coach with 514 victories. Her career wins total ranks No. 37 among all Division I coaches, a mark that also stands fifth nationally among active head coaches.



"We offer our heartfelt congratulations to Coach Nagel, Sam and their family on an amazing coaching career," said Vice President and King-Compton Families Director of Athletics Nina King. "Jolene's care and compassion for her players, staff and everyone around her are unmatched, and we are truly grateful for her tremendous service to Duke. Her legacy will live on through the profound impact she has had on the lives of so many student-athletes."

Under her guidance throughout her career, 20 student-athletes have earned All-America honors (35 total awards), 26 have garnered All-Region recognition (53 total awards) and 29 have collected All-ACC selections (56 total awards), highlighted by four ACC Players of the Year, five ACC Defensive Players of the Year, one ACC Setter of the Year, one ACC Freshman of the Year and three East Region Freshmen of the Year.

Among active ACC head coaches, Nagel ranks second in career wins, trailing only Florida State's head coach Chris Poole, who also leads all active Division I coaches in total victories.



Before beginning her decades-long run at Duke, Nagel spent four seasons at Cornell, collecting 85 wins, leading the Big Red to their first Ivy League title and securing three straight first-place finishes in league standings from 1989-91. She then spent seven seasons at Georgetown, amassing 118 victories and guiding the Hoyas to a share of the 1998 Big East regular-season championship.

Prior to launching her coaching career, Nagel was a standout player at Edinboro, earning

induction into the university's Hall of Fame in 1997. From 1980-82, she helped lead the Scots to three state and regional championships and three national tournament appearances. She captained the team to a 116-43 record and earned three All-PSAC honors. Before Edinboro, she excelled at Panama Central, where her accomplishments later earned her induction into the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame in 2007.