
Honoring and Preserving the Sports History of Chautauqua County



Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame

15 West Third Street - Jamestown, NY 14701

February 2026

2026 Induction Banquet February 16th

The Board of Directors of the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame will enshrine eight individuals at its 44th annual Induction Banquet, Monday, February 16th, at the Lakewood Rod & Gun Club.

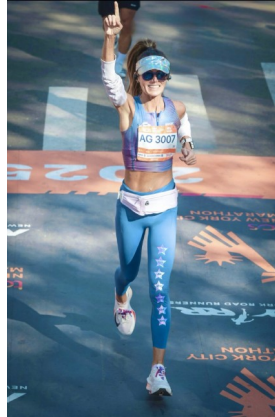
The inductees are Kenny Betts, Jennifer Giebner Donato, Karl Englert Jr., Brianne Prince Hazelton, Trevor Hitchcock, Brian Hull, Kerry Kellogg and Dan Wolfe.

A limited number of tickets are still available.
Contact Chip Johnson 716-485-6991.

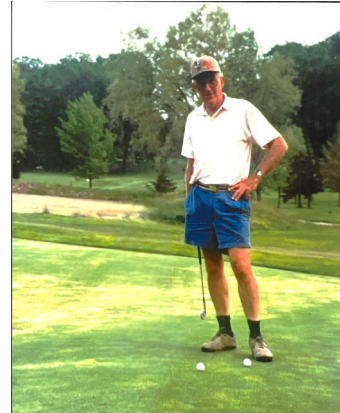




Kenny Betts



Jennifer Giebner Donato



Karl Englert Jr.



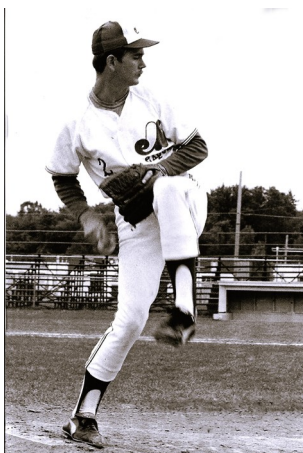
Brianne Prince Hazelton



Trevor Hitchcock



Brian Hull



Kerry Kellogg



Dan Wolfe



CSHOF inductee ring

The First 300 Game In Jamestown

A recent donation to the CSHOF was a large collection of Jamestown Area Bowling Association Yearbooks. As I was looking through them I noticed the listing of all 300 game bowlers from the first one in 1924 through 1974.

300

Joseph Bloomquist -----	March 12, 1924
Charles Pratt -----	March 20, 1930
Charles K. Myers -----	December 7, 1933
Raymond Lawyer -----	February 25, 1949
Louis Handzel -----	December 4, 1951
Courtland Clark -----	January 7, 1957
Eugene Schwen -----	April 20, 1958
Jack Keifer -----	October 14, 1965
Paul Holmes -----	January 7, 1966
Lynn Johnson -----	April 18, 1967
Oscar Swanson -----	December 2, 1970
Mike Barton -----	December 4, 1972
Steve Pachol -----	January 23, 1974

Here's how the first JABA league-sanctioned 300 was reported in the *Jamestown Evening-Journal*:

Rolls 300 Game In Match Play

Joe Bloomquist of Level Furniture Team Breaks Freebrook Alley Record In Match With Elks, Every Hit Was Perfect

For the first time in the history of local bowling league matches and the fourth time on the Freebrook alleys in the past decade, Joe Bloomquist of the Level Furniture company team of the Jamestown association rolled a perfect 300 game Wednesday night. Every hit was perfect and "Hustling Joe" is in line for an American Bowling Congress gold medal. The Levels took all three matches from the Elks. Bloomquist rolled his 300 score in the third and final game after toppling the pins for 171 and 181 games. He averaged 217 and his 300 game made him sky high.

The Freebrook Bowling Company was located at 209-211 Pine Street in Jamestown. The site is currently the home of Jamestown Skate Products and has an indoor skate park where the bowling alleys once were.

The Level Furniture Company, sponsor of Bloomquist's bowling team, was incorporated in 1904. It was located on Allen Street Extension in Jamestown. The company went bankrupt in 1929, an early victim of the Great Depression.

Joe Bloomquist was better known as “Alex” Bloomquist. He was secretary-treasurer of the Level Furniture Company.

Post-Journal sportswriter Scrubby Olson, a CSHOF inductee in the Class of 2015, wrote an extensive article about Alex Bloomquist in the newspaper on September 18, 1965. The headline read “Jamestown’s Greatest Athlete? It Could Have Been Alex Bloomquist.”

The photo at right shows Alex Bloomquist in 1965.

Bloomquist was active in bowling, wrestling, football, baseball, track, horseshoe pitching, hiking, motorcycle riding and, later in life, golf. A friend of Bloomquist’s was quoted as saying, “Alex excelled in every sport he participated in. He wanted to be tops in everything he did and he was.”

After Bloomquist’s 300 game in 1924, six years passed before another perfect game was rolled. And by 50 years later, 1974, just 13 300s had been achieved.



300 games are much more common in present time. The Jamestown Post-Journal reports perfect games seemingly on a weekly basis. The increase in 300 games in bowling today compared to years ago is primarily due to advancements in technology and training.



Modern bowling balls are designed with advanced materials and technology that enhance grip and control, allowing for better performance. Improvements in lane oiling techniques create more consistent playing conditions, making it easier for bowlers to achieve strikes. More resources are available for bowlers, including professional

coaching and instructional materials, which help players improve their skills. Increased access to bowling alleys and practice facilities allows bowlers to hone their skills more effectively.

However, despite the changes cited above, it is still considered a magnificent achievement to roll a 300 and all such bowlers are to be congratulated.