
Honoring and Preserving the Sports History of Chautauqua County



Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame

Box 1192 – 15 W. 3rd Street - Jamestown, NY 14701

October 2025

Nichols Inducted Into Upstate NY Chapter Wrestling HOF

Ithaca College men's wrestling head coach **Marty Nichols** was honored for his outstanding athletic achievements and lifelong dedication to the sport with induction into the Upstate New York Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.

Nichols received the Lifetime Service Award during a ceremony on Sunday, Sept. 21, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Syracuse.

A three-time All-American during his collegiate career at Ithaca, Nichols recently completed his 29th season as head coach of the Bombers, improving his career record to 329-111-1. Under his leadership, the team posted a 16-2 dual meet record last season. Nichols was named the 2025 NCAA Region II Coach of the Year, while guiding Xavier Pommells to an All-American finish at 184 pounds and mentoring Tomah Gummow, who earned SUNYAC Wrestling Rookie of the Year honors.

Nichols began his coaching journey with assistant roles at Cornell University and Ithaca High School, eventually returning to Ithaca College as an assistant coach in 1994. He was promoted to head coach in 1997 and made an immediate impact, earning NWCA Rookie Coach of the Year after leading the Bombers to a 7-5 record and a 16th-place finish at the NCAA Championships — an impressive turnaround from the previous 0-8 season.



Over the years, Nichols has received numerous accolades, including NCAA Coach of the Year in 2011, seven ECWC Coach of the Year honors, Mideast Region Coach of the Year in 2018, 2020, and 2023, NCAA Championships Coach of the Year in 2018, and SUNYAC Coaching Staff of the Year for the 2023-24 academic year.

The wrestlers he has coached over the years have racked up a host of accolades under his command. He has had seven individual NCAA champions along with 46 student-athletes who have earned All-America honors.

Nichols was born in 1968 and graduated from Cassadaga Valley Central School in 1986. He played football and wrestled for the Cougars. He was the Section VI 138-pound champion and finished fifth in the New York state tournament in 1986.

As a student-athlete, Nichols qualified for the NCAA Championships in all four years of his collegiate career, winning the first of four 150-pound regional titles in 1987. He placed sixth nationally as a sophomore and followed that with a standout junior season, recording 32 wins, a 13-2 dual-match record, and a fifth-place finish at nationals — contributing to Ithaca's first-ever NCAA team title. Nichols finished his career with a record of 115-38, which ranks tied for 10th in program history for career wins.

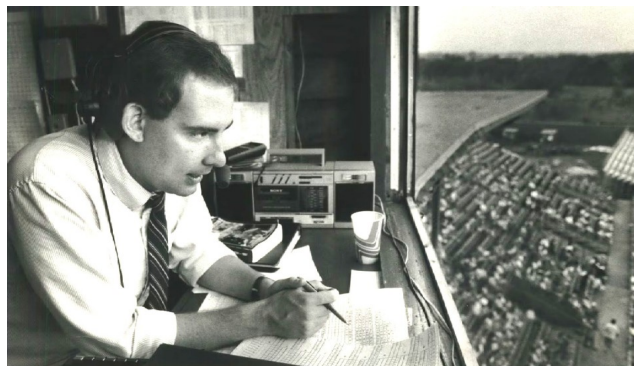
The National Wrestling Hall of Fame, located in Stillwater, Oklahoma, houses a dedicated room for the Upstate New York Chapter, showcasing mementos and tributes to the region's most esteemed wrestling figures.

Nichols, a 2023 Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame inductee, will join fellow CSHOF inductees **Jim Beichner** and **Walt Thurnau** in the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.

Hoard Inducted Into Syracuse Baseball Hall of Fame

Dan Hoard, a 2016 inductee of the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame, has added another hall of fame to his impressive resume.

He was inducted into the Syracuse Baseball Hall of Fame during pregame ceremonies before the August 9th Syracuse Mets game at NBT Bank Stadium in Syracuse, NY.



Established in 1998, the Syracuse Baseball Hall of Fame recognizes individuals who made unique contributions to the history of professional baseball in Syracuse & Central New York - both on the field and off.

Hoard became the Voice of the Syracuse Chiefs as a senior at Syracuse University in 1985 and remained a member of the broadcasting team until 1995. Dan was later the Voice of the Pawtucket Red Sox and called games on the major league level for the Cincinnati Reds and New York Mets. He eventually settled in Cincinnati as the Voice of the Cincinnati Bengals and University of Cincinnati Bearcats for football and basketball.

Dan has been inducted into the University of Cincinnati's Athletics Hall of Fame, the Ohio Sports Hall of Fame, and received the Marty Glickman Award for Leadership in Sports Media from Syracuse University.

Rollinger Named Distinguished Person By WNYAC

Jamestown Community College volunteer swim coach **Bill Rollinger**, a 1996 inductee of the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame and a member of its Board of Directors, has been named the 2025 Western New York Athletic Conference Distinguished Person of the Year.

As volunteer swim coach Bill Rollinger is a mainstay around the Jayhawks' aquatic center as both a vocal leader and inspirational mentor for the student-athletes, as well as a sounding board for national coach of the year Todd Conklin.



Coach Rollinger joined the JCC swimming and diving program as a volunteer in 2020; since then, the women's team has won four national titles in five seasons, including three in a row.

"Coach Rollinger has a huge impact on our program and me," said head coach Todd Conklin. "I spend lots of time with him discussing what we need to do and what we can do better."

Rollinger has also overseen hundreds of All-Americans and assisted the men's program to their best finish ever, second in the nation in 2025.

“The kids adore him and believe in him,” added Conklin.

While the accolades are numerous, what might be the most important thing Rollinger brings to the team is a calming influence from someone who has been around the sport for decades. If it’s not getting the athletes locked in with pregame speeches, it’s hearing how badly they want to earn a rubber ducky (a practice Rollinger started in his head coaching days) after events that show how much these young people truly love their volunteer head coach.

In short, the dominant JCC swimming and diving programs would not be the same without volunteer Coach Bill Rollinger.

Donn Johnston to be Honored by Jamestown YMCA

Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame inductee **Donn Johnston** will be receiving the first YMCA CAMP ONYAHSA ALUMNUS AWARD.

Donn is a graduate of Jamestown High School in 1969 and the University of North Carolina in 1973, where he excelled in basketball.

A former Y member and Onyahsa camper, Donn and his wife, Kathy, have been loyal contributors for many years and have donated for large projects such as the refinishing of the basketball courts at the Jamestown YMCA’s Camp Onyahsa in Dewittville.

The event honoring the Johnstons will take place at Camp Onyahsa on Saturday, October 25, from 5:00-7:00. Tickets are \$100, admitting 2 people. It will include heavy appetizers and drinks by donation. There will be an after hour campfire with beer in the Crafts Stuga, on site, after the main event. There will auction items to be bid on as well.

Tickets can be purchased by calling Judi Swanson at 716-665-1392.

Name: _____
Phone #: _____
E-mail: _____
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY
CASH FOR CAMP 2025
No. 000

CASH FOR CAMP 2025 A Fundraiser for YMCA Camp Onyahsa Saturday, October 25, 2025

5-7 pm at YMCA Camp Onyahsa in Dewittville, NY
After Hours Campfire & Beverages in the Crafts Stuga
An evening honoring **Donn & Kathy Johnston**

Donation: \$100 per ticket



**1st Prize: \$3,000 2nd Prize: \$1,000
3rd Prize: \$500
4th – 8th Prizes: \$100 each**



Proceeds benefit the new camp Health and Wellness Center

No. 000