



DELAWARE SPORTS MUSEUM & HALL OF FAME

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE DELAWARE SPORTS MUSEUM & HALL OF FAME

DSMHOF INDUCTIONS BANQUET SET FOR NOVEMBER 10, 2021 AT CHASE CENTER

WILMINGTON, Del. – Ten prominent men and women whose outstanding accomplishments in the world of athletics have brought distinction to the state of Delaware over the last eight decades, have been selected for induction into the Delaware Sports Museum and Hall of Fame.

The 10 standouts, seven of whom made major contributions as coaches at the high school and college levels, will be honored at the state's premier sports banquet on Wednesday, Nov. 10, at the Chase Center on the Riverfront in Wilmington. The traditional spring date for the event was moved to the fall due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Tickets to the 45th annual banquet are \$65 each with tables of 10 available for \$600. Social hour and silent auction will begin at 5:30 p.m. followed by the dinner and ceremony at 6:45.

Tickets to the event can be purchased online at the DSMHOF website at www.desports.org/events.

Advertising opportunities for the souvenir program are also available. Contact DSMHOF Executive Director Scott Selheimer for details.



Tyresa Smith

Jerry Kobasa – Enjoyed outstanding success as an athlete, coach, and administrator at the high school and college levels in Delaware in the sports of football, basketball, and baseball over a half-century. He is a member of four other athletic halls of fame within the state.

George Kosanovich – Over a span of 42 years as a high school football coach, won 264 games at Wilmington, McKean, and Concord to rank third all-time in state history. His teams won three state titles, made 11 tournament appearances, and several of his players went on to NFL careers.

This versatile group of inductees represent the sports of football, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's track & field, distance running, baseball, and softball, as well as the fields of sports writing and officiating while representing all three counties in Delaware.

The DSMHOF Class of 2020 includes:

Mel Gardner - A member of both the National High School Baseball Hall of Fame and Delaware Baseball Hall of Fame, he enjoyed outstanding success as head baseball coach at William Penn High School for 30 years and coached several major leaguers.

Jack Gregory – The first organizer and administrator of the Delaware Blue-Gold High School Football All-Star Game, he was a standout coach at the P.S. DuPont HS before moving to the college head coaching ranks at East Stroudsburg, Villanova, and Rhode Island and as athletic director at Bowling Green. He passed away in 2014.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



The Delaware Sports Museum and Hall of Fame, formed in the Bicentennial year, has grown into an important role in this State's historical and cultural life. Its reach to the community and service to Delaware can be expected to grow.

For 45 years, the Hall has recognized accomplished athletes and contributors – over 350 inductees, in two dozen sports. We have celebrated their lives at Delaware's longest-running statewide sports banquet, where friends reunite and make new friends, on nights full of laughter, memories and emotion. In the 21st Century, the Hall has included a well-curated museum at Judy Johnson Field at Frawley Stadium, which all should visit.

We plan some new initiatives this year, beyond our banquet and physical museum, with events, displays, commemorations and other creative ways to preserve, explore and share Delaware's sports history.

Delaware is special because it is intimate yet diverse, capable of producing performances of national caliber, with extraordinary accomplishment, notable leadership in women's sports, excellence in its sports journalism, integrity in its coaching and vision in its leadership. Most importantly, competition in Delaware is almost invariably founded on respect, built on lessons learned over the years.

We remain committed to excellence and integrity in the selection of new inductees, and invite everyone to make nominations to the Hall.

My presence in this role is owing to two of the State's most remarkable sportsmen. Al Cartwright invited me to become the youngest of the 50 charter voting members in 1976. Bob Tattersall asked me to join the board 12 years ago. Delaware's preeminent sports editor and winningest football coach have inspired me for over a half-century, and I hope to live up to their standards.

- Chuck Durante

Tom Lemon – A member of the St. Mark’s High School and Delaware Baseball halls of fame, he served as baseball coach at St. Mark’s for 16 years and led the Spartans to four state titles and eight championship game appearances.

Art Madric – His name is synonymous with success in track & field. He helped found the successful Wilmington Track Club, led Howard and Glasgow boys’ and girls’ high school teams to 11 state titles, and was named state Coach of the Year eight times.

Charles Rayne – One of the top high school basketball players in state history, he led Indian River HS to two state titles, earned All-State honors three times, and was a four-year standout in college at Temple University, eventually being drafted by the NBA Phoenix Suns.

Lou Romanoli – Made his mark as a standout baseball player at UD and the Wilmington Semi-Pro League, in football with the Wilmington Football League, as general manager of the Wilmington Blue Bombers in basketball, and as a marathon runner. Also contributed as a high school basketball official and officer with the DSMHOF.

Gary Smith – One of the nation’s most prominent sportswriters, the Dickinson HS graduate has won four National Magazine Awards, the highest honor bestowed on magazine writers, the magazine equivalent of the Pulitzer Prize. He joined Sports Illustrated in 1982.

Tyresa Smith – A two-time All-State pick at Polytech High School, she went on to a Hall of Fame career at the University of Delaware where she earned all-conference honors, set numerous school records and led the team to the NCAA Tournament. She played in the WNBA and overseas.



Lou Romanoli

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Official Newsletter

Volume 1 / Edition 1

SUMMER - 2021

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OUR MISSION

The mission of the Delaware Sports Museum and Hall of Fame is to celebrate the history, preserve the legacy, and honor the heroes of the sports within Delaware and those who have brought recognition to Delaware by their accomplishments elsewhere. The membership strives to educate young and old about athletics, sportsmanship, and work ethic while providing inspiration to maintain active and healthy lifestyles through sports.

CHUCK DURANTE SELECTED AS NEW DSMHOF PRESIDENT

Chuck Durante has been elected to a two-year term as President of the Delaware Sports Museum and Hall of Fame.

A partner in the Wilmington law firm of Connolly Gallagher, Chuck also covers high school track and cross country on a free-lance basis for The News Journal. Chuck previously covered Delaware high school sports for The Philadelphia Inquirer and Delaware State News.

Chuck is also Vice President at Large of the Delaware State Bar Association, President of the Delaware Sportswriters and Broadcasters Association, chairman of the Board of Editors of Delaware Lawyer magazine, a trustee of the Delaware Historical Society, a fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, and an inductee in the Delaware Track and Field Hall of Fame.

2019 BANQUET IN REVIEW: TEN NATIONALLY-PROMINENT DELAWAREANS INDUCTED

Ten of the most accomplished athletes in the state’s history were inducted into the Delaware Sports Hall of Fame in 2019 before a crowd of hundreds, unaware that they were seeing the last induction banquet for the next 30 months.

A national tennis, squash and badminton champion, the workhorse of a Pittsburgh Pirates staff, a national champion auto driver, the nation’s leading gymnastics authority, a basketball star who became a pioneering college basketball coach, another basketball star who became the state’s third NBA player, an NFL Pro Bowl player and the fastest marathon runner in Delaware history were honored on May 9, 2019 at the Chase Center on the Riverfront.

One of America’s most successful race car drivers over a half-century, **George Alderman** was twice Sports Car Club of America Formula 3 national champion, and twice the International Motor Sports Association Baby Grand champion. He achieved top ten finishes through age 60, when he led the winning team in the Nelson Ledges 24-hour race in 1992. The Newark High School graduate had success in open-wheeled formula cars, specially-built factory sports racing cars and production-based cars. An expert mechanic who was involved in the development and tuning of each car, he broke Roger Penske’s lap record at Lime Rock, Conn.

IN MEMORIAM

Five inductees of the Delaware Sports Hall of Fame died over the past year, concluding lives that combined athletic excellence with public service. Three of them had brothers who were also in the Hall.

Conway Hayman (below left) and **Gary Hayman** went from Newark High school to the NFL by way of the University of Delaware. **Dick Koffenberger** followed his brother Ed to basketball stardom. **Jim Flynn** coached



freshman football and varsity track for University of Delaware, where he starred in the backfield. **Bob Behr** built a track dynasty at Tower Hill.

Conway Hayman, an all American College Division guard, led the Blue Hens to Boardwalk Bowl victories in 1968, 1969 and 1970. He played six years for the Houston Oilers, thriving at both guard and tackle,

opening holes for Earl Campbell and twice helping the Oilers reach the AFC championship game. He later was head coach of Prairie View A&M.

His younger brother, **Gary Hayman**, was twice first-team all-State for undefeated Newark football teams. He was named Delaware Athlete of the Year after leading led the nation with 19.2 yards per punt return and 19.7 yards each time he touched the ball for unbeaten Penn State in 1973. He played two years for the Buffalo Bills. Returning to Delaware, he headed a construction firm and for 30 years was president of the Newark NAACP.

The state's leading basketball scorer as a P. S. du Pont senior in 1948, **Dick Koffenberger** was University of Maryland's point guard for three years. After making the conference all-tournament team as a senior, he was the Terrapins' varsity second baseman. After being named the Third Army Team's most valuable player in 1955, he coached the Wilmington Jets in 1957-58.

The leading rusher and scorer on Delaware's 8-2 team in 1954, **Jimmy Flynn** graduated as Blue Hens' second-leading all time rusher and with two sprint records. He returned to his alma mater to coach the men's track and field team for 19 seasons, winning three conference championships, and mentored several generations as Delaware's freshman and assistant football coach.

Over two decades, **Bob Behr** turned Tower Hill into a track dynasty and was influential beyond the state, helping create competitive women's track in Delaware. From 1964 to 1981, his athletes at the state's smallest school won one-fourth of all Division Two state championships and set state records in six events. He helped launch the Delaware Track and Field Club's women's program, was sprinting consultant for the Phillies and was the Delaware correspondent for Sports Illustrated.

An ace on many courts, **Margaret Varner Bloss** was a world-class performer in tennis, squash, and badminton. In badminton, Margaret won the All-England Singles title twice, the All-England Doubles, the U.S. Ladies Singles and U.S. Mixed Doubles champion two times, and the World Invitational Ladies Doubles champion four times. In tennis, she won national girls doubles championships in 1944 and 1945, was Texas women's singles champion five times, faced Althea Gibson in the Wimbledon ladies' doubles finals in 1958 and coached the U.S. Wightman Cup team. In squash, she won four straight National Ladies Singles championships and was a U.S. ladies doubles finalist.

After unprecedented success at Brandywine High School, when he set the state's high school scoring record, was the first boy to be named first-team all-state three times, and led the Blue Hen Conference in scoring four times, **Dexter Boney** was first-team All-Big West at University of Nevada Las Vegas, which he led to the nation's longest winning streak in 1992. In a 10-year professional career, he played for the Phoenix Suns, was Most Valuable Player of the Continental Basketball Association, and played professionally on three continents. In 2003, Sports Illustrated included him among its 50 Greatest Sports Figures from Delaware.

Bruce Frederick was a national leader in gymnastics, as an athlete, coach, official, advocate and historian. He authored a dozen books about the sport, including the authoritative "Roots of American Gymnastics", established programs around the country, served on the U.S. Olympic Committee for gymnastics, wrote about the sport for the Encyclopedia Britannica and other reference works and was the curator for the International Gymnastics Hall of Fame.

After retirement, he became a full-time historian of the sport. A graduate of Wilmington High, he was undefeated in tumbling as captain at West Chester State in 1952.

Marianna Freeman was the first Delawarean to coach in the NCAA basketball tournament. The state's top player at Smyrna High in 1975, she led Cheyney to top ten Division II rankings for four years, with an unbeaten regular season her senior year. After coaching Delaware State to first place in the MEAC and 10 years as a University of Iowa assistant, she became Syracuse's first Black varsity coach in any sport in 1993. Inheriting a 4-14 team, she had Syracuse over .500 in her third year, beating defending national champ Connecticut.

In 2002, the Orange beat defending national titlist Notre Dame to make the NCAA tournament. She was assistant coach of the USA Junior Women's Team and president of Black Coaches Association.

In nine NFL seasons, **Montell Owens** was twice named to the Pro Bowl. University of Maine's outstanding offensive player as a senior, he made the Jacksonville Jaguars as an undrafted free agent in 2006. Two years later, Peter King of Sports Illustrated named him to his first-team all-pro team as a special-teams player. He holds the Jaguars' single-season and career records for tackles by a special team player. He scored two touchdowns in the 2011 Pro Bowl.

Overlooked at Concord High School, he only made All-State as a trumpeter in the All-State jazz band and orchestra teams. While in Jacksonville, he helped form a 12-school all-star jazz band.

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Seated (l to r): Adam Frederick (son of Bruce Frederick), Marianne Freeman, Anne Marie Igo Rizzo, Montell Owens; Back Row: Ian Snell, Dan Rincon, George Alderman, Donald Altmaier (representing Margaret Varner Bloss), Dexter Boney (Photo by Jeff Fannon)

An All-American runner at University of Maryland, **Dan Rincon** has held the Delaware residents' record in the marathon (2:20:07) for 45 years. Rincon led the Terrapins to Atlantic Coast Conference cross country titles in 1972 and 1974, won the 1975 ACC six-mile title, and set university records at 10,000 meters and the six-mile. At Dover Air Base High School, Dan was twice the state Division Two champion in cross country and the two mile. The men's and women's cross country coach at Maryland for 25 years, he was named to the Men's ACC 50th Anniversary Cross Country Team.

Twice all-state at Caesar Rodney High School, **Ian Snell** was a major-league pitcher for seven seasons. Drafted in the 26th round in 2000, he ascended to the majors within four years. In 2006, he became the Pirates number two starter, went 14-11, with 8.2 strikeouts per nine innings. In 2007, he led the Pirates in innings, pacing the Bucs' starters in WHIP, strikeouts and earned run average.

After two more years in the Pittsburgh rotation, he was a spot starter for two seasons with the Seattle Mariners, and played for Puerto Rico in the 2009 World Baseball Classic.

One of University of Delaware's first outstanding women basketball players, **Ann Marie Igo Rizzo** later became a nationally-recognized senior tennis champion. A speedy guard from St. Elizabeth High School, she averaged 14.8 points over her career, still fourth all-time for the Blue Hens, whom she led to three post-season invitations. In 2003, Rizzo claimed a National Senior Olympics singles age bracket (50-54) tennis championship, also medaling in mixed doubles.

She has won or been a finalist in several dozen state and regional senior tennis tournaments. In Senior Olympics three-on-three basketball tournaments, Rizzo has carried her age bracket team to multiple titles.

DSMHOF MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Due to the global pandemic, the Delaware Sports Museum & Hall of Fame was closed for visitors throughout 2020 and the annual May banquet was postponed not once, not twice, but three times. We are excited to finally honor our Class of 2020-21 on Nov., 10, 2021 at the Chase Center in Wilmington. It will be a memorable event!

Due to the closure, the DSMHOF suspended all membership renewals and those who were members during the 2019-20 year were automatically renewed free of charge for the 2020-21 campaign.

Membership dues will resume for the 2021-22 year this coming Fall. We would love to have you continue your membership or join as a brand new member.

Memberships start at \$30 for a basic member. Memberships are also available at the Bronze (\$150), Silver (\$500), Gold (\$1,000), and Platinum/Lifetime (\$2,500) levels. Among the benefits - depending on the level you choose - are free memberships to friends or family, free group tours to the Hall of Fame (located on the first base side of Frawley Stadium on the Wilmington Riverfront), free use of the DSMHOF for events for your business or family, and annual banquet and special event discounts.

Check out the membership section on our website at www.desports.org/membership or email us for more information at desports@desports.org.

KEEP IN TOUCH

The Delaware Sports Museum & Hall of Fame would like to publicize all the great things its members and inductees are doing in their community and in the sports world. Have you been inducted into another Hall of Fame? Helping to lead a great community project that needs volunteers? We plan to feature a DSMHOF inductee in each of our quarterly newsletters moving forward.

So please reach out and let us know. Please contact us via email at desports@desports.org.

A LOOK BACK...

All-State Basketball Teams have been selected by the Delaware Sportswriters and Broadcasters Association (DSBA) since 1950. Girls teams have been picked since 1976.

A player of the year has been named since 1980. Here is a look at who made first-team All-State 10, 20, 30, 40 50, 60 and 70 years ago.

BOY'S TEAMS

1951

Bunny Blaney, Newark
Aubrey Hudson, Georgetown
Bill Kelleher, Salesianum
Franny Fitzgerald, Brown
Bill Daley, Archmere

1961

Ralph Baird, P.S. du Pont
Sherman Dillard, De La Warr
Gerry Gallucio, Wilmington
Tom Joseph, Caesar Rodney
Pete McLaughlin, Salesianum

1971

Marvin Bell, P.S. du Pont
Ron Johnson, Wilmington
Larry Tyre, Indian River
Jim White, Salesianum
Freeman Williams, Christiana

1981

*Charles Rayne, Indian River
*Charlie Smith, Concord
Tole Hart, St. Mark's
Darin Park, Claymont
Devin Park, Claymont

1991

*Rodney Robinson, Indian River
Clinton Brown, Howard
Andrew Miles, Sanford
Lovett Purnell, Seaford
Abdul Shabazz, A.I. du Pont

2001

*Kevin Smith, William Penn
Art Bowers, Hodgson
Kwana Chase, A.I. du Pont
Kasime Harris, McKean
Dorrell Little, Lake Forest

2011

*Deon Jones, Sanford
Terrance Bobb-Jones, Delcastle
Trevor Cooney, Sanford
A. J. English III, Appoquinimink
Eric Laster, Polytech

GIRL'S TEAMS

1981

*Sue Manelski, Padua
Nanci Casson, Brandywine
Robin Lee, Mount Pleasant
Sarah Gause, Ursuline
Mary Ann Seal, Padua

1991

*Susie Rowlyk, St. Mark's
Shannon Elliott, Ursuline
Andi Horisk, Ursuline
Maureen Faulkner, Padua
Monica Williams, St. Mark's

2001

*Tiara Malcom, Caravel
*Michelle Albanese, St. Mark's
Alexis Henderson, Ursuline
Davineia Payne, Caravel
Monica Peterson, A.I. du Pont

2011

*Betnijah Laney, Smyrna
Naiesha Brown, Sanford
Andrea Hines, Sanford
Kelly Perillo, Charter
Johnesha Warren, Cape
Henlopen

* = Player of the Year