
Preserving the Sports History of Chautauqua County



Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame

Box 1192 - Jamestown, NY 14702

October 2012

Hugh Bedient Centennial Banquet

The Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame has planned a Hugh Bedient Centennial Banquet for Saturday, October 20, at the Robert H. Jackson Center in Jamestown.

The banquet will honor Bedient, a Falconer native, who as a rookie pitcher for the 1912 Boston Red Sox compiled a sterling 20-9 record while leading his team to the World Series title. In the Series, Bedient was magnificent pitching 18 innings in 4 games with an ERA 0.50 for the champion Red Sox.



1912 Red Sox Pitchers

left to right: Larry Pape, Hugh Bedient, Buck O'Brien, Charley Hall, Ray Collins, Smoky Joe Wood

The Hugh Bedient Centennial Banquet will closely replicate a similar banquet that was held 100 years ago. Bedient was welcomed back to his hometown with a parade witnessed by over 25,000 proud Chautauqua County residents and was feted with a reception and banquet on October 22, 1912. The event was held at the Odd Fellows Lodge on Main Street in Falconer.

The keynote speaker at the Hugh Bedient Centennial Banquet will be Dick Berardino, a player development consultant for the Boston Red Sox. Berardino was a coach for the Jamestown Falcons when it was a Red Sox affiliate in 1968-70.



Richard John Berardino (left), born July 2, 1937, at Cambridge, Massachusetts, is currently a player development consultant for the Boston Red Sox of Major League Baseball. A former outfielder and longtime manager in minor league baseball, he also spent three years (1989–91) as a coach with the Red Sox. As a player, Berardino batted and threw right-handed, stood 6'1" and weighed 190 pounds.

A three-sport star at Watertown, Massachusetts, High School, Berardino graduated from the College of the Holy Cross in 1959 after leading the Crusaders to the 1958 NCAA District One baseball championship. He signed with the New York Yankees upon graduation and batted .378 in his first professional season with the Modesto Reds of the Class C California League. He reached Triple-A for three seasons (1962–64), playing for the Richmond Virginians, Indianapolis Indians and

Spokane Indians, but never broke through to the major league level. All told, Berardino appeared in 812 minor league games, and batted .272 with 702 hits and 70 home runs.

Berardino compiled a record of 753 wins and 858 losses (.467) with two championships in 21 seasons (1966–67; 1971–85; 1987–88; 1997–98) as a minor league manager. Nineteen of those 21 seasons were spent in short-season leagues. Berardino managed two full-season Class A clubs, the Greensboro Hornets of the South Atlantic League in 1987 and the Lynchburg Red Sox of the Carolina League the following season.

His managing career began in the Yankee organization, where he handled Rookie-level clubs in the Gulf Coast and Appalachian leagues. In 1968 Berardino joined the Red Sox

organization as a minor league coach in Jamestown. 2012 marks his 45th consecutive year with Boston. From 1971 through 1985, he spent 15 consecutive seasons as the manager of the Red Sox' Short Season Class A New York-Penn League farm clubs, the Williamsport Red Sox and the Elmira Pioneers/Red Sox/Suns. He returned to the NY-PL a dozen years later, in 1997-98, as manager of the Lowell Spinners. In addition to his minor league managerial and coaching assignments, and his three years as bullpen and third-base coach on the staff of Joe Morgan in Boston, he also has served the Red Sox as field coordinator and assistant field coordinator of minor league instruction and roving outfield and baserunning coach.

Berardino has been inducted into five different Hall of Fames – the Watertown (MA) Hall of Fame, the Holy Cross Hall of Fame, the Massachusetts State Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame, the Elmira (NY) Hall of Fame, and most recently in 2008 became a member of the National Italian-American Hall of Fame.

A highlight of the Hugh Bedient Centennial Banquet will be the presentation of the Society for American Baseball Research 1912 American League Rookie of the Year Award to the grandchildren of Bedient.



Emcee for the event will be baseball historian Greg Peterson (left) who will present a video he has made about Hugh Bedient.

Dinner will be provided by Vicki McGraw of Elegant Edibles Catering who is planning a similar menu to that of the original 1912 banquet.

A cocktail hour hosted by the Hugh Bedient Celebration Committee will begin at 6:00 PM with the banquet to follow at 7:00.

Tickets to the October 20 Hugh Bedient Centennial Banquet are priced at \$30 and are available by calling “Mr. Baseball” Russ Diethrick at 665-2265, Falconer Highway Superintendent Sam Ognibene at 450-0663, or Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame president Randy Anderson at 640-6219.

**HUGH BEDIENT CENTENNIAL BANQUET
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20
ROBERT H. JACKSON CENTER**

Inductee of the Month



George Hale

George Hale was one of the best pitchers Chautauqua County ever produced. But Hale pitched horseshoes, not baseballs.

Hale was born in South Stockton in 1917 and had been a Chautauqua County resident his entire life. His biggest honor in sports came in 1980 when he was inducted into the New York State Horseshoe Pitchers Hall of Fame.

Hale competed in the state horseshoe tournament nearly 20 times and never finished worse than third in Class B, C and D. He won the title in Class B, one of the largest fields, in 1971 and 1975. Hale also competed in numerous national tournaments. In 1969 he won Class B in the DeSoto Open at Plant City, Florida. He also finished second in Class C of the

Clearwater Fun 'n Sun Open and won two seconds in the Kinzua County Open Classic.

Hale was president of the New York State Horseshoe Pitchers Association and a member of the board of directors of the Falconer Horseshoe Club. He was also a member of the Jamestown Rifle and Pistol Club and participated in shooting matches all over the state and also in Florida and Canada. He was a Chautauqua County Rifle League champion.

When not pitching horseshoes, Hale was an avid bowler and golfer. He was the well known operator of Hale's Sunoco Service in Jamestown.

George Hale was inducted into the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame in 1987. He died in 2002.

George's widow, Marilyn Hale, is a 1991 inductee of the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame.

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