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*Preserving the Sports History of Chautauqua County*

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## **Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame**

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*15 West Third Street - Jamestown, NY 14701*

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*January 2013*

### **2013 CSHOF BANQUET SPEAKER**



Bruce Baumgartner, regarded as the greatest freestyle heavyweight wrestler in American history, will be the guest celebrity at the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame induction banquet on February 18 at the Lakewood Rod & Gun Club.

“We are thrilled to have Bruce as the guest speaker for our induction dinner,” said Randy Anderson, CSHOF president. “Not only did he win a combined 13 Olympic and World medals, Bruce was also one of the most popular wrestlers in the history of the sport. His appearance will add a special touch to the induction of Ron Blackmer, Cal Cederquist, the late Jim Foti, Dan Palmer, Walt Thurnau and Jim Young.”

Edinboro University of Pennsylvania Director of Athletics Bruce Baumgartner affirmed his status as the greatest freestyle heavyweight wrestler in American history by winning the bronze medal at the Centennial Olympic Games at Atlanta after capturing the 1995 World Championship.

Before taking the mats in Atlanta, Baumgartner was honored by his fellow United States Olympic athletes when he was chosen to be captain of the USA Olympic Team and to carry the American flag for the Games Opening Ceremonies.

Honored as the winner of the James E. Sullivan Award in 1995 as the outstanding amateur athlete in the United States, Baumgartner had not lost to an American wrestler from 1981 through his retirement from competition in 1997, a span of more than 17 years.

He is one of just eight athletes in U.S. history to medal in four different Olympiads.

Baumgartner began his personal quest for gold in 1982 with his first "grand-slam" title as he captured the NCAA Division I national championship at Indiana State University. Over his brilliant career, Baumgartner won 134 of 146 collegiate matches (134-12) including 73 falls. He was twice runner up at the national collegiate tournament, and then posted a 44-0 mark his senior year to capture the NCAA crown.

He won his first Olympic gold medal in Los Angeles in 1984, America's first in 60 years of super heavyweight wrestling.

He followed with a silver medal performance at the 1988 Games in Seoul, South Korea, four years later, and then became the first American wrestler to ever medal in three consecutive Olympics when he won the gold for the second time in Barcelona, Spain in 1992.



During the span, Baumgartner competing for the New York Athletic Club, won World Championships in 1995, 1993, and 1986, plus another 3 silver and 3 bronze World medals. Baumgartner captured a total of 13 World and Olympic medals, more than any other freestyle wrestler in history.

Before winning the Sullivan Award in 1995, Baumgartner was one of the ten finalists for the prestigious honor four previous times in 1986, 1992, 1993 and 1994.

The 52-year-old from Edinboro, Pa., was head wrestling coach at Edinboro University before becoming Director of Athletics in 1998. Baumgartner coached for 13 years at

Edinboro, 7 as a head coach. In 1997, he led the Fighting Scots to a 14-0 dual meet record, the best in the school history, and a sixth place team finish at the NCAA Division I national championships.

In 1998, Baumgartner was inducted into the Indiana State University Athletic Hall of Fame; in 2003, the Missouri Valley Conference named him an 'Institutional Great' and inducted him into the Missouri Valley Conference Hall of Fame. In 2008, Baumgartner

was inducted into the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame. He was also inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2002 and the International Wrestling Federation Hall of Fame (FILA) in 2003.

The CSHOF induction banquet on February 18 at the Lakewood Rod and Gun Club will begin with a hospitality session at 5:00 p.m. with dinner at 6:30.

Tickets may be purchased at Matt's News on Third Street in Dunkirk, Fredonia Food Mart on Temple Street in Fredonia and Jamestown Cycle Shop on Harrison Street in Jamestown. Tickets can also be ordered by phoning Chip Johnson at 485-6991. The price per ticket is \$50. CSHOF members receive a \$5 discount.

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## **Inductee of the Month** **Don Reinhoudt**



Fredonia's Don Reinhoudt was once known as the world's strongest man.

He won the title in 1979 in the CBS World's Strongest Man Contest in Los Angeles after finishing second the previous year.

From 1971-80 Reinhoudt set 36 world records in power lifting.

As an amateur he set world records in the squat (935 pounds), bench press (606 1/2 pounds) and dead lift (885 1/2 pounds). He was the world champion of

the super heavy class and senior national champion of the super heavy class from 1973-76. In 1972 he finished third in the world championships.

As a professional from 1978-80 he set world records in the 8,000-pound trolley pull, 10,000-pound trolley pull, 20,000-pound Mack truck pull, 3,000- pound barrel press and 1,000-pound girl lift. Those honors earned him a place in the Guinness Book of World Records.



He also held the world record in the teeth lift (350 pounds), car lift (2,500 pound) and the 150-pound dumbbell press (15). He has a total of 36 national records and is the only American super heavyweight to hold every power lifting world record at once. He is a member of the world and national power lifting hall of fames.

Born on March 6, 1945, Mr. Reinhoudt was 6'3.5" and 360-380 pounds in competition. He had a 60 inch chest, a 22 inch neck, and twenty-two and three quarters inch biceps. His forearms measured 18.5 inches. Each thigh was a gigantic 34 inches.

He was a four time consecutive IPF champion (1973 until 1976). He held all of the power lifting records in his day. He was the first man to break the 2400 pound power lifting total record.

Don Reinhoudt came to power lifting through playing basketball, football and track and field. He was an All-Conference player in football and a varsity letterman in basketball. He put the 12 pound shot 52.5 feet. All of this time, he did not lift a weight because at that time coaches and athletes falsely thought that weight training meant a loss of flexibility known as "muscle-boundness."

He attended Parsons College in Iowa under a track and field scholarship. The coaches there introduced him to his destiny: weightlifting. He tried the Olympic style lifts that are heavy on technique, but no one around him knew the proper technique. Nevertheless, he was able to press 330 pounds, snatch 250 pounds and clean and jerk 370 pounds. In all, he competed in 6 Olympic style competitions including the 1967 Junior Nationals.

Don Reinhoudt was inducted into the [Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame](http://www.greaterbuffalosportshalloffame.org) in 2005 and the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame in 1983.

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[www.chautauquasportshalloffame.org](http://www.chautauquasportshalloffame.org)