



Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame

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Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame 2011 Inductees

The Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame has announced its five inductees for 2011. They are Cathy Farrell, Roger MacTavish, Jim Mee, the late Billy Webb and Bob Wisniewski. They will be honored at the organization's 29th annual induction dinner on February 21, 2011 at the Lakewood Rod & Gun Club.

Farrell, a Dunkirk native, played professional tennis in the 1980s and has played as an amateur since 1989. As a pro she won the Arthur Ashe Tennis Classic in 1983 and as an amateur she was ranked No. 3 among singles 30s players in 1989. She was inducted into the Buffalo Tennis Hall of Fame in 2006.

Roger MacTavish is still officiating high school basketball in his 55th year and also refereed college games for 30 years. The Jamestown resident is the chairman of rules examination committee of the International Association of Approved Basketball Officials, a post he has held since 1985. He was made a lifetime member of IAABO in 2004.

Jamestown native Jim Mee was a pro bowler from 1980 into the 1990s and finished third in a Professional Bowling Association regional and finished ninth in the 1981 Canadian PBA Open. As an amateur he has recorded 52 perfect games and 31 800 series. Mee was the Buffalo Bowling Association bowler of the year in 1986 and was inducted into the Jamestown Area Bowling Council Hall of Fame in 1994.

Webb is considered by many as the person most responsible for keeping baseball alive in Jamestown from 1915 to 1935. Because of his efforts, Jamestown was considered as a franchise when the PONY League was established in 1939. Webb was best known as a player and manager of the Billy Webb's Spiders, a premier semi-pro team that played Celoron Park from 1915 until his death in 1935.

Wisniewski is the only Dunkirk High school athlete to be the captain of four teams (football, basketball, baseball and track) in a single school year (1963-64). In 1964 he was *The Post-Journal* athlete of the year. He went on to Buffalo State and lettered in baseball for three years. He batted .425 in his senior year and was named to the All-SUNYAC first team. He then coached basketball at Dunkirk for more than 15 seasons and won six CCIAC titles and finished second six times.

Inductee of the Month – Ted Wyberanec



Ted Wyberanec was an outstanding athlete, not only on the pro level, but also on the local level.

A Jamestown resident, Wyberanec devoted a great deal of his spare time to the Jamestown area youth, teaching them the fundamentals of baseball and basketball, two sports he excelled at as a professional. For several years during the summer, he held youth baseball clinics at Chautauqua Institution.

Ted also managed the Institution's semi-pro team called the Lakers. Some of the outstanding players on those teams were Tom Sharp, Jack Fulford, George Parsons, Bob Winterburn, Jim Hannon and Denny Swan. The first three seasons, his club recorded a superb 20-4 record.

Wyberanec was born in the Bronx and suffered an early tragedy when his mother passed away when he was 5. He became an outstanding baseball and basketball performer while attending Theodore Roosevelt High School. After leaving the Bronx, he attended Long Island University, where his basketball coach was the well-known Clair Bee. Later, he moved on with another basketball scholarship at John Marshall College in Jersey City, New Jersey, and then had another scholarship from Baltimore University.

At that point, it appeared that basketball might be his game, but a friend of the Jamestown Falcons owner, Harry Bisgeier, told him about Wyberanec's baseball potential, so he was brought to Jamestown in 1942. He played shortstop and third base in both Jamestown and Lockport. Then he spent the next three years in the U.S. Navy and in 1943 married Virginia Bemis of Jamestown.

After his Navy stint, Wyberanec returned to the Jamestown Falcons in 1946 and was converted by Manager Marv Olson into a pitcher at mid-season. He wound up with a 6-5 record, but what was more impressive was that he was fifth in the league in earned run average. His first pitching assignment was a 7-2 win at Olean as he defeated his former manager, Greg Mulleavy.

In 1947, he put together a stellar campaign with a 15-5 record with a 2.60 earned run average. Additionally, he batted an eye-popping .329 and had what was probably a record for a Jamestown pitcher with five hits, including two doubles, in a 20-4 crushing against Olean.

Wyberanec started with the Buffalo Bisons of the International League in 1948, then, later that year, pitched at Williamsport in the Eastern League and Temple of the Big State League.. He pitched a couple of seasons at Temple with a season of 13-12 being his best and followed that up with a couple more seasons at Lamesa of the West Texas League.

He returned to Jamestown after his pro career was concluded and managed and played for Marlin-Rockwell and the Steel Partitions Bombers. During that period he pitched for the touring House of David team for one season.

Among the teams that the House of David met was the baseball squad called the Harlem Globetrotters, who had the great Satchel Paige appearing in each game for a few innings. Wyberanec was ahead in a game at Ottawa and had it won until Paige came on for a 3-2 victory.

Basketball-wise, Wyberanec was the team captain for Utica in the New York State League (1941-1942) and was in action against the great New York Renaissance club twice. Utica lost as the New York team was enroute to Chicago to eventually win the world tournament, but on the way back, Utica got revenge.

Besides Wyberanec's devotion to the Jamestown youth, he also was an official in the Jamestown Babe Ruth League, coached in the Church Basketball League, the Jamestown Little League and the Chautauqua County American Legion Baseball League. Wyberanec was involved in sports for 38 years in various capacities. He spent 18 years as a basketball official and was a baseball umpire. Golf also was one of his favorite hobbies and he played in many tournaments.

Ted Wyberanec was inducted into the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame in 1990. He died in 1991.

For more photos and further information about Mr. Wyberanec, please visit www.chautauquasportshalloffame.org/tedwyberanec.php.