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*Honoring and 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**

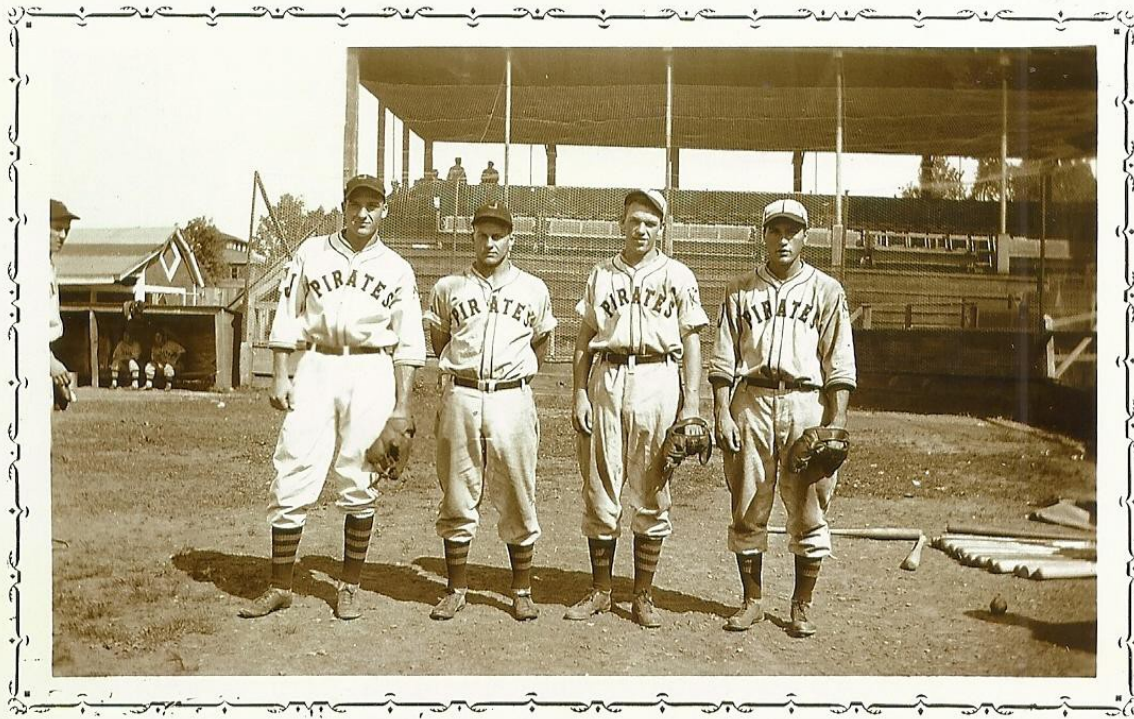
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**May 2014**

### **Golden Jubilee of Professional Baseball**

The summer of 2014 will mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of professional baseball in Chautauqua County. In 1939 the Jamestown Pirates, an affiliate of the major league team in Pittsburgh, began operations at Celoron Park in the newly formed Pennsylvania-Ontario-New York League. The next year, saw the Jamestown Falcons playing their home games at Allen Park on the south side of the Pearl City. The newly built Municipal Stadium opened in May of 1941 and nearly 123,000 fans made their way to Falconer Street to see their beloved Falcons capture the PONY championship.



**1939 Jamestown Pirates at Celoron Park**

Municipal Stadium became known as College Stadium in the early 1960s when the campus of Jamestown Community College was constructed beyond the outfield fence. On August 9, 1997, the park was renamed Russell E. Diethrick, Jr. Park in honor of Jamestown's "Mr. Baseball." It was dedicated to Mr. Diethrick, who has been player, manager, owner, supporter and friend of professional and youth baseball in Jamestown longer than most can remember.

This season will also be another anniversary to celebrate at our ballpark – the 20<sup>th</sup> year of the Jamestown Jammers. Rich Baseball owners Bob and Mindy Rich brought their franchise to Jamestown in 1994. The 2014 Jammers will again be an affiliate of the Pittsburgh Pirates creating a serendipitous pair of bookends with the original 1939 squad.

Reprinted below is an article written by Todd J. Tranum, President and CEO of the Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce & Executive Director of the Manufacturers Association of the Southern Tier that appeared in the April 12, 2014 edition of the *Jamestown Post-Journal*. Mr. Tranum eloquently explains the importance of the Jammers to our county both culturally and economically and urges continued community support of this valuable asset.

The CSHOF shares Mr. Tranum's viewpoint. We are long-time season ticket holders and staunch supporters of the team. According to CSHOF records, 258 major league players have called Jamestown home at some time in the careers. We invite our members and friends to join us for a fun-filled night at Diethrick Park this season as we watch "The Stars of Tomorrow Play Today." Go Jammers!

## **'Buy Me Some Peanuts and Cracker Jack'**



Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce

We are fortunate in Chautauqua County to have an amazing diversity of assets both natural and manmade. From our lakes and rolling hills to our educational institutions, attractions and businesses we have a lot to be thankful for right here in our county. Among those important assets is minor league baseball.

The Jamestown Jammers, a Class A minor league affiliate of the Pittsburgh Pirates, are getting ready for another exciting season. This is a special year for the

Jammers, as the franchise celebrates its 75th year in the community. Minor league baseball has brought exciting moments and memorable people to the community. Nellie Fox and Jim Leyland, Dwight Evans and Cecil Cooper, Tim Raines and Randy Johnson, Andres Galarraga and Marquis Grissom, and more recently, Giancarlo Stanton and Josh Johnson all called Jamestown their summer home prior to making their mark in the major leagues.

While we reflect on the storied history of minor league baseball in our community, it is also important to look at its contributions to our local quality of life. Not only does it provide fun, family-oriented entertainment, it also has a significant impact on our economy. Minor league baseball makes over a \$3 million impact on our local economy each year.

That includes both direct and indirect expenditures by players, coaches, families and fans. They all spend paychecks locally, stay in hotel rooms, buy food, shop for souvenirs and visit other local attractions.

We support minor league baseball in Jamestown as an economic driver for our county. We encourage businesses to get involved by purchasing season tickets, sponsoring ballpark signage, or arranging for a group or employee outing at the park. If your business purchases season tickets and can't use them all, the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame is stepping up to act as a ticket broker for unused tickets - making sure they get to community members who can put people in the seats. Let's make this a great 75th anniversary season. Support the Jammers this year and we'll see you at the ballpark.

### **Memorial Envelopes in County Funeral Homes**

The Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame has recently placed memorial envelopes in over 20 funeral homes in Chautauqua County. The CSHOF, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, is an appropriate organization to which memorials may be made by family and friends of deceased involved in sports activities in Chautauqua County.

### **Acme The Appliance Store Makes TV Donation**



At right, Beth Hocking, the owner of Acme The Appliance Store, located at 1286 E. 2nd St., Jamestown, presents a 32-inch LG television to Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame president Randy Anderson. The television will be used in the Hall of Fame, which is located at 15 W. 3rd St., Jamestown and is open from noon to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday.

## Inductee of the Month – Brad Zimmer

Bradley Zimmer was not only one of the top local roller skaters in the 1950s and 1960s, but also one of the top competitors in the nation. Zimmer's father, the late Oscar Zimmer, owned the roller rink at Celoron Park and taught him to skate at the age of one. Zimmer had to be one of the youngest skaters around and eventually he became one of the youngest in each age group as he went into competition.



His list of titles is impressive and was topped when he was the Junior Men's Singles National Champion in 1959 at Lincoln, Nebraska. At the time he was only 14. The previous year he had begun training with Edward "Fuzzy" Bossart who was coaching in Pittsburgh. Zimmer would go to Pittsburgh once a week and was pleased later when Bossart moved to Erie, Pennsylvania. Bossart was been responsible for numerous national champions.

In 1960, when Zimmer was 15 and a ninth-grader at Southwestern Central School, he teamed with Darlene Edwards of Erie, Pennsylvania to win the Junior National Pairs Championship. To reach the nationals they won the Junior Regional Pairs Championship at Norfolk, Va., and Pennsylvania Junior Pairs Championship. They won the latter three times in Reading and Philadelphia.

Zimmer won the Pennsylvania State Senior Men's Singles title three times, the first when he was only 13. He also won the Eastern Regional Junior Singles three times. He claimed the Eastern Regional Intermediate Men's Singles and was a runner-up in the National Intermediate Singles. The intermediate division was a new group added between junior and senior competition.



Zimmer's last solo competition was in 1963 at Lincoln, Nebraska, when he finished third in the National Senior Men's Singles. Zimmer's last competitive action was in 1965 at Fort Worth, Texas, when he and Edwards finished fourth in the National Senior Pairs Championships. At that time, Edwards was one of the youngest competitors in the Senior Pairs. Edwards, who is now Darlene Edwards Walters, went on to win a title at the 1975 world meet in Rome.

In 1965 Zimmer graduated from Jamestown Community College and began working for the Jamestown Board of Public Utilities. When he was a youngster he always wanted to be a teaching pro and that became his occupation in his spare time, both in Jamestown and Erie. He became part owner of Westlake Rink, which became known as Evan's West, in Erie. That rink is where he won his first meet ever at the age of 12.

Bradley Zimmer was inducted into the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame in 1986.