

*Honoring and Preserving the Sports History of Chautauqua County*



## Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame

15 West Third Street - Jamestown, NY 14701

May 2015

### "Busti Bobby" Premiere at RHJ May 31

"Busti Bobby," a film about the stock car racing career of Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame inductee Bob Schnars will premiere at the Robert H. Jackson Center, 305 E. 4<sup>th</sup> St., Jamestown, on Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at 2:00 P.M.

"Bobby Schnars - He's the King  
- He's like Richard Petty."

**Busti Bobby**

**AUTO RACING**

**Busti Bobby**

A film by Greg Peterson, Randy Anderson and Randy Sweeney

DVD VIDEO

Runtime: 72 minutes

© 2015 Executive Legacy Fund and  
Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame. All rights reserved.  
All additional copyrights held by their original and extended-copyright holders.  
Unauthorized duplication and/or distribution is strictly prohibited.  
Extraction of any content included on this DVD for internet use,  
public or private, is STRICTLY prohibited and is punishable by law.

Projects

checkered flag

“Busti Bobby” was created by Greg Peterson, Randy Anderson and Randy Sweeney, principals of The Stateline Legacy Fund, a group dedicated to preserving the history of Stateline Speedway in Busti, NY. This film is the third for The Stateline Legacy Fund. “Stateline Speedway - The First Ten Years, 1956-1965” was released in 2010 and “Squirt,” the story of legendary racer Squirt Johns, was released in 2013.

Bob Schnars, who has lived in the hamlet of Busti his entire life, is arguably “The King of Stateline Speedway.” Over a 20 year career, he won 79 late model feature races and 8 track championships. In addition, he won 25 sportsman features and 2 sportsman track championships.

Schnars was equally successful at Stateline’s “sister” track, Eriez Speedway, in Erie, Pa. He won 56 late model races, 7 late model track championships, and 20 sportsman features.

“Busti Bobby” features interviews with Schnars, his former pit crew and competitors, plus photographs of all of the cars he raced over his fabulous career.

There is free admission to the film showing. DVD copies of the 73-minute film will be on sale for \$20.

### **Inductee of the Month**



**Bobby Schnars** was born on September 7, 1937, to John and Edna Schnars of Busti. He was raised on Donelson Road along with his brothers Ron and Bill and sister Donna.

The 1955 Southwestern Central School graduate now makes his home on the Busti-Sugar Grove Road near where he started his marvelous racing career at Stateline Speedway in 1957.

Stateline Speedway was built in 1956 and Eriez Speedway followed in 1961. It was those tracks where Schnars became known as "The King" of local stock car racing.

Schnars recorded 136 Late Model Feature wins during a career that spanned from 1957-1977.

To give one an idea of how dominant Schnars was, consider this: when Bobby Schnars was inducted into the CSHOF in 2002, only Dick Barton and Skip Furlow, both now CSHOF inductees, had won even half the number of Late Model Feature races as Schnars, who had been retired for nearly 25 years.

Broken down, Schnars won 79 late model races at Stateline and 57 at Eriez. He captured 21 late model point titles on the Stateline-Eriez circuit with eight at Stateline, seven at Eriez and six combined Stateline-Eriez Circuit titles. The 21 total Late Model crowns has since been exceeded by Barton, but is still 14 more than anyone else.

Barton passed Schnars for the top position in all-time wins at Stateline in 2014 when he recorded his 80<sup>th</sup>, but Schnars remains the top-dog at Eriez Speedway, nearly 40 years after he hung up his helmet.

Schnars, nicknamed "Cannonball" in the early stages of his career, and his friend, the late Gary "Frosty" Fosberg, decided to also build a car to compete in the sportman's division. Over a five-year period, 1971-73 through 1975-1976, he drove his M-1 coupe to victories 45 times with 25 wins at Stateline and 20 at Eriez. He is ranked second on the all-time circuit list behind Ron Blackmer, a fellow CSHOF inductee, who also is retired. Additionally, "Busti Bobby" as he became known, won four sportman's point championships on the Stateline-Eriez Circuit.

---

---



***In Memory Of McCusker***

In his beautifully written eulogy to Jamestown football icon, celebrated restaurateur and CSHOF inductee Jim McCusker titled “Loss of a Legend” (<http://chautauquasportshalloffame.org/newslinks/jimmccusker2015a.pdf>) that appeared in *The Post-Journal* on February 15, 2015, *P-J* sports editor Scott Kindberg ended his piece with these words:

*The now beautifully restored building continues to be the desired destination for people of all walks of life and, thankfully, the memorabilia (some of which was lost in the fire) has been replaced and hangs on the walls, including Jim's football jerseys.*

*There's the No. 84 representing his Red Raiders' high school career, the No. 43 recalling his days at Pitt and there's the No. 75 that he made famous with the Eagles.*

*I suggest that there should be one more replica jersey hung on the walls at 209 N. Main St., not only to honor the memory of a great football player, but also to memorialize an even better man.*

*That would be the jersey No. 1. Rest in peace, Jim.*



The CSHOF, with the assistance of Jamestown High School football coach Tom Langworthy, local businessman Jim Walton, owner of I've Been Framed, and *The Post-Journal* turned Kindberg's idea into reality. A framed #1 Jamestown High Raider Pride jersey was presented to Mary McCusker, Jim's widow, to hang near the entrance of The Pub, a Jamestown eating and drinking landmark started by McCusker after his NFL career ended nearly 50 years ago. Assisting in the presentation were Sam Lisciandro, Jim and Mary's nephew and manager of The Pub; Pat "Spanky" Smeraldo, the McCuskers' friend and Pub employee; and CSHOF secretary, Russ Ecklund.

Rest in peace, indeed, Big Jim, and thanks for the memories.