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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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June 2012

### 2012-2013 Memberships Now Available



The Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame is proud to announce its 2012-13 membership program is now available to persons who are interested in preserving the history of sports in Chautauqua County and honoring the outstanding individuals who have created our cherished sports memories.

In addition to helping the CSHOF carry out its twin missions of maintaining a Hall of Honor and an exhibit hall, members will receive several value-added benefits for their membership fee.

- ✓ CSHOF window decal
- ✓ \$5 off 2013 induction banquet ticket
- ✓ Monthly newsletter
- ✓ Acknowledgement of membership on the CSHOF website
- ✓ Membership card with discounts at selected sports-minded marketing partners:

Jock Shop  
Honest John's  
Pinehurst Golf Club  
Hometown Grill

Jamestown Jammers  
Jamestown Savings Bank Arena  
Gametime Sports Bar & Grill  
Ashville General Store

Miley's Old Inn  
Lakewood Golf Center  
Hollyloft Ski & Bike

One year memberships are only \$25 for individuals and \$100 for businesses. Business members will receive 4 discount cards and corresponding benefits. Membership applications are downloadable at [www.chautauquasportshalloffame.org/membership.php](http://www.chautauquasportshalloffame.org/membership.php) or can be requested by calling Randy Anderson at 716-763-2173 or 716-640-6219.

Please support the work of the CSHOF by purchasing a 2012-2013 membership in the only organization solely dedicated to preserving and honoring the wonderful history of athletics in Chautauqua County.

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### **Cummins Donates to Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame**



Cummins Engine has made a significant donation to the expansion project at the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame.

Gary Hinman (left in photo), facilities maintenance manager, at the Jamestown Engine Plant, arranged the transfer of used chairs and tables from Cummins' Ashville facility to the 15 West Third Street location of the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame.

Randy Anderson (right in photo), president of the CSHOF, indicated the furniture will be used to outfit the Board of Directors' room in the newly renovated Hall of Fame. "We are very grateful to Gary and the fine folks at Cummins for helping us out," Anderson said. "We have put a lot of effort into expanding our exhibit hall. This donation of gently used tables and chairs enables us to have an improved work area and place to conduct our monthly Board meetings."

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### **Hugh Bedient Day**

The CSHOF sponsored Hugh Bedient Day in Falconer on May 19 was an overwhelming success. For a Post-Journal article on the celebration, view

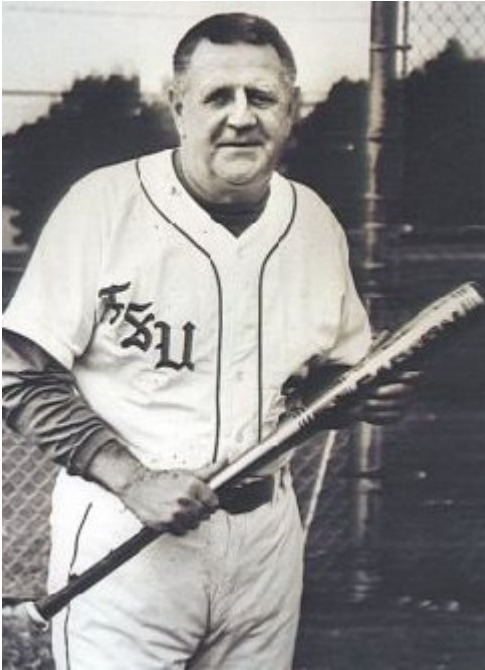
<http://www.post-journal.com/page/content.detail/id/604165/Bedient-Day.html?nav=5019>

To see a photo album or slideshow of the festivities, go to the CSHOF website

<http://www.chautauquasportshalloffame.org/albums/Hugh%20Bedient%20Day/index.html>

Partnering with the CSHOF on the community-wide event were the Village of Falconer, Falconer Central School and the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation. A Hugh Bedient Night at Diethrick Stadium is planned for August 2 when our Jamestown Jammers will take on the Lowell Red Sox. Details will be announced in next month's newsletter.

## Inductee of the Month



### **Dale Till**

Dale Till earned the "hat trick" status as far as being inducted into area Halls of Fame. With his entrance into the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame in 1996, Till has the outstanding achievement of being an inductee in three Western New York Halls of Fame. Previously, he was honored with his selection to the Fredonia State Hall of Fame in 1988 and the Western New York Softball Hall of Fame in 1992.

Till was born in Fredonia in 1937 and spent most of his life in Chautauqua County. He was very active in athletics while attending Fredonia High School where he graduated in 1954. Till was on the varsity football team from 1951-1953 and during that time the Hillbillies captured two Southwestern Conference titles. His position was quarterback and he was a starter in 1953.

Baseball was probably his best sport in high school as he was a varsity performer for four campaigns and his senior season saw the Hillbillies win a Section 6 crown. He also was a varsity basketball player for two years. After graduation, Till didn't have far to go to continue his education and athletics as he chose Fredonia State where he first became a star in baseball and later an outstanding coach at his alma mater.

Till played four years at Fredonia State (1954-1958) and years later still holds school records with 20 RBIs in a short season, three home runs and 12 total bases in a game. He graduated with a BS degree in education and in 1963 earned his Masters.

Coaching at Fredonia State for Till began as an assistant in 1974 followed by being head man in 1974-1975. Then, he took over the varsity job in 1980 and has held it until retiring in 1999. By the time of his induction, Till had won 344 games for the most ever by a Fredonia State coach. Included was a 9-0 fall slate in 1995.

His best record was 31-11-1 in 1982 when an ECAC title was recorded. Championships in the Western Division of the SUNYAC came in 1990 and 1991. It was also in 1991 a SUNYAC overall title was captured and Till was named "Coach of the Year."

Till taught social studies for 34 years in the public school systems of Cassadaga Valley, Brocton, Lockport and Jamestown. His longest tenure was 26 years at Cassadaga Valley where he retired in 1993.

While at Brocton from 1959-1964, Till was the varsity basketball mentor and started the first Chautauqua County Holiday Tournament back in 1961. He was also an assistant football coach under Gene Masters, who has become one of the best coaches in Western New York history at Grand Island.

In 1964, as track coach, he helped construct Brocton's first track and that year his Bulldogs were 7-2. He additionally was the jayvee baseball skipper for three years.

Till went to Cassadaga Valley and from 1966-1971 headed up the varsity basketball program. Counting his time at Brocton, his teams made the Section 6 Playoffs five times.

At Cassadaga Valley, he assisted with the football program for five years under 1993 CSHOF inductee [Joe Annarella](#). Till was involved in nine league championships with Annarella and Masters.



From 1952-1977, Till was an outstanding hard-hitting left-handed first baseman who played baseball for several teams in WNY. He performed in the Buffalo Evening News League, the Chautauqua County League, the Grape Belt League, Jamestown City League, and Chautauqua Institution League. He also was on the All-Army team at Fort Knox, Kentucky, in 1960.

Till was named a County or Grape Belt League all-star at least eight times and was always a .300-plus hitter. He played for the Cassadaga Bombers who set a county record of 32 straight wins in the 1960s. The Bombers won six county titles during the 1960s and 1970s and Till was a player-manager in 1968. He was also on championship clubs in 1965 with Brocton and 1955 with the Stockton Hotel.

In addition to the Bombers, Stockton Hotel, and Brocton, he performed for Jamestown Moose Lodge, Koch's of Dunkirk and the Chautauqua Institution team.

Till additionally made quite a name for himself in 23 seasons of fast-pitch softball as he was on 26 title-winning squads such as Aldrich Dairy, Chautauqua Truck, Acquavia Post, 3-D and

BFI in the Dunkirk-Fredonia area, The Castle in the Brocton League and the First Ward Falcons in the Gowanda League.

He was named Dunkirk A League MVP in 1970 and Fredonia League MVP the previous year when he hit at a sizzling career-high .490.

Things weren't always rosy for Till as a bad car accident in 1956 possibly ruined an opportunity for a chance in pro baseball and twice he beat back cancer. Till had major colon cancer surgery at Roswell in 1972 and made a complete recovery. Then in 1988, once again he had major colon-cancer surgery and made another full recovery.

Till developed an active role in volunteer work for the American Cancer Society and Roswell Park in Buffalo. In 1990 photos were taken of Till that appeared in newspapers and magazines in New York State and Pennsylvania to promote Roswell and help cancer patients. He has received many calls and speaks to people regularly about the dreaded disease. Beginning in 1991, Till became part of the Roswell Park-Pizza Hut roundup that collected over \$100,000 to aid young cancer patients.

Dale was inducted into the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame in 1996.

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

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