
Preserving the Sports History of Chautauqua County



Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame

Randy Anderson, editor

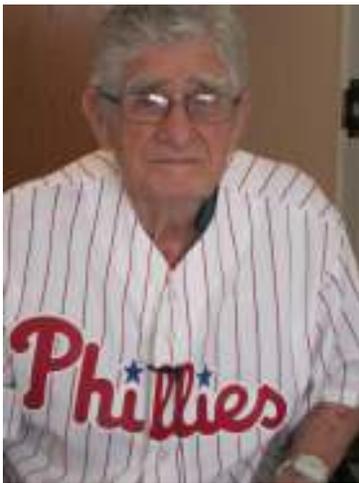
July 2011

CSHOF to Celebrate 70 Years of Diethrick Park

On July 29th, the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame in cooperation with the Jamestown Jammers will celebrate the 70th anniversary of Diethrick Park in Jamestown. The ceremony will precede the 7:05 start of the NY-P League baseball game between the Jammers and the Aberdeen IronBirds.



Originally constructed for a total cost of \$60,000, Municipal Stadium first opened in May of 1941. The facility became known as College Stadium in 1963. In August of 1997, the City of Jamestown officially changed its name to Russell E. Diethrick, Jr. Park.



Johnny O'Neil

On hand to commemorate the stadium's milestone and to throw out the first pitch will be Johnny O'Neil, the lone surviving member of the first professional team to call Municipal Stadium home. O'Neil, 91, was the shortstop on the 1941 PONY League champions Jamestown Falcons. Johnny, who enjoyed a 45-year career at every level of professional baseball as a player, manager, general manager and scout, was voted the most popular Falcon by the Jamestown fans in '41. O'Neil made it to the major leagues with Philadelphia in 1946. Originally from Kentucky, John married a local girl, Jeanette Swanson, and has been proud to call Jamestown his home for seven decades.

Also attending to recognize the history of the ballpark will be Jamestown Mayor Sam Teresi and Jamestown Community College President Greg DeCinque.

1941 Falcons Throwback Uniforms

To add an authentic 1941 feel to the celebration, the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame has purchased replica '41 Jamestown Falcons uniform tops and ball caps that will be worn by the Jammers during their game that evening. Afterwards, fans will be able to purchase the authentic game-worn gear. Only 40 uniform tops and caps will be available.

CSHOF members may reserve a uniform top for \$100 and/or a ball cap for \$25, plus shipping and handling, by contacting vice-president Randy Anderson at 716-763-2173 or at randy28b@netsync.net. Proceeds will benefit the hall fund of the CSHOF.



Baseball Heritage Poster



With the cooperation of baseball super-fans Russ Diethrick and Greg Peterson, and our marketing partner Jamestown Savings Bank, the CSHOF has commissioned a poster chronicling the rich career of professional minor league baseball in Jamestown. Presented in a display-quality, 30x36, full-color format, every program cover, 90 in all, from the 1939 Jamestown Pirates to the 2011 Jamestown Jammers, has been scanned. Also on the poster are the logos and years of affiliation of the eight major league teams who have had relations with the Jamestown ball clubs: Pittsburgh, Detroit, St. Louis, Los Angeles, Atlanta, Boston, Montreal and Florida.

Only 100 of these collector posters will be printed. The CSHOF plans to sell them at the 70th Anniversary of Diethrick Park celebration on July 29th. However, CSHOF members may purchase advance copies for \$10 each (plus s/h) by contacting Randy Anderson at 716-763-2173 or randy28b@netsync.net.

www.chautauquasportshalloffame.org

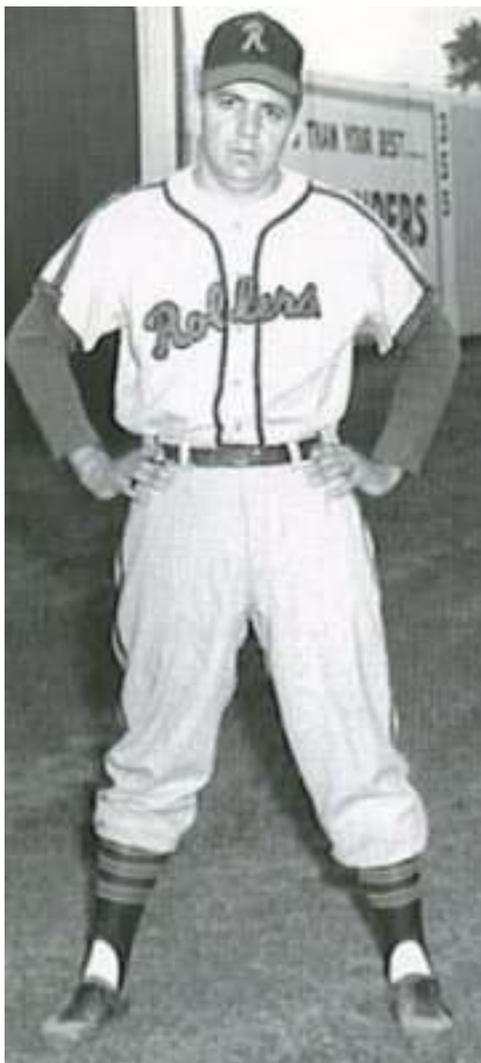
Inductee of the Month

Russ Diethrick

Russ Diethrick was born in Patton, Pennsylvania, and moved to Jamestown when he was five and has lived here since. He is a graduate of Jamestown High School where he played baseball for coach Al Ayers. After graduation he began work at Marlin Rockwell before becoming a part-time assistant to Recreation Director Jim Sharp in 1958.

He became full-time Recreation Director after Sharp's retirement. The title was later changed to Jamestown Parks, Recreation and Conservation Director and entailed supervising about 20 youth baseball leagues, all recreational sports for boys and girls in the city and several adult programs. In the 1970's he was assistant general manager, with Eric Gougin, of the Jamestown Expos of the New York-Pennsylvania League and is a past director of the league.

Diethrick is a past district commissioner of the Amateur Softball Association of America, was tournament chairman for the Middle Atlantic Regional Babe Ruth Tournament and the first two 13-year Old Babe Ruth World Series which were held at College Stadium.



He became a member of the National Babe Ruth Baseball Advisory Board and was inducted into the [Babe Ruth League Hall of Fame](#) in 1997.

In tribute to all that Russ has done for his adopted hometown, the City of Jamestown officially renamed College Stadium (nee Municipal Stadium) as Russell E. Diethrick, Jr. Park in '97.

Russ Diethrick was inducted into the inaugural class of the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame in 1982.

For more info about Russ, see www.chautauquasportshalloffame.org/russdiethrick.php

Remember: 70th Anniversary of Diethrick Park, July 29