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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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*Box 1192 - Jamestown, NY 14702*

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*August 2016*

### **CSHOF Officers Re-elected**



At its July 25 meeting, the Board of Directors of the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame elected the officers to lead the organization for the next year. In the photo, left to right, are Bob Schmitt, Ron Melquist, and Bill Race, vice-presidents; Lee Johnson, treasurer; Russ Ecklund, secretary; and Randy Anderson, president.

Thirty-three year director Terry Heslink resigned from the Board of Directors and received director emeritus status. Newly appointed to the Board of Directors were Lori Lassen and Gary Peters, Sr. Lassen, the daughter of CSHOF Jim Adamczak, is a resident

of Frewsburg. Peters, a long-time coach in the Jamestown High football program, is a resident in the Celoron area of Chautauqua Lake.

### **2016-2017 CSHOF Board of Directors**

DIRECTOR	POSITION	YEARS
Anderson, Randy	president	12
Barton, Dick	director (& inductee)	11
Bongiovanni, John	director	3
Cederquist, Cal	director (& inductee)	6
Deppas, Lou	director	8
DiMaio, Joe	director	10
Ecklund, Russ	secretary	26
Heppeler, Tom	director	7
Huckno, Wally	director (& inductee)	14
Johnson, Chip	director	29
Johnson, Lee	treasurer	15
Kindberg, Scott	director	10
Klinginsmith, Phil	director	8
Larson, Fred	director	14
Lassen, Lori	director	1
Marshaus, Stan	director (& inductee)	5
Martin, Keith	director	3
Melquist, Ron	vice-president	28
Painter, Jim	director	8
Peters, Sr., Gary	director	1
Polechetti, Dave	director	7
Pucciarelli, Angela	director	2
Race, Bill	vice-president (& inductee)	21
Rea, Tammy	director	5
Rollinger, Bill	director (& inductee)	19
Schmitt, Bob	vice-president (& inductee)	4
Sinatra, Dr. Charles	director	29
Sirianni, Jay	director	2
Tomassini, Ed	director	6
Diethrick, Russ	emeritus	
Heslink, Terry	emeritus	

Lundberg, Denny	emeritus	
Tane, Komo	emeritus	

## USA – USA – USA

### Jenn Suhr wins pole vault at U.S. Olympic trials, Rio Games next

There wasn't much doubt she would, and Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame inductee Jenn Suhr officially punched her ticket to Rio de Janeiro for her third Olympic Games by winning the pole vault at the U.S. Olympic Track and Field Trials in Eugene, Oregon Sunday, July 10<sup>th</sup>.



Suhr won the trial by clearing 15 feet, 9 inches, the same height she cleared in London to win the gold medal in the 2012 Summer Olympics. She won a silver medal in the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, China.

Suhr stamped her place as perhaps the greatest pole vaulter in U.S. history. Sunday's victory was Suhr's 17th national title, the most ever.

Despite the accolades, Jenn Suhr still feels like a weight has been lifted off her shoulders.

"It's a big relief. I don't think people know the pressure that goes along with it," she said. "They're emotional workouts but to win today makes it all worth it."

The conditions in Eugene weren't ideal for track and field events, with rain and temperatures struggling to reach 60. Jenn

Suhr was forced to wait around like she did in the qualifying round, yet still had the highest jump of the meet.

She tried three times with the bar set at 15-11, but was unable to clear it. If the conditions are better in the Olympics, Suhr is confident she can go higher in Rio.

"I'm definitely in 5-meter (about 16-foot) shape right now," she said. "These conditions were really tough and I can't wait to get to a meet and jump something I'm capable of."

“Right now Jenn is the best jumper in the world, and the jump she had today could probably win in Rio,” said Rick Suhr, her coach and husband. “In better conditions, it’s 16-1/4, the same jump she had to win the indoor world championship. We’re right in that range.”

The Rio de Janeiro Olympic games run August 5-21. The women’s pole vault begins August 16.

*(edited from a July 11, 2016 Rochester Democrat & Chronicle article by Andy Lipari)*

## **Giancarlo Stanton – from Jamestown to the Bigs**

Miami Marlins outfielder Giancarlo Stanton made baseball history by slamming 61 homeruns to win the 2016 Home Run Derby on July 11<sup>th</sup>.

Many local baseball fans may remember watching the then-17-year-old "Michael" Stanton during one of the nine games he played with the Jamestown Jammers in the 2007 season of the New York-Penn League after being drafted in the second round of that year's draft by Miami.

While Stanton finished his stint with the Jammers by going an unassuming 2-for-30 at the plate with a double and a home run (curveballs were a problem), there was never a doubt from members of the organization that the teenage slugger had what it took to shake things up on an MLB diamond.

Given Stanton's physical attributes and his personal attitude toward the game, success was always assumed.

Stanton's first impression on Matt Drayer, former Jammers general manager, was an imposing one.

"He had that big, large frame," recalled Drayer. "And at 17 years old he could have been a linebacker for a Division I football program."



In his first day of batting practice with the Jammers, Stanton (*pictured at left in 2007 as a Jamestown Jammer*) hit a line-drive rocket that caught current Toronto Blue Jays third baseman Matt Dominguez by surprise, hitting the Marlins' first-round pick squarely in the sternum.

"When it hit him, Matt just dropped to his knees, it was like the world stopped," remembered George Sisson, the Jammers assistant general manager in 2007. "They lifted his shirt up in the training room and I think you could read the ink spots from the ball on his chest."

Even in the short amount of time that Stanton spent in Jamestown, he quickly became well known for the outrageous power.

"When he took (batting practice), out of all the years I was at Jamestown, he was the only player that the visiting team would stand up on the benches and watch him take (batting practice)," Drayer said.

"There is a different sound off of different people's bats," Sisson said. "Stanton gets up there and it was like a 'thud, thud,' like he had the trunk of a tree hitting balls."

Of course there are a lot of players that come through the minor leagues with all of the power and skill to make to the majors, and a lot of them just don't pan out. According to Drayer and Sisson, it was Stanton's personality that was the true hallmark of greatness.

"He was a down-to-earth kid, he didn't let his natural talents get into an ego thing," Drayer said.

"He was a kind, gentle, soft-spirited young man. That is how I remember him," Sisson said.

*(edited from a November 20, 2014 Post-Journal article by Jay Young)*