

The First Class Of Inductees:

North Country Sports



Hall Of Fame

Honorees Bios

Neal Aubel- Coach/Administrator

37 years coaching wrestling at Lowville. Compiled 465 career wins (at time was a NYS record) and still ranks #6 in dual meet wins in NYS history. His teams never had a losing season from 1966-2002. 2013 Inductee in NYS Wrestling Hall of Fame. 2012 National Wrestling Hall of Fame Inductee. 2002 Section 3 Wrestling Hall of Fame Inductee. 2001 NYS Administrator's Section 3 Outstanding Service Award. 1993 National High School Coaches Association Region 1 Coach of the Year.

Appointed Athletic Director in 1976. Frontier League Chairman in 1972 (21 years). He helped to implement the Section 3 Dual Meet tournament in 1989. He served on the Section 3 wrestling committee for 25 years (2 years as chair).

His teams won 16 frontier league titles, 15 Class tournaments, 5 inter-class tournaments, 18 of his wrestlers won 100 or more matches, 77 frontier league champions, 99 class champions. While at Lowville he also coached Varsity football for 2 years with his teams capturing 2 league titles, and also served as golf coach for several years.

Jim Berkman- Athlete/Coach

1978 Graduate of Watertown High. Starred in basketball and lacrosse. St. Lawrence grad in 1982. 2 time MVP of basketball team. All American in lacrosse. SLU head basketball coach for 3 years. Assistant lacrosse coach, JV soccer coach. SLU Inductee in Athletic Hall of Fame. Head lacrosse coach at Salisbury State (Md) 1989-present. 11 times NCAA D3 national champs. 23 time NCAA national semifinalist. 27 tournament appearances. Coached 233 All Americans. 5 time national coach of year. All-time winningest NCAA lacrosse coach at any level. Win streaks of 69,55,47 and 31 games. Inductee in National Lacrosse Hall of Fame in 2013.

Rocco Canale- Athlete

1939 graduate of Watertown High. Starred in football in wrestling. Accepted a scholarship to Boston College for football. All American and All East selection. Played on 1941 Sugar Bowl championship team and the 1942 team who appeared in the Orange Bowl. 1993 Inductee of Boston College Varsity Club Athletic Hall of Fame. 1943 was drafted in the Army. Selected 72nd overall by the Eagles in the 1943 NFL Draft. Played in 4 games in 1945. Traded to Boston Yanks in 1946. Rejoined the Eagles in 1948 before his career ended due to injury. Coached Watertown Red and Black from 1949-51 with a 23-2 record. Inducted in Watertown Red and Black HOF in 1994. JCC names a scholarship in his name.

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Rick Carlisle- Athlete/Coach

Starred at Lisbon in basketball until 1977. Attended Worchester Prep in 1977-78. Played basketball at University of Maine. Transferred to Virginia where he was 2 year starter. Averaged 12.5 ppg in his college career. Captain of 1984 final four team. Drafted in the 3rd round, 70th overall by the Boston Celtics in 1984. Reserve on the Celtics team that won the 1986 NBA title. Averaged 2.2 points per game during his career. Also played briefly with the Knicks and Nets. When cut by the Nets he was hired as an assistant coach. Also went on to be an assistant in Portland and Indiana, as hire by the Detroit Pistons as Head Coach in 2001-02. Spent 2 years went 100-64. Coached 4 years with the Indiana Pacers (181-147 record). (years with the Dallas Mavericks where he is currently the Head Coach. He was named NBA Coach of the Year in 2002. He coached the East All Stars in 2004. He led the Mavericks to the 2010-11 NBA title, becoming one of only 11 people to be a player and Head Coach on NBA championship teams. Has a career coaching record of 694-520.

Clarence “Boots” Gaffney- Athlete/ Coach

Watertown High School- Starred in football, basketball, baseball. Named to NYS all state team in football.

Manlius Military Academy- Starred in football, basketball, baseball. Captained all 3 sports and was named MVP in all 3.

Clarkson class of 1936- Starred in football, basketball, baseball. Was considered one of the best QBs in NYS small colleges. Leading scorer in basketball. Member of Clarkson Hall of Fame inaugural class.

Coaching- IHA/IHC- Football, basketball, baseball coach and Athletic Director for 40 years. 1953, 1954, 1956 basketball teams won NNY catholic championships. Award at IHC for the Outstanding Athlete is named after him.

Red and Black- played 2 season, Coached 4 seasons, member of Red and Black Hall of Fame.

Pete Gogolak- Athlete

OFA class of 1960- Football

Cornell University- class of 1964. Football 3 years. Member of Cornell Hall of Fame.

NFL- 9 years with NY Giants. Member of the Giants Ring of Honor. 2 years with Buffalo Bills. Led AFL in field goals made and attempted in 1965. 70th all time in NFL history in scoring. Was the first kicker to implement a soccer style kicking style for place kickers.

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Pat Killorin- Athlete/Coach

Watertown High class of 1962- Football 3 years.

Syracuse University- 2 time all American selection. Voted top center in first 100 years of Syracuse football.

Played in 1966 East west shrine all star game. Played in 1966 Collage all star vs NFL champions game. Syracuse U. Hal of Fame inductee.

Drafted in 3rd round (36th overall) by Pittsburgh Steelers. Was also drafted by the Miami Dolphins in the AFL.

Played one year (5 games) for the Steelers. Career ended with knee injuries.

Head coach and player for the Red and Black 1968-73. Semi Pro Football Hall of Fame and Watertown Red and Black Inductee. Assistant coach for IHC football on undefeated 1970 team.

Casey Powell- Athlete

1994 graduate of Carthage. High School All American in Lacrosse. Also played basketball in HS. Went on the be a 4 time All American in Lacrosse at Syracuse. 2 time Most Outstand Player in NCAAs. 2 time national champion. 10th all time in NCAA scoring.

Professional lacrosse player: 1st in career points, 2nd in assists, 4th in career goals, 1st in career playoff points.

2006 captain of USA National team. 2011 captain of USA indoor National team.

Jerry Welsh- Coach

1954 graduate of Chateaugay, 1958 graduate of Ithaca College.

Massena HS basketball coach 1958-68 141 wins.

SUNY Potsdam basketball coach 1968-1990. 2 national championships. 3 runners ups. 9 regional titles. 494 wins at Potsdam, 60 game win streak. Only lost 13 home games at Potsdam.

Iona- 1990-1995 47-63 record.

Career record of 682-228.

SUNY Potsdam Hall of Fame inductee. The basketball court at Maxcy Hall is named after him.

Missy West- Athlete/ Coach

Franklin Academy Malone class of 1996

Basketball- Section 10 record 2605 career points. Most for a female in North Country history. Miss NY in Basketball. Led team to state final four in 1996. Softball- recorded 15 no hitters as a pitcher. Won 64 games and pitched 2 perfect games.

Won 1995 state class B title. Final 4 in 1994, state runners up in 1996. Also played soccer in High school. Received a basketball Division 1 scholarship to Duke. Helped Duke reach the 1999 national title game. Played 2 years professional basketball in Germany.

Coaching- SUNY Canton, Hartwick (95-64 record) and St. Leo's Division 2 program in Florida.