



Press Release
2003 Section V Basketball Hall of Fame
Class of 2003

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John A. Baynes, Sr.
Mary Ellen Burt
Douglas J. Farrell
Chris Fox
Gordon Joseph
Gina Montesano
Andy Moore
Amy Reynders
Michael R. Ruff
William J. O'Rourke Sr.
Robert Paul Rose
Bettina Love
Richard G. Blackwell
Jim Boenheim
Claude Williams

Note: Class photo for 2003 is missing. If one exists, please email pkabel@frontiernet.net. Thank you.

John A. Baynes, Sr.
Coach

Although his legacy to Section V is that of a superior coach, had records been as accurate in the 1930's as they are today, he would be remembered as a hardwood star for Aquinas in the late 1930's and the unbeaten University of Rochester team in 1942. After his country's call took him to the Pacific theater in 1943, he received All Upstate New York Collegiate honors in 1947, and scored a then record 32 points in a single game at the U of Rochester.

He was a 34 year social studies teacher and guidance counselor at Clyde and East Rochester and was a highly successful basketball coach at the two schools, winning five Section V titles; two at Clyde (1952, 1955) and three at East Rochester (1959, 1962 and 1963). His teams won 11 county championships; five at Clyde (Wayne) and six at E. R. (Monroe). His teams won 36 consecutive games to close out his career in Clyde and 43 consecutive wins from 1961-1963 in East Rochester. He also coached baseball and football. His career basketball coaching record was 317-140.

He is a member of the University of Rochester Hall of Fame and the East Rochester Wall of Fame.

Mary Ellen Burt
Player

A 1978 graduate of Webster's R. L. Thomas High School, she earned an unprecedented 16 Varsity athletic letters; four each in field hockey, basketball, volleyball and softball. Her basketball honors included All Monroe County honors in 1976, 1977 and 1978, and was named to the Section V All Tournament Team the same three years. She was one of the first quality women in Section V to be awarded a four year scholarship to a NCAA Division I school, choosing to play for Southern California of the Pac-10, where she was a NCAA Final Four participant in 1981.

At the time of her induction (2003), she was enjoying a successful coaching career at Union College in Schenectady, NY, where her 10 year career to date had distinguished her as the coach with the most career wins in the school's history, including the most wins in a season (22). She was recognized by the New York State Women's Collegiate Athletic Association with their Service Award in 2001, and was the East Region's Women's Basketball Coach of the Year in 2003.

She also represents Section V well off the court by volunteering with a number of organizations, including Northeast Parent and Child Foster Care, the YWCA, Girls Incorporated, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, and a number of AAU and CYO basketball teams.

Douglas J. Farrell
Player/Official

Considered by many to be one of the few natural athletes of his day, he was a hidden secret, as private schools did not play in Section V championships when he starred at Cardinal Mooney. He was a graduate of Cardinal Mooney in 1969, and excelled both in basketball and baseball. In his senior year at Cardinal Mooney, he was a major part of his team's 20-1 record, leading his team to their second consecutive Catholic Diocesan Tournament championship (1968, 1969). During those two years, he and his teammates accumulated 39 wins and only four losses. In both 1968 and 1969, he was recognized by the Democrat and Chronicle as one of the area's best in what has come to be known as the All Greater Rochester Team.

He received a full scholarship to Division I Niagara University, where he starred in both basketball and baseball. He was a part of the 1972 Niagara University team which took runner-up honors in the NIT tournament at the end of the season. That year also found him as a participant for Niagara U. in the NCAA Baseball Championships. He pitched a no-hitter that year, and was later drafted for the fourth consecutive year by a major league baseball team. He coached basketball at Bishop Kearney (1975-1980), and in 1981 began a 21 year career as a basketball official under the auspices of the International Association of Approved Basketball Officials (IAABO Board 60). During his 21 years, he served eight years on the Executive Committee, was the 1999 Official of the Year and the number one rated official in the area. That same year, he was chosen to represent Board 60 and Section V as an official for the New York State Basketball Championships at Glens Falls.

Chris Fox
Player

He was a 1997 graduate of McQuaid Jesuit High School, where he twice was a member of New York State Class A Championship teams (1995, 1997). At the time of his induction, he ranked as the third all-time scorer in McQuaid's history with over 1500 career points. In 1995, he was named in national publications as one of the top 100 sophomore basketball talents in the United States.

He was a member of the Democrat and Chronicle's All Greater Rochester Team three times (1995, 1996 and 1997), and was named the Rochester area's Player of the Year in 1997. As he and his teammates won their second state title in three years, he was named the state tournament's Most Valuable Player (1997).

A highly recruited basketball talent, he chose to play his college ball for NCAA Division I Colgate University, where a series of injuries limited his college playing days.

He participated in the National Association of Basketball Coaches' Reading Program initiative, volunteering with elementary students while attending Colgate. He also has shared his basketball talents and skills by working a variety of basketball camps and teaching skills to 12-18 year olds.

Gordon Joseph
Coach

Even though his election into the Hall of Fame was in the coaching division, he was also an accomplished player in Section V, having been a member of the two-time Class C Champion Naples High School in 1954 and 1955. He was a Finger Lakes League All Star both of those two years and scored a league single game record 50 points in 1955. he averaged 23.5 points a game that year.

After graduating from Cortland State, he embarked on a long career of teaching, coaching and Athletic Director Duties. Five times he was Section V Coach of the Year (1974, '75, '76, '77 and 1990), and his teams won three consecutive Section V titles in the late 70's (1976, 1977 and 1978). He led his Bloomfield Bombers to the 1978 New York State Class B Finals, eventually dropping a hard-fought triple overtime game to Schuylerville.

In 1977 he was named the Democrat and Chronicle's All Greater Rochester Coach of the Year. His 30 year basketball coaching career ended with 421 wins and 179 losses; a .702 winning percentage.

In honor of his contribution to the community and the school, the community sponsored Gordon Joseph Day January 31, 1992. He would eventually be selected for induction into the first Bloomfield Hall of Fame in 1995.

Gina Montesano
Player

She was a 1995 graduate of Mercy High School and played an important role in leading her team to two Section V titles (1992, 1993). She scored 1,406 points in her career at Mercy, and in her senior year, while playing point guard, averaged 23 points a game, 6.1 rebounds a game, 5.4 assists and 2.7 steals a game.

She was rewarded for her efforts on the courts by being named to the Section V All Tournament Team in 1992, 1994 and 1995, and was a McDonalds All American in 1995. While playing in the McDonalds Exceptional Senior All Star Game, she ended her career at Mercy by being named the MVP of the game.

The Rochester media also recognized her accomplishments by naming her to the All Greater Rochester Team in 1993, 1994 and 1995, elevating her talent even higher by naming her the female 1995 Player of the Year for the Section V Region. Radio station WVOR continued the post-season awards her senior year by naming her the WVOR Sportswoman of the Year.

She was also a soccer standout while at Mercy, earning four letters while at center forward and playing a key role in two Section V titles (1991, 1993). She scored 41 goals during her sophomore season, and was named the Democrat and Chronicle's Section V Player of the Year (1993).

At the time of her induction, she held the position of Director of Sports, Fitness and recreation at the Boys and Girls Club of North Lake Tahoe, California.

Andy Moore
Player

A 1981 graduate of Cuba Central, he was a four-year starter for Greenwood (1977-1978), then Cuba (1978-1981), scoring a career total 1,987 points. He was a member of the 1979 and 1980 Cuba Greyhounds team which won Section V Class C titles, and went on to win the New York State Championship in Class C in 1979.

He was recognized for his abilities by being named to the Section V All-Tournament Team three times (1979, 1980, 1981), and was the Tournament Most Valuable Player in 1980. Democrat and Chronicle's All Greater Rochester honors were sent his way in 1980 and 1981. New York State honors included All-State third team, 1979, second team in 1980 and New York State First Team honors in 1981. Additionally, he was named as New York State's Small Schools Player of the Year in 1981.

He went on to play his college basketball for NCAA Division I St. Bonaventure University (1981-1983) and Division II Mansfield State (1984-1986). While at Mansfield, he set a single season scoring record in 1986.

At the time of his induction, he was the Men's Basketball Coach at the University of Pittsburgh-Bradford Campus, where his overall coaching for 10 years was 177-96 and held membership in the National Association of Basketball Coaches and the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference's Men's Basketball Committee.

Amy Reynders
Player

She is a 1992 graduate of Aquinas Institute, where she gained the Times Union Super 15 honors three times (1990, 1991 and 1992) and also was named to the Democrat and Chronicle's All Greater Rochester Teams in 1991 and 1992.

She was recognized for Player of the Year honors in 1992. Her Aquinas team won the 1991 Section V Class BB Championship and lost in the final game for the New York State Class B Championship.

In 1992, her name appeared in Dick Vitale's Basketball Magazine, where she was rated as one of the top five female basketball players in the northeast. She won Empire State gold medals for basketball in 1990 and 1991, receiving the accolades as Outstanding Empire State Games Athlete in 1991.

She chose NCAA Division I Rutgers University to play her collegiate basketball, and was a three-year starter and two-year team captain. During her play at Rutgers, she played in two NCAA tournaments, and was awarded the Big East/Gillette Post-Grad Scholar Athlete Award in 1995-1996.

At the time of her induction, she was a medical doctor of Otolaryngology, serving her third year of residency at Upstate Medical University in Syracuse.

Michael R. Ruff
Player

He was a 1975 graduate of Fairport High School, where his Red Raiders captured the Section V AAA Championship in his senior year. As a co-captain of his team, his play on the court earned him Most Valuable Player honors for the Section V tournament.

Other honor collected included First Team All Monroe County (1975) and First Team All Greater Rochester in the same year. He was a member of the select Section V All-Stars which played the Junior National Team of the former USSR (1975). He was given a full basketball scholarship to LeMoyne College, where he was the starting point guard all four years.

He graduated from LeMoyne with honors in 1979 and returned to Section V as a coach, beginning at Aquinas Institute in 1982 and moving to Bishop Kearney in 1986, where he led his team to the finals of the annual tournament. The Democrat and Chronicle named him Coach of the Year for 1986.

At the time of his induction, he was a professor of Business at Monroe Community College, where he was honored their Outstanding Teacher Award in 1998. He also was a successful Realtor with Re/Max Realty Group and received entrance into the Re/Max Realty Hall of Fame.

His community involvement activities include work as a Compeer volunteer, religious education at his home parish, the fresh Air Fund and the Big Brother/Big Sister Program

William J. O'Rourke Sr.
Coach

When he came to Webster High School in 1950, the basketball program was not a strong one. It took four or five years to establish Webster as a formidable opponent in Monroe County and another five years to establish Webster as a power in Section V. He laid the groundwork for the rich tradition that has made Webster basketball fans proud for over a half century.

His coaching career at Webster spanned 28 years (1950-1978), in which time he amassed a strong 343-193 record. His teams won eight Monroe County Championships and played in five Section V Championship games ('61, '70, '72, '75, '78), winning the Class AA Championship in 1961 with a team that would later (1996) be named as Section V's All-Time Best Team. He was a recipient of the Section V Coach of the Year Award in 1969 and coached the Section V All Star Team, which played the Junior National Team from USSR in 1975.

Honors were won both on and off the court, symbolic of the life he encouraged his players to live. He won the National High School Athletic Association's Coach of the Year in District 1 (1975), and the New York State Coaches Honor Award (1978). Locally, he was an inaugural inductee into the Frontier Walk of Fame. His community of Webster named him Man of the Year in 1972. In that same year, the Webster Chamber of Commerce presented their annual Civic Award to him, "In recognition of many years of working with the youth of the community of Webster." In 1975, the Webster Town Board Award was given him for "...years of successful coaching and honors to the Webster community." Once asked to state his Rules of Life, he responded: "1. Give 100%. 2. Be a gentleman on and off the court. 3. Show respect for others. 4. Never embarrass others. 5. Treat everyone as an individual 6. Embrace Faith." In his gentle way, he lived and taught his Rules of Life.

Robert Paul Rose
Player

A 1982 graduate of Cardinal Mooney High School, he led his team to its first and only Section V basketball title, winning the Class AAA crown in his senior year. He was named MVP of the Section V AAA tournament, and was one of Section V's elite performers, as determined by the Democrat and Chronicle, when he was chosen a member of the All Greater Rochester Team. The Times Union named him as a member of its "Super 15" squad, capping a stellar senior year.

He spent his college days as a four-year starter for NCAA Division I George Mason University, and was twice named the team's Player of the Year (1984, 1986), receiving his league's recognition twice, including first team selection in 1986.

He was drafted in the fourth round by the Continental Basketball League's Jacksonville Jets and was runner-up for the CBA's Rookie of the Year honors (1986). He spent five years in the CBA, one in the United States Basketball League and a short stint with the NBA Los Angeles Clippers before finding a home in Australia's NBL in 1992, where at the time of his induction he was playing his 12th NBL season with the Townsville McDonalds Crocodiles, and had two years remaining on his contract. In his 12 seasons with the NBL, his teams played in the championships three times, winning one title. He was selected for league honors ten times, winning the NBL MVP award once, and his team's MVP award eight times. His career NBL statistics show an offensive average of 21.5 points per game and 5.7 assists per game. He also was averaging 7.4 rebounds per game. In 2003, he was awarded the prestigious Centenary Medal, celebrating the contributions made to the community and nation of Australia. His certificate, signed by Australia's Prime Minister, recognizes his contribution to Australian society through the sport of basketball.

Bettina Love
Player

She is a 1997 graduate of Rochester's Edison Technical School, where she was instrumental in leading her team to two Section V titles in Class BB (1995, 1996), and four City-Catholic League Championships ('94, '95, '96 and '97). She scored 1,897 points and gathered 949 rebounds in her four-year career, and improved her game each year, capped by her stellar senior year, when she averaged 32 points and 14 rebounds a game. She once scored a career-high 49 points in a single game, and was the Section V Tournament Class BB Most Valuable Player in 1996, and was named to the All-Tournament Team in two other Section V tournaments.

She was named to the All-City Team all four years she played, and her solid play was recognized by the Democrat and Chronicle, which selected her to the All Greater Rochester Team three times. She was chosen to play in the annual McDonald's Exceptional Senior Game, and was the game's MVP (1997). She was also recognized for the quality of her character, when she received the 1997 Youth Citizen of the Year Award in Rochester.

She played Division I basketball for the University of Pittsburgh, winning various awards, including the University's Scholar Athlete Award (2000-2003), and Big East Player of the Week. She became involved with the community in Pittsburgh, teaching Sunday School for two years and participating in the "Read-to-Win" program, where she visited Pittsburgh area schools and read grade appropriate books to the classes. At the time of her induction, she was enrolled at the University of Georgia in the PhD. program in Educational Policy Studies.

Richard G. Blackwell
Coach

He was a legendary coach in the Wayne County League, coaching the Lyons Lions for 15 years. In a time when Lyons chose to play in a higher classification "with the big boys," he amassed a 16 year career coaching record of 210 wins and 80 losses, for a .724 winning percentage. His team went undefeated in his first season of coaching, winning the Class A Section V title in 1952 with a record of 18-0. In 1954, the Lions won their second Section V crown in three years. His teams won nine Wayne County titles and were regular Sectional tournament participants, with a run of seven years where they received a tournament invitation each year.

During that time, they made it at least to the semi-finals every year. During the last six years of his coaching career (1961-1966), his teams had an astounding 110 win, 13 loss cumulative record, for a .894 % winning percentage. His 20-1 team is often regarded as one of Section V's all-time finest, entering the finals of the tournament undefeated and losing a close decision to undefeated East Rochester. He was the recipient of Coach of the Year honors several times, and coach several Lions who went on to play Division I basketball in college.

In addition to his coaching career, he also was the President of the Wayne County Athletic Association for two years and was the Basketball Assigner of officials for six years, and the Athletic Director at Lyons for 10 years. An avid golfer, he was Section V's Golf Chairman for 12 years and coached the Lyons golf team to their only Section V title in that sport.

Always known as the consummate gentleman both on and off the court, he was a role model for those he coached, setting the example for playing the games of basketball and of life.

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Jim Boeheim
Player

He was a 1962 graduate of Lyons Central, where his three-year varsity career included action in all but one of the team's 58 games. During that period, the team rang up a 48-10 record. He scored 1,012 points in his 57 games, giving him a 17.8 points per game scoring average. He increased his scoring output each year, culminating with 520 points and a 24.8 points per game average. During his time of play, Lyons chose to play in a large school division, and met success.

The Lions won the Wayne-Finger Lakes League Championships in his junior and senior years, with records of 15-1 and 14-0, respectively. During those two years, he was second in league scoring as a junior (19.3 ppg.) and led the league as a senior. The Lions made the eight-team Sectional playoffs both years ('61 and '62), when only the top eight schools in each classification could participate, and were undefeated (20-0), going into the 1962 Class AA Championship game, where they lost a one point double-overtime decision to undefeated East Rochester, also 20-0. (Information courtesy of the Finger Lakes Times.) His talents took him to the court of NCAA Division I Syracuse University, where he scored 745 points in his three-year career ('63-'64 - '65-'66). The Orangemen were 55-24 (.696) during the time he was on the school's roster. After graduating with a B.A. in Social Science (1966), he embarked on a professional basketball career with Scranton of the Eastern League. He played for four years and was a member of two championship squads. Personally, he was named as a second-team All-Star. He became a graduate assistant coach at Syracuse in 1969 and coached the freshman team to a 16-2 record. He became a full-time assistant in 1972, and took over the Head Coach position for the Orangemen in 1976, the beginning of a journey, which, in the 27 years up to the time of his induction, would see him accumulate a coaching record of 653-226 (.743). During those 27 seasons, his teams have received 26 post season invitations (NIT or NCAA). His 22 NCAA appearances show 12 years attaining the Sweet Sixteen, three Final Fours and the 2003 NCAA National Collegiate Basketball Championship.

He is actively involved with the Kidney Foundation, Coaches vs. Cancer, and the father of four.

Claude Williams
Player

He was a 1983 graduate of Rochester's Charlotte High, where he was a part of the 1982 and 1983 Section V Champions in Class A, both times being named to the All-Tournament Team. In his senior year ('83), his team went on to capture the New York State Class A Championship and played in the Federation Cup. In both of those tournaments, he gained recognition by being named to both All-Tournament teams. He completed his high school career at Charlotte with 18 points per game, eight rebounds and eight assists averages. In both 1982 and 1983, local media recognized him as a member of the All Greater Rochester squads.

He went on to play his college ball at Division I North Carolina A&T, where he compiled career stats of 17 points, 9 rebounds and six assists per game. His teams at A&T won the Mid-East Athletic Conference titles each year, and in his senior year, he was both the team and the conference MVP.

He played professional basketball in Europe for nine years, including a year each in Belgium and Holland, and seven years in France, where he played in the French Independent Basketball Association. His highlight year was 1995, when was second in his league, averaging 22 points a game, and gathered an average 14 rebounds per game. He was the team's MVP that year and finished second in the league in scoring.

At the time of his induction, he was working for the New York State Department of Youth in Rochester.