

NEWS RELEASE



Greater Syracuse Sports Hall of Fame Announces 2016 Team of Honor

Syracuse, New York – July 18, 2016 — The Greater Syracuse Sports Hall of Fame in conjunction with Presenting Dinner Sponsor, Blue Rock Energy, today announced the recipient of this year's Team of Honor that will be recognized for its outstanding achievements at the 30th Annual Hall of Fame Dinner that will take place on Monday, October 17, 2016 at 7pm at the Oncenter. It was also announced that the Romano Auto Dealerships will be this year's Team of Honor Sponsor.

Joe Russo, Hall of Fame President, made the announcement that this year's Team of Honor will be the 1985 Onondaga Central High School Boys Cross Country Team that became one of the smallest high schools ever to win the New York State Federation Cross Country Championship (a meet where the small schools compete against the big schools for the overall state title).

Coach Bill Donnelly's undermanned 8-member team traveled to Long Island's Sunken Meadow State Park on November 16th thirty-one years ago and stunned the New York State cross country elite by placing three runners in the top 25 (led by Kevin Van Boden's third-place finish) on the way to winning the state championship.

Coach Donnelly eschewed the school nickname "Tigers" in favor of the "Tortoises" because "progression through the pack" was the team philosophy. Kevin and Patrick Vanboden, Dave and Tom Boughton, Vinnie Loffredo, Bob Crump, Matt Stanton, and Bruce Ryan catapulted the tiny South Onondaga school onto the pages of The New York Times with their amazing win.

"Even 30 years ago as high school kids we knew we had done something special as the smallest school and first section III school in history to win the NYS Federation Championship meet," stated Kevin Vanboden, "but to see that this accomplishment has withstood the test of time is really something to be celebrated. Thank you for this honor."

This is the first year that the Romano Auto Dealerships has acted as the Team of Honor Sponsor. Romano Cars President Mike Romano said that "we are proud to be associated with an organization that does so much to recognize outstanding athletic achievements in our community and want to congratulate the 1985 OCS Boys Cross Country Team on their selection as this year's Greater Syracuse Sports Hall of Fame's Team of Honor."

For the second consecutive year, Blue Rock Energy is the Presenting Sponsor of the Greater Syracuse Sports Hall of Fame Dinner and Induction Ceremony

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