



NEWS RELEASE

GREATER SYRACUSE SPORTS HALL OF FAME ANNOUNCES CLASS OF 2016 INDUCTEES

Syracuse, New York – June 6, 2016 –Today, the Greater Syracuse Sports Hall of Fame (GSSHOF) made the announcement of the eight new inductees into the Class of 2016 at a press conference held at the Sports Hall of Fame Showcase at Drivers Village in Cicero, NY. [BlueRock Energy](#), a leading energy solutions provider, will once again be the Title Sponsor for the 30th Annual Greater Syracuse Sports Hall of Fame Dinner and Induction Ceremony which will be held on Monday, October 17 at 7 p.m. at the Oncenter Ballroom in Syracuse.

With the eight new inductees, a total of 224 men and women will have been inducted into the GSSHOF since the first Induction Ceremony in 1987. This year's Inductees are:

Ed Brophy: Canastota native who developed the idea, founded, and is the Executive Director of the International Boxing Hall of Fame in Canastota. The IBHOF has grown each year since its first class of boxing greats was inducted in 1990, and each year has a 4-day weekend celebration that is capped off by a Parade of Champions and the Induction Ceremony. In April of this year, Ed was inducted into the New York Boxing Hall of Fame for his contributions to the sport.

Bob Campese: Henninger High School baseball and football star and football coach at his alma mater. At Henninger Bob was twice selected as All-City in baseball and was an All-American shortstop during his senior year. Bob hit a home run in the 1978 city championship game that gave Henninger its second straight city title. He was also a two-time All-CNY football player. Collegiately at Ithaca College, he was an All-East safety in football who still holds the IC record of 8 interceptions in a season and an All-East outfielder in baseball. His IC teams were national champions in NCAA Division III football and baseball during the same collegiate year (1979-1980). At Henninger as a football coach he had a 105-36-2 record that included eight league, five sectional, four regional and one state title. He was named New York State Football Coach of the Year in 1990 and was inducted into the Ithaca College Sports Hall of Fame in 1995.

Bob Hayes: St. Pat's High School athlete who became one of the finest coaches in the Parochial League in Syracuse. Three time Coach of the Year (twice at his alma mater and once at West Side Catholic - a merger of St. Pat's and St. Lucy's), his teams won three Parochial League titles, two Diocesan Class B crowns, and the 1974 Section 3 Class C championship. He was also the Athletic Director at St. Pat's and founded and directed the Rascal's Youth Basketball League in the Tipperary Hill area. Bob had a 35-year career with the Syracuse Police Department and is a past recipient of the Blind Men and Criers' Lew Andreas Award and the Syracuse Optimist Club Award for community service. He was inducted into the Section 3 Basketball Hall of Fame in 2002.

Billy McBride: Central Tech football and basketball star who went on to a successful two-sport collegiate career at Tennessee State and played 6 years in the Canada Football League. Billy was first-team All-City in both football and basketball in high school and won the coveted Ormie Spencer Outstanding Scholastic Athlete Award. After graduating from Tennessee State, he was drafted by the San Francisco 49ers and was a defensive back, wide receiver, holder, and punt and kick returner in the CFL – played in the 1983 Grey Cup for the British Columbia Lions and was a regular-season defensive player of the game on multiple occasions while playing in Canada. He is currently the Assistant Athletic Director for Diversity and Inclusion, Director of Club Sports, and Senior Coach at Amherst College and is a highly sought-after public speaker and author.

Matt Palumb: Jamesville DeWitt and West Genesee high school lacrosse star who went on to an All-American collegiate career as a goalie at Syracuse University and is now one of the top lacrosse officials in the country. As the starting goalie for the SU lacrosse team, Matt had a record of 40-2

and was named the NCAA Lacrosse Finals MVP in 1988 due to his 21 saves in the championship game that were instrumental in completing SU's first undefeated season in 31 years. As a lax official, he has refereed fifteen Final Fours and represented the USA as an official in the 2006 World Lacrosse Championships. In 2010 he also refereed in the NCAA Division III men's basketball Final Four.

Ray Seals: Syracuse native who attended Henninger High School, was a football semi-pro champion with the Empire Football League's Syracuse Express, and went on to star in the National Football League as a defensive end. Ray is one of the few NFL players who never went to college to hone his skills. From 1989-1997, he played for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Carolina Panthers. For the Steelers in 1995, Ray started all 16 games and was named second team all-conference. He started SuperBowl XXX for the Steelers and sacked Dallas quarterback Troy Aikman during the game. Ray is a strong anti-crime advocate and has won the NFL's E for Effort Charity Award. He now resides in Tampa, Florida.

Suzy Whaley: Jamesville-DeWitt High School grad who became the first woman elected as an officer of the PGA of America and will become the first woman president of the organization in 2018. Suzy is an outstanding golfer and instructor. In 2003, after playing for several years on the LPGA tour in the 1990's, she became the first woman since Babe Zaharias in 1945 to qualify for a PGA Tour event by winning Connecticut PGA sectional title and playing in the Greater Hartford Open. She is a three-time winner of the Connecticut Women's Open and a former Connecticut Club Pro champion. She is a Golf Digest and LPGA Top 50 golf instructor who was the 2012 recipient of the prestigious LPGA National Nancy Lopez Achievement Award. She now resides in Connecticut.

Buddy Wleklinski: Christian Brothers Academy star athlete, coach, and athletic director. Since his senior year in 1975, Buddy has been a positive force at CBA. In 1975 he was the point guard for CBA's first Section 3 basketball championship team and was the all-CNY shortstop for the unbeaten and league titlist baseball team. After graduating from the University at Albany where he was the most improved player as a junior, he returned to CBA where he has been the boys' basketball coach since 1984 and the school's athletic director since 1989. During his tenure as the basketball coach, his teams have won nine league championships, eight Section 3 titles, have played in three New York State Final Fours, and won the Class C State Championship in 1997. He has won numerous Coach of the Year honors and was inducted into the New York State Basketball Hall of Fame in 2015. Since he assumed the title of Athletic Director at CBA, tenerr teams and several individuals have won state championships.

BlueRock Energy – 30th Anniversary Title Sponsor: The Greater Syracuse Sports Hall of Fame is proud to have this continued partnership with [BlueRock Energy](#) as the Title Sponsor for its 30th Annual Dinner and Induction Ceremony. Greater Syracuse Sports Hall of Fame President Joe Russo thanked BlueRock Energy and its CEO Phil Van Horne for their continued support. BlueRock Energy is a premier Northeast energy solutions company that provides electricity, natural gas and renewable energy products to businesses and residential customers in New York, Connecticut and Pennsylvania. With headquarters in Syracuse's historic Franklin Square, BlueRock participates extensively in community and charitable activities and are proud partners with the Buffalo Bills, Brooklyn Nets, New York Islanders and our local Syracuse Chiefs.

The Greater Syracuse Sports Hall of Fame is thrilled to be partnering with BlueRock Energy as we honor the athletes, coaches, and administrators who have contributed to Syracuse's proud sports heritage.

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