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CENTRAL NEW YORK
Sports MAGAZINE

SYRACUSE HALL
OF FAME MARKS
25th ANNIVERSARY

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CENTRAL NEW YORK SPORTS MAGAZINE

FALL 2011

25 YEARS LATER, STILL PUTTING DOWN ROOTS

The Greater Syracuse Sports Hall of Fame closes in on 200 members

BY BOB SNYDER

When will those associated with the Greater Syracuse Sports Hall of Fame find a home?

If home is a roof over one's head and a place to display treasured possessions, the hall hasn't been homeless — just always on the move.

Since it began in 1987, the hall has hung displays at the Onondaga Historical Association (with which the hall has often worked in concert), the airport, the old Hotel Syracuse, the downtown library and M&T Bank.

"We've lived a nomadic existence," says Hall treasurer Hal McGrath, one of the founders.

Housed at Driver's Village the past eight years, thanks to the generosity of Roger Burdick, the hall is running out of display space for memorabilia gathered over a quarter-century. Inductees and surviving family members have donated significant career mementos.

Visit the displays and you will see a replica of Danny Biasone's 24-second clock, a Dolph Schayes NBA Legends game jersey, Jim Boeheim sneakers, a Ben Schwartzwaldler football jacket, a Marty Piraino bowling ball, Dorsey Levens' and Dave Giusti's jerseys.

Is a move to a larger, central spot, such as the Oncenter, finally on the horizon?

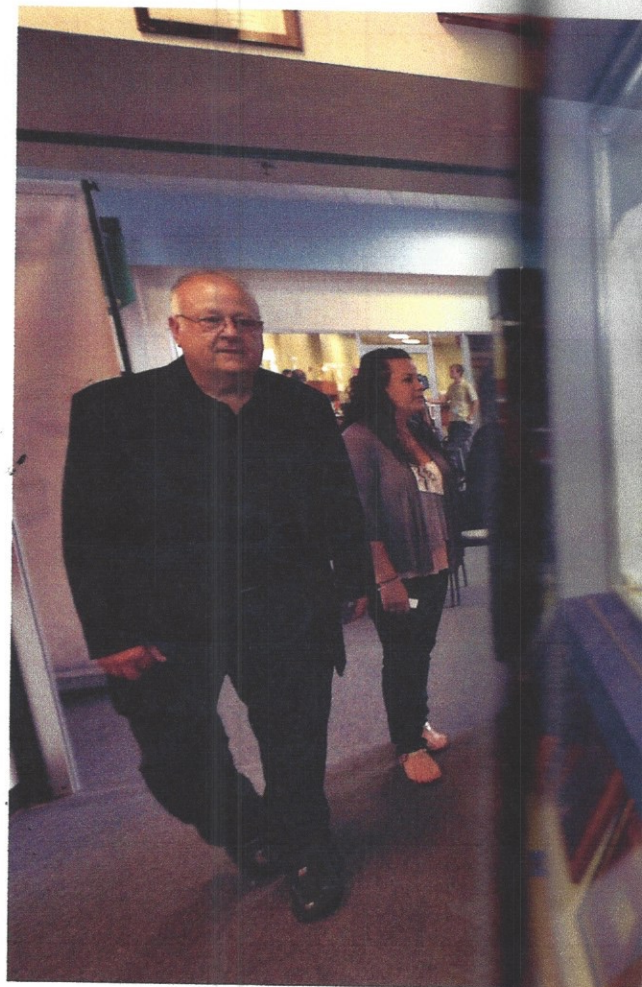
Some argue the Hall of Fame's wealth of donated displays could be part of Syracuse's Museum Trail: historical association, Everson, the Museum of Science and Technology, the canal museum, the veterans shrine in the War Memorial. Students, citizens and visitors could soak up Salt City history walking a few blocks, venue to venue.

That would especially please Bill Dutch, the organization's first president, whose dream has been to see the hall in its own building. Years ago, he arranged for a local architect to draw up plans for such a place just outside Alliance Bank Stadium on land then-County Executive Nick Pirro agreed to donate. Dutch couldn't raise enough money, and the plans dissolved.

"Perhaps it was premature, and the timing wasn't right. But that was about 12 years ago," Dutch says. "Things have changed.

"I've always envisioned the HOF as an educational tool with interactive displays like the MOST has for our area students' field trips, with lectures by our members ...

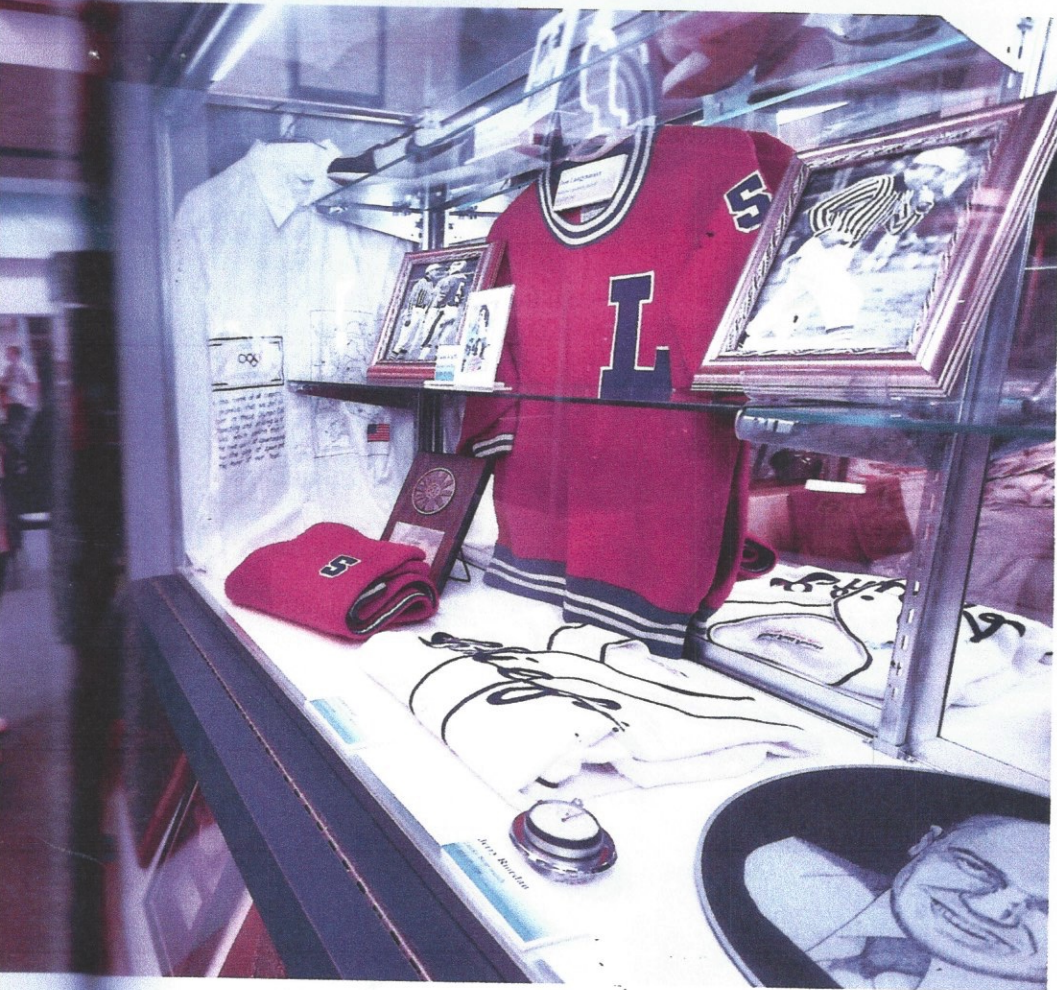
"The HOF could still be transient with mobile displays, but the marvelous history of Syracuse sports would be more accessible for thousands to view and enjoy. That goal is within our sights."



Longtime SU assistant basketball coach Bernie Fine is being inducted into the Greater Syracuse Sports of Hall of Fame this year. He toured the hall's displays at Driver's Village with his wife, Laurie. PHOTO BY DICK BLUME

There are halls of fame for everything: darts in Martinsburg, WV., Frisbee in Lake Linden, Mich., water skiing in Winter Haven, Fla., croquet in Newport, R.I., snowmobiling in Bovey, Minn., soaring in Elmira. The Syracuse hall, however, honors excellence in more than two dozen sports and celebrates achievements of amateur and professional athletes, coaches, administrators and media in the arena and the community.

The 2011 induction dinner Oct. 17 at Drumlins will enshrine nine new members, bringing the total to 190, of whom 25 are women. ▶



The hall's leadership has overseen 25 classes that have honored 190 athletes with ties to Central New York: John Simone, outgoing president, Tex Simone and Bill Dutch, two of the founders, Kim Wells, incoming president, and Hal McGrath, another of the founders. PHOTO BY DICK BLUME

CLASS of 2011

Nine people were introduced June 17 as the 25th anniversary class of the Greater Syracuse Sports Hall of Fame:

John Cherundolo College football, Syracuse University, All-East selection.

Brian Elwell Professional hockey, captain of the Syracuse Blazers.

Bernie Fine Longtime Syracuse University assistant basketball coach.

Gene Fisch Outstanding high school basketball star at Sacred Heart.

Chris Gedney High school, college and professional football player.

Rev. Theodore Hesburgh University of Notre Dame president.

Katy-Schilly Laetsch Cross-country, track and field standout.

Sue Ludwig High school and college basketball sensation, Westhill High coach.

Al Romano High school, college and professional football star.

With the nine inductees in the Class of 2011, a total of 190 former Syracuse-area athletic notables have been named to the Greater Syracuse Sports Hall of Fame during its 25-year history.

THE DINNER

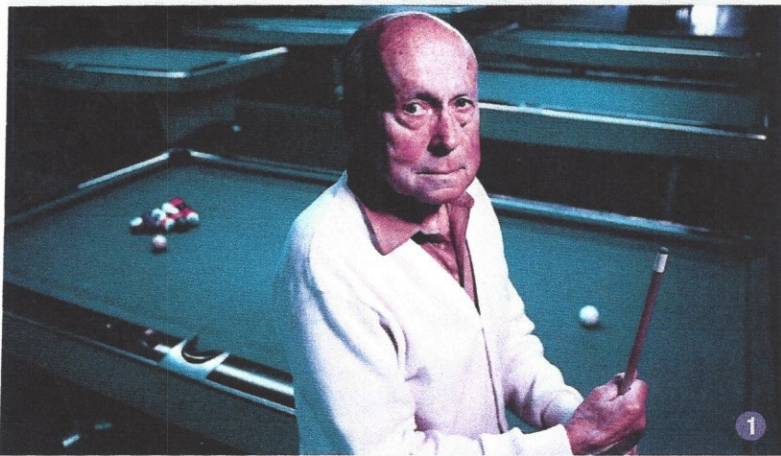
This year's inductees will be honored and officially installed at a 7 p.m. dinner on Monday, Oct. 17, at Drumlins Country Club. Tickets for the dinner are \$60 per person and can be obtained by contacting Bill Motto at 657-3718.

THE EXHIBIT

The Hall of Fame exhibits are on display inside Driver's Village (the former Penn Can Mall) in Cicero. The gallery-type setting is available for public viewing during all of the times that Driver's Village is open for operation. The showcases feature paintings of inductees, biographical data and memorabilia items contributed by the honorees and their families. An item that dominates the collection is the 24-second shot clock initiated by Danny Biasone, owner of the Syracuse Nats.



FIRST CLASS



1

ARTHUR "BABE" CRANFIELD BILLIARDS 1915-2004

Arthur "Babe" Cranfield ranks among the greatest billiards players in U.S. history. As a child, he learned to shoot left-handed in his father's New York City billiards hall. During his career, Cranfield earned his nickname by following a pool hall regular: Babe Ruth. Cranfield attended Cornell University to study electrical techniques but cut his studies short

to accept an offer to tour the country and perform in billiards exhibitions. Cranfield won many titles during his career and has the distinction of being the only billiards player in history to win the 1931 U.S. Junior Championship at the age of 15, the U.S. Amateur Championship three consecutive times (1938, 1939, 1940), and the World's Professional Championship in 1964. Cranfield performed in more than 2,500 exhibitions and made numerous network television appearances.

He wrote two books, "The Straight Pool Bible" and "Essential Pool," with longtime friend Lawrence Moy.



2

BEN SCHWARTZWALDER FOOTBALL 1909-1993

Floyd "Ben" Schwartzwalder (Ben was his childhood nickname) had a major impact on the Syracuse University football program during his 25 years as head coach, including winning a national championship in 1959. Schwartzwalder arrived at Syracuse in 1949 and led a string of strong running backs: Jim Brown, Ernie Davis, Floyd Little, Jim Nance and Tony Csonka and other outstanding players. Schwartzwalder elevated Syracuse to national prominence. In 1959, the Orangemen were voted the nation's top team after defeating Texas, 49-14, in the Cotton Bowl and finishing the season with an 11-0 record. Schwartzwalder coached SU until he retired in 1973, is the longest winningest coach in school history with a record of 153 wins, 91 losses and 3 ties. He coached the Orangemen to seven bowl games.



3

VIRGINIA "GINNIE" ALLEN GOLF 1917-2008

In a remarkable career that spanned several decades, Ginnie Allen was the most dominant and the most decorated female golfer in local history. After winning her first major title in 1932 (1,000 Islands Park Club), Allen emerged as the top local amateur in women's golf.

Allen, a charter member of the Syracuse Women's District Golf Association in 1933, won the association's inaugural tournament that same year. She went on to capture an unprecedented 19 District Amateur titles from 1933 to 1972 (from age 16 to 55). She remained active in the organization for years and served as its president in 1966-67.

Allen was the first Syracusean to win the New York State Women's Amateur (1941). Allen also won two state senior titles (1970 and 1975). Upon joining Bellevue Country Club in 1955, she won 23 straight club titles.

In 1986, Allen was the first woman to be awarded the Syracuse University Honorary Letter of Distinction.

The hall relies on donations, but it never has considered a candidate for induction based upon that person's ability to raise money. Some have gone to great lengths to bring candidates to the board's attention but research by the organization's co-historians determines each new class.

Now, having reached a crossroads in its silver anniversary year, the organization looks to the future with new direction.

Chiefs General Manager John Simone's term as head of the organization expired in June. His successor is Kim Wells, the hall's first female president and daughter of the late Hall of Famer, Madge Wells.

For those long involved in trying to ensure the Greater Syracuse Sports Hall of Fame will teach younger generations about the exploits of older ones, the search for a permanent home continues.

ROOTS EXTEND TO ROME

The physical HOF may have been transitory over the past quarter-century, but the idea of a shrine for local sports legends was built on a solid belief that they deserved the honor.

In 1980, Luke LaPorta, former Liverpool High athletic director, Little League national executive and Syracuse University fundraiser, was invited to speak in Rome, our neighbor to the east.

"I went there and saw that city's Hall of Fame, and wondered ..." he said. "Why not Syracuse? Why don't we enshrine our sports legends?"

A committee of five people met on Nov. 11, 1980, to discuss a Hall of Fame project. Those five — LaPorta, Dutch McGrath, Tex Simone and the late John Cowmeadow — formulated by-laws and eligibility requirements. Did you have to be born here? Must you live here now?

The Hall of Fame has always been overseen by a 35-member volunteer board of directors. Among those solicited by Dutch to serve on the board were researcher/historian Ron Gersbacher, who ultimately provided board

DOLPH SCHAYES BASKETBALL BORN: 1928

Dolph Schayes was basketball's early star and top rebounder. More than anything else, Schayes was the cornerstone of the Syracuse basketball program. The 6-foot-8 Schayes, who possessed great leaping ability, was one of the most durable and hard-working players in NBA history. Schayes, who played for the Syracuse Nationals, was a 12-time NBA All-Star and a 1955 NBA champion. Upon his retirement, Schayes played in 1,059 games and scored 15,827 points. He was an all-time leading scorer for the Syracuse Nationals. Schayes, who led the team to the NBA Finals three times, lost in the NBA Finals to the Boston Celtics in 1957. He earned a championship with the Fort Wayne Pistons in 1954 when he defeated the Fort

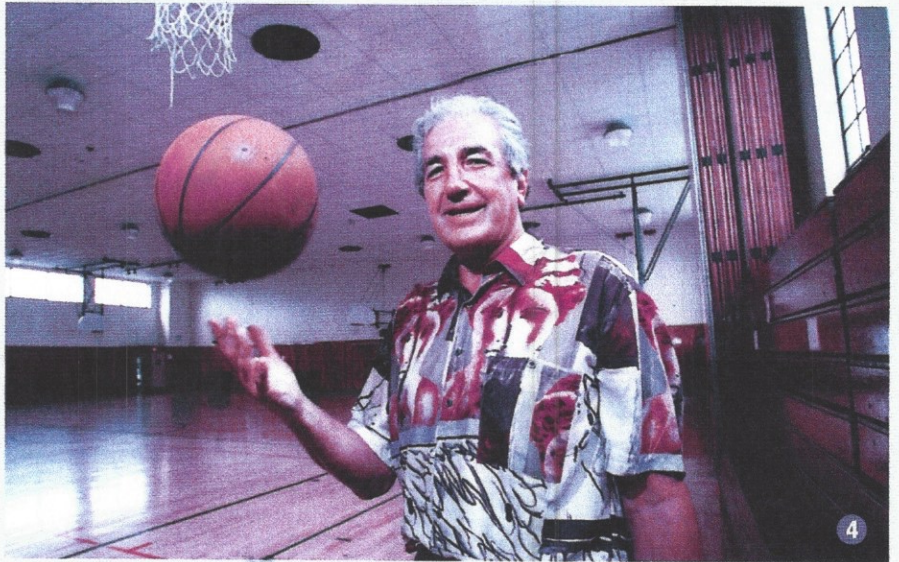
CARMEN BASILIO BOXING BORN: 1927

Carmen Basilio won world championships in boxing. He is one of the most successful fighters in the history of the sport. His heart and grit made him a tough, gritty fighter who endeared him to fans. Basilio, the first Italian American to turn pro in 1949, realized his dream of becoming a world champion on June 10, 1955, when he defeated welterweight champion Alvin Karpis in a bloody affair. In 1957, Basilio, a middleweight, defeated Robinson. Despite his height and reach, Basilio's punishment and toughness earned him the title of "The Italian Assassin." Basilio retired in 1967, having won 127 fights, including 107 wins and 17 draws.

FIRST CLASS

DOLPH SCHAYES BASKETBALL BORN: 1928

Dolph Schayes was one of professional basketball's early superstars, a crack shooter and top rebounder in the early years of the NBA. More than anything, he was known as the star and cornerstone of the Syracuse Nationals. The 6-foot-8 Schayes, an agile forward who possessed great finesse around the basket, was one of the NBA's most durable and hard-working athletes. Schayes, who played in 764 straight games, was a 12-time NBA All-Star and was the first player in NBA history to score 15,000 points. Upon his retirement in 1964, Schayes had played in 1,059 games, more than any other player in NBA history, and was the NBA's all-time leading scorer (19,249 points). Schayes, who led the Nats into the playoffs 15 times, lost in the NBA finals in 1950 and 1954, but earned a championship ring in 1955 when the Nats defeated the Fort Wayne Pistons in seven games.



CARMEN BASILIO BOXING BORN: 1927

Carmen Basilio, who captured world championships in two divisions, was one of the most popular fighters of his era. His heart and desire coupled with a tough, gritty style won him world titles and endeared him to boxing fans in the 1950s.

Basilio, the son of an onion farmer, turned pro in 1948. The Canastota native realized his dream of winning a world title on June 10, 1955, in Syracuse as he defeated welterweight champ Tony DeMarco in a bloody affair that was halted in the 12th round. In 1957, Basilio set his sights on the middleweight crown and its owner, Sugar Ray Robinson. Despite giving away advantages in height and reach and sustaining heavy punishment including a badly-cut left eye, Basilio defeated Robinson for the coveted title on Sept. 23 at Yankee Stadium.

Basilio retired from boxing at age 34 in 1961 finishing with a career record of 56 wins (27 knockouts), 16 losses and 7 draws.



PAUL SEYMOUR BASKETBALL 1928-1998

A fierce competitor on the court, **Paul Seymour** was an integral part of the Syracuse Nationals basketball franchise as a player, a captain and a coach.

Seymour was the youngest player to start a pro basketball game at the age of 17. In 1947, Seymour joined the Nats and found a home in Syracuse. A 6-foot-1 playmaking guard known for his hard-nosed play and intensity, Seymour was a three-time NBA All-Star from 1953-1955. He also served as Syracuse's team captain during its 1955 NBA championship season. He played for the Nats from 1947 to 1960 and in the 1956-57 season, Seymour became a player-coach for the Syracuse club. Seymour also had coaching stints in St. Louis, Baltimore and Detroit. He finished with a NBA career coaching record of 271-241. Besides basketball, Seymour excelled at softball and was among the top pitchers in Central New York during his playing days.

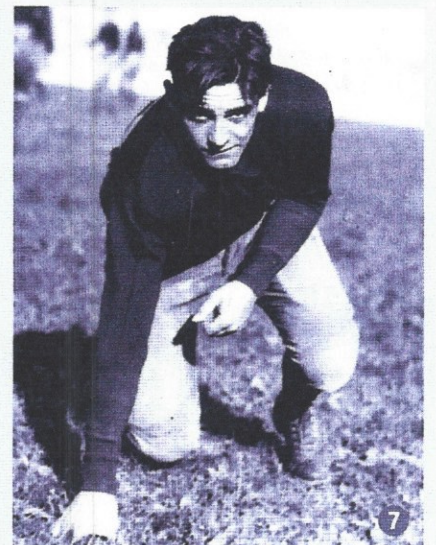
VIC HANSON THREE SPORTS 1903-1982

Many, including renowned author Grantland Rice, recognized **Vic Hanson** as Syracuse University's best all-around athlete. He was a three-sport star for the Orangemen, an All-American in basketball and football and a standout second baseman in baseball.

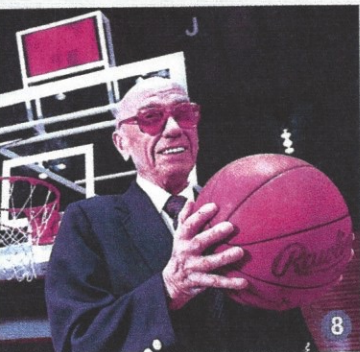
Hanson began his college football career in 1924. During his three varsity seasons, SU posted a 23-5-3 record. Hanson, playing end, called the plays for the offense.

As a junior in basketball, his 1925-26 SU basketball team went 19-1. That season, Hanson tallied 280 points, a Syracuse record that remained until 1946. He won national player of the year honors as a senior.

After graduation, Hanson shifted to baseball and played one year in the minor leagues. He returned to Syracuse as an assistant coach in 1928 and 1929. In 1930, at the age of 27, Hanson was named head football coach. In seven seasons, he posted a 33-21-5 record.

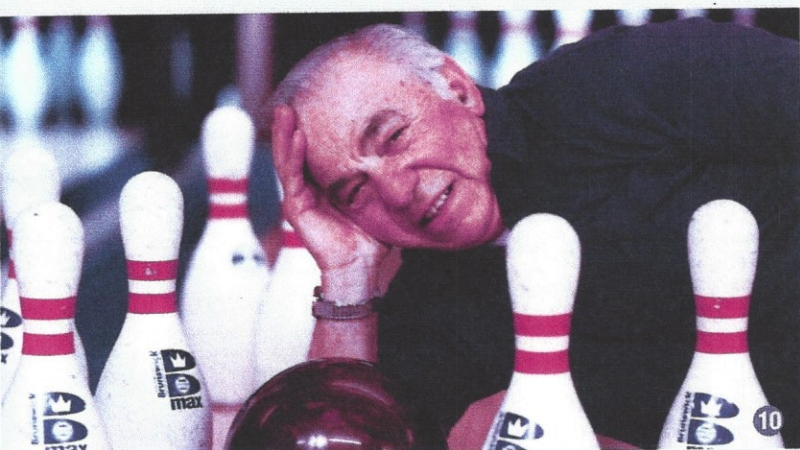


FIRST CLASS



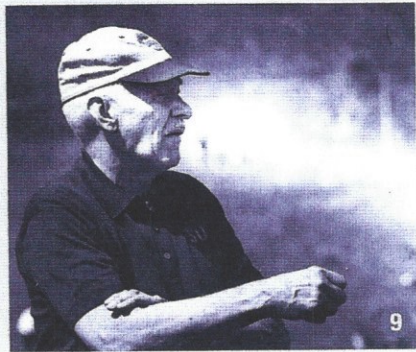
DANNY BIASONE
BASKETBALL
1909-1992

basketball innovator and one of the founding fathers of the National Basketball Association, **Danny Biasone** left an indelible mark on the game and the city of Syracuse. Biasone founded the Syracuse Nationals in 1942 and served as the president and owner from 1946 to 1963. During that time, the Nats posted record-breaking records in 11 of 14 seasons, appeared in 10 NBA finals three times (1950, 1954, 1955) and won the NBA championship in 1955. In 1954, Biasone changed the basketball game by introducing the 24-second shot clock. He invented the 24-second clock as a way to speed up the game. The NBA instituted the 24-second shot clock for the 1954-55 season. Biasone's shot clock concept was later adopted by college (45 seconds) and international (30 seconds) competition. In addition to his contributions to basketball, Biasone was also a bowling enthusiast. He owned the Syracuse Sports Center, an Eastwood bowling landmark.



MARTY PIRAINO
BOWLING
BORN: 1923

regarded as the greatest bowler in Syracuse history, **Marty Piraino's** success at the professional level is unparalleled. Growing up in a bowling family, Piraino was surrounded by talented bowlers including his father, Sam, who owned the Eastwood Side Lanes. Despite failing to make his school bowling team, Piraino kept practicing and went on to become a local bowling legend.



ROY SIMMONS SR.
LACROSSE
1901-1994

As the architect of the Syracuse University lacrosse program, **Roy Simmons Sr.** built the Orangemen into a national power and in the process became a lacrosse coaching icon. In his 39 years of coaching, Simmons compiled a 251-130-1 record, including an undefeated season in 1957. His squad that year featured two special All-Americans: his son, Roy Simmons Jr., and Jim Brown, considered by many to be the greatest lacrosse player ever.

Simmons, a 1925 SU grad, was also an accomplished athlete in college. Playing varsity lacrosse in 1924 and 1925, Simmons won two national championships and was an All-American defenseman and captain. He played every minute of every game both years.

In addition to lacrosse, Simmons was an assistant to Ben Schwartzwalder when the Orange football team won the National Championship in 1959. Simmons coached boxing at SU from 1925 until 1955 and his team won 14 Eastern Championships.

members with data on each nominee, and advertising executive Bill LeMon.

Their efforts culminated Sept. 28, 1987, when the red carpet was finally rolled out as a sellout crowd of 800 packed Drumlins Country Club to salute the inaugural class of 10 inducted into the Greater Syracuse Sports Hall of Fame. Each inductee received an oil portrait by acclaimed Auburn sports artist Robert Dorsey.

That first class was nothing shy of a Who's Who of local sports history (bios on pages 42-44). Including this year's class (summary on page 41), inductees will number 190 covering the spectrum of sport, from horseshoes to team handball, cycling to speed skating, water skiing to polo.

According to the bylaws, nominees must have been born in the Greater Syracuse area or meet a minimum 10-year residency requirement, with exceptions on the latter made for boxers Carmen Basilio and nephew Billy Backus, harness racing's Jack Bailey and Jim Moran, auto racing's Jim Shampine and Nolan Swift.

The closest of family ties exist among some inductees, including brothers (Pat and Mike Stark, Jim and Mike Lee) ... father-daughter (Jack and Gretchen Byrne) ... father-son (Dolph and Danny Schayes, Roy Simmons Sr. and Jr., Dutch and Dutch Jr. and Tom Dotterer, Frank and Jim Satalin) ... and, yes, husband and wife (Phil and Ginnie Allen, Don and Freida Gates).

Inductees also include those who made exceptional contributions as coaches, administrators, officials and journalists. A veterans committee, headed by current co-historians Larry Kimball (SU sports information director emeritus) and me, generally makes an additional selection, and teams also are eligible for special recognition.

Each year, a three-month process pares down the candidates to those who are inducted at the annual dinner, which is taped and televised numerous times during the year by Time Warner Sports.

And the list of nominees never runs short. The original class of 10 was chosen from a list of 94 nominees; today, there are 434. ■

1987:
Ginnie Allen
Biasone, Ar
Vic Hanson
Schayes, B
Seymour R

1988:
Lew Andrea
Crowe, Bill
Nappi, Nor
Al Wertheim

1989:
Jim Boehm
Giusti, Greg
Billy Harris,

1990:
Bob Felasco
Paige, Jim R
Larry Sowi
Hooks' Wilb

1991:
Vicki Flecker
John Martin
Patulski, Bob
Simone, Jeff

1992:
Ken Beagle
Byrne Burns
Bill Hart, Mer
Red' Parton



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YEARLY INDIVIDUAL INDUCTEES

1987:

Ginnie Allen, Carmen Basilio, Danny Biasone, Arthur 'Babe' Cranfield, Vic Hanson, Marty Piraino, Dolph Schayes, Ben Schwartzwalder, Paul Seymour, Roy Simmons Sr.

1988:

Lew Andreas, Larry Costello, Alberta Crowe, Bill Dinneen, Oren Lyons, Pat Nappi, Norm Rothschild, Tom Niland, Al Wertheimer

1989:

Jim Boenheim, Billy Gabor, Dave Giusti, Greg Griffo, Augie Nordone, Billy Harris, Rocco Pirro

1990:

Bob Felasco, Walt Ludovico, Don Paige, Jim Ridlon, Roy Simmons Jr., Larry Sovik, Nolan Swift, George 'Hooks' Wiltse

1991:

Vicki Fleckenstein, Luke LaPorta, John Martino, Gene Mills, Walt Patulski, Bob Shawkey, Anthony 'Tex' Simone, John Ward

1992:

Ken Beagle, Manny Breland, Gretchen Byrne Burns, Henry 'Dutch' Dotterer, Bill Horr, Merton 'Mid' O'Hare, Claude 'Red' Parton, Jim Champagne

1993:

Mike Bello, Tom Coulter, Dick Rockwell, Tommy Ryan, Msgr. Frank Sammons, Tony Sauro, Karel 'Bud' VanderVeer

1994:

Phil Allen, Janet Miner Bennett, Dennis DuVal, Pete Holohan, Bill Kelly, Mike Messere, Bill Reddy, Frank Satalin

1995:

Jack Bailey, Glen Eichelberger, Marty Domres, Tim Green, Bernie Maurer, Willetta Spease, Pat Stark, Madge Wells

1996:

Joe Alexander, Arnie Burdick, Hal McGrath, Dick MacPherson, John Rutkowski, Doug Swift, Chuck Zimmerman

1997:

Frank Cappelletti, Joey DeJohn, Walt Kryuch, Don Langenmayr, John Lynch, Al Romeo, Bob Southworth, Jimmy Walsh, Jerry Wilcox

1998:

Jack Byrne, Jimmy Collins, Al DiStoala, Johnny Gee, Felicia Legette-Jack, Henry McCormick, Tom Rafferty, Jerry Riordan

1999:

Carl Bjork, David Chase, Mike Dorgan, Lon Frocione, Emmett Kelly, Carol Moss, Jim Satalin

2000:

Billy Backus, Mark Caso, Frank DiPino, Alan Foster, Jim Funicello, Joseph Kren, Jennifer Rhines, Mark Wadach

2001:

Freida Gates, Leo Johnson, John 'Chick' Meehan, Dick 'Froggy' Paparo, Ray Rinaldi, Danny Schayes, Dave Tretowicz

2002:

Earl Belcher, Robin Butler Bright, Don Gates, Oscar Jensen, Tom Keane, Jimmy Lee, Jim Ten Eyck

2003:

Billy Gerber, Ed Lukens, Martha Mogish, Theresa Contos, Tom Hall, Rico Woyciesjes, Jim 'Duke' McGrath, Mike Lee, Jim Moran

2004:

Phil Harlow, Doug Heveron, Armond Magnarelli, Jim McKechnie, Bob Nugent, Gordie Ohstrom, Kathy Mills Parker, Mike Stark

2005:

Henry 'Dutch' Dotterer Jr., Dave Lemanczyk, Roy Neal, Joe Papaleo, Frank Randall, Kathy Urschel

2006:

Lee Burling, Glenn Donnelly, Paul Gait, Dorsey Levens, Frankie Liles, Joe Schwarzer

2007:

Dick Bader, Dave Brodsky, Doug Logan, Patricia Donegan McCarthy, Al Merola, Jim Roy

2008:

John Desko, Tom Dotterer, Chris Jones, Mike Kitts, Myer Prinstein, John T. Smith, Doris Soladay

2009:

Ed Dollard, Larry Kimball, Keith Moody, Beth Mowins, John Sherlock, Kris Terrillon

2010:

Chuck Bisesi, Frank DiChristina, Larry Hart, Len Rauch, Anthony 'Nini' Sgroi, Joan Partridge Skiff, William 'Doc' Scanlan

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