

# Connecticut Sports Media Alliance

## 83<sup>rd</sup> Gold Key Dinner

KARA WOLTERS

RACHELE FICO

DAVE WALLACE

JAMES JONES

NICK GIAQUINTO

Sunday, May 17, 2026 • Aqua Turf Club, Southington



*To those with CIAC connections being honored and celebrated this evening, we thank you for setting such a high standard.*

*Education-based athletics in Connecticut continue to thrive because of the dedication, passion, and excellence demonstrated by athletes, coaches, supporters, and contributors like you.*

*Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition!*



**Matt Buckler**



**Anne Burrows**



**Kyle Clark**



**Ray DaCosta**



**Rachele Fico**



**Nick Giaquinto**



**Peter King**



**Magnus Manley**



**Alex Palluzzi**



**John Reiser**



**Dolores Sawchuk**



**Brooke Strauss**



**Dave Wallace**



**Fred Williams**

## Tonight's Honorees

### 83rd GOLD KEY CLASS

Member of the Super Bowl XVII champion Washington Redskins, longtime baseball coach at Sacred Heart University, led Pioneers to 1992 College World Series

#### NICK GIAQUINTO

Longtime Yale University men's basketball coach, 8 Ivy League regular season titles, 5 NCAA tourney berths, New England College Basketball Hall of Fame member

#### JAMES JONES

Masuk graduate was a two-time softball state Gatorade Player of the Year, and a two-time First Team All-American pitcher for LSU, National Pro Fastpitch No. 1 draft pick

#### RACHELE FICO

Pitched professionally for a dozen seasons, pitching coach for the 2004 World Series champion Boston Red Sox, silver medalist for Team USA in 2020 Summer Olympic Games

#### DAVE WALLACE

National Player of the Year at UConn, one of only 12 women to earn NCAA, WNBA, and Olympic championships, inducted into Women's Basketball Hall of Fame in 2017

#### KARA WOLTERS

### PRESIDENT'S AWARD

**Peter King**, Enfield, three-time National Sportswriter of the Year for Sports Illustrated

### HANK O'DONNELL

#### FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

**Brooke Strauss**, Glastonbury track and field, indoor mile national champion, UConn track & field

#### BILL LEE MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

**Magnus Manley**, Ridgefield track and field, high school all-American, Yale track & field

### DOC MCINERNEY HIGH SCHOOL COACHES OF THE YEAR

**Anne Burrows**, Bloomfield girls track and field

**John Reiser**, Manchester boys basketball

### BOB CASEY COURAGE AWARD

**Matt Buckler**, Manchester Journal Inquirer

### JOHN WENTWORTH GOOD SPORT AWARDS

**Rick Evangelista** and **Bill Neller**, Litchfield;

**Ray DaCosta**, CT Northstars; **Skip Falcone**, West Haven;

**Alex Palluzzi**, Branford; **Bruce Wilhelm**, Enfield

### HAL LEVY HIGH SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

**Fred Williams**, Northwestern Regional High School

### BO KOLINSKY MEMORIAL SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

**Dolores Sawchuk**, Colchester, champion of Bacon Academy athletics since her graduation from the school in 1948, active member of the school's Board of Trustees

### BOB BARTON EXCELLENCE IN MEDIA AWARD

**Wayne Norman**, WILI, color analyst for UConn basketball and football

### BO KOLINSKY MEMORIAL SPORTS MEDIA SCHOLARSHIP

**Kyle Clark**, Rockville High School

**COVER ART:** Andy Yelenak

**DESIGN:** AG Design / Annmarie Sirotnak

For Gold Key news, history and information, visit:  
[ctsportswriters.com](http://ctsportswriters.com)

## Greetings from The President

Good afternoon and welcome to the 83rd Connecticut Sports Media Alliance's Gold Key Dinner. For our membership this is both a celebration and a reflection.

Last September, just six weeks before our scheduled fall dinner, Alliance president Tim Jensen died at the all too young age of 59.



After the shock, we had to scramble and make alternative plans and that's how we ended up on this date.

I'm both honored and humbled to replace Tim and to accept the challenges that he met every day.

Take a few moments please and read our tributes to him.

We gather every year to recognize not only five individuals with Gold Keys for their contributions to the athletic scene in Connecticut, but also to take note of our other honorees. I think that we've gathered a great cast for you. Each and every one was magnificent in their endeavors.

Of our five Gold Key recipients, four played on the professional level and the other, Yale University men's basketball coach James Jones, has taken the Elis to great heights over the past four seasons.

On behalf of our membership, I hope that you enjoy the day, and I offer my heartiest congratulations to all of those being honored and to their families.

**Peter Vander Veer, Interim President, CSMA**

## In Memoriam



**Bob DeMayo**  
Gold Key 2000



**John Gardner**  
Gold Key 2010



**Dave Shea**  
Gold Key 2012



**Peter Shuler**  
Gold Key 2010



**Frank 'Porky' Vieira**  
Gold Key 1978

*We appreciate your remarkable impact on Connecticut's sports community. Your achievements and legacy will be remembered always.*

Connecticut Sports Media Alliance



# Masuk, LSU Softball Great Rachele Fico to Receive Gold Key

BY PETER VANDER VEER | CSMA

When Rachele Fico went out to the mound throughout her high school softball career at Masuk of Monroe, the standard line was, “outfielders could bring a folding chair with them.” And, it was almost a truism.

Opposing hitters rarely hit or maybe even saw the ball.

The girl with the Golden Arm was all but unhittable.

When Fico exited Masuk and headed off to Louisiana State University (LSU), she left behind some numbers that were staggering. She finished with a 105-3 won-lost record as the Panthers won Class LL state titles in 2007 and 2008 and reached the final again in 2009, losing to Fitch of Groton. Fico, who threw no fewer than five different pitches, struck out 1,884 batters while working 775 innings (an average of 2.4 ks per frame). Throw in an earned-run average of 0.07 and a national record 26 perfect games and you have perhaps the most complete hurler ever to come out of the state of Connecticut

Fico became a two-time Gatorade Player of the Year while making both the Louisville Slugger/NFCA and EA Sports All-America teams.

None of it went unrecognized by her high school coach, Jacqui Sheftz “Rachele didn’t play the game of softball, she dominated it,” Sheftz said. “From the high school fields to the college stage, her career was defined by relentless work, unshakable confidence, and a level of excellence that set the standard for every pitcher who followed.”

Fico earned Co-Freshman of the Year honors in the Southeastern Conference

as her college career began in 2010. Three times she pitched the Tigers into the NCAA regionals, collecting wins along the way over Missouri, Texas A&M and Texas State.

In her senior year, Fico struck out a school record 22 batters against Mississippi State. Her closing numbers at LSU (149 appearances, 104 starts, 82 complete games, 774 innings pitched and 78 wins) were strong enough to warrant her as a first-round draft pick by the Akron Racers of the National Fast-pitch Softball League in 2013.

Fico pitched in Akron for five seasons before moving on to the Chicago Bandits in 2018.

She was a two-time National Fastpitch Coaches Association selection finishing with 28 professional wins over 310 innings pitched.

In 2016, Fico joined the coaching staff at the University of Georgia and, in the course of several seasons, she helped to develop some of the better pitchers during that time in the SEC. She also worked at South Alabama.

She’s currently the head softball coach at Archer High School in Georgia and is a special education teacher.

Fico was a 2010 Hank O’Donnell Female Athlete of the Year recipient.

“Getting to come back to Connecticut to receive such a prestigious award as a Gold Key is an extremely big honor,” Fico said. “I’m thrilled. I know that it’s going to be a special day.”



## Congratulations Rachele on receiving a Gold Key

Outstanding Masuk High School pitcher  
Two-time Gatorade Player of the Year  
State championships in 2007, 2008

**High school career:** 105-3, 0.07 ERA, 1,775  
strikeouts, national record 26 perfect games

All-American pitcher at LSU



# Super Bowl Winner, Longtime Coach Nick Giaquinto Selected for Gold Key

BY PETER VANDER VEER | CSMA

On many occasions during his 29-year tenure as the head baseball coach at Sacred Heart University, Nick Giaquinto motivated players who he felt were underachieving with the following phrase, “keep on plugging.”

Its origins, no doubt, derived from a mindset which Giaquinto carried with him throughout his football playing career,

Starting as a Sunkist Parade Magazine All-American running back out of Stratford High School in 1972 and throughout his years as a player, his drive for excellence took him through many twists and turns and a myriad of rejections.

Giaquinto, arguably the best athlete to ever come out of his hometown, ventured off to the University of Bridgeport to play football. Unfortunately, two years later, the school dropped the program. Giaquinto didn't let the first of many roadblocks deter him. He landed at the University of Connecticut as one of the school's premier running backs. He still holds the school's single-game rushing record (of 277 yards set against Holy Cross in 1976) fifty years later.

He hit the height of his sport by playing in two Super Bowls, one in 1983 and the other in 1984 with the then Washington Redskins. After losing to the Los Angeles Raiders, 38-9, in 1983, Washington rebounded with a 27-17 win over the Miami Dolphins the following season. A sweet win for Giaquinto who began his pro career with the Don Shula-coached Dolphins (in 1980) only to be released midway through the 1981 season.

As a Redskin, Giaquinto displayed his versatility. He was a protector of quarterback Joe Theismann and a blocking back for John Riggins. He got some carries; was a pass receiver and a returner of punts and kick-offs and was tabbed as, “The trashman,” by Redskins coach Joe Gibbs.

“It was through one of their assistant coaches, Don Henning (who had moved over to coach Joe Gibbs' staff in Washington), that I got another chance,” Giaquinto said.

His journey to make the pros began with a free-agent tryout in 1977 with New York Giants. He was cut. The following year he got a pink slip from the New York Jets. In 1979, Giaquinto played semi-professional football with the Connecticut Sea Raiders out of Groton and worked as an assistant coach for Tom Bell at the University of New Haven. It's where he met Rich Fenton, an all-stater from Enfield. They would eventually head off to Canada one season later in an attempt to find a spot with the Ottawa Rough Riders of the Canadian Football League (CFL). Fenton made the squad; Giaquinto didn't.

“We drove up in Rich's car,” Giaquinto recalled. “Rich said to me, ‘how are you going to get home. I told him, ‘drop me off at the border and I'll hitchhike

home.’” Two rides and he was back in Stratford.

Giaquinto made an abrupt decision to leave football behind after the Redskins' Super Bowl win.

“I saw how many players were ending up with career-ending serious injuries and I didn't want that to possibly happen to me,” he said.

With his playing days behind him, Giaquinto enrolled in the Masters program at George Mason University where former stand-out Bridgeport athlete Jack Kvanecz was the athletic director. A phone call from Kvanecz to Sacred Heart AD Dave Bike (a 1993 Gold Key recipient) is what brought Giaquinto back to Connecticut.

He was hired as a baseball coach, director of intramurals and an events and practices coordinator.

The emphasis, however, was on baseball.

Over those 29 years he had a 631-721-1 won-lost record. His teams played on the Division II level in the old New England Collegiate Conference before moving up to Division I in 2000 (in the Northeast Conference and later on the MAAC). The 1992 squad posted a 27-9 record and advanced to the College Division World Series. Overall, his teams made four regional appearances.

Away from baseball since his retirement at the conclusion of the 2017, Giaquinto has turned his talents to music. He plays the harmonica with a group called, “Simple Jim,” They perform in local clubs.



## The New Haven Gridiron Club

**Congratulates**

**Nick Giaquinto**

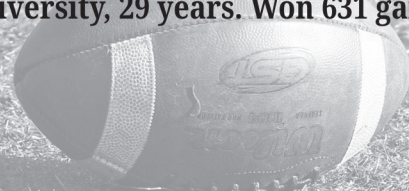
*Gold Key Recipient*

**All-American Scholastic Selection**

**UConn Football Single-Game  
Rushing Record, 277 yards**

**Super Bowl Champion  
with Washington Redskins, 1984**

**Head Baseball Coach, Sacred Heart  
University, 29 years. Won 631 games**



**Patch**

[patch.com/connecticut/](http://patch.com/connecticut/)

# STRATFORD

## OLDTIMERS

ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

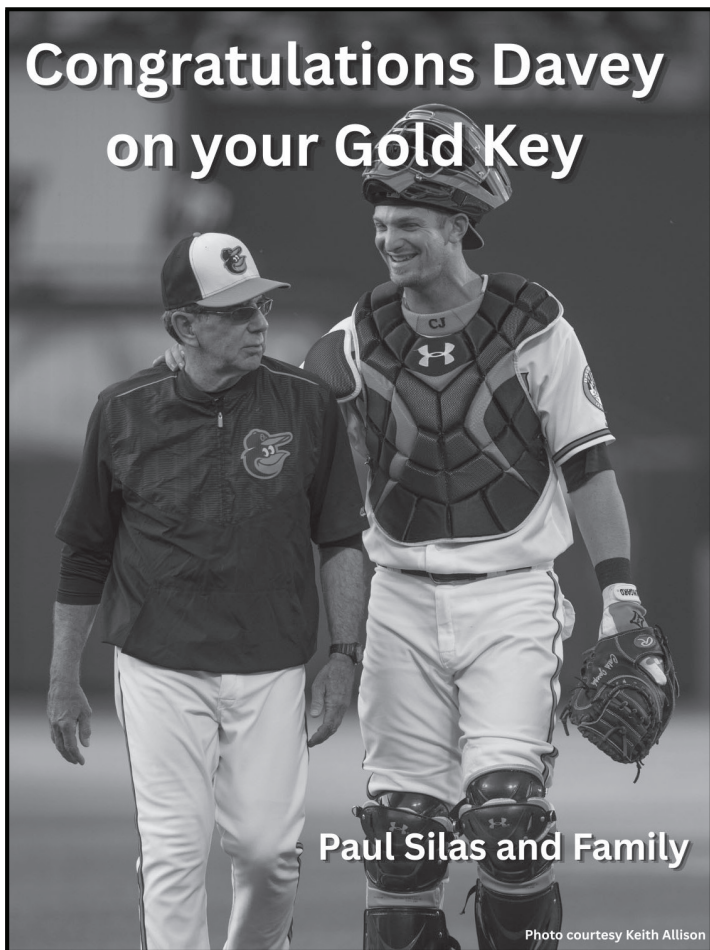
### CONGRATULATIONS

# NICK GIAQUINTO



### SERVING OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH ATHLETICS SINCE 1966

# Congratulations Davey on your Gold Key



Paul Silas and Family

Photo courtesy Keith Allison

The staff and management of the New London-Waterford Speedbowl congratulates former track announcer **Matt Buckler** on receiving the Bob Casey Memorial Courage Award.

*You are an inspiration to all.*



Join us at the 2026 Litchfield Hills Road Race as we celebrate tradition, endurance, and community.

This year, we proudly honor **Rick Evangelisti** and **Bill Neller** for their decades of unwavering commitment and dedication to making this race a lasting success.

Their impact has helped shape an event that brings runners together year after year—be part of the legacy.



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# Longtime Yale Men's Basketball Coach James Jones Honored with Gold Key

BY GEORGE ALBANO | CMSA

James Jones has spent the last quarter-century putting the Yale University men's basketball program on the national map. The Long Island native became Yale's 22nd men's basketball head coach in 1999 and has led the Bulldogs to five NCAA tournament appearances.

That includes the program's first two 'March Madness' victories ever, upsetting No. 5 Baylor as a 12-seed in 2016, and then knocking off No. 4 Auburn as a 13-seed in 2024. Jones has also led Yale to eight Ivy League regular-season championships, four Ivy League tournament titles, and nine 20-win seasons, including the last four. The Bulldogs' all-time winningest basketball coach and one of the most successful coaches in Ivy League history entered the 2025-26 season with 418 victories.

A coaching career, however, wasn't always his plan. After playing collegiately at SUNY Albany, Jones became a sales executive and was ready to pursue an MBA with hopes of working on Wall Street. Instead his life took a different path and in 1990 he traded the business world for the hardwood, returning to his alma mater as an assistant coach.

"I just grew bored with sales and had an opportunity to get into coaching,"

he said. "Once I did, I was snakebitten. I felt this was my calling. It felt meant to be."

Following five seasons at Albany, he joined the Yale coaching staff as an assistant for two years and then spent two more seasons as an assistant at Ohio University. All roads led to New Haven and his first head coaching job, inheriting a struggling Yale program coming off a 4-22 season and no NCAA tournament appearance since 1962.

"I had people tell me it was a dead end job and that nobody ever wins at Yale," Jones recalled. "But I thought it was a real sleeping giant."

By his third season, 2001-02, Jones guided the Bulldogs to a 21-11 record and the second round of the NIT. There would be more winning seasons, 18 in all, including 12 straight and counting. And now James Jones can add the prestigious Gold Key Award to his already-impressive resume.

"It's just a special honor and I'm proud to join all the brilliant people who have received this award," the three-time Ivy League Coach of the Year and 2015 New England Basketball Hall of Fame inductee said. "It speaks of what we've accomplished as a program. I'm proud and honored."



# For Dave Wallace, a Well-Deserved Gold Key

BY DON HARRISON | CSMA

What do the 2004 world champion Boston Red Sox have in common with the 2000 National League pennant-winning New York Mets? Dave Wallace was the pitching coach for both title-winning clubs.

These are the highlights of an athletic career that began in his hometown of Waterbury, where his right arm struck out batters – and also threw touchdown passes – for Sacred Heart High School.

Baseball was his passion, though, and coach Frank “Porky” Vieira of then-tiny New Haven College offered Dave a full athletic scholarship in 1965. For most of his four varsity seasons, Wallace was one of the Chargers’ pitching stars, compiling a 24-7 record complemented by a 2.18 earned run average and 311 strikeouts in 243 innings.

He could hit a bit, too, as shown by a .285 career average. Fittingly, Wallace was inducted into the University of New Haven’s Athletics Hall of Fame in 2000.

Wallace was a free-agency signee with the Philadelphia Phillies in 1970. The 5-foot-10 right-hander pitched professionally for nine seasons, but the majority of his time was spent in the minor leagues (48-37 W-L, 363 games, 60 saves). He appeared in four games with Philadelphia in 1973 and three the following year. In 1978, Dave went to spring training with the Toronto Blue Jays, but after six relief appearances he was demoted to Triple A.

David William Wallace would make his mark at the game’s highest level, though, both as a pitching coach and front office executive. In 1981, the Los

Angeles Dodgers hired him as pitching coach for their Class-A farm club at Vero Beach, Fla., and he spent 14 years coaching in the Dodgers farm system before succeeding Ron Perranoski as pitching coach in 1995.

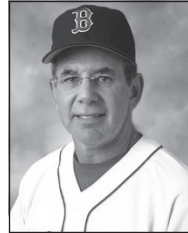
As a coach, Wallace was credited by several pitchers, including the Martinez brothers, Pedro and Ramon, and Orel Hershiser, for his developmental work with them.

In 1999, Dave joined the New York Mets – managed by fellow Connecticut native Bobby Valentine – as pitching coach, and in their two seasons together, he helped the club reach the NL championship series and win the 2000 pennant.

Wallace resigned and rejoined the Dodgers as senior vice president of baseball operations, but left the club in June 2003 to become the Boston Red Sox pitching coach, replacing Tony Cloninger, who was battling bladder cancer. The following summer, the Bosox rallied from a 3-0 deficit to stun the New York Yankees in the AL championship series and swept the St. Louis Cardinals in the World Series. Wallace finally had his World Series ring.

He later served as pitching coach for the Houston Astros (2007) and Baltimore Orioles (2014-16), and spent four years as a minor league pitching coordinator with the Atlanta Braves.

Dave was delighted when the United States national baseball team hired him, and he served as pitching coach during the 2021 Summer Olympics in Tokyo. The Americans won the silver medal, after bowing to Japan in the title game.



## To My Valued Friend and Long-Time Teammate

Sacred Heart High School (3 sports)  
Waterbury Laurels  
Gleen Paint  
New Haven College

Peninsula Pilots  
Reading Phillies  
Toledo Mud Hens  
Philadelphia Phillies

**Congratulations on such an accomplished career  
and in receiving such a prestigious honor**

*“Deacon”*

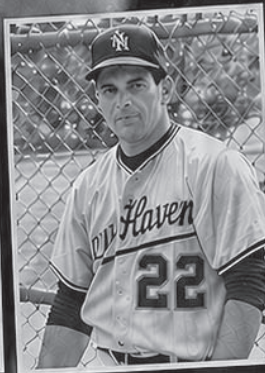
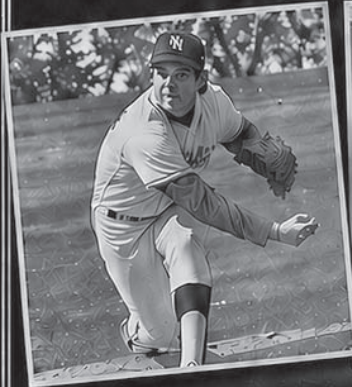
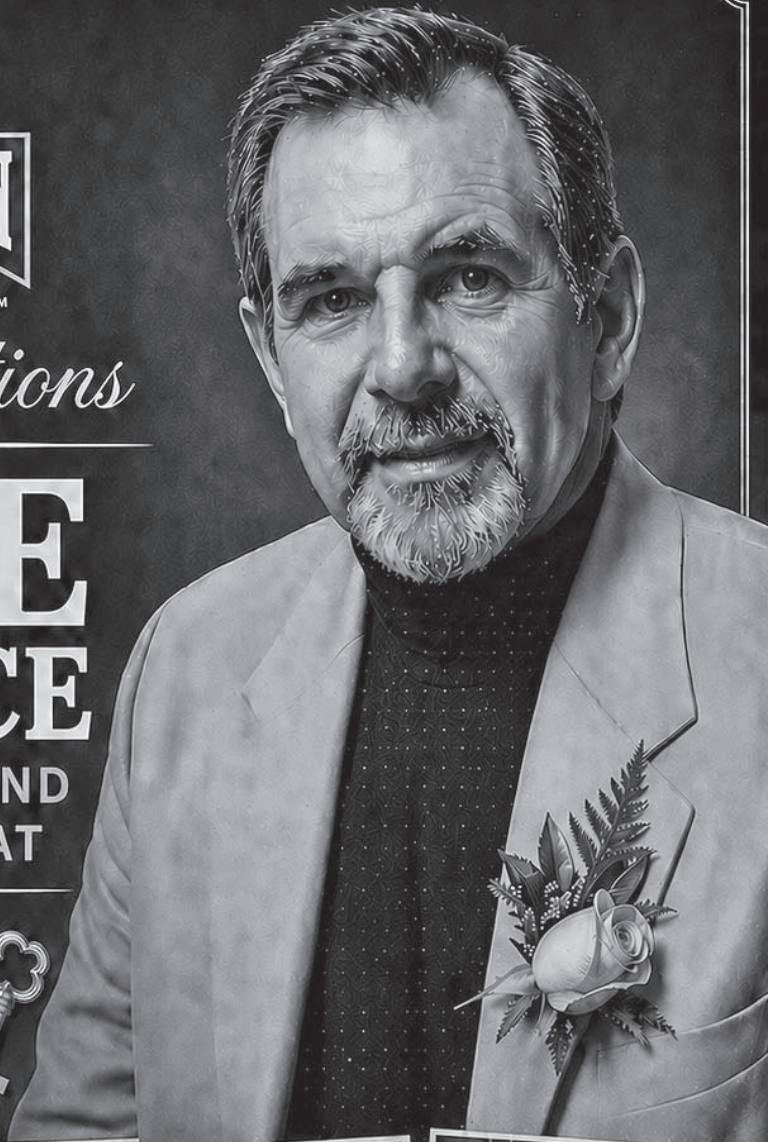


*Congratulations*

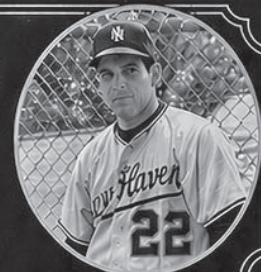
**DAVE WALLACE**

UNH ALUMNUS AND  
PITCHING GREAT

on being honored with a  
**GOLD KEY**  
from the Connecticut  
Sports Media Alliance.



What you learned from former coach  
**Frank "Porky" Vieira**  
carried you forward to an amazing  
career in the Major Leagues.



# UConn Great, WNBA Champ Kara Wolters Earns Gold Key Nod

BY JOHN HOLT | CSMA

All-time UConn great Kara Wolters says that every day she gets asked how tall she is. In the last year, the answer has taken on a new meaning. Wolters happens to be 6'7". And if you know anything about "6/7" you know it's become a seemingly omnipresent, trendy expression for teenagers, and a downright frustration to the rest of us. Especially for the 6-foot-7 "Big Girl" of UConn, WNBA, and Olympic renown by way of Holliston, Massachusetts.

Kara is part of an exclusive group of women to have an NCAA national championship (UConn 1995), WNBA championship (Houston Comets 1999), and an Olympic gold medal (Sydney 2000) on their resume.

She came to UConn in the fall of 1993 and the Huskies record with her on the roster for four seasons was a remarkable 132-8.

Wolters was a first team All-American as a senior in 1997 and was named Associated Press National Player of the Year. This followed an All-American season in 1996 in which she scored a then single-season UConn record 694 points. Kara finished her UConn career with 2,141 points, 927 rebounds and 370 blocks.

She joins her 1995 national championship teammates Rebecca Lobo and Jennifer Rizzotti, and her coaches Geno Auriemma and Chris Dailey, as

recipients of the prestigious Gold Key Award. Auriemma described peak UConn Kara Wolters as "maybe the most dominant player in college basketball".

After UConn, Wolters played two seasons in the American Basketball League (ABL) for the Hartford-based New England Blizzard, followed by four seasons in the WNBA with 3 different franchises.

Kara's personality made her a natural to work in the media, highlighted by her work as a studio analyst for UConn women's basketball broadcasts on regional sports network SNY.

In 2017, Wolters was inducted into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame in Knoxville, Tennessee.

She continues to leave her imprint on women's basketball by offering private coaching to young players and by hosting her annual Dream Big Basketball Camps.

The height question is one Kara Wolters will always be asked, but for those who have watched, appreciated, and perhaps even met the witty, warm, and wonderfully self-deprecating Wolters in person, the real question is, "How lucky are we that Kara took her talents (and her height) to Storrs and later became a Nutmeg State fixture by making Connecticut her home after graduation."



**CONGRATULATIONS**

*Kara Wolters*

**2026 Gold Key Award Recipient**

*Thank you for all you have done to promote women's basketball.*

**Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame**

# Peter King, 3-time National Sportswriter of the Year, Honored with President's Award

BY PETER VANDER VEER | CSMA

Many people forget their roots after they leave the town where they were born. They simply move on and put it in their past. Well-traveled and retired nationally-known sportswriter Peter King hasn't. When he was contacted by three prominent sports people -- Russ Tyler, Bob Bromage and Paul DaSilva -- from his hometown of Enfield and first heard about their project called, "Save Our Sports," he was all-in.

A nine-million dollar shortfall in budgeting within the town left local politicians with a difficult decision. Their choice led to the elimination of middle-school sports programs. King got involved and the group has raised over \$160,000 so far.

"I am not sentimental about very many things," King was quoted as saying. "But I certainly am about this project because I had a great upbringing in Enfield. More than half of my memories from my school years revolve around playing sports."

King lettered in three -- soccer, basketball and baseball -- before graduating in 1975 and heading off to Ohio University where he earned his bachelor's degree in journalism from the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism.

It was the beginning of a writing, television and radio career in which he

focused on football and the NFL.

Beginning at the Cincinnati Enquirer (1980-85) and then Newsday (on Long Island) from 1985-89, King was hired by Sports Illustrated one year later and stayed for 29 years before retiring in 2018.

He's a three-time winner of the national sportswriting of the year award and has authored five books, including "Inside The Helmet."

In 1992, King became a member of the Board of Selectors for the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio. King was hired by Home Box Office (HBO) in 2002 as a reporter and the managing editor of Inside The NFL.

Four years later he joined NBC for its Sunday Night in America presentation of NFL games. He turned to radio in 2008 and co-hosted a Sirius XM show titled, "The Opening Drive."

Then New Jersey Governor Chris Christie appointed King to a fact-finding task force in 2005 in an attempt to end steroid and human growth hormone use by high school athletes in the state.

King, 68, resides in New York City. He was inducted into the Enfield Sports Hall of Fame in 1997 and is a recipient of the Dick McCann Memorial Award for his work on professional football, being honored in 2009.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO PETER KING

*Recipient of the President's Award  
Connecticut Sports Media Alliance*



The Enfield Public Schools Athletic Department respectfully recognizes and commends Peter King for his distinguished contributions to sports journalism and, more importantly, for his meaningful and sustained support of our student-athletes.

Through his advocacy and efforts to help secure funding, Mr. King has played a significant role in strengthening middle school athletic programs within our district. His commitment has directly enhanced opportunities for student participation, development, and well-being.

We extend our sincere appreciation for his dedication to youth athletics and his continued investment in the success of our community.

*With gratitude, Enfield Public Schools*

# *Congratulations*

**Dave Wallace -  
Waterbury's own hero  
and to all the other  
Gold Key Recipients!**

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# CONGRATULATIONS



**KARA WOLTERS**

GOLD KEY



**NICK GIAQUINTO**

GOLD KEY



**WAYNE NORMAN**

BOB BARTON EXCELLENCE  
IN MEDIA AWARD



**BROOKE STRAUSS**

ATHLETE OF THE  
YEAR

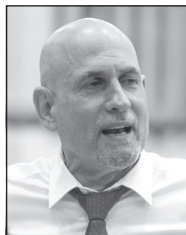
# Burrows, Reiser Named Doc McInerney Coaches of the Year

BY JOHN HOLT AND SHERMAN CAIN | CSMA



## Anne Burrows

Anne Burrows has established an expectation of excellence as the girls track and field coach (indoor and outdoor) at Bloomfield High School. The 2024-25 school year saw her programs win Class S state championships and State Open championships in both the indoor and outdoor seasons. The Class S indoor track and field state title was the 15th in a row (now 16 after another championship in February of 2026) and the Class S outdoor track and field state title was the 4th in a row, while the 2025 outdoor track and field State Open championship was a remarkable third in a row. In the State Open, Bloomfield (a Class S school with a girls enrollment of 272) competes with schools of all sizes, some having well over a thousand enrolled girls. During her run of coaching success, Burrows has coached multiple athletes who have gone on to compete in college.



## John Reiser

In March of 2018, Manchester High boys basketball coach John Reiser showed up with several of his players at the gym of crosstown rival East Catholic. But it wasn't because his team had a game. The Red Hawks had already been eliminated from tournament play. East Catholic, meanwhile, was hosting a state tourney game against powerhouse Notre Dame of West Haven.

"When I took the job at Manchester, things had been rough there," Reiser recalled. "I wanted the kids to see what it was like to play meaningful games in a packed gym. I wanted them to experience that kind of success, and realize it was possible for us. I told the kids if we did the right things, we could be successful."

Just a year later, Manchester made it to the Division II semifinals before losing to Waterford. The Red Hawks were the top seed in Division II in 2024, but suffered a stunning early exit. In 2025, the Red Hawks had gone 43-6 in their last 49 games with nothing to show for it. But game No. 50 turned the narrative on its head. Manchester defeated New London 77-74 at the Mohegan Sun Arena to win the Division II state title and finish the season 24-2. It was the first title for Manchester since 1938.

"We hadn't even been to the finals since the 1950s, so this was something special," said Reiser, a 1979 Manchester alum. "Does it mean more to be an alum and win it? Yes, it's terrific. I've won two state titles coaching Manchester girls basketball, and now to do it with the boys is something I'll never forget."

## Radio Legend Wayne Norman Honored with Bob Barton Excellence In Media Award



BY BOB MOLTA | CSMA

Wayne Norman boasts the longest-running morning show in Connecticut, having begun at WILI Radio in Willimantic on August 24, 1970. Wayne is a fifth-generation Californian, growing up in Hollywood and Glendale, before moving to Trumbull in 1965. Four years at UConn introduced him to eastern Connecticut, where he has lived ever since. His radio roots came at UConn's WHUS, and he worked at WADS in Ansonia, CT, before coming to WILI.

In October of 2018, Norman was inducted into the Connecticut Broadcasters Association Hall of Fame, and in January 2020 was named Connecticut Sportscaster-of-the-Year by the National Sports Media Association.

In 2023, he received the Monahan and Wallace and Media Award from the Eastern Athletic Communications Association for "outstanding coverage of eastern intercollegiate athletics."

Norman has been heard statewide as color analyst for University of Connecticut basketball and football broadcasts since 1979 on a network of stations that includes WILI. Norman has called all five of UConn's national men's basketball championships and four Eastern Connecticut State University Division III baseball titles. The first of Wayne's 300-plus WILI broadcasts of Eastern baseball was literally done from a pay phone behind home plate of the 1973 NAIA Area 8 regional championship game in Springfield, VA.



# John Wentworth Good Sport Awards Winners

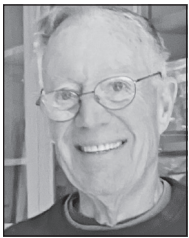
BY CSMA STAFF



## Ray DaCosta, CT Northstars

For over 46 years Ray DaCosta has served young athletes, close to 30 of those years building and growing the CT Northstars AAU basketball program. His dedicated work has enabled hundreds of student athletes to play competitive basketball at the collegiate level. Through the years, DaCosta has also been a CYO basketball coach, and high school

basketball coach at Enfield, Weaver and Darien.



## Rick Evangelisti, Litchfield

Rick Evangelisti has been a vital part of the nationally renowned Litchfield Hills Road since its inception 48 years ago in 1977. Evangelisti is just one of five people who have run in every race, a remarkable achievement, but it is off the course where his value has been truly felt. Evangelisti, former owner of Bantam Electric, has put thousands of hours into the race and taken on virtually

every task the race has to offer – Road Race Director, Board Treasurer, Banner and Flag Hanger Coordinator, Problem Solver and as his fellow workers like to call him, 'Coordinator of Chaos'. Evangelisti likes to call himself, "Useless Figurehead," a position he will never achieve. There has never been a Litchfield Hills Road Race without Evangelisti or a successful second Sunday in June.



## Skip Falcone, West Haven

Vincent "Skip" Falcone has been a institution in his hometown of West Haven, serving as a youth sports coach in girls and boys basketball and soccer and in an official capacity with the West Haven Twilight League where he was a team manager for six years (1972-78) and the league's president from 1979-82. A practicing attorney for 55 years and a 1961 graduate of

Notre Dame High School where he played baseball, Falcone graduated from Harvard in 1965 and captained the baseball team his senior year. After four years as a minor leaguer in the St. Louis Cardinals organization, Falcone earned his law degree from Cornell in 1971.



## Bill Neller, Litchfield

In 1975 Bill Neller teamed up with Litchfield native and legendary Boston Globe sportswriter Joe Concannon to begin efforts to establish a world-class road race in Litchfield. Two years and much effort later the Litchfield Hills Road Race held its first 7.1 mile jaunt around the center of Litchfield in 1977. The first winner was the world's No. 1 ranked marathoner Bill Rogers. Neller has remained a major face of the race through its 48 years.

He has picked up elite runners at the airport, done the grunt work of putting up barricades, recruited workers and runners and done virtually every other job associated with making sure the race lives up to its reputation as one of the best small-town road races in the United States. He continues to excel in the public relations department for the race. Neller is also one of just five people who have competed in every road race.



## Alex Palluzzi Jr., Branford

Alex Palluzzi Jr. has been a fixture in his hometown of Branford ever since he helped his St. Mary Grammar School basketball team win league, state, and New England championships from 1971-1973. Palluzzi Jr. has been involved with the Branford Parks and Recreation Department for 50-plus years. He recently retired as the Recreation Director after serving in the top spot for 33 years. He is the Vice-Chairman of the Branford Sports Hall of Fame, which he helped found. He was named Branford's Citizen of the Year in 1994. He was elected to the Branford Sports Hall of Fame in 2013. A graduate of Albertus Magnus College, Alex earned his Master's Degree from Southern Connecticut State University where he serves the University as an adjunct professor.



## Bruce Wilhelm, Enfield

Bruce Wilhelm has been a 40-plus year volunteer with Enfield Soccer. He has coached at the recreational and travel levels and served in administrative roles. For 30-plus years, he has been the District Registrar for the Connecticut Junior Soccer Association's (CJSA) North Central District, and in 2024 Bruce was named CJSA's Volunteer of the Year. He was also a 25-year volunteer with the Central/North Central Competitive Soccer League, and served the Governing Board for team placements.



CONGRATULATIONS  
ALEX ON YOUR

JOHN WENTWORTH  
GOOD SPORT AWARD

WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!

LOVE  
KAREN, MEGA, ANDREW,  
DYLAN, MEGHAN & STELLA

"BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE

# JOHN WENTWORTH GOOD SPORT AWARD

*Congrats!*

**BRUCE  
WILHELM**

From your friends at  
Connecticut Junior Soccer Association



# Brooke Strauss, Magnus Manley Named CSMA Athletes of the Year for 2024-2025

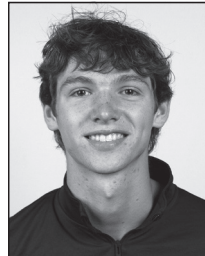
BY JOHN HOLT | CSMA

**G**lastonbury High School distance runner Brooke Strauss earned a senior year of accolades that few in Connecticut history can match. She was named both the 2024-25 Gatorade Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year and the 2024-25 Gatorade Girls Track Athlete of the Year. Strauss won 11 individual CIAC state championships her senior year and led Glastonbury to the girls cross country State Open title in the fall of 2024. Along the way she set state and New England records and won a national title in the mile at the New Balance Indoor Track and Field National Championships, taking the crown with a time of 4:39.53.

With a weighted 4.52 GPA in the classroom, Brooke moved on to compete on scholarship at the University of Connecticut. In September of 2025, during the collegiate cross country season, Strauss was named Big East Female Athlete of the Week.



**A**n extraordinary middle-distance runner, Magnus Manley graduated from Ridgefield High School in 2025 and took his talents to Yale University where he's now competing for the Bulldogs as a scholarship athlete. Before he left the Tigers' cross-country as well as the school's indoor and outdoor track programs, he took with him a few championships. Manley was the 2024 Fairfield County Athletic Conference (FCIAC) and the Class LL state champion in cross country. He also finished second in the State Open.



The following spring, Manley captured the CIAC State Open title in the 1,600 meters. While competing on the school's 4,000 meter medley relay team, the Tiger contingent was third at the New Balance Nationals in Philadelphia.

Manley was a six-time All-American, a two-time New England Regional competitor along with being honored seven times in All-State and five times in the FCIAC. He was chosen as a CIAC scholar-athlete of the year in 2025. A National Honor Society student, Manley also has strong interests in music where he plays the guitar and has his own group.



## Congratulations Magnus on receiving the Bill Lee Athlete of the Year award

Your dedication and commitment have  
lifted you to great personal heights.

*Love  
Mom, Dad, Thor*

# GOLD KEY AWARD RECIPIENTS, 1940 - 2025



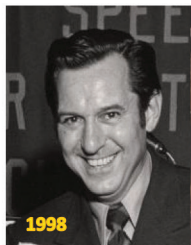
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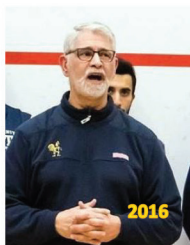
Larry Amann



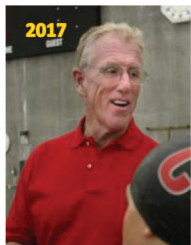
Tony Apiso



Jack Arute Sr.



Paul Assaiante



Ed Aston



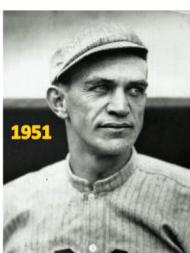
Geno Auriemma



John Bagley



Howard Baldwin



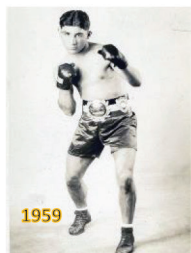
Neal Ball



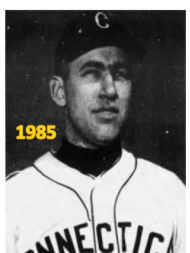
Frank Barnikow



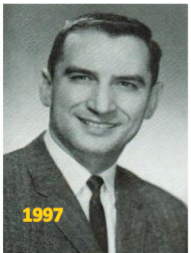
Jack Barry



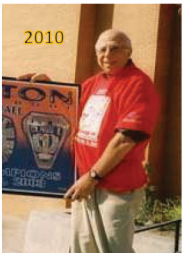
Bat Battalino



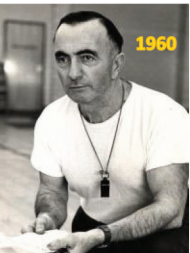
Andy Baylock



Lou Bazzano



Joe Benato



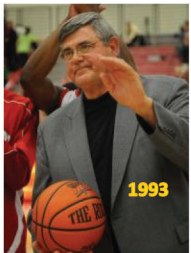
Sam Bender



Charles Bentley



Roger Bidwell



Dave Bike



Irv Black



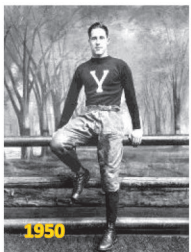
Ted Blair



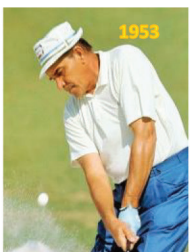
Steve Blass



John Blomstrann



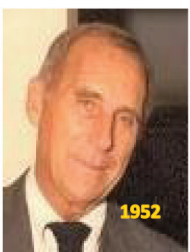
Albie Booth



Julius Boros



Emmons Bowen



Gus Broberg



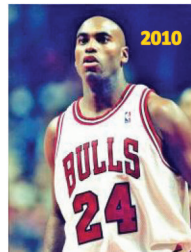
Rico Brogna



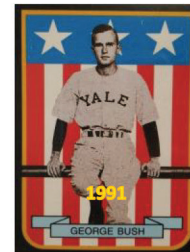
Cookie Bromage



Amby Burfoot



Scott Burrell



George Bush



Joe Buzas



Jim Calhoun



Tom Callaghan



Wally Camp



Deborah Chin



J.O. Christian



Ray Cleplik

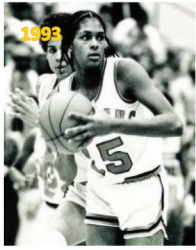


Larry Clotti



Charles Clare

# GOLD KEY AWARD RECIPIENTS, 1940 - 2025



Tracy Claxton



Tim Cohane



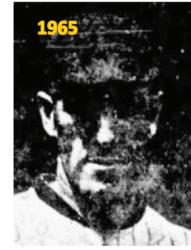
James Coogan



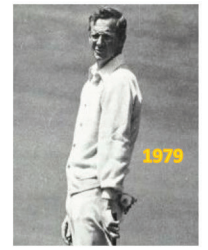
C. Donald Cook



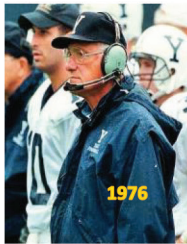
Dennis Coscina



Joe Cosgrove



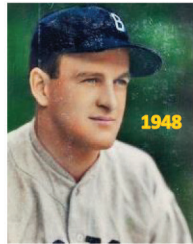
Jerry Courville



Carmen Cozza



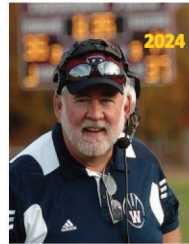
Frank Crisafi



Joe Cronin



George Crouse



Brian Crudden



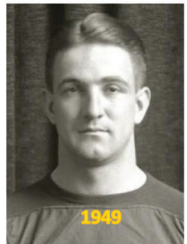
Briggs Cunningham



Mim Daddario



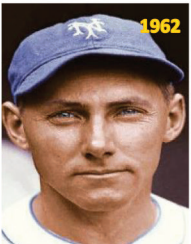
Chris Dailey



Norm Daniels



Dick Danielson



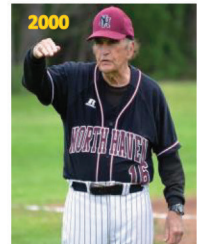
George Davis



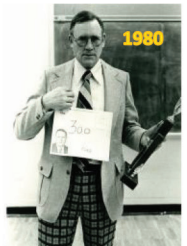
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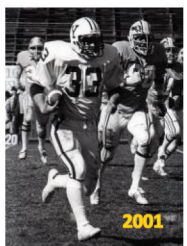
Lou DeFilippo



Bob DeMayo



Bill Detrick



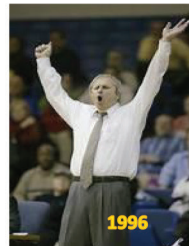
Rich Diana



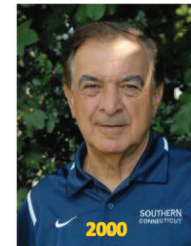
Rob Dibble



Tony DiCicco



Howie Dickenman



Bob Dikranian



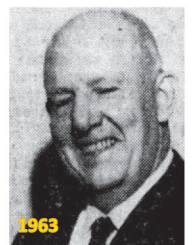
Linda Dirga



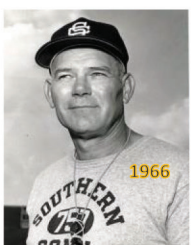
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Sumner Dole



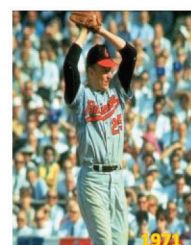
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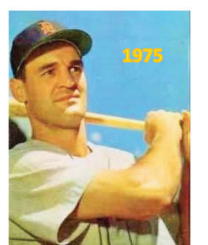
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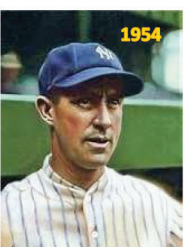
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Moe Drabowsky



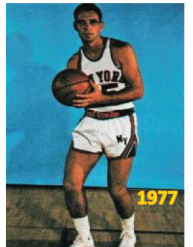
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Joe Dugan



John Dunham



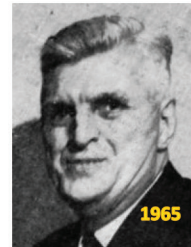
Johnny Egan



Ralph Erickson



Tony Falzarano



Ed Feustel



Rachele Fico

# GOLD KEY AWARD RECIPIENTS, 1940 - 2025



Waino Fillback



Pete Foley



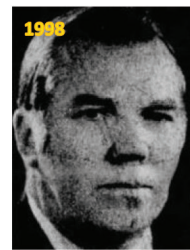
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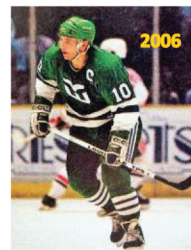
John Fontana



Dutch Forst



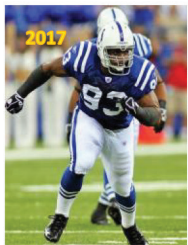
Frosty Francis



Ron Francis



Edna Fraser



Dwight Freaney



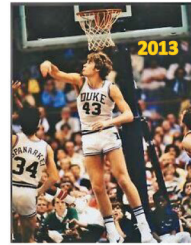
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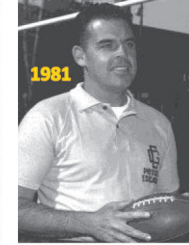
Joe Gargan



Nick Giaquinto



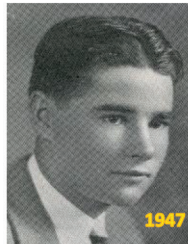
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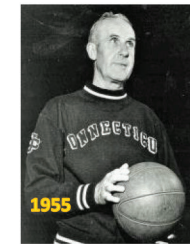
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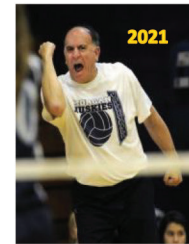
George Grande



Bobby Grant



Hugh Greer



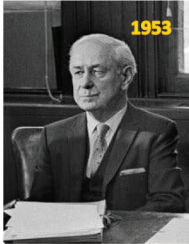
Joe Grippo



Abie Grossfeld



Don Hoenig



Frank Hogan



Bill Holowaty



Gordie Howe



Jean Hunt



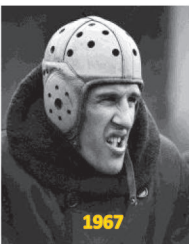
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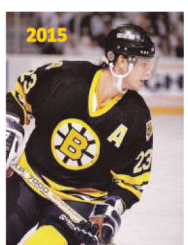
Bruce Hutchinson



Sam Hyman



Harry Jacunski



Craig Janney



Boots Jarvis



Dan Jessee



Butch Johnson



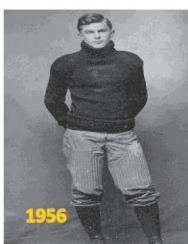
Dot Johnson



Bobby Jones



James Jones



Tad Jones



Joan Joyce



Burt Kahn



Kid Kaplan



Bob Kay

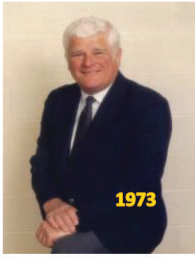


Rev. Robert Keating



John Kelley

# GOLD KEY AWARD RECIPIENTS, 1940 - 2025



Tom Kelley



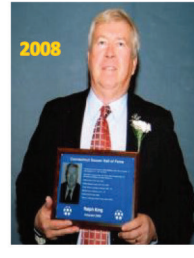
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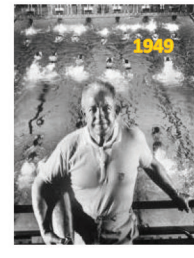
Herb Kenny



Ken Kezer



Ralph King



Bob Kiphuth



John Kuczo



Paul Kuczo



Laurie LaRusso



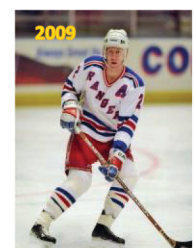
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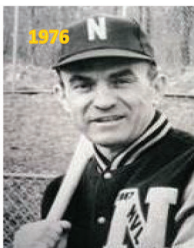
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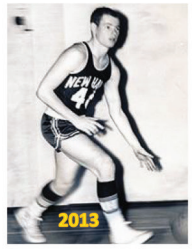
Jimmy Lee



Brian Leetch



Ray Legenza



Gary Liberatore



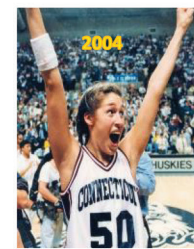
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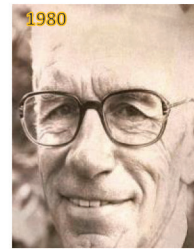
Tracy Lis



Floyd Little



Rebecca Lobo



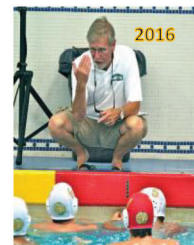
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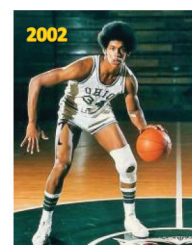
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Donna Lopiano



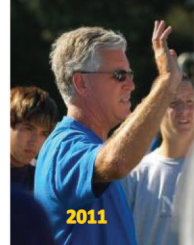
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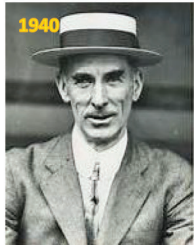
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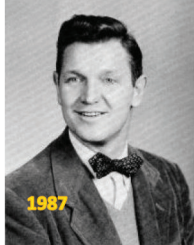
Lowell Lukas



Ed Lynch



Connie Mack



Hank Majlinger



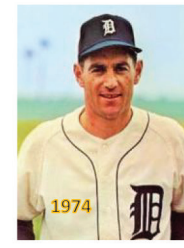
Gary Makowicki



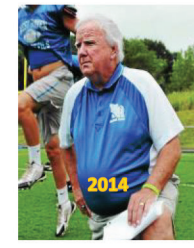
Lou Marinelli



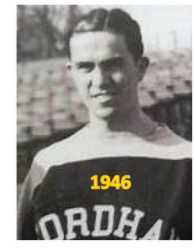
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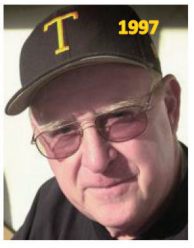
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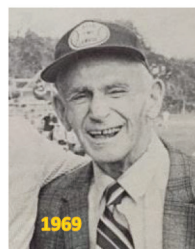
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Joe McCluskey



Jerry McDougall



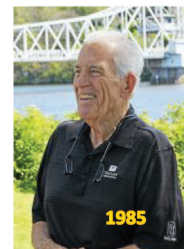
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Frank McGowan



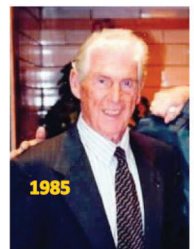
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Larry McHugh



Bob McKee

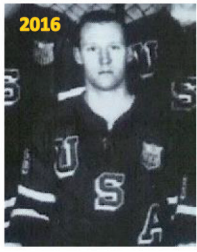


Ray McKenna



Dennis McMahon

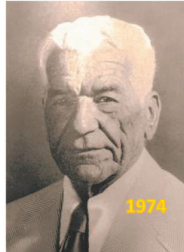
# GOLD KEY AWARD RECIPIENTS, 1940 - 2025



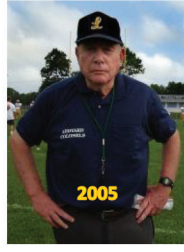
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Jan Merrill-Morin



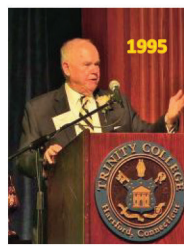
John Merriman



Bill Mignault



Lou Milardo



Don Miller



Thomas Monahan



Tom Monahan



Dr. Frank Mongillo



Vito Montelli



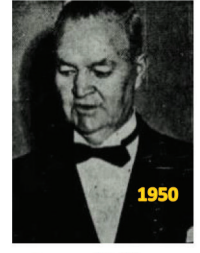
Dr. William Moore



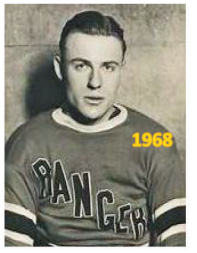
Joe Morrone



Kate Mullen



George Mulligan



Murray Murdoch



Calvin Murphy



Danny Murphy



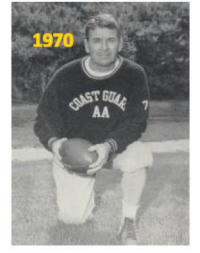
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Tom Nevers



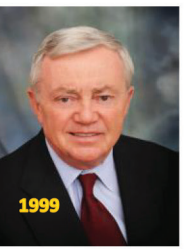
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Nels Nitchman



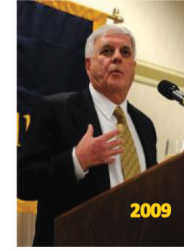
Babby Nuhn



Bill O'Brien



Billy O'Brien



Stan Ogrodnik



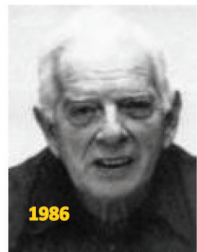
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James O'Neill



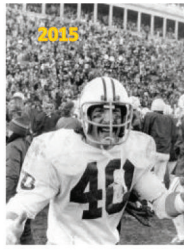
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Bernie O'Rourke



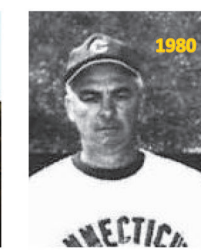
Pat O'Sullivan Lucey



John Pagliaro



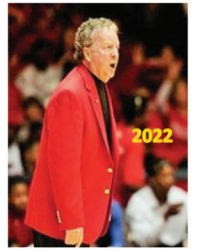
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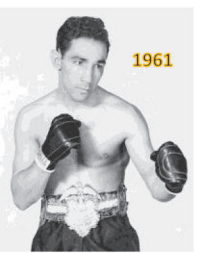
Larry Panciera



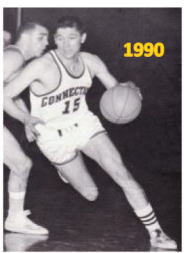
Dan Parker



Tom Penders



Willie Pep



Dom Perno



Charlie Petrino



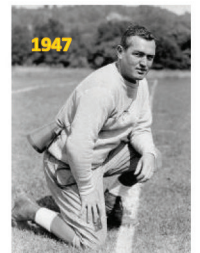
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Whitey Piurek



Maurice Podoloff



Ducky Pond

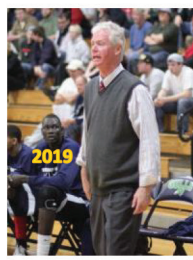
# GOLD KEY AWARD RECIPIENTS, 1940 - 2025



William Prince



Robert Pryde



Jere Quinn



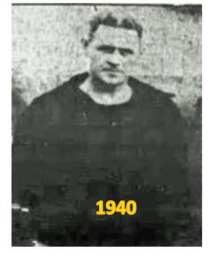
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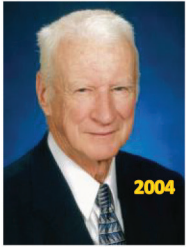
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Brenda Reilly



Ed Reilly



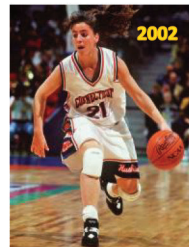
Gene Reilly



Lindy Remigino



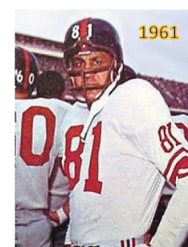
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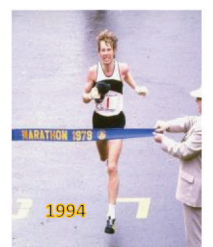
Jennifer Rizzotti



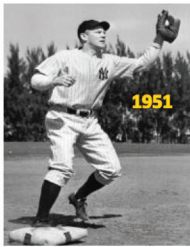
Frank Robinson Jr.



Andy Robustelli



Bill Rodgers



Red Rolfe



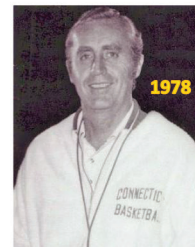
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Frank Ross



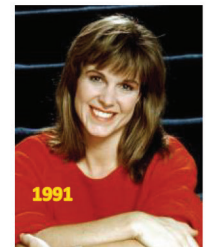
Jack Rourke



Dee Rowe



J. Ray Ryan



Susan Saint James



Jake Salafia



Gene Sarazen



Bob Saulsbury



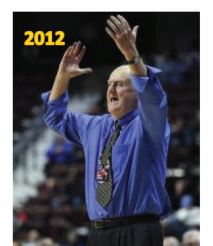
Mike Savage



Hubert Sedgwick



Charlie Sharos



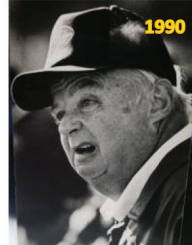
Dave Shea



Spec Shea



Ricky Shook



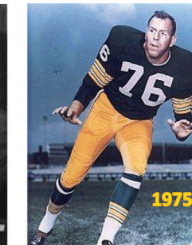
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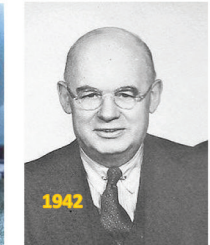
Pete Shuler



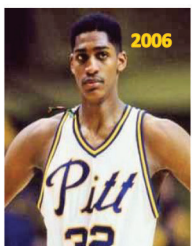
Dick Siderowf



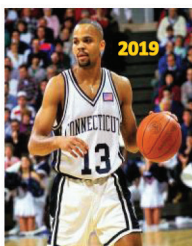
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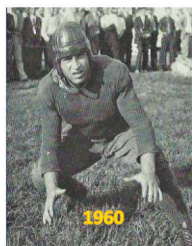
Bill Slocum



Charles Smith



Chris Smith



Clipper Smith



Ken Smith



George Sparling



Marlon Starling



Bob Steele

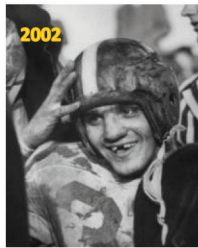
# GOLD KEY AWARD RECIPIENTS, 1940 - 2025



Bill Steinkraus



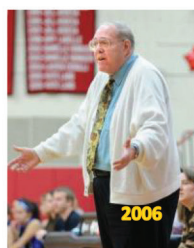
Nancy Stevens



Charlie Sticka



Dr. John Stoddard



Dave Strong



Ken Strong



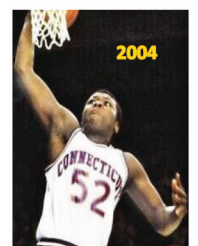
Dan Sullivan



Angela Tamaro



Terry Tata



Corny Thompson



Bertha Ragan Tickey



Lida Tingley



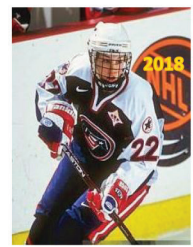
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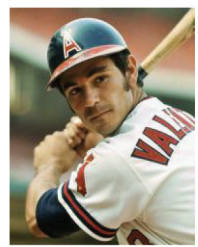
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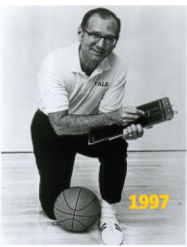
Len Tsantiris



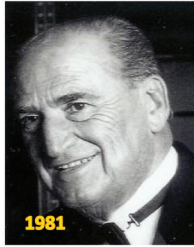
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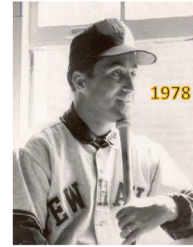
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Joe Vancisin



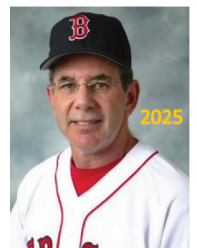
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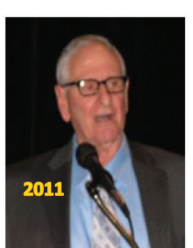
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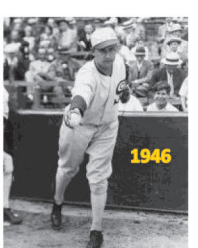
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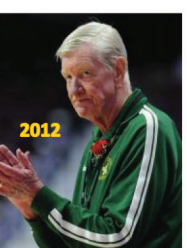
Dave Wallace



Bill Wallach



Ed Walsh



Mike Walsh



Steve Waters



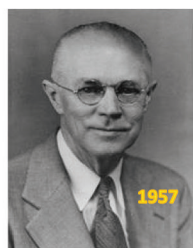
Bruce Webster



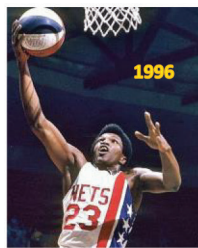
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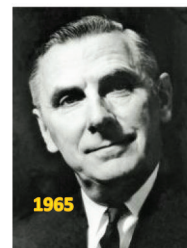
Suzy Whaley



Pete Wigren



John Williamson



Steve Witkowski



Kara Wolters



Ivan Wood



Smokey Joe Wood



Barbara Young



Nick Zeoli



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# He Was the Alliance

*This was a day that our late president Tim Jensen would work all year toward. As we host the first banquet since his passing, Alliance members remember our friend Tim.*



Tim at the 2023 Gold Key banquet.

**T**im Jensen was not only the president of the Connecticut Sports Media Alliance, he WAS the Connecticut Sports Media Alliance. Under his dedicated leadership and relentless drive, the Gold Key Dinner once again took its place as one of the most prestigious events on the state sports calendar. Tim was the No. 1 reason for that success and he did it all while facing some challenging health issues. Just an amazing individual ... RIP Mr. President. I hope we make you proud today.

**George Albano**

**I** had known Tim for only a short period of time but found him, despite his serious health issues, to be such a positive person with a self-deprecating sense of humor. He was incredibly dedicated to the CSMA and to the Gold Key Dinner, almost single-handedly keeping the alliance afloat over the last several years.

**Bob Molta**

**T**im, thank you for your leadership with CSMA over the years. You will be missed.

**Bill O'Brien**

**T**im's uncommon commitment to the Connecticut Sports Media Alliance and the Gold Key Dinner wasn't just commendable, it rose to legacy status. His chronicling and preservation of Connecticut sports history stands as a gift to his home state and his beloved hometown of Enfield. I miss our regular phone calls that could hit on everything from Tim's affection and love for his children Alex and Mia, to the YouTube rabbit hole he went down the night before watching old videos of candlepin bowling. I miss him very much.

**John Holt**

**E**very so often over the past two decades, I would talk with Tim Jensen, either about Alliance pressing business or other sports-related topics. The constant theme in those conversations was his genuine care and respect for the people we were talking about and writing about. Tim's unique style made him second to none.

**Mark Jaffee**

**T**im was more than a colleague. He was a friend who shared the love of local history, journalism and the joy of sharing a story with the world. We most often crossed paths at high school games, writing stories about the community. I will never forget him speaking for his friend Ben Aleks at Ben's induction into the Connecticut chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame. Like he always did, he lent a hand – or his voice in this case – to shine a light on a person who made the community a better place for everybody. Thank you Tim for all of your work to keep the Connecticut Sports Media Alliance alive to honor men and women from around the state.

**Gerry deSimas, Jr.**

**T**im's dedication to the Alliance was extraordinary. His work ethic and leadership was beyond compare. He will be part of it forever.

**Pete Zanardi**

**I**f the Connecticut Sports Media Alliance were a basketball team, Tim was our Larry Bird. His amazing legacy of championing sports in the Nutmeg State lives on with tonight's Gold Key dinner and celebration.

**Jimmy Zanor**

**T**im Jensen's talents and hard work as president of the Connecticut Sports Media Alliance was unmatched. Rest in peace, my friend.

**Don Harrison**

**T**he man was tireless in his efforts to make our organization the best of its kind. He served honorably as president for seven years. There never seemed to be a task that Tim wouldn't take on, or a phone call he wasn't afraid to make if a story or ad copy was needed. Tim was a legend in his hometown -- Enfield. It seemed like he knew everyone. It was in evidence at his wake. I will forever miss the phone calls and his good humor.

**Peter Vander Veer**

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 of the  
**Warriors!**

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 Hall of Fame  
 Mafia



CONGRATULATIONS!  
**WAYNE NORMAN**  
 OUR MORNING SHOW HOST  
 FOR 55 YEARS



New England Auto Racers  
congratulate

# Matt Buckler

NEAR HoF Class of 2022  
for his

**Bob Casey Courage Award recognition  
from the Connecticut Media Alliance.**

New England Auto Racers  
will be recognizing their class of 2026  
on Sunday November 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Log Cabin Holyoke Ma.  
The 2026 class will be announced in August, and  
tickets will go on sale at that time as well. The class  
and order form will be available on our website  
newenglandautoracers.com



# Longtime Journalist Matt Buckler Receives Bob Casey Courage Award



BY SHERMAN CAIN | CSMA

It wouldn't be all that surprising if someone coming off a second leg amputation would spend time wallowing in despair. Matt Buckler, however, was never one for wallowing. One week after his second leg amputation in October of 2024, Buckler rented a vehicle that transported him from the Evergreen Center for Rehabilitation in Stafford to the Wickham Invitational Cross Country Meet in Manchester. He then announced a portion of the meet. A month later, Buckler did the announcing at the state high school cross country championships.

Buckler's dedication to covering sporting events has never waned. It also did not go unnoticed. Buckler won several writing awards during a 45-year career with the Manchester Journal Inquirer. He served five terms as president of the Connecticut Sports Writers Alliance. That organization honored him with the Art McGinley Award for Meritorious Service in 2003. Buckler won the Frank Maratta Award from the New England Auto Racing Association in 2009 and the Dan Pardi Award from the same group in 2014. In 2022, Buckler was inducted into the NEAR Hall of Fame. Among his other honors are receiving the Earl Yost Award for writing from the Manchester Hall of Fame, the John E. Tofflon Distinguished Service Award from the Plainville Hall of Fame, and the John Kershaw Award from the Connecticut Bowling Proprietors' Association.

Despite his handicap, Buckler still, on occasion, announces races at the Waterford Speedbowl.

# Congratulations to Matt Buckler

recipient of the  
**CSMA's Bob Casey Courage Award**

And congratulations to our friends Brooke Strauss, Magnus Manley, Anne Burrows, John Reiser, Rick Evangelisti, Bill Neller and all the other CSMA winners and honorees.





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# **CONGRATULATIONS NICK GIAQUINTO**

**Connecticut Sports  
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**Gold Key  
Award**

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# Congratulations Coach Fred Williams



*Northwestern Regional  
High School*



*The Village Restaurant  
salutes **Bill Neller** and  
**Rick Evangelisti**,  
Litchfield Hills Road Race  
organizers, on receiving the  
2026 John Wentworth  
Good Sports award*

## Congratulations Skip Falcone *Best Wishes Always*

**West Haven Twilight League**  
President, Mike Torello  
Commissioner, Dan Gooley



# JOHN WENTWORTH GOOD SPORT AWARD

**CONGRATULATIONS!**  
**BRUCE WILHELM**

Thank you for your dedication and leadership.

With sincere  
appreciation from the  
players, coaches, and  
administrators of the  
CNC Soccer League.



# Rockville High Graduate Awarded Bo Kolinsky Sports Media Scholarship



BY JOHN HOLT | CSMA

2025 Rockville High School graduate Kyle Clark distinguished himself a talented content creator both in the hallways and fields of RHS, as well as statewide and regionally through his photo, video and social media work covering high school and AAU basketball. The AAU work, with the Albany-based City Rocks grassroots program, saw Kyle get paid to travel and fly to tournaments all over the country to document the City Rocks. At Rockville his signature creation was a four-part docuseries that chronicled the rebirth and rebuilding of the Rams' football program. "Restoring The Rock" drew acclaim from fans, coaches, players, and social media accounts from across the country. Kyle also gained a reputation at RHS for staging distinctly creative football photo and video shoots with venues including a local diner, a lake setting with players on jet skis, and the local 7-11. Kyle is a freshman at the University of Connecticut this school year where he is majoring in Digital Media with a concentration in Business Strategies. Clark is the 24th recipient of the Bo Kolinsky Memorial Sports Media Scholarship.



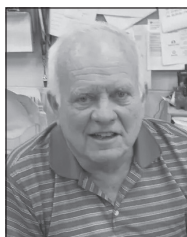
# Colchester's Sawchuk Garners Bo Kolinsky Special Recognition Award



BY VICKIE FULKERSON | CSMA

Dolores Sawchuk, 94, of Colchester, has been a champion of Bacon Academy athletics since her graduation from the school in 1948 – and even before that as a cheerleader for the Bobcats. Sawchuk is an active member of Bacon Academy's Board of Trustees, which bestows a Founder's Day award annually to a graduate of the school who has gone on to become accomplished in his or her area of expertise. The board surprised Sawchuk with the award in 2016. Sawchuk attends Bacon Academy's home girls' basketball games and was in attendance at Mohegan Sun Arena on March 15 when the Bobcats won the Class M state championship. She has also thrown out the first pitch at a Bacon baseball game and is a fan of the Boston Red Sox and the UConn men's and women's basketball teams.

# Fred Williams Selected for Hal Levy High School Achievement Award



BY RICK WILSON | CSMA

An iconic figure, Fred Williams has spent 51 years at Northwestern Regional 7 High School in Winsted in a variety of roles – teacher, Athletic Director and stunningly successful stints as both boys and girls soccer coach and girls basketball coach. Williams has won a total of 1,100 games during his illustrious career along with numerous championships. Williams has been selected as the Hal Levy High School Achievement Award winner for 2025 by the Connecticut Sports Media Alliance.

"I have been blessed with a wonderful life and I have been fortunate to work at school with a supportive staff. The administration and BOE have been very supportive of athletics at Northwestern making my job that much easier," Williams said.

Williams, a 1969 Northwestern graduate who went on to Central Connecticut State College, is Connecticut's all-time winningest high school girls basketball coach with 745 victories in 47 seasons. His Highlanders won the 1990 Class M state title, have won 12 Berkshire League championships, eight in a row at one point (1987-1994), and posted a 141-game league win streak during the streak.

As boys soccer coach Williams posted a 250-110-33 record in 23 seasons. As girls soccer coach he was 101-56-18 in 10 seasons. Combined he was 355-166-51. After 19 seasons, Williams retired as Athletic Director at the end of the 2025 school year.




DESIGN

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## CONGRATULATIONS FRED WILLIAMS

2026 HAL LEVY LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

## FROM THE BERKSHIRE LEAGUE



# HONOR ROLL

## Doc McInerney Coach of the Year

**1975:** Gary Palladino, St. Paul basketball  
**1976:** Lou DeFillippo, Derby football  
**1977:** Lou Astorino, Hamden hockey  
**1978:** Rod Leyland, Ledyard wrestling  
**1979:** Tom LaBella, Middletown basketball  
**1980:** Bill McAllister, Ansonia football  
**1981:** Bob Michalski, Xavier track/cross country  
**1982:** Bill Reagan, Old Saybrook basketball  
**1983:** Charlie Sharos, South Windsor basketball and soccer  
**1984:** Larry Ciotti, Daniel Hand football  
**1985:** Frank Hauser, Glastonbury football  
**1986:** Bob DeMayo, North Haven baseball  
**1987:** Pete Shuler, Westbrook girls basketball  
**1988:** Charles Bentley, Warren Harding basketball  
**1989:** Marty deLivron, Avon soccer  
**1990:** Carl Snitkin, Norwich Free Academy wrestling  
**1991:** Don Bates, Berlin golf  
**1992:** John O'Connor, Branford swimming  
**1993:** Lou Gagliardi, New Britain track and cross country; Nancy Grace, Canton field hockey  
**1994:** Burt Leventhal, Cheshire baseball; Ellen Mahoney, Ledyard softball  
**1995:** Bob Faulkner, Daniel Hand boys soccer; Dave Strong, Masuk girls basketball  
**1996:** Steve Addazio, Cheshire football; Kathleen "Cookie" Bromage, Enfield field hockey  
**1997:** Jim Penders, East Catholic baseball; Ed Aston, Cheshire girls swimming  
**1998:** David Hodge, Weaver football; Joe Grippo, Morgan volleyball  
**1999:** Charles Wolfe, Old Lyme baseball/Valley Regional soccer; Abe Breslow, Trumbull girls soccer  
**2000:** Jim Day, Berlin wrestling; Joe Piazza, Southington softball  
**2001:** Joe Maher, Guilford boys soccer; Dot Johnson, Granby Memorial field hockey  
**2002:** Ed Lynch, Simsbury boys golf; Cathy McGuirk, Branford field hockey  
**2003:** Ed McCarthy, West Haven football; Jim Rooney, Guilford basketball  
**2004:** Jack Hunt, Ansonia football; Theresa Napolitano, Amity Regional softball  
**2005:** Rick Geremia, North Branford soccer; Lou Milardo, Nathan Hale-Ray softball  
**2006:** Dick Hawks, Greenwich girls swimming; Steve Filippone, Daniel Hand football  
**2007:** Beryl Piper, New Britain basketball; Sal Coppola, Amity Regional baseball  
**2008:** Laurie LaRusso, Darien volleyball; Ricky Shook, Danbury wrestling  
**2009:** Lou Marinelli, New Canaan football; Matt Hurlock, Coventry girls volleyball  
**2010:** Tom Marcucci, Notre Dame-West Haven football; Nelson Mingachos, Immaculate girls soccer  
**2011:** Steve Waters, Farmington boys soccer; Liz Sutmán, Waterford softball  
**2012:** Thayer Redman, Manchester boys track and field; Sandy Wickman Mason, Granby Memorial field hockey  
**2013:** Todd Sadler, Northwest Catholic boys soccer; Mark Beigel, Suffield girls soccer

**2014:** Sue Bavone, Cheshire girls volleyball; Tom Brockett, Ansonia football  
**2015:** Tim King, Valley Regional/Old Lyme football; Richard Langer, Haddam-Killingworth girls volleyball  
**2016:** Matt Altieri, Sheehan baseball; Davina Hernandez, Southington softball  
**2017:** Reggie Lytle, Hillhouse football; Kelly Maher, Cromwell girls basketball  
**2018:** Jeff Brameier, Darien boys lacrosse; Holly Misto, New London girls basketball  
**2019:** Carol Asplund, Joel Barlow girls volleyball; John Marinelli, Greenwich football  
**2020:** Bobby Pattison, Newtown football; Kitty Palmer, Guilford field hockey/Daniel Hand girls tennis  
**2020-21:** Jon Carroll, Sacred Heart boys basketball; Ken Pereiras, Seymour softball  
**2022:** Charles Farley, Sheehan girls track and field; Larry Vieira, Notre Dame-West Haven ice hockey  
**2023:** Loren Luddy, Woodland Regional softball; Mark Brookes, Haddam-Killingworth baseball  
**2024:** Leigh Barone, Masuk softball; Rich Bowen, Killingly wrestling  
**2025:** Anne Burrows, Bloomfield girls track and field; John Reiser, Manchester boys basketball

## Bill Lee Athlete of the Year

**1973:** Dick Jauron, Yale football  
**1974:** Eric Torkelson, UConn football  
**1975:** Joan Joyce, softball player  
**1976:** Bruce Jenner and Dorothy Hamill, Olympic gold medal winners  
**1977:** Jan Merrill, world-class runner  
**1978:** Tony Hanson, UConn basketball  
**1979:** Bill Rodgers, marathon champion  
**1980:** Randy LaVigne, UConn basketball and baseball  
**1981:** Joe Morrone, UConn soccer  
**1982:** Rich Diana, Yale football  
**1983:** Garry Pearson, UMass football

## Bill Lee Male Athlete of the Year

**1984:** Bill Dawley, Houston Astros pitcher  
**1985:** Steve Young, professional quarterback  
**1986:** Harold Pressley, Villanova basketball; Ken Green, PGA Tour  
**1987:** Craig Janney and Brian Leetch, U.S. Olympic hockey team  
**1988:** Marlon Starling, world welterweight boxing champion  
**1989:** Kevin Giancola, state amateur golf champion  
**1990:** Rob Dibble, Cincinnati Reds pitcher  
**1991:** Jeff Bagwell, New Britain Red Sox infielder  
**1992:** James Lane, Trinity College quarterback  
**1993:** Chris Smith, UConn basketball  
**1994:** Mo Vaughn, Boston Red Sox first baseman  
**1995:** Jeff Bagwell, Houston Astros first baseman; Brian Leetch, New York Rangers hockey  
**1996:** Jerry Courville Jr., state amateur golf champion  
**1997:** Jesse Showerda, University of New Haven football  
**1998:** Reggie Greene, Siena University football  
**1999:** J.J. Henry, state amateur golf champion  
**2000:** Jeff Bagwell, Houston Astros first baseman  
**2001:** Chris Gbandi, UConn soccer  
**2002:** Dwight Freeney, Syracuse University football (Bloomfield)

**2003:** Ryan Bak, Trinity College cross country and track All-American (Suffield); Ben Michaelson, Southern Connecticut State University swimming All-American (Seymour)  
**2004:** Carl Pavano, Southington, pitcher, 2003 World Series champion Florida Marlins  
**2005:** Dan Orlovsky, UConn quarterback  
**2006:** James Blake, Fairfield, 2005 Pilot Pen tennis champion; Dwight Freeney, Bloomfield, Indianapolis Colts defensive end  
**2007:** Edward McCarthy, Yale football; Justise Hairston, Central Connecticut State University football  
**2008:** Chad Dawson, WBC light-heavyweight champion  
**2009:** Donald Brown, UConn football  
**2010:** Aaron Hernandez, Florida football (Bristol)  
**2011:** Keith Rocco, NASCAR Whelen All-American Series national champion  
**2012:** Kemba Walker, UConn men's basketball  
**2013:** Jonathan Quick, Los Angeles Kings goaltender  
**2014:** Matt Harvey, New York Mets pitcher  
**2015:** Mike LeDuc, Connecticut College, track and field  
**2016:** Kris Dunn, Providence College basketball  
**2017:** Devon Carrillo, Wesleyan University football and wrestling  
**2018:** Alex Zachary, Eastern Connecticut State University baseball All-American  
**2019:** Harry Stanton, Wesleyan University lacrosse  
**2020:** Alfonso Vazquez Villar, Windham High School soccer  
**2020-21:** Scott Testori, Daniel Hand High School soccer  
**2022:** Gary Moore Jr., Hillhouse High School track and field  
**2023:** Joshua Mooney, Stonington High School track and field  
**2024:** Jordan Davis, Wallingford/Southern Connecticut State University track and field, NCAA champion and record-holder  
**2025:** Magnus Manley, Ridgefield track and field, high school all-American, Yale commit

## Hank O'Donnell Female Athlete of the Year

**1984:** Julie Bolduc, Southington High School softball pitcher  
**1985:** Terry Kix, UConn field hockey  
**1986:** Caroline Keggi, amateur golfer  
**1987:** Danielle Benoit, Mercy High School runner  
**1988:** Maryanne Torrellas, race walker from Clinton  
**1989:** Tracy Lis, Killingly High School girls basketball  
**1990:** Kris Karlson, world rowing champion from Weston  
**1991:** Kerry Bascom, UConn basketball  
**1992:** Sarah and Karen Josephson, world champion synchronized swimmers  
**1993:** Liz Mueller, Waterford High School runner  
**1994:** Terry Roy, UConn heptathlete  
**1995:** Rebecca Lobo, UConn basketball  
**1996:** Jennifer Rizzotti, UConn basketball  
**1997:** Kerry Connors, UConn soccer  
**1998:** Sara Whalen, UConn soccer  
**1999:** Nykesha Sales, UConn basketball  
**2000:** Kristine Lilly, U.S. Women's World Cup soccer star  
**2001:** Liz Janangelo, CSWGA 4-time defending champion

# HONOR ROLL

**2002:** Maura Danahy, Connecticut College track and cross country All-American  
**2003:** Suzy Whaley, PGA golf professional  
**2004:** Diana Taurasi, UConn basketball  
**2005:** Annia Hatch, Olympic gymnast; Liz Janangelo, Duke University golfer  
**2006:** Tiffany Weimer, North Haven, Penn State soccer  
**2007:** Amanda Pape, Sacred Heart University basketball  
**2008:** Kristen Frost, Southern Connecticut State University swimmer  
**2009:** Michelle Guerette, rowing, Olympic silver medalist  
**2010:** Rachele Fico, Masuk High School softball  
**2011:** Maya Moore, UConn basketball  
**2012:** Shannon Gagne, University of New Haven track  
**2013:** Tina Charles, Connecticut Sun  
**2014:** McKenzie Hollenbaugh, Boston University/New England Mutiny soccer  
**2015:** Allyson Fournier, Tufts University softball  
**2016:** Breanna Stewart, UConn basketball  
**2017:** Bria Holmes, Atlanta Dream, WNBA  
**2018:** Autumn Sorice, Western Connecticut State University soccer  
**2019:** Mya Johnson, Old Lyme High School soccer  
**2020:** Jonquel Jones, Connecticut Sun  
**2020-21:** Maddie Epke, Guilford High School multi-sport  
**2022:** Alexis Michon, Eastern Connecticut State University softball  
**2023:** Chloe Humphrey, Darien High School lacrosse  
**2024:** Shea Dolce, Darien/Boston College lacrosse, NCAA champion  
**2025:** Brooke Strauss, Glastonbury track and field, indoor mile national champion, UConn commit

## Hal Levy High School Athletes of the Year

**2012:** Casey Cochran, Masuk football  
**2013:** Arkeel Newsome, Ansonia football; Casey Pearsall, Wilton 3-sport athlete  
**2014:** Stephen Barmore, Southington football; Hannah DeBalsi, Staples cross country/track  
**2015:** Dario Highsmith, Middletown football; Kiah Gillespie, Capital Prep basketball  
**2016:** Mustapha Heron, Sacred Heart basketball; Mara Cosentino, Glastonbury soccer  
**2017:** Anthony Falbo, Newtown wrestling; McKenna Dale, E.O. Smith swimming and basketball  
**2018:** Spencer Lockwood, Killingly football; Abby Abramson, Cheshire softball

## Hal Levy High School Achievement Award

**2019:** Waterford and Stonington high school softball programs, in recognition of their 10th year of playing a Play 4 the Cure game  
**2021:** Dave Johnson, retired Bunnell athletic director and South West Conference commissioner  
**2022:** Colleen Lineburgh, Waterford High School Unified sports  
**2023:** Robert "Jiggs" Cecchini, Suffield High School  
**2024:** Paula Fitzgerald, Westbrook High School  
**2025:** Fred Williams, Northwestern Regional High School

## Bob Casey Courage Award

**1999:** Bret Chernik, Windsor  
**2006:** Pam Malcolm, Colchester  
**2009:** Stephanie Ingrahm, Cromwell High School; Steve Matson, Amity Regional High School  
**2010:** Deb Gruen, Hamden/Yale

**2011:** Ken Green, PGA golfer; Jamie Botteon, Bristol Eastern High School  
**2012:** Dave Balfore, Berlin High School  
**2013:** Karen Newman, Greenwich  
**2014:** Morgan Bjarno, Glastonbury High School; Andrew Haraghey, Fermi High School  
**2015:** Jon DeCasanova, Eastern Connecticut State University; Connor Reed, Sheehan High School  
**2016:** Danny Deitz, Simsbury High School; Nicole O'Donnell, Lewis Mills High School  
**2017:** Giacomo Brancato, Fairfield Warde High School; Danni Kemp, Milford  
**2018:** Katie Shea, RHAM High School; Steve Daniels, Southington  
**2019:** Terry Miller, Bloomfield High School; Andraya Yearwood, Cromwell High School  
**2021:** Caden Gesualdi, Ellington High School  
**2022:** Cole Snider, Branford High School  
**2023:** Ann and Paul Dagle, East Lyme  
**2024:** The Capalbo family, Fairfield  
**2025:** Matt Buckler, Manchester Journal Inquirer

## President's Award

**2005:** Stephanie Novotny, East Lyme  
**2010:** Stephanie Ford, CIAC  
**2012:** Fairfield County Interscholastic Athletic Conference  
**2014:** Fairfield County Sports Commission  
**2016:** Manchester Road Race  
**2018:** Leah Secondo, athlete/sportscaster  
**2019:** Travelers Championship  
**2021:** Claire Smith, Baseball Hall of Fame sportswriter  
**2022:** Larry Lichstein, Professional Bowlers Association Hall of Fame, former PBA Tour executive  
**2023:** Dr. Leslie Wrixon, only high school runner to win Manchester Road Race  
**2024:** Bob Cuneo, Bethany, U.S. Olympic bobsled designer and engineer  
**2025:** Peter King, Enfield, three-time National Sportswriter of the Year for Sports Illustrated

## John Wentworth Good Sport Award

**1988:** Frank McCoy, Vernon; Bernie Fields, Middletown; Lou DeBenedictis, Hartford  
**1989:** Rene DeSaulniers, Putnam; Joe Barber, Stratford; Lew Kelley, Vernon; Matthew "Pop" Shortell, Ansonia; John Welch, Windsor; Jerome "Buzzy" Levin, Middletown; Herb Sheintop, Hartford  
**1990:** Skip Cunningham, Vernon; Frank DeLuca, Stratford; Albert Hamrah, Middletown; Frank Nistico, Sr., Westport; Bill O'Brien, Branford; Dave Sacco, Newington  
**1991:** Joe Budwitz, Meriden; Dave Bolio, Wallingford; Ben Dodge, Vernon; Walter "Doc" Hurley, Hartford; Tom Corbo, Norwalk; Bob Boss, Milford  
**1992:** Joe Samoska, Waterbury; Rick Sheldon, Hartford; Jack Repass, East Hartford; Jerry Dunnack, Columbia; Dave DeRosa, Fairfield; Jim O'Neill, New London; Joe Trapasso, Branford; Jim Bransfield, Middletown  
**1993:** Dot and Fred Bondi, Norwalk; Fred Hammick, South Windsor; Bill Pomfret, Middletown; Bill Romanowski, Vernon  
**1994:** Fran and Fred Ahlbin, Fairfield; Jim Gallagher,

East Hartford; John Michaels, Southbury; Dick Nassiff, Willimantic  
**1995:** George Cocores, Middletown; Syd Conn, West Hartford; George Cruz, Hartford; Art Nelson, Plainville; Mike Marella, Bridgeport; John Pelletier, New London; Ron and Valerie Suhanosky, Milford  
**1996:** Lou Bogash, Stratford; John Cesario, Hartford; Ralph Giansanti, South Windsor; Bill Heintz, Torrington; Julie Larese, Bristol; Frank Marietta, New Britain; Art Miller, Middlefield; Irene Smith, Manchester  
**1997:** Thomas Altieri, Meriden; Lou Ernst, Niantic; Jim Foster, Wallingford; Bill Glynn, Middletown; Munere Haddad, Willimantic; Marty Paganini, Torrington; Bill Slater, Manchester  
**1998:** Don Berger, Vernon; Bill Cahill, Durham; David Huntington, New Haven; Bob LaBreche, South Windsor; John J. Murphy, Farmington; Karlene Sullivan, Suffield; Warren Whitehouse, East Lyme; Hubie Williamson, Waterbury  
**1999:** Ed Beardsley, Bristol; Dick Gunn, Ellington; Bob LaBranche, Plainville; Herb Lawton, Wethersfield; Jim MacVeigh, Guilford; Bob McPhail, Norwich  
**2000:** Paul Criscuolo, Branford; Steve Daniels, Southington; Dave Greenleaf, Bristol; Ken Hungerford, West Hartford; Stan Jablonski, Somers; Dick Teed, Windsor  
**2001:** Dennis Beatty, New Britain; Richard Gano, Franklin/Willimantic; Mary Fuller and Cathi Rapp, Waterbury; Bill Hardy, Portland; Pete Kokinis, Wethersfield; Dr. Mike Lantieri, Southington; Bill Lynch, Windsor  
**2002:** Fred Levesh, Guilford; Bill Ryan, Waterbury; Bill Sullivan, Norwich; George Tomalonis, Enfield; Bryan J. Treado III, Plainville; Bill Walsh, Windsor  
**2003:** Marc Allard, Dayville; George DeMaio, North Branford/North Haven; Brother Robert Houlihan, Middletown; Peter Kiro, East Hartford/Manchester; Tom Sullivan, Guilford  
**2004:** Bob Greenwood, West Haven; Ethel Maturo, Guilford; Don MacKenzie, Old Lyme; Bill Petit, Berlin; Ricky and Lisa Bottalico, New Britain and Ralph Giansanti, Avon  
**2005:** George Burr, Shelton; Christopher Everone, West Haven; Mike McLaughlin, New London; Jody Sheeley, Norwich; Bob Watson, Bristol  
**2006:** Tom Chiappetta, Norwalk; Robert Johnson, Hamden; Francis Mullins, Bristol; Dave Nowakowski, Jewett City; Larry Pelletier, Meriden; Ed Wilcox, Middletown  
**2007:** Bill Donovan, Waterford; Don Longtin, Glastonbury; Dave Ruotolo, West Haven; Gary Moore, New Haven; Nick Koules, Stamford; Matt Fischer, Cheshire; Bob Russell, Madison  
**2008:** Joe Arnone, New Britain; Frank and Sheila Beneski, Suffield; Jim Boice, Glastonbury; Robert Burns, Hamden; Charles Derbabian, New Haven; Francis X. Sweeney, Waterford; Peter Higgins, Hartford  
**2009:** Tom Blake, West Haven; Willie Bousquet, Putnam; Harold "Hat" Fengar, Waterford; Jane and Mark Foss, Manchester; Roy Lawrence, eastern Connecticut; Darwin Shaw, New Britain;

# HONOR ROLL

- Carmine Vaccaro, Stamford  
**2010:** Buck Iannacone, Westport; Melinda Hedding, East Lyme; Owen Sanderson, Hamden; Bob Fralick, Middletown; Paul LaFleur, Bristol; Don Lukowski, New Britain; Mike Bendzinski, Manchester  
**2011:** Tom Bohara, Norwich; Mark and Nancy Cammisa, Danbury; Vin DiLauro, West Haven; Donald Nielsen, New Haven; Mike Torres, New Britain; Richard Rothstein, Norwich  
**2012:** John Riley, Berlin; John Commune, Seymour; Wayne Potvin, Montville; Ed Godomski, Thomaston; Bob Peruzzotti, Mystic  
**2013:** Alton Brooks, New Britain; Tom DiMaggio, New London area; Bob Fontaine, Middletown/Bethel; Bill Pucci, Derby/Ansonia; Jim Tommins, Fairfield County; Dan and Theresa Lee, Berlin/Cheshire  
**2014:** Jason "Coachie" DeCarolis, Bristol; Tim Kulish, Shelton; Fran Slattery, Enfield; Fred Kelly, North Haven; David Dykes, Waterford; Les and Brett Zimmerman, Meriden  
**2015:** Glynn Baron, West Hartford; Jerry DeJulia, Danbury; Sarah Jadach, Derby; Jane Pinho, Prospect; Dave Rodriguez and Bill Hutchinson, Wallingford  
**2016:** Ray Aramini, Columbia; Tom DeFilippo, Bethany; Paul Glover, West Hartford; John Greco, Middletown; Bill Nataro, Torrington; David Pelletier, Wolcott; Jennifer Schulten, Middlefield  
**2017:** Tom D'Aquila, Middletown; Rich Leonardo, Hamden; Ed Morse, Derby; Tom Owens, Enfield; Chase Skrubis, Granby; Curtis Urbina, Newtown  
**2018:** Ed DiPersio, Meriden; Dave Farr, Windsor Locks; Maryellen Holden, Forestville; Don Lombardo, Middletown; Mike Madera, West Haven; Paul Majeski, New Britain  
**2019:** Chris Bishop, Wallingford; John and Judy Clark, Middletown; Michael Cotnoir, Enfield; John Larkins, Shelton; Dave Putnam, East Lyme  
**2021:** Ben Aleks, Somers; Paul Duddy, Mystic; Steve Krevisky, Middletown; Bill O'Brien, Stratford; Bill Santillo, New Haven  
**2022:** Rich Altieri, Hamden; Richard Bourn, Old Saybrook; Bob Cressotti, Enfield; Chris and Denise Nikolis, Suffield; Dawn O'Neil, Willington  
**2023:** Steve Callahan, South Windsor; Charlie Flanagan, North Haven; Stan Krzanowski, Canton; Bob Norris, Windsor Locks  
**2024:** Marc Forster, Ledyard; Mary-Jane Hussey, Windsor Locks; Bob Rafferty, Trumbull; Jim Reynolds, East Haven  
**2025:** Rick Evangelista and Bill Neller, Litchfield; Ray DaCosta, CT Northstars; Skip Falcone, West Haven; Alex Palluzzi, Brandford; Bruce Wilhelm, Enfield

## Art McGinley Media Award

- 1976:** Bill Lee, Hartford Courant  
**1977:** Willard Williams, The (Norwalk) Hour  
**1978:** Lou Black, Associated Press  
**1979:** Hank O'Donnell, Waterbury newspapers  
**1980:** Sam Cohen, Bridgeport Herald  
**1981:** Bill Ahern, Jackson Newspapers  
**1982:** Joe Cassano, Hartford Times  
**1983:** Charles Kellogg, New Haven Register  
**1984:** John DeGange, New London Day

- 1985:** Earl Yost, Manchester Herald  
**1986:** Fred J. Post, Middletown Press  
**1987:** Frank Corkin, Meriden Record-Journal  
**1988:** Don Clerkin, Hartford Times  
**1989:** John Kershaw, Hartford Courant  
**1990:** Bohdan Kolinsky, Hartford Courant  
**1991:** Jack Cruise, The (New London) Day  
**1992:** Lou Brodersen, The (Norwalk) Hour  
**1993:** Fred Vercini, Bridgeport Post-Telegram  
**1994:** Howard Holcomb, Hartford Courant  
**1995:** Pat Drewry, Waterbury newspapers  
**1996:** Bart Fisher, New Britain Herald  
**1997:** Tom McCormack, New Haven Register  
**1998:** Owen Canfield, Hartford Courant  
**1999:** Mike Caruso, Hartford Courant/Hartford Times  
**2000:** Hal Levy, Shore Line Newspapers  
**2001:** Pete Zanardi, Hartford Times/New Haven Register/Shore Line Newspapers  
**2002:** Bob Barton, New Haven Register  
**2003:** Matt Buckler, Manchester Journal Inquirer  
**2004:** Tom Hine, Hartford Courant  
**2005:** Bruce Berlet, Hartford Courant  
**2006:** Randy Smith, Manchester Journal Inquirer  
**2007:** Ted Moynihan, Meriden Record-Journal  
**2008:** Woody Anderson, Hartford Courant  
**2009:** Arnold Dean, WTIC-1080  
**2010:** Sean Barker, New Haven Register  
**2011:** Ken Lipshez, New Britain Herald  
**2012:** Peter Vander Veer, Hersam Acorn Newspapers  
**2013:** Bob Ehalt, New Haven Register  
**2014:** Gerry deSimas, Jr., Collinsville Press  
**2015:** John Holt, WFSB-TV  
**2016:** Don Harrison, Waterbury newspapers  
**2018:** Tom Yantz, Hartford Courant  
**2023:** Vickie Fulkerson, New London Day  
**2024:** George Albano, Norwalk Hour

## Bob Barton Excellence in Media Award

- 2025:** Wayne Norman, WILL, color analyst for UConn basketball and football

## Bo Kolinsky Memorial

### Special Recognition Award

- 2014:** North Haven High School football team  
**2015:** Bob and Cookie Bromage, Suffield/Enfield/East Granby  
**2019:** Bob Barton, longtime sportswriter and CSWA member, Yale football historian  
**2021:** Elizabeth Fry, Westport, world record marathon swimmer  
**2022:** Ed Goldstone, Hamden  
**2023:** Rand Pecknold, Quinnipiac University ice hockey coach  
**2024:** Rick Leddy, North Haven, retired Southern Connecticut State University sports information director  
**2025:** Dolores Sawchuk, Colchester, champion of Bacon Academy athletics since her graduation from the school in 1948, active member of the school's Board of Trustees

## Bo Kolinsky Memorial

### Sports Media Scholarship

- 2004:** Andy Beatman, Middletown  
**2005:** Daniel Sass, Danbury  
**2006:** Matt Ehalt, Shelton  
**2007:** Tim Walsh, Lyman Memorial  
**2008:** Amanda Montes de Oca, Danbury  
**2009:** Michael Cohen, Lewis Mills  
**2010:** Tim Healey, Danbury  
**2011:** Daniel Sixsmith, Staples  
**2012:** Kathleen O'Brien, Shelton  
**2013:** Dara Rubin, Masuk  
**2014:** Aidan Quigley, St. Joseph  
**2015:** Spencer Dreher, Naugatuck  
**2016:** Stephen Clouse, Ridgefield

On behalf of Colchester Public Schools & the Board of Education,

*Congratulations*

Dolores Sawchuk, 2025 recipient of the Bo Kolinsky Special Recognition Award.  
Thank you for being our biggest supporter!

*& Happy 95th Birthday*



# HONOR ROLL

**2017:** Rayan Vatti, Cheshire  
**2018:** Ryan Fraleigh, RHAM  
**2019:** Audrey Hausberger, East Lyme  
**2020:** Johanna Wolkoff, Farmington High School  
**2021:** Jack Cote, Hall High School; Ian Nicholas, New Canaan High School; Annabelle Watson, Manchester High School  
**2022:** Peter McLean, Darien  
**2023:** Baylee Krulewitz, Hall High School  
**2024:** Casey O'Brien, Ridgefield High School  
**2025:** Kyle Clark, Rockville High School

## CSMA Presidents

**1939:** Edward Shugrue, Bridgeport Post  
**1940:** Jack O'Brien, Bridgeport Times-Star  
**1941:** William Harding, Journal Courier, New Haven  
**1942:** Bill Lee, Hartford Courant  
**1943-44:** Alliance inactive due to World War II  
**1945:** William O'Donnell, Waterbury Republican  
**1946:** Robert Wilson, Bridgeport Herald  
**1947:** Sam Cohen, Meriden Journal  
**1948:** John Kelly, Waterbury American  
**1949:** Louis Black, Associated Press  
**1950:** Robert Zaiman, Hartford Courant

**1951:** John Leary, New Haven Register  
**1952:** Fred Post, Middletown Press  
**1953:** Francis McInerney, Waterbury American  
**1954:** William Butler, Waterbury American  
**1955:** Arthur B. McGinley, Hartford Times  
**1956-57:** Gerald Crean, New Britain Herald  
**1958:** William Newell, Hartford Courant  
**1959:** Earl Yost, Manchester Herald  
**1960:** William Cruickshank, Norwich Bulletin  
**1961:** Howard Holcomb, Torrington Register  
**1962:** Pat Bolduc, Hartford Courant  
**1963-64:** Don Clerkin, Hartford Times  
**1965:** Frank Birmingham, Sportsweek  
**1966-67:** Bill Guthrie, New Haven Journal-Courier  
**1968:** Milt Northrop, Waterbury Republican  
**1968:** Gordon Smith, Hartford Courant  
**1969:** Don Harrison, Waterbury Republican  
**1970-71:** Ray Andresen, New Haven Register  
**1972:** Frank Cline, Hartford Times  
**1973:** Brian Willette, Groton News  
**1974:** Tom Hine, Hartford Courant  
**1975:** Pat Drewry, Waterbury Republican  
**1976:** Randy Smith, Journal Inquirer

**1977:** John Bozadjian, Willimantic Chronicle  
**1978:** George Smith, Hartford Courant  
**1979-80:** Bohdan Kolinsky, Hartford Courant  
**1981:** Bart Fisher, New Britain Herald  
**1982-83:** Hal Levy, Shore Line Newspapers  
**1984-85:** Jerry DiPietro, New Haven Register  
**1986:** Hal Levy, Shore Line Newspapers  
**1987:** Bart Fisher, New Britain Herald  
**1988-89:** Matt Buckler, Journal Inquirer  
**1990-91:** Lou Brodersen, The (Norwalk) Hour  
**1992-93:** Scott Gray, WTIC Radio  
**1994-95:** Ted Moynihan, Meriden Record- Journal  
**1996:** Lou Pintek, Connecticut Post  
**1997-99:** Matt Buckler, Journal Inquirer  
**2000-03:** Ken Lipshez, New Britain Herald  
**2004-06:** Sean Barker, New Haven Register  
**2007-08:** John Silver, Journal Inquirer  
**2008-09:** Brian Girasoli, Norwich Bulletin  
**2009-10:** Bob Ehalt, New Haven Register  
**2010-11:** Zac Boyer, Hartford Courant  
**2011-14:** George Albano, Norwalk Hour  
**2014-17:** Matt Conyers, Hartford Courant  
**2017-25:** Tim Jensen, Patch Media Corp.

**Connecticut Sports Media Alliance, P.O. Box 3234, Enfield, CT 06083**

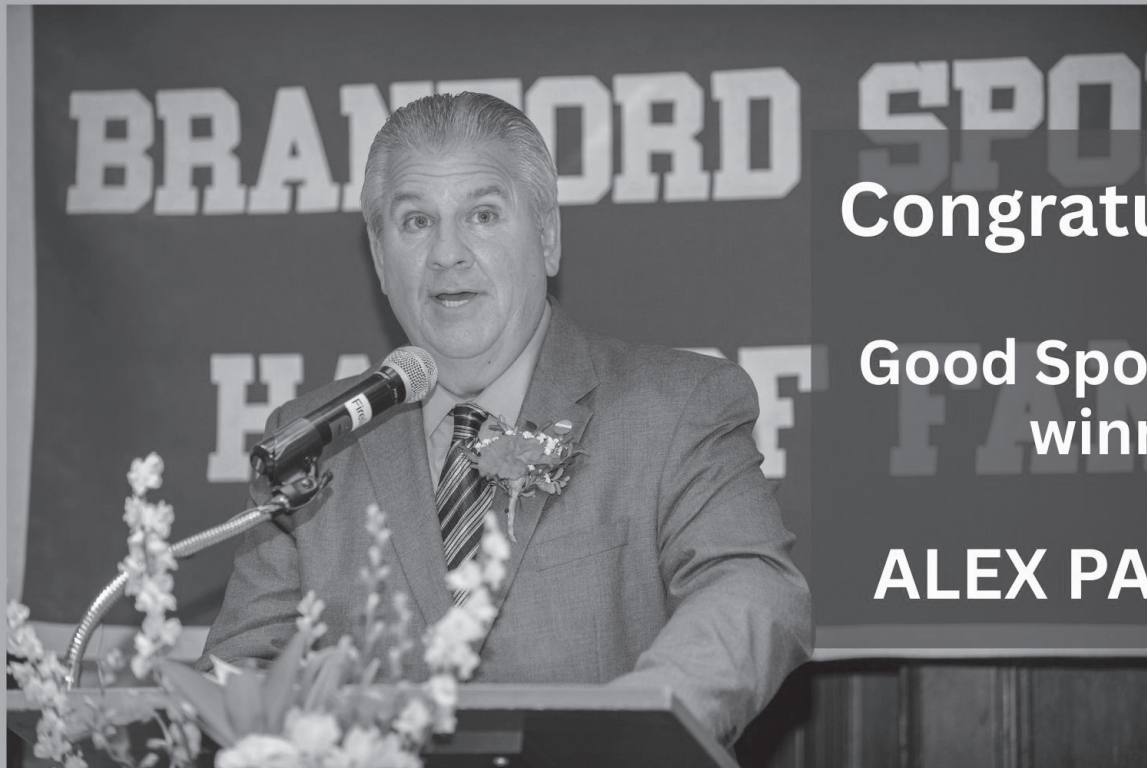
**Interim President:** Peter Vander Veer, retired

**Vice president:** Peter Zanardi, retired

**Interim Treasurer:** John Holt, CIAC

**Interim Secretary:** Gerry deSimas, Jr., Collinsville Press.com

## The Branford Sports Hall of Fame



**Congratulations**

**Good Sport Award  
winner**

**ALEX PALLUZZI**

# **Congratulations Alex Palluzzi**

***For being a recipient of the  
John Wentworth Good Sport Award***

## **From Your Friends:**

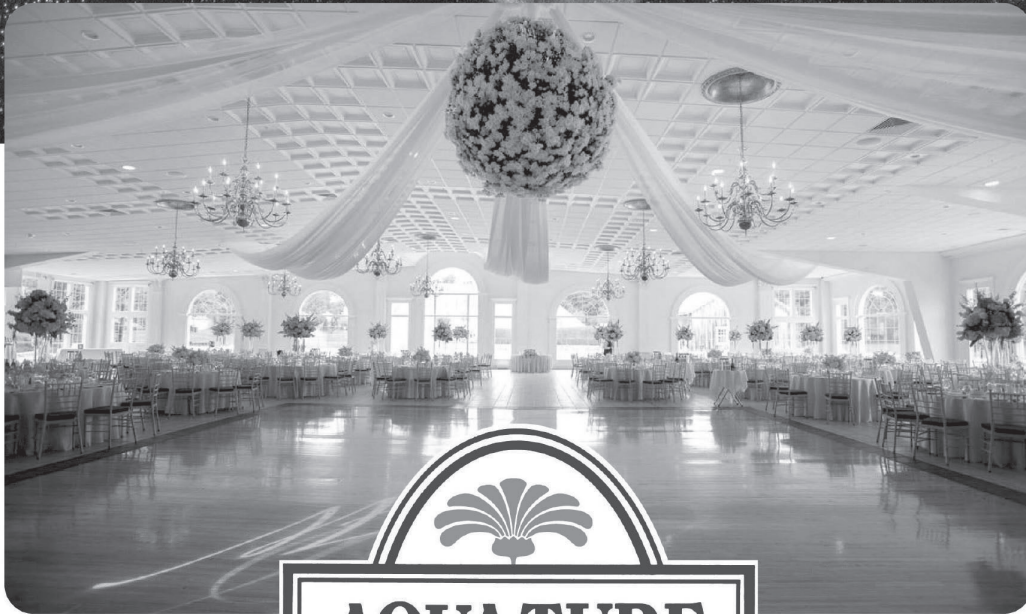
John Kessler	Jake Palluzzi	Dale Izzo
Steve Evon	Jim Freund	Victor Amatori
Jack Gambardella	D.J. King	Nally Sahin
Steve Prota	Mike Angeloff	Jamie Cosgrove
Dave MacKinnel	Dave Nanamaker	Chris Hynes
Mike Nardella	Sav Synodi	Nick Torello
Roger Erickson	Ron Prior	Joe Chandler
Joe K	John & Andrea Steady	Paul Criscuolo
Bill O'Brien	Maureen O'Brien	Greg O'Brien
Nancy Drevins	Jeanne Crowley	Jeff Vailette
Dan McNamara	Tony Palluzzi	Michael Palluzzi
Chuck Tiernan	Norm Gavin	John Bloomquist
	Jeff Klarman	

**Providing opportunities for young and old  
in Branford to enjoy sports and recreation**

# Gold Key Memories

*A few snapshots from recent Gold Key banquets*





556 Mulberry Street | Plantsville, CT 06479  
**860-621-9335 | AquaTurfClub.com**



**Connecticut High School  
Coaches Association**

*Congratulations to all of the 2026  
Connecticut Sports Media Alliance  
award recipients!*

*Thank you for all you have done  
for the Connecticut High School  
Coaches Association.*



**Congratulations Alex on your  
John Wentworth  
Good Sport Award**

**We are proud of you**

*Love*

*Karen, Megan, Andrew,  
Dylan, Meghan, Stella*

***"Be the best you can be"***

**Congratulations Skip Falcone  
for being honored with a  
John Wentworth Good Sports  
by the Connecticut Sports  
Media Alliance.**

*You are a proud member of our  
1961 graduating class.  
Thanks for all that you've done for  
the West Haven community.*



# 83rd Annual Gold Key Dinner

*Congratulations!*

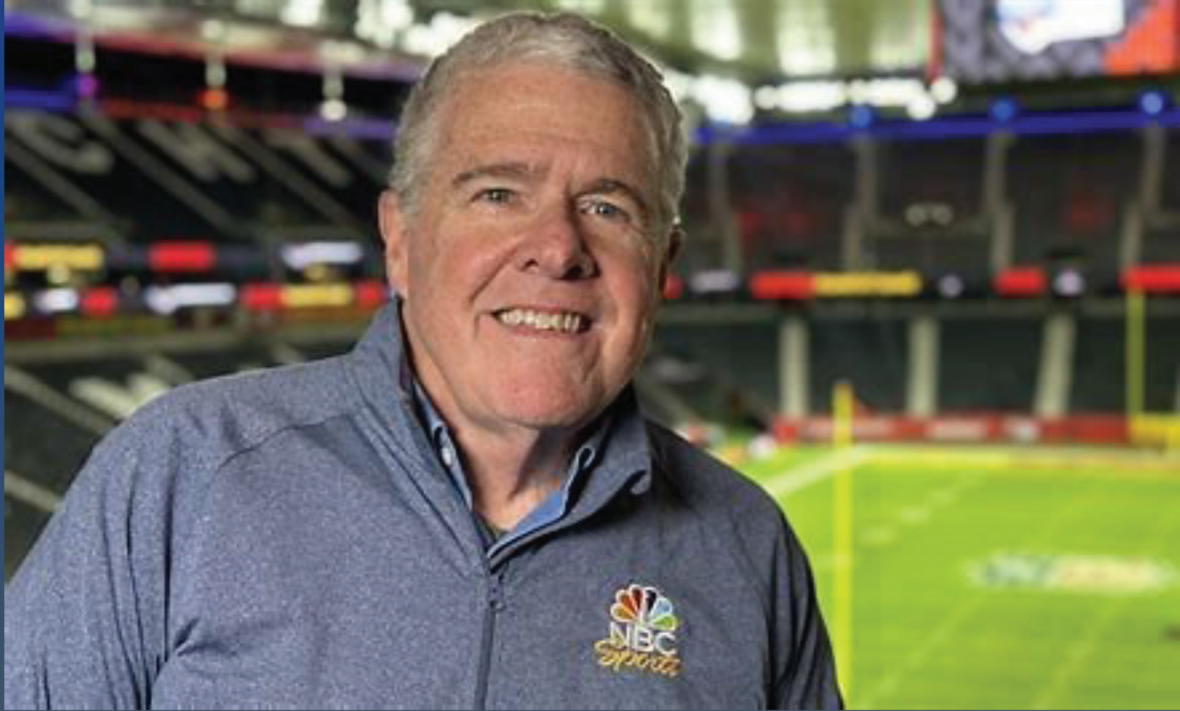
Congratulations to the 2026 honorees! We especially congratulate Dave Wallace, a native of Waterbury. Thank you for the impact you have made on our community. Your dedication and hard work inspire us all.



Mayor Paul K. Pernerewski, Jr.  
Office of the Mayor

CONGRATULATIONS  
**PETER KING**

RECIPIENT OF THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD



THANK YOU FROM

**S O S**

*SAVE OUR SPORTS*

RETURNING SPORTS TO STUDENT ATHLETES IN

**ENFIELD CT**