

*East Greenbush  
Central School District*

*Athletic  
Hall of Fame*

*2005*

*Sponsored by  
The Columbia  
"All Sports" Club*

# ALUMNI ATHLETE INDUCTEES

A student athlete alumni whose accomplishments at Columbia High School represented the highest caliber of achievement in his/her time as well as athletes who have achieved success after graduation.

In order of year of graduation

## Peter B. Ashby

Peter Ashby came to the EGCS D in 1946 as a sophomore and graduated from Columbia High School in 1949. While a student, he participated in Football, Basketball, Baseball and Track

Peter played all three years earning 3 letters each in Football, Basketball and Baseball. Track was introduced to Columbia in 1949 and Pete took off with the team! He ran the 100 yard dash and the 220 yard sprint. He set two unofficial city records at the Bethlehem Central grounds, 10.2 seconds and 22.2 seconds respectively. Pete also ran the anchor spot for the 880 relay team which went undefeated. His time of 22.1 will stand in the record books of Columbia in the 220Y Straight as that is no longer run in the Suburban Council meets. Pete also has the distinction of being Columbia's first state champion. While doing all this running, Pete also helped the Baseball team to two straight Class C Championships.

After graduating high school, Pete spent one year at Albany Academy in Post Graduate course where he continued to run and was the 1950 Albany City Champ. He then went on to St. Lawrence University and played Football his Freshman year. Entering the US Army after St. Lawrence, Pete retired with the rank of major after 21 years of service.

# John Obermayer

John Obermayer, Hector to his classmates, could be included in all three of the categories of the EGCSO Athletic Hall of Fame - Alumni Athlete, Community Member and Coach. He participated in three years of Basketball and two years of Football while attending Columbia. He also has taught, been a volunteer and coached in the school district.

John was a starter on the Varsity Basketball team while in grades 10, 11 and 12. He also was a starter for Football during his junior and senior years. The first eleven man Football team at Columbia was during his junior year. The 1950 Football team won the Eastern Scholastic Conference championship. One game lists "Hector Obermayer took a pass from Sylvester" for the 2nd touch down of the game.

John went on to Siena College where he was a starter for every game in Basketball in his four years there. He was on the Freshman team his first year. Then played the varsity team his sophomore, junior and senior years. John led his team in scoring and rebounding those three years. He averaged 17.9 points per game during the 1957 season. He was also captain on the team his senior year.

Upon graduation from Siena, John was hired by the EGCSO as a Business Education teacher, working there until 1962. He was JV Basketball coach at Vincentian Institute in Albany in 1959-60 and at CHS during the 1961-64 seasons. John also was an assistant Football coach at CHS. From 1975 to the present, John has been a volunteer summer Varsity Basketball coach at Columbia and, from 1999 to the present, a volunteer in the 5th grade special education inclusion class at Genet Elementary.

The awards for John from the Capital District Community have been many. He was inducted into the Siena College Basketball Hall of Fame in January 1975. Also, he won the Father Ben Kuhn Distinguished Alumni Award for Service to the College Community in June of 1978. John was named the East Greenbush Teachers Association Community Member of the Year in 2002 and was inducted into the EGCSO Education Foundation Hall of Fame in 2003.

The All Sports Club would like to thank John for his continued support of Athletics in the EGCSO. He played an important role as the Historical Chairperson the first two years for our Athletic Hall of Fame. What a great knowledge he has of the past history of athletics & athletes at Columbia. Thank you John.

## Michael Rega

Michael Rega played two sports while attending Columbia High School. In the fall season, Mike was a participant on the CHS Football team. During the winter season, Mike played Basketball.

Football was the sport for Mike. He played three years on the Varsity team as a defensive and offensive tackle before his graduation in 1978. For his skills he was chosen for the All-Suburban Football 1st team his senior year. In Basketball, Mike played on the JV team his sophomore year & the Varsity team while in 11th and 12th grade.

Mike is one of a few Columbia graduates to be given a Division 1 Football scholarship. He attended Holy Cross, where he played all four years and was a starter for his sophomore, junior and senior years. After earning his Bachelors Degree at Holy Cross, Mike stayed and earned his Masters in Business Administration. While doing his grad work, Mike was an Offensive Line coach for one year.

Now working as a Certified Financial Analyst, Mike is continuing his involvement in sports. Mike is on the Board of Directors and is President of the Scituate Little League. He also helps coach Soccer and Baseball in his community.

# Scott Pladel

Scott Pladel attended Columbia High School graduating in 1980. While there he participated in Indoor and Outdoor Track setting records that still hold here in the EGCS. After leaving CHS, Scott has been involved in many different kinds of sporting activities.

The Triple Jump was Scott's claim to fame in both Indoor and Outdoor Track, even though he was involved in a variety of events. His junior year saw Scott 3rd in the Eastern States for Indoor Track Triple Jump and 2nd his senior year. During his senior year, Scott was also the NY State Champion in the Triple Jump. He still holds two field event records for Triple Jump here at CHS, 47'1" in Indoor Track and 47'3" in Outdoor Track, set during his senior year. Scott was ranked 9th in the country for his jumping skills in 1980.

Northern University in Boston gave Scott a 4 year scholarship for Track and Field. He earned All-New England from 1982-85. He was also chosen to be included in the Who's Who in American Universities at North Eastern for his academic accomplishments.

In 1985, Scott switched sports and became involved in bobsledding. He was a member of the US National Olympic Bobsled team from 1985 through 1992. He holds two World Cup Championships for the four man Bobsled which were earned in 1986 and 1987. In 1987, Scott was also on the Bobsled team that holds the record of World's Fastest Push and World's Fastest Finish Time for the Lake Placid Bobsled Track. That track was torn down in 1992 so those records will stand. Scott was fortunate to represent the US in the 1988 Calgary Winter Olympics.

Scott is now an Orthopedic PA with a Sports Medicine Clinic in Boston. He keeps busy as a Nationally ranked Professional Long Drive Golfer. Best of luck in your new sporting endeavor.

## Donna Girtler Duffy

Donna Girtler Duffy graduated from Columbia in 1982. She was involved in Cross Country, Indoor and Outdoor Track while a student in the EGCS. Her accomplishments in sports are numerous.

Participating in all three seasons of Track and Cross Country for all four of her years at CHS, Donna was kept busy. Though involved in several events, she is most noted for her High Jumping skills. During her sophomore year, Donna placed 3rd at the Eastern States in high jump and was 1st in the Tri-County for Indoor Track. In Outdoor that year, she placed 1st in the high jump for Suburban Council, Sectionals and State. That year also saw Donna in the Jr. National Empire State Games.

During her junior year, Donna again earned several 1st places at the Dutchman Games, the Engineer Games, the Tri-County and earned 5th place at the States in Indoor Track. During the spring Outdoor season, Donna earned 1st in the Sectionals and State and 2nd in the Pen Relays. She then participated in the Junior Olympics.

Donna's senior year brought her a 1st place at the Eddie Meet and in doing so set a new record. During her 1980 Outdoor Track season, Donna is also on record at CHS at setting a record high jump of 5'8 which stills holds today.

After high school, Donna was on to Virginia Tech where she earned an Athletic Scholarship. Now she is a stay at home mom and is very active with two teenagers who are involved in sports, Boys Ice Hockey and Girls Tennis.

Congratulations to Donna and her achievements of Two Time State Champion in the High Jump for Outdoor Track. What an outstanding accomplishment

## Rebecca Snow

Becky Snow was a three sport participant at CHS - Field Hockey, Basketball and Softball. From these three sports she earned 10 Letters before her graduation in 1996, and her accomplishments are many.

In Field Hockey, Becky played three years, helping the team to two Gold Division championships. She was selected for the Suburban Council 1st team her senior year.

With the end of the Field Hockey season it was onto Basketball. Becky played four years of Basketball at CHS. She was part of the 1993-94 team that had the best season ever at Columbia, with a Class A Sectional title. Again she was chosen for the Suburban Council 1st team in Basketball her senior year.

To end the school year in the spring, Becky was involved in Softball, playing three years on Varsity as a catcher. She helped these teams to become Sectional Semi-Finalists in 1994, Sectional Champion and State Semi-Finalist in 1995 and Sectional Champion and Regional Finalist in 1996. Becky was named to the Suburban Council 1st team, All-Region Team in her senior year and the 1996 Player of the Year. She also was awarded the Robert D. Chipp Memorial Award for Athletics and Citizenship her senior year.

On Graduation from CHS, Becky received a Division 2 scholarship to the University of New Haven to play Basketball. While there she also played Softball. She was a four year starter for both teams at New Haven. Becky continues to be involved in sports and at the present time is Head Coach of the New Haven Softball team.

# Michelle Gosh

Michelle Gosh is the youngest athlete to be inducted into the CHS Athletic hall of Fame.

Graduating in 1997, Michelle played three sports while at Columbia - Soccer, Basketball and Softball. She also has continued her involvement with athletics into her working career.

Playing three years on the Varsity team in Soccer kept Michelle busy for the fall. She helped the team to a winning season with a record of 11 wins, 7 loses and 1 tie. Basketball then started for the winter. Again playing three seasons on the Varsity team. During her senior year, Michelle helped the team to a Gold Division 2nd place finish.

Softball is were Michelle really excelled. Playing shortstop on the Varsity all four years of her high school career, Michelle had a 36 game hit streak during the '96 and '97 seasons. She was a three time Section 2 All-Star and Troy Record Player of the Year for Section 2. Michelle was on the teams that went to the State Semi-Finalist in 1995 and Regional Finalist in 1996, as well as Sectional play in 1994 and 1997.

Division 1 Marist College gave Michelle a four year Softball scholarship. While there she also played Basketball. On the Softball team, Michelle was given the honor of MACC two time All-Star.

Earning a Bachelors degree to teach Social Studies, Michelle was hired by the Brewster School District in southern New York state. Michelle now coaches Softball there. She was named "Coach of the Year" in Section 1 in 2003 and 2004, while bringing the girls to two consecutive Section Titles. We will be watching for you again this year.

# **COACH FACULTY/STAFF INDUCTEES**

A coach or faculty member whose contributions and achievements have improved the reputation and brought credit to our school or have inspired our student athletes to achieve their own personal level of excellence. Not based solely on wins and losses and championships but determined by the degree of respect given the coach and program by other people.

## Theodore A. Romanowski

Ted Romanowski has served as teacher, coach, athletic director and assistant principal in the East Greenbush Central School District for a combined total of 31 years. He started with the district in 1964 as a physical education teacher, where he taught for nine years. Ted coached for 8 years from 1964 to 1972. He was athletic director from 1972 through 1976. He became assistant principal in 1973 and retired in 1995.

Attending Phillip Schyler High School, Ted participated in Football, Basketball, Baseball and Track. He received a Football scholarship to the University of Notre Dame. He played Football, Basketball and Track while at Notre Dame. Due to a knee injury and having to take one semester off, Ted graduated with a Bachelors Degree in Physical Education after 4 1/2 years. Ted worked as a physical education teacher at Notre Dame but also was awarded a Fellowship for his Masters in Education, which he accomplished in 1963.

In 1963, arriving back in Albany, Ted worked at Albany High School and coached for Varsity Football (assistant), JV Basketball and JV Baseball. After one year in Albany he was hired by East Greenbush in 1964. While in the EGCS, Ted has coached Modified Football, Modified Track, JV Basketball, Assistant Varsity Football and Varsity Basketball. Under his watch, the Varsity Basketball team received the Greenbush Area News Southern Rens. County Trophy for the 1971-1972 season. Ted was also named the GAN "Coach of the Year." His Modified Track team was Suburban Council Champs from 1970-1972 and went undefeated in 1971.

During his relationship with the EGCS athletic programs, teaching and administrating, Theodore Romanowski has made an impact on many students. On his nomination it was stated that "Mr. Romanowski needs to be recognized not only for the positive impact he has made on just me, but the entire community. Many students are extremely grateful for his caring and guidance."

Congratulations to the 2005  
Columbia Athletic Hall of Fame  
inductees. You show the true  
spirit of our athletes and bring  
the past and present together as  
one. Thank you to all for paving  
the way for all our young  
athletes and teaching them how  
hard work, integrity, strength,  
and pride can pay off. You are  
the pride of the East Greenbush  
School District Community &  
the Columbia Athletic Family.

*Blue Devil Pride*

Mike Leonard  
*Athletic Director*

Thank you to all who have helped in  
preparing for this years  
Athletic Hall of Fame Celebration.

Please join us next year  
for the Fourth Annual  
East Greenbush Central School District  
Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

## ***CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME***

### **Alumni Athlete Category:**

(in order of year of graduation)

Royal Herrington (1942)  
John Marks (1948)  
Donald Bins (1949)\*  
Milt Graham (1952)  
Richard Aloise (1954)\*  
Henry Romer (1961)  
William Romer (1962)  
Michael M. Mahar (1966)  
Gerald Elliot (1967)  
Paul Thompson (1969)  
Albert "Rocky" Rausch (1973)  
Robert Hellwig (1977)  
Inge Stockman Aiken (1979)  
Richard Romer (1984)  
Russell Hilton (1984)  
Barbara Finke Sauter (1985)  
John Keller (1986)  
Robin Romer Chudy (1988)  
Lisa Daniels Fishell (1988)  
Kurt Randall (1990)  
Shay Harrison (1990)  
Marc Williams (1991)  
Doug Keenholts (1995)

### **Coach/Staff Member Category:**

Nicholas Budnowski\*  
Peter Citrolo  
Edith Cosgrove  
Richard Randall  
Robert Smith

### **Community Member Category:**

Dick Doran