

***EAST GREENBUSH
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT***

***ATHLETIC
HALL OF FAME
2008***



***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

CHRISTOPHER ASHBY

CLASS OF 1951

CHRISTOPHER ASHBY GREW UP ON BROOKVIEW RD IN THE SCHODACK SCHOOL DISTRICT. HIS FATHER WANTED HIM TO PLAY FOOTBALL AND PAID A \$25 FEE FOR HIM TO ATTEND THE EAST GREENBUSH SCHOOLS FROM THE FALL OF 1947 UNTIL HE GRADUATED IN 1951. WHILE AT COLUMBIA HE NOT ONLY PLAYED FOOTBALL BUT ALSO BASKETBALL, BASEBALL AND TRACK EARNING TEN VARSITY LETTERS ALL TOGETHER.

CHRIS PLAYED FOUR YEARS OF FOOTBALL WITH THREE ON THE VARSITY TEAM. HE WAS THE STARTING HALFBACK OF THE FIRST AND SECOND ELEVEN MAN FOOTBALL TEAMS. HIS SENIOR YEAR HE WAS CHOSEN CAPTAIN OF THE TEAM AND HELPED LEAD THEM TO THE EASTERN SCHOLASTIC CONFERENCE (EASTERN DIVISION) CHAMPIONSHIP. THIS WAS TO BE COLUMBIA'S FIRST CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM.

DURING THE WINTER MONTHS, CHRIS PLAYED BASKETBALL ALL FOUR YEARS OF HIS HIGH SCHOOL CAREER. HE EARNED TWO VARSITY LETTERS IN BASKETBALL. WHEN SPRING ARRIVED, CHRIS COULD BE SEEN ON BOTH THE BASEBALL FIELD AND RUNNING TRACK. HE PARTICIPATED IN FOUR YEARS OF BASEBALL, THREE ON VARSITY WHERE HE WAS THE CENTERFIELDER AND ONE OF THE LEAD HITTERS HIS SENIOR YEAR. CHRIS WAS "THE SPEED DEMON OF THE TEAM" AS THE YEARBOOK QUOTES, ON THE TRACK TEAM. HE RAN THE 100 AND 220 DASHES AND WAS ON THE RELAY TEAM. THE RELAY TEAM WAS THE BEST IN THE AREA.

NOT ONLY DID CHRIS PARTICIPATE IN ATHLETICS, HE WAS ALSO INVOLVED IN MANY OTHER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES. HE WAS CLASS PRESIDENT HIS FRESHMAN, SOPHOMORE AND JUNIOR YEARS. HE WAS IN THE VARSITY CLUB, PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB, BOYS CHORUS, AND WAS ON THE COMMITTEES OF SEVERAL PROMS AND DANCES. HE WAS ALSO NAMED CLASS ATHLETE BY THE CLASS OF 1951.

CHRIS WAS THE FIRST RECIPIENT OF THE ROBERT D CHIPP MEMORIAL AWARD FOR ATHLETICS AND CITIZENSHIP, AN HONOR HE TRULY CHERISHES. CHRIS AND ROBERT WERE GOOD FRIENDS DURING SCHOOL. AFTER ROBERT'S DEATH, CHRIS STAYED IN CONTACT WITH HIS DAD, RODNEY, PLAYING GOLF WITH HIM. ROD, A SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER AT COLUMBIA, GAVE CHRIS HIS NICKNAME "COOLIE" WHICH HE IS STILL KNOWN BY TODAY.

AFTER GRADUATING, CHRIS WAS DRAFTED INTO THE ARMY DURING THE KOREAN CONFLICT. HE PLAYED BASEBALL ON THE ARMY TEAM. AFTER HIS DISCHARGE, HE PLAYED BASEBALL IN THE TWILIGHT LEAGUE AND EVENTUALLY FAST PITCH SOFTBALL IN THE ALBANY AREA. HE NOW ENJOYS PLAYING GOLF.

CHRIS WORKED FOR HIS GRANDFATHER'S LUMBER BUSINESS AND STAYED IN THE LUMBER BUSINESS FOR 55 YEARS, BOTH IN NEW YORK AND FLORIDA. HE MARRIED ALICE JOHNSON FROM CASTLETON AND HAS THREE CHILDREN, SIX GRANDCHILDREN AND ONE GREAT GRANDCHILD.

ROBERT FEDERCHUCK

CLASS OF 1954

THE SENIORS OF 1954 VOTED ROBERT "BERT" FEDERCHUCK BEST ATHLETE. THE EARNING OF 10 VARSITY LETTERS DURING HIS HIGH SCHOOL CAREER NO DOUBT HAD A PART IN THAT HONOR. HE PARTICIPATED IN FOOTBALL, BASKETBALL, BASEBALL AND TRACK.

BERT PLAYED THREE YEARS OF FOOTBALL ON THE VARSITY LEVEL. HE PLAYED TAILBACK AND LINEBACKER FOR COLUMBIA IN A SINGLE WING FORMATION WHERE HE WOULD PASS, RAN OR LATERAL THE BALL. DURING ONE GAME HIS JUNIOR YEAR, BERT SCORED FOUR TOUCHDOWNS HELPING COLUMBIA ATTAIN ITS HIGHEST TOTAL SCORE IN THE SCHOOL'S HISTORY WHILE DEFEATING COXSACKIE 42-0. BERT CO-CAPTAINED HIS SENIOR YEAR AND HELPED LEAD THE SCHOOL TO ITS ONLY UNDEFEATED SEASON. COLUMBIA LED THE ALBANY AREA OFFENSIVELY, SCORING 168 POINTS AND HOLDING THEIR OPPONENTS TO 62 POINTS. BERT WAS CHOSEN TO THE TIMES UNION ALL-ALBANY FOOTBALL TEAM

WHEN THE WINTER SPORT SEASON APPROACHED, BERT WOULD BE ON THE BASKETBALL COURT. HE AGAIN PLAYED THREE YEARS ON VARSITY AND WAS NAMED CO-CAPTAIN HIS SENIOR YEAR. HIS SOPHOMORE YEAR, BERT SHARED THE GUARD POSITION STARTING EVERY GAME. THAT YEAR THE TEAM WON THE CLASS C SECTIONALS. DURING THE NEXT SEASON, HIS JUNIOR YEAR, BERT WAS AMONG THE LEADING SCORERS. THIS TEAM TIED FOR 1ST PLACE IN THE CENTRAL HUDSON VALLEY LEAGUE LOSING THE PLAYOFF GAME 48-46. THE 1953-54 WINNING SEASON, BERT'S SENIOR YEAR, AGAIN BROUGHT A TIE, THIS TIME A FOUR-WAY TIE FOR 1ST PLACE IN THE LEAGUE. BERT EARNED AN HONORABLE MENTION ON THE ALL-ALBANY TEAM THAT YEAR.

BASEBALL IN THE SPRING, BERT WOULD BE BACK OUTSIDE WHERE HE PLAYED SHORTSTOP AND CENTERFIELD HIS SOPHOMORE AND JUNIOR YEARS AND ALSO CAUGHT DURING HIS SENIOR YEAR. HE AGAIN WAS A THREE-YEAR VARSITY PLAYER. HE HAD A CAREER BATTING AVERAGE OVER .300. COLUMBIA WON THE 1954 CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE CAPITAL REGION BASEBALL LEAGUE. BERT ALSO RAN THE HALF MILE ON THE TRACK TEAM HIS SENIOR YEAR. BUT A SPRAINED ANKLE CURTAILED HIS COMPETING.

BECAUSE OF HIS ATHLETIC AND SELFLESS CHARACTER, BERT WAS CHOSEN FOR THE ROBERT D CHIPP MEMORIAL AWARD HIS SENIOR YEAR. THIS AWARD IS ONE OF THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS PRESENTED BY COLUMBIA. BERT PARTICIPATED IN MANY OTHER ACTIVITIES WHILE ATTENDING COLUMBIA HIGH SCHOOL. HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE BAND, THE VARSITY CLUB AND PRESIDENT HIS SENIOR YEAR, CLASS PRESIDENT DURING HIS SOPHOMORE YEAR AND THE NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY HIS JUNIOR AND SENIOR YEARS.

AFTER GRADUATING BERT WAS APPROACHED BY BOTH THE BOSTON RED SOX AND THE BROOKLYN DODGERS TO TRY-OUT FOR THEIR MAJOR LEAGUE TEAMS. BUT HE DECIDED TO ACCEPT A FULL ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIP FOR FOOTBALL AND ATTEND SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY. IN COLLEGE PLAY AT THAT TIME, PLAYERS WOULD HAVE TO PLAY BOTH OFFENSIVE AND DEFENSIVE. BERT STARTED HAVING PROBLEMS WITH HIS WRISTS AND FOUND OUT THAT HE HAD BROKEN BOTH OF HIS WRISTS DURING HIGH SCHOOL AND HADN'T KNOWN IT. UNABLE TO PLAY BOTH OFFENSIVE AND DEFENSIVE PLAYS DURING ONE HALF, BERT REMAINED ON THE TEAM BUT DID NOT PLAY MUCH. BERT EARNED HIS DEGREE IN GENERAL STUDIES/ PRE-MED FROM SYRACUSE AND CONTINUED ON TO GET A GRADUATE DEGREE IN PHYSICAL THERAPY AT DUKE UNIVERSITY. HE PLAYED SHORTSTOP WITH THE DURHAM BEES SEMI-PRO BASEBALL TEAM WHILE AT DUKE. BERT WORKED AT DUKE UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER AS A TEACHER AND DIRECTOR OF THE P.T. CLINIC AND HAD A PRIVATE PRACTICE WHERE HE PROVIDED P.T. HOME CARE SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS NEAR WINSTON-SALEM, NC. BERT HAS STAYED ACTIVE PLAYING IN CHURCH SOFTBALL LEAGUES AND ALSO STARTED RUNNING. HE HAS PARTICIPATED IN SEVERAL 10K RACES. BERT MARRIED AFTER GRADUATING FROM SYRACUSE. HE AND HIS WIFE HAVE THREE DAUGHTERS, FIVE GRANDCHILDREN, TWO GREAT GRANDCHILDREN AND ONE MORE ONE THE WAY.

JOHN TULLAR

CLASS OF 1954

JOHN TULLAR PARTICIPATED IN FOOTBALL, BASKETBALL, BASEBALL AND TRACK WHILE AT COLUMBIA HIGH SCHOOL. HE EARNED 5 VARSITY LETTERS IN ALL AND WAS A MEMBER OF THE VARSITY CLUB HIS JUNIOR AND SENIOR YEARS. HIS NOMINEES STATE "JOHN ENJOYED PRACTICING AND WORKED HARD TO IMPROVE HIS SKILLS. HE WAS A TEAM PLAYER WHO NEVER PROMOTED HIMSELF DESPITE OBVIOUS ATHLETIC TALENT." IN THE FALL SEASON, JOHN WOULD BE ON THE FOOTBALL FIELD WHERE HE WAS OFFENSIVE AND DEFENSIVE END AND KICKER. HE WAS ON THE VARSITY TEAM BOTH HIS JUNIOR AND SENIOR YEARS. HE WOULD MAKE ONE-HANDED CATCHES LOOK EASY. AS PUNTER, JOHN HAD ONE PUNT GO 75 YARDS. HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE 1953 TEAM THAT WENT UNDEFEATED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN COLUMBIA'S HISTORY. THAT YEAR HE WAS CHOSEN OUTSTANDING PLAYER IN THE CAPITAL DISTRICT BY THE TIMES UNION AND IN ONE GAME WAS NAMED "LINEMAN OF THE WEEK." HE WAS THE HIGHEST SCORING LINEMAN IN THE AREA WITH 38 POINTS FOR THE SEASON. HE WAS NAMED TO THE TIMES UNION ALL-ALBANY TEAM ALSO DURING HIS SENIOR YEAR. JOHN PARTICIPATED IN BASKETBALL ON THE JUNIOR VARSITY HIS SOPHOMORE YEAR AND VARSITY AS A SENIOR. HE ALSO WAS A PITCHER ON THE JUNIOR VARSITY BASEBALL TEAM HIS FRESHMAN YEAR. BUT TRACK WAS JOHN'S FOCUS WHEN SPRING CAME AROUND. HE WAS ON THE VARSITY TEAM HIS SOPHOMORE, JUNIOR AND SENIOR YEARS AND WAS NAMED CAPTAIN DURING HIS SENIOR YEAR. HE THREW DISCUS, SHOT PUT AND RAN THE 4 X 220 RELAY. HIS JUNIOR YEAR, JOHN WENT TO THE NYS INTERSECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS AT WEST POINT AND PLACED 3RD IN THE DISCUS. JOHN RECEIVED THE BATON FOR LEADING THE TEAM IN SCORING HIS JUNIOR YEAR. HIS SENIOR YEAR SAW HIM AGAIN AT WEST POINT, THIS TIME PLACING 2ND. HE WAS BEAT ONLY BY AL OERTER WHO WAS A FUTURE FIVE TIME OLYMPIC CHAMPION. HE ALSO PLACED 4TH IN THE SHOT PUT AT WEST POINT. THE CHS TEAM WENT UNDEFEATED IN FOUR DUAL MEETS, COMPILING A SIX-YEAR RECORD OF 25 WINS AND 3 LOSES. JOHN RAN AS PART OF THE 4 X 220 RELAY TEAM THAT SET A CHS RECORD THAT STOOD FOR 14 YEARS AND THE SHOT PUT RECORD THAT ALSO STOOD FOR 14 YEARS. HIS CHS DISCUS RECORD STOOD FOR 24 YEARS. HE PLACED 1ST IN THE AAU MEET AT UNION COLLEGE WITH BOTH HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE ENTRANTS AND SET A NEW RECORD FOR THE DISCUS AT THE CITY OF ALBANY SCHOLASTIC MEET. AFTER GRADUATING FROM COLUMBIA, JOHN WAS GIVEN A FULL ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIP TO PENN STATE UNIVERSITY FOR BOTH FOOTBALL AND TRACK. HE CHOSE TO CONCENTRATE ON TRACK AND PLAYED ALL FOUR YEARS THERE. HE WAS ELECTED CAPTAIN HIS SENIOR YEAR. HE WENT TO COLLEGIATE NATIONAL MEETS TWICE AND HIS SENIOR YEAR WON THE GOLD MEDAL IN DISCUS WITH A DISTANCE OF 166 FT AT THE IC4A, EAST COAST CHAMPIONSHIP MEET. HE EARNED A DEGREE IN BIOLOGY AND WENT ON TO OBTAIN HIS MASTERS IN ZOOLOGY FROM ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY. THOUGH HE DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN SPORTS AT ARIZONA HE TOOK UP BICYCLING TO GET AROUND CAMPUS. JOHN NOW LIVES IN NORTH CAROLINA, IS MARRIED AND HAS 3 CHILDREN AND 3 GRANDCHILDREN. HE BECAME AN ORDAINED MINISTER IN THE KINGDOM CONNECTION MINISTRY AND VISITS WITH THE SICK AND POOR OF RURAL NORTH CAROLINA. HE HAS ALSO TAKEN MISSIONARY TRIPS TO KENYA, BELIZE, WALES, CUBA AND THE UKRAINE. HE WAS AN ACTIVE LEADER IN CUB SCOUTS WHILE HIS TWO SONS WERE IN THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA PROGRAM. SEVERAL YEARS AGO, JOHN WENT TO THE SENIOR GAMES OF TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY, NC AND WON THE DISCUS, SHOT PUT AND 5K WALK EVENTS FOR HIS AGE GROUP (THOUGH HE WANTS EVERYONE TO KNOW THAT HE WAS THE ONLY ENTRANT). EVEN TODAY, JOHN CONTINUES TO "PREFER TO GO WITHOUT FANFARE."

LYNNE MAURA FITZGERALD

CLASS OF 1986

LYNNE MAURA FITZGERALD AWARDED THE EDITH COSGROVE AWARD HER SENIOR YEAR AT COLUMBIA. THIS IS GIVEN TO THE FEMALE WHO HAS EARNED THE MOST VARSITY LETTERS. IN TOTAL, LYNNE PLAYED ON VARSITY TEAMS II SEASONS BETWEEN FIELD HOCKEY, VOLLEYBALL, BASKETBALL AND SOFTBALL. LYNNE'S PEERS ELECTED HER THE MOST ATHLETIC FEMALE IN THE 1986 YEARBOOK.

THE FIELD HOCKEY FIELD IS WHERE YOU WOULD FIND LYNNE PROTECTING THE GOAL AS A FULLBACK WHEN SCHOOL STARTED EACH FALL. SHE PLAYED JUNIOR VARSITY HER FRESHMAN YEAR AND MOVED UP TO THE VARSITY LEVEL. SHE WAS A STARTER FOR HER NEXT THREE YEARS. HER SENIOR YEAR SHE WAS CAPTAIN. LYNNE AND HER TEAM GAVE COLUMBIA ITS FIRST FIELD HOCKEY SECTIONAL PLAY IN 1983.

LYNNE WAS FORTUNATE TO ALSO PLAY VOLLEYBALL STARTING HER SOPHOMORE YEAR ON THE JUNIOR VARSITY AND MOVING UP TO VARSITY FOR HER JUNIOR AND SENIOR YEARS. SHE AND HER TEAM WENT ON TO WIN THE SUBURBAN COUNCIL TOURNAMENT AND SECTION TWO CLASS A TITLE ONE YEAR. LYNNE RECEIVED THE HONOR OF SUBURBAN COUNCIL ALL-STAR IN HER SENIOR YEAR. SHE ALSO WENT TO PLAY FOR THE EMPIRE STATE GAMES GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL TEAM IN 1985. BASKETBALL SEASON BROUGHT LYNNE ONTO THE COURT PLAYING THREE YEARS AT THE VARSITY LEVEL. SHE WAS CHOSEN AS THE CAPTAIN HER SENIOR YEAR. IN THE COLUMBIA BASKETBALL RECORDS LYNNE'S NAME APPEARS IN MANY CATEGORIES; 408 CAREER POINTS, 136 CAREER FREE THROWS, 147 CAREER ASSISTS, 21 GAMES WITH 10 OR MORE POINTS, 201 POINTS HER JUNIOR YEAR AND 167 POINTS HER SENIOR YEAR. DURING HER SENIOR YEAR LYNNE HELPED LEAD THE TEAM TO 2ND PLACE IN THE SUBURBAN COUNCIL BLUE DIVISION.

IN THE SPRING, THE SOFTBALLS WOULD FLY WITH LYNNE A STARTING CATCHER FOR THREE YEARS ON VARSITY AND AGAIN BEING PICKED CAPTAIN HER SENIOR YEAR. SHE HELPED THE COLUMBIA TEAM TO SECTIONAL QUARTER FINALS HER SOPHOMORE YEAR AND SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS HER JUNIOR AND SENIOR YEARS. LYNNE WAS THE BEST DEFENSIVE CATCHER IN SECTION TWO WITH NO PLAYER EVER STEALING A BASE WHEN SHE WAS BEHIND THE PLATE. ALONG WITH PLAYING SOFTBALL AT SCHOOL, LYNNE ALSO WAS A SUCCESSFUL EGGSAL PLAYER BEING CHOSEN ALL-STAR, MVP NUMEROUS TIMES. HER JERSEY WAS RETIRED ON SEPTEMBER 30, 1983.

AFTER HIGH SCHOOL LYNNE WENT TO THE COLLEGE OF ST ROSE AND PLAYED VOLLEYBALL, BASKETBALL AND SOFTBALL. HER FRESHMAN YEAR THE VOLLEYBALL TEAM WENT UNDEFEATED IN THE CENTRAL ATLANTIC COLLEGE CONFERENCE (CACC). SHE WAS NAMED TO BOTH THE CACC ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM AND THE NAIA ALL-DISTRICT TEAM. HER SOPHOMORE YEAR LYNNE WAS NAMED MOST IMPROVED PLAYER IN BASKETBALL. HER JUNIOR YEAR, SHE LED THE TEAM IN BLOCKED SHOTS, REBOUNDING AND A CAREER-HIGH 27 POINTS IN ONE GAME. LYNNE PLAYED SOFTBALL ALL FOUR YEARS IN COLLEGE. AT ST ROSE SHE SWITCHED FROM CATCHER TO THE POSITION OF SHORTSTOP. HER SOPHOMORE YEAR SHE BATTED .403 AND WAS NAMED TO THE CACC ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM AND NAIA ALL-DISTRICT TEAM. AS A JUNIOR, SHE BATTED .448 AND WAS NAMED OFFENSIVE MVP WITH ANOTHER CACC ALL-CONFERENCE PICK. HER SENIOR YEAR, LYNNE WAS AGAIN NAMED TO THE NAIA ALL-DISTRICT TEAM.

LYNNE CURRENTLY WORKS AS AN ASSISTANT DEVELOPER FOR BRADLEY PARK BUILDERS BUT CONTINUES TO BE INVOLVED IN SPORTS. SHE COACHED FRESHMAN GIRLS' BASKETBALL AND JUNIOR VARSITY SOFTBALL AT NISKAYUNA FOR SEVERAL YEARS. SHE ALSO HAS COACHED WITH THE CLASSIE LASSIE SOFTBALL LEAGUE REGULAR SEASON AND TRAVEL TEAMS. SHE HERSELF KEEPS BUSY PLAYING 2ND BASE FOR A CO-ED SOFTBALL LEAGUE. LYNNE ALSO IS A NYS GIRLS BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL REFEREE SO SHE CAN STILL BE SEEN ON THE CAPITAL DISTRICT COURTS EACH SEASON. THE DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS AT THE COLLEGE OF ST ROSE STATES "LYNNE CREATED EXCITEMENT WHEN SHE WAS ON THE COURT OR FIELD. SHE MADE HER TEAMMATES BETTER EVERY DAY AND HER POSITIVE, OUTGOING NATURE IS AN ASSET THAT ANY COACH WOULD CHERISH."

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.

JAMES MCHUGH

COACH

JAMES MCHUGH ATTENDED LANSINGBURGH HIGH SCHOOL IN TROY WHERE HE WRESTLED AND PLAYED FOOTBALL. THIS MIGHT BE WHERE HE ACQUIRED HIS LOVE FOR THE SPORTS THAT EVENTUALLY BROUGHT HIM TO STUDENTS AND ATHLETES AS A TEACHER, COACH AND MENTOR IN THE EAST GREENBUSH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT.

JIM BEGAN HIS EDUCATION CAREER IN THE EAST GREENBUSH IN 1988 AS AN ELEMENTARY TEACHER WORKING AT RED MILL ELEMENTARY AND MOVING TO GENET IN 1993. AS A TEACHER HE WON SEVERAL AWARDS; 2003 MARY P. VANDERZEE "SPECIAL EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR" AWARD, 2005 ROTARY CLUB TEACHER OF THE YEAR, INDUCTION IN THE WHO'S WHO AMONG AMERICAN EDUCATORS. JIM WENT ON TO BE DEAN OF STUDENTS AT COLUMBIA IN 2005, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL IN 2006 AND IS NOW PRINCIPAL AT BELL TOP ELEMENTARY. HE HOLDS A BA IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION, MASTERS IN READING EDUCATION AND SCHOOL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION CERTIFICATION.

THE EAST GREENBUSH SCHOOLS IS ALSO WHERE JIM HAS BEEN A STANDOUT COACH AND ROLE MODEL FOR THE STUDENTS IN THE DISTRICT. HE STARTED COACHING IN 1995 WHEN HE WAS ASKED TO LEAD THE JUNIOR VARSITY WRESTLING TEAM. HE WAS NAMED 1997 SECTION TWO ASSISTANT COACH OF THE YEAR AND STARTED A FEEDER PROGRAM THAT NOW HAS MORE THAN 80 PARTICIPANTS. IN 1997, JIM BECAME HEAD VARSITY WRESTLING COACH. DURING HIS LEADERSHIP, THERE HAS BEEN A NEW YORK STATE CHAMPION, FOUR SECTION TWO CHAMPIONS, ELEVEN CLASS A CHAMPIONS AND 31 SECTION TWO PLACE FINISHERS. A TOTAL OF 97 WINS AT COLUMBIA AND 105 WINS OVERALL DURING HIS TEN YEAR SPAN OF COACHING WITH TEAMS THAT HAD THREE CLASS A SECOND PLACE FINISHES, ONE THIRD PLACE AND SECTION TWO CHAMPIONS IN 2004. JIM WAS NAMED 1999 SECTION TWO WRESTLING COACH OF THE YEAR AND 2003 -2004 TIMES UNION WRESTLING COACH OF THE YEAR. HIS 2004 SEASON TEAM WAS THE SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD WINNERS AND FIVE OF JIM'S WRESTLERS HAVE HAD OVER 100 CAREER VARSITY WINS.

FOOTBALL ALSO HAD JIM AT THE HELM. HE STARTED COACHING JUNIOR VARSITY IN 1998 AND IN 2003 BECAME HEAD VARSITY COACH. IN 2004, JIM WAS THE SECTION TWO SENIOR ALL-STAR GAME COACH. JIM ORGANIZED A NEW PARENT BOOSTER CLUB FOR FOOTBALL THAT IS NOW THIRTY PLUS MEMBERS STRONG.

BESIDES COACHING AT COLUMBIA, JIM HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN MANY EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES. HE WAS THE ORIGINATOR OF THE IRON DEVILS WEIGHT TRAINING PROGRAM WHERE HE IS AN HONORARY MEMBER. THIS PROGRAM IS A DRUG/SUPPLEMENT FREE FITNESS PROGRAM. JIM HAS TAUGHT NYS COACHING CERTIFICATE COURSES, BEEN A SPEAKER AT THE MEET THE COACHES NIGHT, AND SUPERVISOR OF THE SUMMER WEIGHT ROOM AT COLUMBIA. IN THE COMMUNITY JIM HAS BEEN AN EAST GREENBUSH LITTLE LEAGUE COACH, POP WARNER COACH AND WAS INVOLVED WITH THE YOUTH WRESTLING CLUB. HE ALSO COACHED THREE YEARS FOR THE EMPIRE STATE GAMES HIGH SCHOOL AND OPEN MEN'S WRESTLING TEAMS.

THROUGH HIS COACHING, TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES, JIM CONTINUES TO BE A ROLE MODEL FOR THE STUDENTS IN THE EAST GREENBUSH DISTRICT. RYAN, A FORMER WRESTLER AT COLUMBIA, WROTE THIS TO JIM WHILE STATIONED IN IRAQ IN 2005:

"WHENEVER I FEEL LIKE I CAN'T DO IT ANYMORE I THINK BACK TO THE SACRIFICES MADE IN THE AUDITORIUM ALL THOSE YEARS...IT TAUGHT ME DISCIPLINE THAT I MAY NEVER HAVE KNOWN. YOU'RE A GREAT MENTOR AND COACH AND I DON'T THINK YOU ALWAYS GET THE CREDIT YOU DESERVE."

JIM IS BEING INDUCTED INTO THE ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME TODAY, MAY 3, 2008.

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)*
PETER B. ASHBY (1949)
HOWARD FULLER (1950)
JOHN OBERMAYER (1951)
MILT GRAHAM (1952)
RICHARD ALOISE (1954)*
ROGER HOWARD (1958)
FRANCIS CLIFFORD (1958)
RALPH "HUCKEY" BLAIR (1959)
HENRY ROMER (1961)
WILLIAM ROMER (1962)
MICHAEL M. MAHAR (1966)
GERALD ELLIOT (1967)
PAUL THOMPSON (1969)
ALBERT "ROCKY" RAUSCH (1973)
ROBERT HELLWIG (1977)
MICHAEL REGA (1978)
INGE STOCKMAN AIKEN (1979)
SCOTT PLADEL (1980)
DONNA GIRTLE (1982)

RICHARD ROMER (1984)
RUSSELL HILTON (1984)
JOSEPH ROMER (1984)
BARBARA FINKE SAUTER (1985)
HOLLY CHASE (1985)
JOHN KELLER (1986)
ZACHARY SHEA (1987)
GLENN PASSMAN (1987)
ROBIN ROMER CHUDY (1988)
LISA DANIELS FISHELL (1988)
KRISTEN RANDALL (1988)
KURT RANDALL (1990)
SHAY HARRISON (1990)
MARC WILLIAMS (1991)
CHRISTINE NALLEY (1992)
JULIE FREZON (1994)
DOUG KEENHOLTS (1995)
BECKY SNOW (1996)
MICHELE GOSH (1997)
KATHLEEN SMITH (1998)

*DECEASED

COACH/STAFF MEMBER CATEGORY:

NICHOLAS BUDNOWSKI*
PETER CITROLO
EDITH COSGROVE
RICHARD RANDALL
ROBERT SMITH
GEORGE CZERNO
HARRY RAPENSKE
GARY HOLTZ
DENNIS BARRETT
JAMES BERRIER

COMMUNITY MEMBER CATEGORY:

DICK DORAN