

*East Greenbush
Central School District*

*Athletic
Hall of Fame
2006*



*Sponsored by
The Columbia
“All Sports” Club*

ALUMNI ATHLETE INDUCTEES

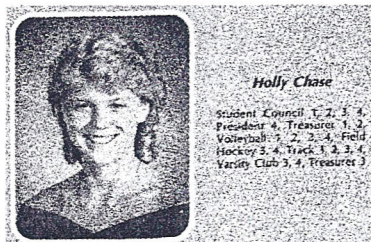
A student athlete alumni whose accomplishments at Columbia High School represented the highest caliber of achievement in his/her time as well as athletes who have achieved success after graduation

In order of year of graduation



RALPH BLAIR
"The king is full of grace
and fair regard."
Henry V

Joseph Romer
Joe
Basketball - 9-12



Holly Chase

Student Council 1, 2, 3, 4
President 4, Treasurer 1, 2
Volleyball 1, 2, 3, 4 - Field
Hockey 3, 4, Track 1, 2, 3, 4
Varsity Club 3, 4, Treasurer 2



Christine Marie Nalley

Nalley Face
National Honor Society 11, 12; Varsity Field Hockey 9,
10, 11, 12 (Captain 11, 12); Varsity Basketball 9, 10, 11,
12 (Captain 11, 12); Varsity Softball 10, 11, 12 (Cap-
tain 11, 12); Homecoming Committee 9, 10, 11, 12;
Student Council Officer 9, 10, 11, 12; Big Brothers/Big
Sisters 10; Who's who among High School Students
11; S.A.D.D. 10, 11, 12; Posa Committee 11, 12; MDA
Dance-a-thon 9, 12; Bloodmobile 9, 10, 11, 12.
"If you never try, you will never have to face defeat.
But you will never have the taste of victory, which is
always twice as sweet." . . . Christine Nalley

Ralph "Hucky" Blair

Class of 1959

Ralph "Hucky" Blair played four years of Football, Basketball and Baseball while a student at Columbia High School. He had many accomplishments, awards and honors in all three sports.

In 1958, Hucky received Most Improved Player in Baseball. 1959 brought him the Robert D Chipp Memorial Award, Honorable Mention All-Albany Football Award, and the Melvin Roads Citizenship Award. He was voted the "Best Sport" and "Best All Around Athlete" by his peers in the Senior Superlatives of the 1959 yearbook his senior year.

On the JV squads his Sophomore year he was captain of the Baseball team and Basketball team. Hucky was a right halfback and a fine breakaway runner for the Varsity Football team his senior year. With only one lose, Columbia shared the Suburban Council title with Bethlehem and Colonie. His senior year he helped the Varsity Basketball team become Suburban Council Champions. He was also the Baseball team captain in 1959 and was "Outstanding Senior Athlete" in Baseball.

During Hucky's career at Columbia, he was named Prom King in his Junior year. He was a member of the Varsity Club two years.

Quoted by his Football Coach Nick Budnowski, Hucky was "*A fine athlete—better still a Gentleman.*" Hucky still lives in the East Greenbush area and is very active with five new teammates, his grandchildren.

Joseph Romer

Class of 1984

In the history of Columbia Basketball, Joe's statistics, honors and accomplishments speak for themselves.

- 813 Points (8th All Time at Columbia High School)
- 230 Rebounds (24th All Time at Columbia High School)
- 195 Made Free-Throws (5th All Time at Columbia High School)
- 14.3 Career Scoring Average (13th All Time at Columbia High School)

In Joe's junior season, he received Honorable Mention All-Suburban Council. Summer of 1983, selected to the Adirondack Empire State Games Basketball Team. In his senior year, he was named first team All-Suburban Council, All-Area in Times Union, Troy Record and Schenectady Gazette. First player ever to be selected as a News Channel 13 "All-Star". Senior year he was the statistic MVP and MVP in the Rensselaer Tip-Off Tournament.

Joe's numbers in basketball speak for themselves. At the time of his graduation he ranked second all-time in scoring at Columbia and played at a time prior to the three point shot. In my opinion, he was one of the best players we have ever had at Columbia. During the 1980's, Joe had the second highest scoring total of the decade. The fact that he was Columbia's first News Channel 13 All-Star in 1984, which only 6 other male basketball players at Columbia have ever made and the second player ever to make the Empire State Games team are impressive merits. If you talk to people that have followed Columbia Basketball over the past thirty to forty years, they always mention Joe Romer's name as one of the top players in school history. With being an outstanding athlete Joe also got the job done in the classroom, as he was a member of the National Honor Society before attending Union College.

Holly Chase

Class of 1985

While at Columbia, Holly Chase played two years of Field Hockey, two years of Volleyball and six years each of Indoor Track and Outdoor Track & Field.

Holly participated and excelled at both Field Hockey and Volleyball. Because of her outstanding ability, Holly participated in Volleyball in her 11th & 12th grade years in the Empire State Games.

Although an accomplished Field Hockey and Volleyball athlete, it was both Indoor and Outdoor Track in which Holly will be remembered, at all levels, at Columbia, Section II and New York State.

Holly was the first athlete to be selectively classified and tested to participate at the Varsity level in Track as a 7th grader. As an 8th grader, Holly competed at the New York State Championship in the 45 meter dash. As a 7th, 8th & 9th grader, Holly also participated in the Empire State Games.

As a Track & Field athlete, she will be remembered as one of the best athletes in Columbia's history. Her records and accomplishments here at Columbia, Section II and New York State will be marked in history.

Holly was a two time Section II Champion, and until recently, held the Section II record in the Long Jump and the school record in both the Long Jump and 100 Meter Dash. Holly still holds the school record for the 45 Meter Dash.

In 1984, Holly finished second in the New York State Championship in the Long Jump. In 1985, Holly was the New York State Long Jump Champion.

Holly received a scholarship to Brown University to run track. She went on and had a very successful college career. After graduation from Brown, Holly received a Masters Degree in Engineering from RPI. Holly lives and works in Vermont.

Christine Nalley

Roane

Class of 1992

Christine will be known as one of the best and most competitive athletes in the history of Columbia. While at Columbia she played four years of Field Hockey, four years of Basketball and four years of softball.

On the Field Hockey team, Christine was named to the First Team All-Area three years. She helped the team become Section II Champions, Regional Champions and went to the New York State Semi Finals in 1991. The team ended its season with a record of 19-4 her senior year. She was team Captain both in 11th and 12th grade.

In Basketball, Christine was the leading scorer her Senior year. She has the Forward Record Holds in Assists and the team Captain both her Junior and Senior years.

Softball was her standout sport. Christine was a two time New York State Player of the Year. She was the leading hitter and pitcher to help Columbia become the New York State Champion team. She was named All-Area Team three years and Suburban Council All-Star three years.

Outside of sports, Chris was inducted into the National Honor Society her Junior year. She was involved in the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Program and was named to the Who's Who Among High School Students her Senior year.

Christine won a full scholarship the Drexel University. In college, she played both field hockey and softball. Christine had two no-hitters and for two years the highest batting average.

In her Senior yearbook, Christine choose the quote, *"If you never try, you will never have to face defeat. But you will never have the taste of victory, which is always twice as sweet."*

Christine currently resides with her husband in Connecticut.

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.



George Czerno



James Berrier



Gary Holtz

James Berrier

James D. Berrier, better known as Coach Berrier or Jim Berrier, was Head Football Coach at Columbia High School for 20 years (1970-1989). During this time Jim accomplished many things and he also displayed a great degree of character and class. It is most important to note that Jim was a kind and extremely dedicated person who led by example. Everything that he did was for the betterment of others and he never was self-aggrandizing. During his tenure the program had many highs and lows; yet, he was always the same kind, conscientious and hard working person.

To build the program, Jim established a small football booster club, *Fifth Quarter Club*, that later became the *Fifth Quarter All Sports Club* and eventually became the *All Sports Club*. In 1972 a "Super Gym" was purchased and it was the first effort at improving strength training for our athletes. He was a major factor in the volunteer building of our very large and very well equipped weight room that was opened in the summer of 1982. In 1984 Jim spearheaded the drive for the fund raising and purchase of lights for the football field. We were the second suburban school in the area to have lights.

Not all of the twenty years were successful years for Columbia Football. Jim did have winning seasons in 1974, 1976, 1979, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, and 1987. From 1981-1983 we had 3 successive 8-2 seasons with either sectional or Suburban Council championships. In 1983 Columbia was the Suburban Council Champions outright and received a bid in the Super Bowl. James Berrier was named Coach of the Year by the Times Union. As usual Jim gave credit to the school, the community, the Athletic Director, the players and the coaches. Many of Jim's players went on to college football and many more successful lives.

In 1978-1979 Jim worked with Harry Auble on a volunteer basis to establish an intramural Lacrosse program that later became a Varsity program a few years later. He was a great help to Coach Randall and he was a key member of that programs' Sectional Championship in 1986. Coach Randall was also a major reason for the football successes in the early 1980's.

In 1987 Jim's wife Dorothy suffered a debilitating stroke. Jim kept working and caring for his family while he worked and cared for his students and players. One would never have known that he was living in tragic circumstances. James Berrier, a quiet, unassuming man enriched the lives of all who had the chance to work with or play for him.

George Czerno

As a player here at Columbia, George lettered in 3 varsity sports. In his senior year George was named to the All- Area All-Star team.

George has been teaching and coaching, here in East Greenbush since 1971. The list of accomplishments as a coach in the East Greenbush School District is quite impressive and includes coaching achievements in six sports. Coach Czerno has coached 30 seasons of fall sports, 27 seasons of winter sports, and 29 seasons of spring sports. During this time George has coached approximately 7000 athletes.

As a coach, George will be looked on and honored as one of the most successful coaches in Columbia's Athletic history, particularly in Baseball. George's accomplishment in baseball will be marked in history, at Columbia, Section II level, as well as at the State level.

Some of Coach Czerno's accomplishments include 339 career wins, 193 loses, a .637 winning percentage. (as of end of 2005 season) The 339 wins is the most wins by any Suburban Council Coach in the history of the Suburban Council. He is the only Suburban Council Baseball Coach to ever win a New York State Championship. George is the only Section II Class AA Coach to ever win a New York State Championship. He is the only coach of a Columbia High School's boys athletic team to ever win a New York State Championship. Coach Czerno's teams and players have won the Suburban Council 8 times, have been Class A and AA Section II Champions 4 times, NYS Central Region Champions 3 times, NYS Class A finalist 1 time, and in 2004 New York State AA Champions.

Coach Czerno has been named Coach of the Year four times in Suburban Council, All Area Coach of the Year three times, and the NYS Sportswriter Coach of the Year in 2004. Today Coach Czerno continues to coach helping improve and impact our athletes.

Gary Holtz

Coach Holtz has been an integral part of the Columbia High School athletic program since 1978. His coaching experience includes long tenures in football, basketball, and softball. Gary has coached each of these sports for many years, and has impacted the lives of thousands of Columbia students over that time.

Gary has coached freshman boys' basketball for over 20 years. He is a mainstay of the boys program, having instilled in the players a strong appreciation for the fundamentals of the game as well as an equally strong desire for success. Gary's loyalty to the basketball program spans three varsity coaches (Bob Smith, Tim Lange, and Jim Obermayer). He has been a central figure in the development of some of the school's greatest players, including Hall of Famers Doug Keenholts, Kurt Randall, Marc Williams, Rich Romer, and Shay Harrison. He has also been a significant reason why the boys' basketball program has enjoyed such great success over the past 20 years in Section II & Suburban Council play.

Coach Holtz has been a line coach for the football program for nearly 30 years. He has helped to develop some of the finest football players the school has had, and has done so in a loyal and unwavering manner. His knowledge of the intricacies and strategies of the game have been invaluable to both players & fellow coaches alike.

Coach Holtz's greatest accomplishments have come on the softball field. In his 20 years as varsity coach, Gary's teams have won well over 350 games and at a .725 winning percentage. His teams have won 6 Suburban Council titles, appeared in 4 NYS Regional games, 1 state semi-final and finished runner-up in the State championship game in 2001. Many of Coach Holtz's players have gone on to successful college careers, including Hall of Famers Barb (Finke) Sauter, Robin (Romer) Chudy, Becky Snow, and Michelle Gosh. Each of these, as well as other former players, have gone on to coach after graduation from college.

A tireless worker, Gary can be found at summer clinics for all three sports annually. He instills a work ethic in his athletes that is unmatched. Former players and parents of players recall with great fondness the way Coach Holtz influenced their lives. Many Hall of Famers step up to the podium, accept their award, and comment on the inspiration and knowledge they derived from being one of Gary's athletes.

Congratulations to the 2006
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 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 Fifth 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)*
Peter B. Ashby (1949)
John Obermayer (1951)
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)
Michael Rega (1978)
Inge Stockman Aiken (1979)
Scott Pladel (1980)
Donna Girtler (1982)
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)
Becky Snow (1996)
Michele Gosh (1997)

Coach/Staff Member Category:

Nicholas Budnowski*
Peter Citrolo
Edith Cosgrove
Richard Randall
Robert Smith
Theodore A. Romanowski
Harry Rapenske

Community Member Category:

Dick Doran

*deceased