

***EAST GREENBUSH
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT***

***ATHLETIC
HALL OF FAME
2011***



***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.

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.

CLARENCE SEEBERGER

Class of 1958

Clarence, or “Chubby” as he was known, Seeberger was a four-sport athlete at Columbia High School. He earned a total of nine Varsity letters in football, basketball, baseball and track and field.

On the football field, Chubby joined the Varsity team his sophomore year as a halfback. That year, the Devils tied with Lansingburgh for the Eastern Conference Championship. During his junior year, Chubby lead the Devils to the Eastern Conference Championship. He was named to the 1956 All-Albany Grid 2nd Team. Chubby was leading scorer for the Devils and the conference with 9 touchdowns and one extra point for 55 points in total. In his senior year, the team went on to a 4-1 record. The season was cut short due to an outbreak of the Asiatic flu. Chubby was named to the All-Albany Football Team.

“The Blue Devil Frank Merriwell” was a nickname given to Chubby during his junior year on the football team. Frank Merriwell was a fictional character of author Gilbert Patten. Patten offers this explanation for the name: “The name was symbolic of the chief characteristics I desired my hero to have; frank for frankness, merry for a happy disposition, well for health and abounding vitality.”

Chubby also participated in Varsity basketball as a guard, Varsity baseball as a centerfielder and Varsity track.

After graduation, Chubby joined the Marine Corps and served for four years. Upon his discharge, he entered the work force as a truck driver and retired with 40 years of service. Over the years, Chubby enjoyed coaching Pop Warner football and bowling. He has bowled a perfect game of 300. He also likes to travel to Las Vegas and Florida as well as taking cruises and spending the summers at Lake George.

Chubby and his wife, Linda, live in East Greenbush where they raised 2 children and 3 stepchildren. They also have 5 grandsons.

MARK NARDACCI

Class of 1977

A three-year starter of the Blue Devils Varsity football team, Mark Nardacci played in the positions of defensive back and wide receiver but was best known as a running back. His nominator called him one of the top running backs in Columbia history. He holds the school record for longest touchdown of 95 yards. His career rush average was 6.5 yards per carry. During his senior year, Mark was captain of the team and was named to the All-Suburban Council Team, All-Area Team, All-Capitaland 1st Team and All-Metroland Team.

Mark's great accomplishments on the football field earned him a grant to Division III Baldwin-Wallace College in Cleveland, Ohio. There, he played four years with the Yellow Jackets as a running back and fullback. The team was undefeated in 1978 and 1980. His sophomore year, they were the 1978 NCAA Division III National Championship Team. In 1980, his senior year, Mark was named to the All-Ohio Athletic Conference 1st Team.

While attending college, Mark also worked as the Chief of Security. Upon graduating with a degree in Criminal Justice in June of 1981, Mark became the Director of Security. In 1983, Mark returned to the Capital District and began a career as a New York State trooper. During his more than 20 years of service with the troopers, Mark worked as an investigator and a defensive tactics and physical fitness instructor. Retiring in 2006, Mark is currently the loss prevention field manager for the Golub Corp.

During the years, Mark developed a passion for boxing, weightlifting and the martial arts. He has worked for the New York State Athletic Commission as a boxing and wrestling inspector. Some of his duties include working the fights, testing for drugs, and maintaining the integrity of the sports. In 2001, Mark was chosen to be on the Board of Directors of the Professional Wrestling Hall of Fame.

Mark currently lives in Castleton. He has two daughters: Nicole a graduate of Columbia, is currently attending college; Dominique is a student at Columbia High School.

SAMUEL GRECO

Class of 1997

Sam Greco was a three-sport athlete at Columbia, earning seven Varsity Letters. He played two years of Varsity Football, two years of Varsity Basketball and three years of Varsity Baseball for the Blue Devils. He was selected by his peers as the Most Athletic Male his senior year.

The football season found Sam in the thick of things on the field playing wide receiver, cornerback, punter, kicker and quarterback. His junior year, Sam ran a 90 yard kick off return for a touchdown in a game against Burnt Hills. Later in the season, an Independent article of October 23, 1995 features Sam as the quarterback and carrying the ball into the end zone. However, that was not all. He also kicked the extra point to give Columbia a 7-6 lead. They went on to win that homecoming game. The next week again Sam's successful extra point kick won that game against Burnt Hills 7-6. During his senior year, Sam averaged 17 yards on every pass caught, and kicked three field goals over 32 yards. Sam was chosen for the All-State Football Team and All-Suburban Football Team his senior year.

In winter, the basketball court became Sam's home-away-from-home. His junior year saw a total of 84 points with an average of 4.2 per game. He improved his senior year to 118 points total and 5.62 points per game. Sam hit his career-high of 14 points in his last game at a Suburban Council post-season game against Niskayuna.

With two sports seasons over, Sam was on the baseball field where he excelled as a pitcher, left fielder and hitter for the Blue Devils. As a sophomore, Sam helped the team to a Suburban Council Championship. That year, the team record was 11-4. His junior year, Sam was chosen for the All-State Team by the NYS Scholastic Baseball Sportswriters' and Coaches Organization. The 1997 season and Sam's senior year were the record breakers for the Blue Devils. They were Suburban Council Champions, Section II Champions, NYS Final Four, and NYS Finalists. They had a 16-2 League record with .889 win percentage. That win percentage was a record for the Devils until 2004. Coach Czerno recalls that Sam pitched many big games that helped the team to become NYS Finalists. Sam again was chosen to the All-State Team and the All-Suburban Team.

Sam went on to play college baseball at Louisburg Community College in North Carolina. He pitched a no-hitter against Southeastern College. His Coach, Russ Frazier chose Sam to receive the Hub Denton Award, given to the player who best exemplifies the passion for Hurricane baseball. Sam then went on to Francis Marion University in South Carolina. A Division II college, Sam had a slugging average of .667 and led the team with an ERA of .270 his senior year and finished in the Top 10 ERA for the Peach Belt Conference. He graduated in 2001 with a degree in Sociology.

After college, the St Louis Cardinals signed Sam as a free agent in 2001. He played with teams at A and AA levels in Augusta NJ; Crestwood, Illinois; and Glens Falls, NY. He joined the San Angelo Colts organization in 2004 and pitched in 2004 and 2005.

Sam now lives in East Greenbush with his wife, Chrystie, and their newborn son, Samuel IV. He works for the family construction company as a project manager. Sam enjoys golf, baseball (25 and older Sr. Men's Baseball League), vacations and volunteers with the Father Peter Youngs Program, Equinox, Capital City Rescue Mission, Capital Region Food Bank and Habitat for Humanity.

CHRISTOPHER ROSENBAUM

Class of 2002

Few continue on to play sports after their high school career is over. Chris Rosenbaum not only played in college, but was able to continue into professional play as well.

Chris played three years of Varsity Baseball at Columbia as a catcher and contributing hitter. In those three years, he was able to set multiple records for the Blue Devils. In his sophomore year, Chris had the record of 208 attempts for the most attempts in a season and the team had the best team fielding percentage of .969. During his senior year, Chris broke two 33-year records: most hits in a season with 44 and total times on base with 65. He set the new records for Individual Offense with longest hitting streak in 20 games and most runs in a Season with 42. He also set a record for Single Season Slugging Percentage with .965. Chris earned the honors of Suburban Council All-Star 1st Team in 2001 and 2002. His senior year, he was named Team Captain and MVP of the season. In 2000, the team was Suburban Council Champions, Section II Champions and a NYS Final Four Team. In 2001, the team again was Suburban Council Champions and Section II Champions. His senior year, Chris helped the team to a Suburban Scholastic Council championship.

Earning three Varsity letters in Indoor Track as well, Chris participated his freshman, sophomore and junior years to help get in shape for the Baseball season. Chris was one of the four runners that won the 2001 Section II 800-meter relay.

Chris went on to play baseball at the University of Rochester, where he earned an academic scholarship. Chris played in Rochester for two years before transferring to the University of Tampa in Florida. What would have been his third year of collegiate baseball in 2005 saw Chris with a medical red shirt due to thoracic outlet syndrome. At Tampa in 2006, Chris would hit a line drive to right field that would bring in the winning run to win the NCAA Division II National Championship. Not only was Chris a part of one championship team, in 2007, his team again won the NCAA National Championship. Chris won the Sunshine State Conference Sportsmanship Award and named a 1st Team Academic All-American. He also served as president of Tampa's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. Chris earned his bachelor's degree in Finance in 2006.

In 2007, Chris was signed as a free agent by the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim and played for the Orem Owlz in Utah. In what seems to be a pattern for Chris, the team won the Pioneer League Championship that year. In 2008, Chris played for the Class A Cedar Rapids. During the 2008 season, he earned the Cedar Rapids Player of the Month. In 2009, Chris played for Rancho Cucamonga. Chris was released during spring training of 2010.

While playing professional baseball, Chris started a blog about the life of a professional ball player that was run in The Troy Record, The Gazette of Cedar Rapids and mlbolgs.com.

Earning his Master's in Business Administration in 2009 while playing ball, Chris now lives in Fort Myers, Florida where he works in player development and baseball operations for the Boston Red Sox.

THOMAS ARCIDIACONO

Class of 2003

As a Columbia High School athlete, Thomas Arcidiacono earned 3 Varsity letters. He played two years on Varsity Football and one year of Varsity Baseball as a centerfielder his junior year.

Playing multiple positions, as a running back, corner back and kickoff specialist, Tom helped the team to become consecutive Section II play-off semi-finalists in the fall of 2001 and 2002. He was the leading rusher, both his junior and senior years. During his junior year, Tom rushed 1120 yards and 15 touchdowns. His senior year, Tom rushed 1240 yards with 17 touchdowns. He was honored as an All-Area Running Back both those years. In his senior year, Tom was chosen as team captain and was a National Football Foundation Scholar Athlete.

After high school, Tom went on to college, where he was a four-year starter at Division III Union College in Schenectady, New York. While at Union, the honors were; named Liberty League Offensive Player of the Week multiple times, 2005 and 2006 Liberty League Offensive Performer of the Year, 2005 and 2006 Eastern College Athletic Conference Division III Northwest Player of the year, 2005 D3-Football All-American First Team and in 2006 the American Football Coaches Association All-American First Team. Tom was featured in the October 30, 2006 "Faces in the Crowd" section of Sports Illustrated. Tom had 24 career 100+ yard games and 7 career 200+ yard games. He is the All-Time Union College Rushing Leader with 4,919 yards. That puts him at 15th All-Time NCAA Division III Career Rushing Leader.

In 2006, Tom was one of four National Finalists and the East Region Finalist of the Gagliardi Trophy for player of the year. This award, presented to the outstanding football player in NCAA Division III, honors excellence in athletics, academics and community service. To give back to the community, Tom was an inner-city tutor and counseled on drug and alcohol awareness.

Tom graduated from Union with a degree in Psychology. He went on to earn a masters in sports medicine at Manhattanville College. He now lives in East Greenbush and works at Wells Fargo Advisors as a broker. He recently started his own sports management business, PTG (Press Toward the Goal). He still participates in sports, especially skiing, golf, softball and flag football. He also enjoys working out and watching sports on TV.

JEAN SCHWEIGERT Coach/Faculty/Staff

In the history of the CHS Athletic Hall of Fame, no one has received more letters of recommendation from students, athletes, coaches and staff of the East Greenbush Central School District than Jean Schweigert. It is with great pleasure that Jean is inducted today in the category of Coach/Faculty/Staff.

Raised in East Schodack and entered the East Greenbush Central School District where she graduated from Columbia in 1968. In January 1984, Jean was hired by the school district as a typist/copier. In September of that year, she became the secretary of the Department of Athletics under then Athletic Director Don Allen. Over the next 27 years, Jean has worked with Ads; Don Allen, Bob Smith and now Mike Leonard.

Though her official title with the district is Typist I, Jean has been called the “Administrative Assistant.” Her duties include helping the Athletic Director assist 25 staff members of the Health/Physical Education Department K-12. She also assists with the four levels of the 20 sports coaches and volunteers in the district totaling more than 80 personnel. Jean helps with the budgeting, scheduling of transportation, rescheduling of games, being sure officials are at games, answering phones, talking to parents and updating the new Athletic website. Also, Jean helps the AD to be sure coaches are up-to-date on their paperwork, adhere to district policies and Suburban Council guidelines. Jean assisted the AD to be sure that all was completed for the recent PEP Grant with the collection of data and the ordering and delivery of equipment.

But Jean’s involvement goes beyond her official duties. Her nominees have called her their “advocate and advisor,” “the assistant coach nobody knew about” and “the driving force” to allow coaches to persevere. And all the nominees stated... “When in doubt, if you had a question; call Jeanie.” Jean gives the coaches “the ability to focus on what is most important...the student- athlete.”

In 2005, Jean received the Judith A. Martens Secretarial Award of Excellence from the Chapter 2 New York State Athletic Administrators Association. Also that year, she received the “Certification of Appreciation” from the Suburban Scholastic Council Athletic Program for outstanding contribution. In 2006, Jean received the Iron Devils Honorary Member Plaque for outstanding commitment to the Iron Devils Program. Jean has also been named Secretary of the Month at Columbia High School.

Outside of school, Jean has been a member of the East Schodack Fire Company for 33 years as firefighter and EMS responder: receiving the “Fireman of the Year” award 1983, 1995 and 2001 and the “Johana Flanigan EMS Leadership” award in 2006. Jean is a Certified EMT State Lab Instructor teaching courses to new EMTs and recerts.

Jean and her husband, John, live in East Schodack where they raised son Steven and daughters, Carole and Melissa. They also have five grandchildren.

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)
CHRISTOPHER ASHBY (1951)
JOHN OBERMAYER (1951) *
MILT GRAHAM (1952)
ROBERT FEDERCHUCK (1954)
JOHN TULLAR (1954)
RICHARD ALOISE (1954)*
JAMES CLIFFORD (1956) *
ROGER HOWARD (1958)
FRANCIS CLIFFORD (1958)
RALPH "HUCKY" BLAIR (1959)*
THOMAS BOYLE (1960)
HENRY ROMER (1961)
WILLIAM ROMER (1962)
MICHAEL M. MAHAR (1966)
ROBERT MOORE (1967)
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)
JOSEPH ROMER (1984)
BARBARA FINKE SAUTER (1985)
HOLLY CHASE (1985)
LYNNE MAURA FITZGERALD (1986)
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)
SUSAN YUND (1998)
IAN LOCKE (1998)
CRAIG FORTH (2001)
CASEY HALLORAN (2002)

COACH/STAFF MEMBER

CATEGORY:

NICHOLAS BUDNOWSKI*
PETER CITRO LO
EDITH COSGROVE
RICHARD RANDALL
ROBERT SMITH *
THEODORE A. ROMANOWSKI
HARRY RAPENSKE
JAMES BERRIER
GEORGE CZERNO
GARY HOLTZ
DENNIS BARRETT *
JAMES MCHUGH
JOHN SERBALIK
DOROTHY MASIELLO

COMMUNITY MEMBER

CATEGORY:

DICK DORAN
JAMES FINKE

*DECEASED