

***EAST GREENBUSH
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT***

2012

***ATHLETIC
HALL OF FAME***



Tenth Year Anniversary

***SPONSORED BY
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.

DOUGLAS CANFIELD

Class of 1953



Douglas Canfield played JV baseball and Varsity football, basketball and track earning seven Varsity letters while attending Columbia High School. He also was the recipient of the prestigious Robert D Chipp Memorial Award. His classmates voted Doug Class Athlete during his senior year.

During Doug's freshman and sophomore years, he played JV baseball and helped out the Varsity basketball and football teams as a manager. His sophomore year, he switched from baseball to track and so began his athletic success. Coach Budnowski had Doug running the 440-yard dash where he was able to improve his times at each successive meet. At the time, Columbia did not have a track and the athletes ran on the grass.

His junior year saw Doug playing Varsity football as a right end on offense and outside linebacker on defense. This was Coach Budnowski's first year as head coach and he changed from a T-formation to a single wing formation. Improving during the season the team ended with a 3-4 record. On the basketball court, though not a starter, Doug helped the team to become Section II Class C Champions. In track, his 440 times kept improving. Doug was the fastest of the local school districts in the 440 and helped Columbia win the Central Hudson Valley League Championship.

Starting his senior year, Doug again was a starter on Varsity football. The team had a winning season that year. The last game of the season was a 42-0 win over Coxsackie. That was a record high score that held until the 2011-2012 season. Doug also continued to play on the Varsity basketball team. They finished tied for first place in the CHVL. Then came Doug's senior year on the track team, they finished the season undefeated in their dual meets. Doug ended the regular season with a time of 52.8 seconds in the 440-yard dash earning the right to represent Columbia in Section II at the NYS Championships in West Point. Doug set the school record at West Point with a time of 51.2, coming in 5th place. Doug was honored with being named to the 1953 All-Albany Track Team.

After graduation, Doug went to work in the printing trade. He started at the Boyd Printing Co in Albany and then worked for the State Education Department as a night printer. During this time he took teaching classes and as a second job became a substitute Industrial Arts teacher for the EGCS from 1972-1990.

Doug's running career did not stop when he graduated. He ran back and forth to work in Albany. In 1955, he and John Tullar were a two-man AAU track team that came in 3rd place. Because of his winning the ¼ and ½ mile events, Doug was invited to run at the National AAU Relay Championships. His 1.78-mile medley relay team broke the American record by 11.5 seconds with a time of 7 mins: 30 secs and that placed them only 4th. There was some good competition that year. Doug continued to run 5K and 10K races over the years. He has won the Lake George 10-mile race for his age group. In 1988, he ran the 19.5-mile Crown Point to Ticonderoga race and finished 3rd. That year he also ran the NYC marathon with a finish time of 3:38:47.

His commitment to Columbia sports also continued as he helped Coach Budnowski with the track team from 1958-1963. Doug was with the team in 1962 at Colonie HS when a Columbia student broke his 440-yard dash record.

Doug and his wife Mildred, a former Columbia cheerleader, still live in East Greenbush. They have five children, twelve grandchildren and three great grandchildren and are awaiting the birth of their 4th.

JUDITH FINKE VITALI

Class of 1989



Judy Finke Vitali was a three-sport athlete at Columbia earning five Varsity letters. She played field hockey, basketball and softball. As a senior, Judy was chosen to receive the Athletic Department's Robert D. Chipp Memorial Award.

In field hockey, Judy played both offense and defense for the three years she played at Varsity level. She was captain both her junior and senior years. Judy's senior year brought many firsts. She lead Section II in goals scored and was named to the 1st Team Suburban All-Stars. Judy scored the game-winning goal beating the defending NYS Champion Burnt Hills in the Sectional Semi-Final game, which lead to Columbia field hockey's first Sectional Championship game. In many a game that season, Judy was the single scorer in 1-0 victories, some in overtime.

During basketball season, Judy was a forward for the Lady Blue Devils. She usually played defense against the leading scorer of the opposing team. She started as an 8th grader and worked up to the Varsity level her junior and senior years. As a junior, she lead the team in assists and as a senior, she lead with 171 rebounds, 55 assists and 50 blocked shots. She has career totals of 323 points, 303 rebounds, 106 assists and 69 blocked shots. Judy was the Section II scoring leader that year. She still is in the Columbia record book as 2nd in season-blocked shots and 3rd in career-blocked shots. Judy was co-captain her senior year and was named the MVP in the 1st Lady Devil Basketball Tournament. She played on the Suburban Senior All-Star team that year.

In the spring, Judy played softball her freshman and sophomore years. She then went on the play on the first girls lacrosse club team her senior year. This went on to become interscholastic sports in 1993.

Judy attended the University of Maryland to earn a degree in Radio, Television and Film. She was a walk-on for the field hockey team and played all four years. She made three NCAA Tournament appearances including one Final Four her junior year finishing 3rd. Judy received the Athletic Department Scholar-Athlete Award in 6 out of 8 semesters and was captain of their Holland trip during her senior year. She also was on the winning ACC Championship team her senior year. Judy enjoyed coming home and showing Coach Berrier and the field hockey girls' things she learned on the college team. She conducted clinics to help improve the skills and techniques of the Columbia players. After college, Judy coached four years of JV field hockey at Columbia. She also helped Coach Pugliese as an assistant for the varsity basketball team. She was there when the Lady Devils captured the Section II Championship in the 93-94 season.

Judy continued her love for field hockey playing in the NY Empire State Games. The last year of the Open Field Hockey Games, she was a player-coach on the only Adirondack Gold Medal winning team. She continues to play field hockey with the recreational Mohawk Club both indoors in the winter and at SUNY Albany during the summer.

Working for the Lifetouch National School Studios as a photo manager for 19 years, Judy enjoys teaching Sunday school at the Greenbush Reformed Church. She is also getting to be a spectator for her 8-year-old son Joseph, a student at Green Meadow, as he starts his participation in youth sports.

JAMI SERVIDONE

Class of 1996



As a Columbia High School athlete, Jami Servidone played three sports. Even though doctors told her she should give up competitive sports after an injury to her ACL in eighth grade, Jami went on to earn a total of six Varsity letters in basketball and softball.

In the fall of her freshman year, Jami played one season of volleyball at Columbia. Due to her knee surgery in her sophomore year, she was not able to continue on with volleyball. She spent the fall recuperating and preparing for the basketball season.

Jami started playing basketball in seventh grade. She played three seasons on the Varsity team and was captain her senior year. She has impressive career totals; 354 points, 63 games started and played, and 92 assists. Her sophomore year, Jami played for the Lady Devils as they won a record 20 games, while playing 24. They went on to take second place in the Gold Division and become Section II Class A champions. That team was the first Columbia basketball team to advance to regional play. That year still holds the record of .833 in winning percentage.

Jami excelled in softball. Playing 1st base for the Devils, she was on the Varsity team three years and like basketball was captain in her senior year. As a sophomore, Jami helped the team become Sectional Champions with a 21-3 record. Again as a junior, Jami and the team had a good year becoming Section II Class A champions and went on to be State semi-finalists with a 22-5 season record. Jami was named 1st Team All-Suburban and All-Area. Her senior year, Jami continued to excel; Suburban Council champions with a 14-2 league record, Section II Class A Champions and Regional Finalist with an 18-4 win loss record. Jami batted .340 with a grand slam and a triple in one game. She was again named to the 1st Team All-Suburban and All-Area. Jami received the most votes for 1st base players in the coach's poll.

Outside of school, Jami played for the AAU Capitals basketball team and some of the first competitive traveling softball teams in the area; Adirondack Magic, Tri-City Rage and ICE. She was in the Softball Nationals three times and was highly recruited to play Division I softball. Jami also was on the Empire State Open Division Women's Adirondack softball team in 1996.

Jami decided to play at Providence College, which is NCAA Division I in the Big East Conference, where she received an athletic scholarship. Her freshman year, Jami was named Big East All-Rookie with team high 36 hits, 10 doubles, 2 homers and a slugging percentage of .429. She ended the season with a .286 batting average. She made 243 putouts and had the team best .988 fielding percent. Jami continued playing all four years and was Captain her senior year. She was named Athlete of the Week several times during her tenure at Providence and was named an All Big East All-Star.

Majoring in Marketing, Jami earned her Bachelors Degree in 2000. She now lives in New York City where she works for Travelzoo. She enjoys running and playing golf. She also plays softball during the summer.

THOMAS GENOVESI Class of 2003



Tom Genovesi tried his hand at five sports while a student is the East Greenbush School District. He earned three Varsity letters in football and lacrosse and one year of Varsity track. He also was on the JV basketball and baseball teams.

While Tom enjoyed playing lacrosse and throwing the discus and shot put in track, they were mostly to keep in shape for his main sport, football. As a Varsity player his sophomore year, Tom played linebacker and fullback. He was chosen for the Troy Records 2nd team All-Area honors. His junior year he played in a cast because of a broken wrist from a previous injury. That did not curtail his season though. Tom led the team in tackles, totaling 115 by the seasons end. He was named 1st team All-Area by the Record and Times Union and 2nd team All-State. The team had a 6-3 record and was a Section II playoff semi-finalist. Continuing on into his senior year, Tom was team captain. He had 116 total tackles - 80 solo tackles and 36 assisted stops. Tom was again named 1st team All-Area by the Troy Record and Times Union and 2nd team All-State. He was also the Runner-up for the Records Defensive Player of the Year. The team had a 5-4 record and again went on to be Section II playoff semi-finalists. Tom also was named captain for the All-Star Senior game. During the winter, Tom lifted with the Iron Devils and was in the 1,000-Pound Club. He also was an All-State Lifter.

Recruited to play football at Siena, Tom played there for one year. Siena cancelled their football program and Tom was given an Athletic Scholarship to play for SUNY Albany. He played until graduation even though he had knee problems. As a defensive tackler, Tom was a contribution to the team. His junior year Tom had a total of 36 tackles and 41 his senior year. A high point of his college football career was in 2007 when the team won the Northeast Conference Championship title.

Earning his degree in Communication with a minor in Business, Tom is now an Assistant Manager at SEFCU. He enjoys lifting weights and working out.

ANTHONY SERVIDONE

Coach



Anthony Servidone was a student athlete while growing up in the East Greenbush Central School District. That love for sports continues now as a teacher and coach. Anthony is recognized today for his contributions in the sports of wrestling, football and baseball where he has helped students achieve up to the top state honors.

After graduating from Columbia in 1986, Anthony went to Delhi and then HVCC where he earned his Associates in Liberal Arts and SUNY at Empire State College for his Bachelors in Physical Education. He then went to Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts where he earned his Masters in Education.

Anthony started working in the EGCS D as a substitute teacher in 1990. After a break while working in Wynantskill, Anthony came back to the district and was a Special Ed TA for one year. The next year, 2002, he was hired as an elementary PE teacher at both Genet and Bell Top. Since 2003, Anthony has been assigned as a PE teacher at Columbia. But Anthony's 24 years of coaching Modified, Freshman, JV and Varsity levels in the district is what is most impressive. He started coaching for the district in 1988 with the wrestling team and in 1990 added baseball and football.

In wrestling, Anthony holds 9 school coaching records; 158 career wins, 3 time Section II Class A Finalist Teams, 42 Section II State Qualifier Place Finishers, 16 Section II Class A Individual Champions, 5 NYS Place Finishers, 10 Division I Section II Champions, 18 Section II NY State Team Qualifier Finalists, 5 Columbia Wrestlers in the NYS Tournament (2012) and 3 Suburban Council Division Champions (2006, 2011 and 2012). He was named Section II Class A Division I Assistant Coach of the Year in 2004 and Coach of the Year in 2011.

Most important to Anthony is the fact that the wrestling team is a Scholar-Athlete Team with 4 NYSPHAA All-Academic Team honors (2006, 2008, 2011 and 2012). The team was also selected for the Section II Division I Team Sportsmanship Award in 2009 and 2011.

Anthony and the wrestling team have traveled the east coast participating in Invitationals, Duals and Tournaments winning 18 Team Championships. These have included but not limited to the Blue Devil Memorial Duals Tournament in 2012, Yonkers NY, Orlando Florida, North-South Duals and the Virginia Duals in 2011. This was the first time a NY Team has ever won the Virginia Duals in its 32-year history.

In football, Anthony was the JV Assistant Coach in 2002 when they won the JV Suburban Council Championship. From 2006-2008, Anthony was head Varsity coach and saw two post-season Quarterfinal play-off games. In 2006 and 2008, the teams were NYSPHAA All-Academic Teams. Nine of his football players have gone on to play college football with one becoming an All-American Player.

Adding baseball to his coaching experience, Anthony was the Freshman coach in 1992 when they were Suburban Council Champs. He also was the JV assistant coach in 2001-2003 when they were named JV Suburban Council Champs. Anthony was the 1st Base Assistant Varsity coach in 2004 when the team went all the way to become NYS Champions.

During the off-season, Anthony enjoys coaching with the NYS National Cadet FS and GR Teams and Club teams. He has coached 8 National Wrestling All-Americans and 6 NYS Schoolboy/Cadet State Champions. He also coached the 2002 Adirondack Region Men's NYS Empire State Games Champions. He holds USA Wrestling Certifications, is a member of the NHSCA Coaches Association, is an active NYS member in CDWOA Wrestling Officials, and is an USA Wrestling Program Instructor and a Top Form Instructor for the NYS Coaching License Program. And in what little free time he has, Anthony has volunteered with the EG Girls Softball Program, EG Pop Warner Football and the EG Youth Wrestling Program. He has also helped the district as a member of the EGCS D Athletic Code of Conduct Committee.

MICHAEL G LEONARD

Coach/Staff



Who better to be inducted into the 10th anniversary celebration of the East Greenbush Central School District Athletic Hall of Fame than our own Athletic Director, Michael Leonard. Mike has worked his way up through the ranks as teacher, coach and now AD. Mike "...fosters an environment where athletics, academics and character are the priority."

Mike grew up in the neighboring Maple Hill School District. He played soccer, basketball and baseball. He captained the soccer and basketball teams during his senior year and was the basketball MVP. After graduation in 1985, Mike went to MVCC where he played basketball for one year. He graduated in 1987 with his Associates degree. Going on to SUNY Cortland for his Bachelors in Physical Education, Mike graduated in 1989. He attended SUNY Albany part-time to get his Masters in Curriculum and Instruction in 1994. Mike continued on pursuing his Administration Certification from Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts in 2004.

Mike worked one year at Questar BOCES from 1989-1990 until he was hired by the EGCS D in the fall of 1990. The first several years, Mike traveled between schools in the district as a PE teacher, getting to know all ages of students. In 1996 he was placed at Goff Middle School where he stayed until November of 2002 when he became Athletic Director.

Coaching has been a big part of Mike's career. He coached two years of Varsity Baseball at Maple Hill. He has been a part of the coaching staff in the EGCS D with Modified Wrestling, Modified Football, Assistant Varsity Track and Field, Assistant JV Basketball (1996-1997), JV Basketball (1997-2002) and Head Varsity Soccer (1992-1995). While Varsity Soccer coach, Mike led the team in 1993 to win their first Sectional game. In 1994, the soccer team was the first time CHS Gold Division champions and went on to become Section II Class A Finalists.

Mike is proud of all the accomplishments he has been a part of in the district. While at Goff, Mike was instrumental in fundraising for the Goff weight room, and putting in his own time to paint and move equipment. He believed that to have exceptional athletes at Columbia you must start training in the middle school years. Mike introduced the "Bigger, Faster, Stronger" program to the players and coaches, which has unified the athletes and has shown positive results with the athletes and coaches. He was responsible for our district receiving the Carol White PEP Grant, which has purchased \$750,000 worth of equipment for the Health/PE programs and allowed staff to attend professional development seminars. Mike has also been instrumental in developing programs for the fight against childhood obesity. Under Mike's leadership, the new turf field was built on time and within budget. The field is used by multiple teams during the fall and spring seasons and is a source of revenue bringing in money with rental time.

Today's Athletic Hall of Fame would not have happened if it were not for Mike. He is most proud of this accomplishment. Mike has worked endlessly to make the event a memorable one. He is also responsible for the Athletic Hall of Fame Walkway and trophy cases in Columbia, creating a proud atmosphere for our students to see the history they are a part of.

To relax, Mike enjoys working around the house he shares with his wife Mary in Schodack. He also loves to be with his stepchildren Nick and Stephanie, watch sporting events and collect sports memorabilia. Besides being AD at Columbia, Mike is the owner of MGL Cleaning Services.

There were so many letters of recommendation for Mike to be inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame from students, athletes, coaches, principals, staff and community members. Mike has shown his love for sports, compassion for the people around him and is a proven leader and role model for all he comes in contact with. He spends countless hours at school and athletic events. For these reasons and many more it is an honor to induct Michael Leonard into the Athletic Hall of Fame.

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 (1954)
FRANCIS CLIFFORD (1958)
CLARENCE "CHUBBY" SEEBERGER (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)
MARK NARDACCI (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)
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 ROANE (1992)
JULIE FREZON (1994) *
DOUG KEENHOLTS (1995)
BECKY SNOW (1996)
MICHELE GOSH (1997)
SAMUEL GRECO (1997)
KATHLEEN SMITH (1998)
SUSAN YUND (1998)
IAN LOCKE (1998)
CRAIG FORTH (2001)
CASEY HALLORAN (2002)
CHRISTOPHER ROSENBAUM (2002)
THOMAS ARCIDIACONO (2003)

COACH/STAFF MEMBER CATEGORY:

NICHOLAS BUDNOWSKI *
PETER CITROLO
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
JEAN SCHWEIGERT

*Deceased