

***EAST GREENBUSH
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT***

2013

ELEVENTH ANNUAL

***ATHLETIC
HALL OF FAME***



***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.

TED BUREK
Class of 1952



Ted's athletic achievements and community involvement make Ted a deserving inductee into the Columbia Athletic Hall of Fame. Ted starred in both basketball and baseball during his Columbia High years. He earned 3 Varsity letters for basketball and 2 for baseball.

At 5'9" #10, Ted was a stellar basketball player. He was viewed as the "spark plug" of the team both offensively and defensively. The Times Union labeled him as a "standout basketball performer" and as Columbia's "sharpshooter".

In 1951-1952, after a 19-3 regular season, Columbia High's basketball team finished in a tie with Castleton for top spot in the Central Hudson Valley League (CHVL) which was in the C Division of Section II. When the teams met for the championship game at Siena College, a Columbia team member recalls that the setting "was very much the same as that which was created in the Gene Hackman movie 'Hoosiers'". Columbia High got the win, beating Castleton 59-41. Ted led the way, scoring 27 points.

The newly crowned CHVL champions went on to beat Waterford and South Glens Falls in the New York State Sectionals played in Saratoga. This set up the Class C Sectional championship game against Catskill. Columbia beat Catskill by a score of 67 to 59. This was Columbia's first New York State Section II championship. Ted averaged over 18 points per game in the tournament and was one of two Columbia players selected by the Knickerbocker News for the 1951-1952 All-Central Hudson Valley Basketball team.

Ted's basketball coach at Columbia, Harry Rapenske, called Ted "the consummate athlete, model student, a leader and the motivating force of this highly successful basketball era".

During an All Sports dinner event where Ted and other athletes were honored, the head baseball coach of Springfield College spoke about the vital part sports plays in American life and the potential of sports to promote "learning, leading, and serving". Ted certainly took his words to heart.

Ted and his wife Carol (his high school sweetheart) raised five children: Mark, David, Nancy, Tim and Mary. Ted and Carol are the owners of the Century Monument Co. of Rensselaer and Grace Memorials of Albany. Through their generosity, they have provided support to the children of the City of Rensselaer through the Youth Sponsorship Award and to the George S. Davis Memorial Fund. Despite his many achievements, Ted is a modest man. After donating a monument for the grave of a child, Ted was upset that his donation became public, stating that "I really don't cherish the publicity".

Columbia High School is proud to induct a person of Ted Burek's athletic ability and character into the Athletic Hall of fame.

ERICA (BERGMAN) PUENTES
Class of 1977



Throughout Erica's athletic career in high school and college she compiled a long list of honors and awards. We are here today to add induction into the Columbia Athletic Hall of Fame to that list.

While attending Columbia High School, Erica earned 11 Varsity letters including Soccer, Softball, Cheerleading, Basketball, Volleyball and Tennis. In addition to athletics, she was also involved in many clubs and activities including Student Counsel, Model Congress, and the Varsity Club. She was awarded the Edith Cosgrove Award during her senior year.

After Columbia, Erica moved on to attend Hudson Valley Community College where she participated in basketball and volleyball. She was the team MVP in volleyball during both her years at HVCC and was selected to participate in the Empire State Games in 1979. She then attended Syracuse University where she earned her Bachelor's Degree in Engineering. While at Syracuse, Erica participated in Division I Crew and in Club Rugby. Erica then received her Master's Degree in Engineering from RPI.

After college, Erica began her engineering career with Allied-Signal Automotive Corporation as a Quality Engineer and later became a Project Engineer working in Japan and Korea testing friction material for Toyota and Hyundai. She later returned to Hudson Valley Community College to become an Instructor of Math. Throughout her years at HVCC, Erica has instructed 1st and 2nd year college students and adults in Math and Business and has assisted in curriculum development and administration.

As a community member, Erica has continued to be a strong supporter of athletic programs. She's been a YMCA Board member for 5 years and has instructed YMCA Youth Basketball. She has volunteered her time as a coach for the East Greenbush Soccer League and the East Greenbush Little League. Erica has been a Team Mom throughout the years, providing assistance to many teams including, soccer, baseball and the CHS Girls Soccer and CHS Boys Varsity Baseball teams. And with all of this, she likes to run. She has participated in a variety of local runs for charity. Erica was active in her church as a Eucharistic Minister for 17 years and a faith formation instructor.

Erica is a resident of East Greenbush where she resides with her husband Carlos and their three children, Patrick, Deanna and Ryan. Erica remains very active in the community when not traveling to Holy Cross to see Patrick, or Villanova to see Deanna (no word yet where she'll have to travel to see Ryan). She volunteers her time to the Friends at East Greenbush Library and assists with Blood Drives at Hudson Valley Community College. She enjoys exercising, going to the YMCA for Volleyball and running.

MELISSA (ROY) BASIUK
Class of 1998



Melissa Roy Basiuk is a Columbia High graduate of the Class of 1998. During Melissa's high school career, she earned varsity letters in Field Hockey, Basketball and Softball. Melissa truly excelled on the Softball field. She was a member of the 1997 Gold Division Champions with a League record of 11-1 and overall season record of 14-2. Melissa made 1st Team Suburban Council in her senior year.

Melissa was also very involved in high school clubs and activities including Concert Band, the Honor Society, Math League, Peer Leadership, SADD, Student Counsel, and was a Student Athletic Trainer. Melissa is quoted as having said "Life is a succession of lessons which must be believed to be understood". Melissa believed in herself and led by her examples of hard work and perseverance.

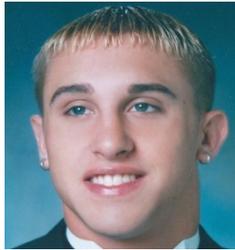
Melissa's athletic achievements and her many activities outside the playing field earned her the Athletic Department's most prestigious award, the Robert D. Chipp Memorial Award for Athletics and Citizenship. Melissa was also awarded the David Sweet Memorial Award which goes to the athlete "who has given the most of themselves".

After Columbia, Melissa attended The Sage Colleges in Troy NY where she continued her athletic career in softball and basketball. Melissa excelled as a member of the Sage softball program, rewriting many of the Gators single-season and career records. Labeled in a Sage athletic profile as a "prolific hitter", Melissa set Sage career records for most at bats, hits, triples, runs scored, RBIs, and stolen bases. Her single season records include most at bats, hits, runs scored, and double. She ranks in the top 7 in five other categories, had a career batting average of .413 in 128 games played, and in 1999 she ranked 26th in the nation in batting average in Division III.

Melissa was a 3 time team MVP, and has received many other awards including NYS Women's Collegiate Athletic Association First Team, Sage Athletics All-Academic Team, Sage Athletic Hall of Fame, and the National Fast Pitch Coaches Association Scholar-Athlete award.

After graduation from Sage, Melissa went on to become an Athletic Trainer at the University of Albany. She met her husband Scott and together they resided in England for 2 years where Scott, played hockey. Upon returning back to the U.S., she began her career at a pharmaceutical company as a pharmaceutical sales representative. Melissa and Scott now reside in Troy, NY with their 1 year old son, Grant.

JUSTIN HELLWIG
Class of 2004



Justin Hellwig is being inducted into the Columbia High Athletic Hall of Fame because of his remarkable career as a wrestler, having excelled at both the Section II as well as the New York State levels.

Justin began wrestling at the early age of 7. As a member of the Columbia High Wrestling team beginning in 7th grade (at 103 pounds), Justin earned 6 Varsity letters.

As a Junior in 2003, Justin compiled a record of 41 wins against only 3 losses, and eclipsed Columbia's all time wrestling victory record. He went on to win the Section II Class A championship, becoming the first Columbia wrestler to do so since 1977 when Justin's father, Bob Hellwig, took the crown.

In his senior year Justin compiled a 47-1 record, and repeated as Section II champion while "dominating" the tournament competition according to the Albany Times Union. Justin is the only wrestler in Columbia history to repeat as Section II Class A champion. He then went on to win the New York State title, needing just 3:36 to capture the crown in the title match. This was the first such title in the history of Columbia High.

Justin ended his high school career with a record of 193 wins and 53 losses, including an astounding mark of 88-4 in his Junior and Senior seasons. Justin is quoted as having said, "I took it one match at a time" and went on to say, "but you learn something from all those losses too."

In addition to the two Section Two titles and the NYS title, Justin's accomplishments are many: three time Section II Place finisher; six time Class A Sectional place finisher; US Junior National All American (2nd in the nation in 2004); three time tournament MVP, three time New York State Schoolboy Champion; New York State Greco Roam Champion.

Justin's success is owed to his fearless competitiveness and determination to win his matches. According to Justin "you need to wrestle with supreme confidence, or else you'll lose again, and then losing becomes a habit".

Justin was coached throughout his career by his father and by Coach Jim McHugh. In his early years as a wrestler, Justin felt the pressure of being so young and being expected to perform. He said "It was hard". During an interview while talking about Coach McHugh, Justin commented, "He knows how to get me pumped up. He knows when to talk to me and when not to talk to me." Another quote stated about Mr. McHugh was "He's a great guy and a great motivator." Coach McHugh pointed out that in six years, Justin missed only 2 practices.

Justin and his wife Brittney currently reside in Virginia Beach VA. Brittney is in the Navy serving our country. Justin is working for a utility company as an excavator.

JAMES OBERMAYER

Coach/Faculty/Staff



James Obermayer, better known as Jim (or “Obie” to his classmates), is a Columbia High graduate of the Class of 1985, where he was awarded the David Sweet Memorial Award for his dedication and commitment in the athletic arena. He excelled on the basketball court as a point guard, and also competed in Outdoor Track. Jim went on to complete 4 years of college and then found his way back to East Greenbush where he began working for the East Greenbush Central School District as a Special Education teacher in 1992.

At Columbia, Jim’s coaching career began in 1989. He spent 7 years coaching boys basketball at the freshman and JV levels, before moving up to varsity in 1997, where he coached the Blue Devils for 17 years. Jim earned the title of Suburban Council Coach of the Year in 2001 when he led Columbia to 20 wins and reached the Section II Class A finals. Four of his teams captured Suburban Council Gold Division championships during his tenure.

On January 3, 2012, Jim passed Columbia coaching icon Bob Smith to become the winningest coach in the history of Columbia varsity basketball.

In addition to basketball, Jim also coached many other sports including Golf (7 years), Boys Track (6 years), Softball (10 years), Girls Lacrosse (1 year), and Boys Soccer (1 year).

Jim has also served for many years as the Suburban Council Boys Basketball Representative and is the Chair of the Suburban Council Boys Basketball Coaches Committee.

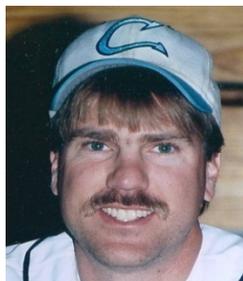
Jim has given back to his community by volunteering and by promoting volunteer spirit in his student athletes. Over many years, Jim and his students have participated in the Equinox program delivering meals to the less fortunate, supported cancer awareness, delivered presents to hospitalized children during the Christmas holidays, and supported the Miracle League which provides athletic experiences to special needs children. His students have assisted with basketball clinics for our youth and Jim has provided instruction and development of area coaches.

A friend and fellow coach of Jim wrote that “Coach Obermayerrepresents everything good about HS athletics. In this day and age of self-promotion and ‘what have you done for me lately’ Jim is a constant. He never takes his eye off what is important, and that is the development of kids into productive, respectful and caring young men”.

Jim and his wife Leslie are residents of East Greenbush area where they have raised their two daughters Natalie and Lauren.

HENRY WYSOCKI

Coach/Faculty/Staff



Henry Wysocki is best known to all of us as Hank. His students call him “Mr. Y” or “Mr. WY”. Hank was a graduate of the Columbia High Class of 1976. While at Columbia High, Hank was a participant of the Bowling and Golf Teams. Upon graduation, he attended Springfield College where he received Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Physical Education. In 1981 Hank came back to the East Greenbush School District as a Physical Education teacher at Green Meadow. During this period, Hank was also beginning a very successful career as the Head Coach of the Siena College women’s volleyball team.

During Hanks 16 year career as the Siena volleyball coach, he led the team to 322 wins, a stretch of 24 straight MAAC victories, 4 MAAC Titles, 4 NCAA Tournaments and 1 NIT Tournament. Hank was honored as the 1993 Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Women’s Volleyball Coach of the Year. In December of 2011, Hank was inducted into the Siena College Sports Hall of Fame.

Siena volleyball certainly wasn’t Hanks only coaching job. In 1981 he began to coach a variety of sports for Columbia High including Track, Cross County, Volleyball, Baseball and Soccer. Hank changed Columbia High’s presence on the Soccer field. In 2006, The Record wrote, “A new coach with a new attitude and suddenly the Blue Devils are the hottest team in Class AA”. Columbia went on to win 11 consecutive games, setting a school record for most consecutive wins. Hank also coached Girls Freshman and J.V. Volleyball and for 2 years, the Varsity Boys Volleyball team. In 2012, the Girls J.V. Volleyball team won the Columbus Day Tournament at Shenendehowa. Hank also coached both Freshman and J.V. Baseball. As a J.V. coach, he has over 400 wins, 15 Suburban Council Championships and holds the record for most wins as a J.V. Baseball Coach in the Suburban Council. Hank also helped guide the Columbia varsity baseball team to a NY State Championship in 2004.

As one fellow teacher wrote “Hank Wysocki’s impact on the students is immeasurable; he often goes out of his way to do what’s best for all his student athletes. Coach Y (as he is known to his athletes) has set the standard in my opinion for Columbia athletics”.

Hank volunteers his time to various community athletic events including the Empire State Games and has participated in the East Greenbush Rotary Run since the 1970’s.

Hank resides in Gansevoort with his wife Jeannine and their three children.

On March 20, 2009, Hank was inducted into the East Greenbush Education Foundation Hall of Fame for his excellence as a Teacher. Today, we induct Hank into the Columbia Athletic Hall of Fame for his excellence in promoting citizenship and sportsmanship, and for his success on the athletic fields.

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)
DOUG CANFIELD (1953)
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 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)
JUDITH (FINKE) VITALI (1989)
KURT RANDALL (1990)
SHAY HARRISON (1990)
MARC WILLIAMS (1991)

CHRISTINE (NALLEY) ROANE (1992)
JULIE FREZON (1994) *
DOUG KEENHOLTS (1995)
BECKY SNOW (1996)
JAMI SERVIDONE (1996)
MICHELE GOSH (1997)
SAMUEL GRECO (1997)
KATHLEEN (SMITH) RUSSELL (1998)
SUSAN YUND (1998)
IAN LOCKE (1998)
CRAIG FORTH (2001)
CASEY HALLORAN (2002)
CHRISTOPHER ROSENBAUM (2002)
THOMAS ARCIDIACONO (2003)
THOMAS GENOVESI (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
JEAN SCHWEIGERT
MICHAEL LEONARD
ANTHONY SERVIDONE

COMMUNITY MEMBER CATEGORY:

DICK DORAN
JAMES FINKE

*Deceased