

***EAST GREENBUSH  
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT***

***2016***

***FOURTEENTH ANNUAL***

***ATHLETIC  
HALL OF FAME***



***SPONSORED BY:  
COLUMBIA ALL SPORTS CLUB***

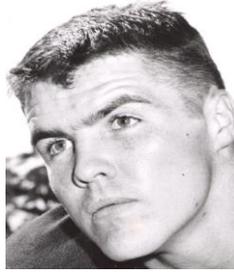
# **ALUMNI ATHLETE INDUCTEES**

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.

## Richard Nead Class of 1954



Richard Nead is a Columbia High School graduate of the Class of 1954. An outstanding athlete and natural leader in football and track and field, Richard was integral to both sports programs' historic seasons at Columbia. Raised on a working farm in Rensselaer County, he knew the values of dedication, hard work and loyalty from an early age. These values, along with optimism about the future, meant Richard was going to achieve greatness. In 1953, Richard played center and linebacker for a Blue Devils team that went undefeated, a first for the school's program, in Coach Nick Budnowski's third year. Along with five teammates, he was chosen by the *Albany Times Union* as one of its All-Albany Athletes; this would mark his second consecutive recognition by the newspaper. In addition to lettering three times in football, Richard lettered twice in shot and discus for the track team, which enjoyed an undefeated season in dual meets in 1953, according to the Columbia All Sports Club records.

At the recommendation of the head football coach at Rutgers, Richard was sent an application to Manlius Prep School, a well-known and widely respected military prep school in its time. A full two-year athletic scholarship brought Richard to Manlius, where he played center and linebacker and captained the 1955 team to an undefeated season. Richard received honorable mention for the All-East Prep School Football Team as selected by the *New York Herald Tribune*. In the off-season from football, he threw the discus for the track team and was appointed to be a staff sergeant in the Manlius Reserve Officers' Training Corps. Later, he was one of thirty-four cadets to attend the officers' candidate school at Manlius. Not surprisingly, Richard's athletic prowess and leadership credentials drew the attention of many Division 1 football programs. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill was a dream come true: a full four-year scholarship allowed him to play center and linebacker and earn a bachelor's degree in Political Science.

Richard cast his aspirations high, literally, when he entered OCS and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps. Thereafter, he was sent to Navy Flight Training School in Pensacola, Florida where he earned his wings. Upon the completion of active duty with the USMC, Richard trained Marines in flight instruction. Captain Richard F. Nead was honorably discharged after completing his seven-year enlistment contract. As an FAA certified flight instructor, he worked as a private contractor at the USAF Aero Club's headquarters in Washington, D.C. He taught aspiring pilots content areas such as meteorology, navigation, flight rules, pre-flight facts, and flight computer operation in preparation for the FAA private pilots' examinations. After completing DC-9 flight training, Richard flew for Eastern Airlines for twenty-four years; he served twelve as a captain.

Though he was at home in the air, Richard's biography suggests that *terra firma* suits him just fine, too. Returning to the farm of his hometown just prior to retirement from commercial flying, Richard began a second career with the Nead Berry Farm and Vineyard, which he still operates at age 79. Selling produce to local markets and from his farm stand in Castleton, he maintains a devotion to healthy eating and physical fitness—a daily regimen of chin-ups, walking and pull-ups— that is astounding. The high school athletic career of Richard F. Nead, one could argue, was the touchstone for all the success that would follow in his life. Welcome to the Hall of Fame, sir!

## Gary Tremblay Class of 1980



Gary Tremblay is a Columbia High School graduate of the Class of 1980. He lettered in baseball in 1977-1980 and in basketball from 1979-1980.

Along with his older brother, Wayne, and Hampton Manor neighbor and future Hall of Fame member, Hank Wysocki, Gary grew up in the heyday of sandlot baseball—the three made it a point to travel around East Greenbush to play pick-up ball games against different neighborhoods. The Tremblay brothers' father encouraged them to play catch whenever the weather allowed it. After developing his skills through the East Greenbush Little League and Babe Ruth systems, Gary played with distinction at Columbia.

As a catcher and pitcher for the Blue Devils, Gary's play was recognized perennially. He was honored in 1978-1980 as a Suburban Council All-Star, and named to the All-NYS Team in 1980. Under Coach George Czerno, Columbia went 11-7 in league play, and 17-8 overall in Gary's senior year, which was distinguished by Gary's sharing of the team's MVP Award with centerfielder Dan Thompson.

Columbia's baseball teams have produced many outstanding players who have gone on to compete in college and the pros. Yet in Hank Wysocki's estimation, "Gary has gone further in baseball than any Columbia graduate, past or present." An athletic scholarship to perennial powerhouse Coastal Carolina University was offered, and Gary made his family and town proud. In 125 career games, Gary hit .276 with 13 home runs and 76 RBI. He also played in the NAIA World Series three years, and served as the captain for the team that played in the series held in Lubbock in 1983.

During his junior year at Coastal Carolina, the Boston Red Sox, the same team that had signed his southpaw brother, Wayne, two years before, selected Gary in the sixth round. A brief quandary ensued: take up the offer to go pro, or continue to the Olympic semi-final tryouts. The 6' 2", 200lb. catcher chose to "quench his thirst for baseball" by going pro.

Known for his defensive prowess (a career .979 fielding percentage), Gary played for the Red Sox (eight years) and Phillies (one year), and was promoted to "AAA" teams within both organizations. During spring training game in March 1989, he caught an inning for Rob Murphy, a new Red Sox pitcher who had some control problems. After the game, Red Sox manager Joe Morgan told the Associated Press, "Tremblay showed everyone how to catch a little. He caught one inning just as well as anyone can." Despite a tremendous work ethic and occasional flashes of power (eleven home runs at "A" Winston-Salem in 102 games in 1984; eight home runs in 74 games at "AAA" Pawtucket in 1988), Gary's hitting did not improve to what the front office would deem consistent enough to warrant a call up to the big leagues. Still, his 641 games in the minor leagues from 1983-1991 for two highly regarded organizations is quite an accomplishment, and Gary did get featured in *Sports Illustrated* for his outstanding defense, as his childhood pal, Hank Wysocki, is quick to point out. When asked about his baseball career, Gary responds, "I am very grateful I had the chance to live my dream of playing the game I love."

Gary, who lives in Columbia, South Carolina with Tammy, his wife of thirty years, has two children: Kayla, 25; and sports enthusiast Zachary, 20. After owning his own business for twenty years, Gary has been employed with the Lexington/ Richland School District for five. Gary's parents keep him updated with sports around the Capital District; meanwhile, he follows the Red Sox and Dodgers.

## Nancy Nicsevic Class of 1995



Nancy Nicsevic is a Columbia High School graduate of the Class of 1995. Her accomplishments in varsity field hockey and softball—with a freshman year in softball—rank her among the best athletes to have played for Columbia. As a freshman, Nancy played junior varsity field hockey and softball; in both seasons, she was called up to the varsity for the playoffs. The 1991 Gold Division-winning field hockey team earned an impressive state semi-finalist berth; in 1992-1994, the team would win consecutive Gold Division titles under Coach Dottie Berrier, thanks to the inspired play of Nancy, who finished with 31 goals and eight assists in her career. In 1993, she was First Team All Suburban Council and First Team All Section II. In 1994, she was named to the 1<sup>st</sup> Team Suburban Council, 1<sup>st</sup> Team Section II, and 1<sup>st</sup> Team All State in Field Hockey after leading her team as the captain with twelve goals.

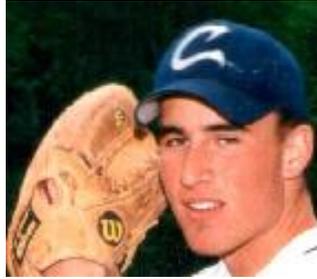
According to teammate Becky Snow, offensively and defensively, Nancy was one of the best softball players in Columbia's history; meanwhile, Columbia's teams went 91-18 during Nancy's tenure. Immediately impressive to those who followed Columbia sports was Nancy's versatility on the diamond: she played every position except first base and catcher. Her impact upon being called up to the varsity by Coach Helene Piel was historic. Nancy, who was the only freshman on the 1992 state championship-winning team, played the entire post-season, compiling a .583 on-base percentage and scoring eight runs. Eventually, she would lead her team in stolen bases during her sophomore-senior years, and start primarily at shortstop in her final two seasons. Despite confessing to reporters that she would get nervous before a key at bat, Nancy was the epitome of "clutch" as press clippings from the era often reveal. Recognized as a 1<sup>st</sup> Team Section II and Suburban Council All-Star for two years, Nancy, as a senior captain, hit .408 in the regular season and .428 in the post-season. She played on four Suburban Council Championship teams, winning three Section II titles and playing in three NYS Final Fours.

At the collegiate level, her commitment to excellence continued. Scholarships to the College of Saint Rose (two years) and then the State University at Albany (two years) proved sound investments. At CSR in 1997, Nancy struck out just twice in 118 at bats, which ranked her as the 16<sup>th</sup> toughest hitter to strike out in Division II softball. She earned a 2<sup>nd</sup> Team All-Conference accolade as a junior at SUNYA and a 1<sup>st</sup> Team All Conference as a senior; in the latter season, she proved to be the toughest to hitter to strike out in the nation (it happened *only once* all year, in her final at bat). Nancy's playing career at SUNYA evokes awe: She holds the all-time career batting average of .381. In addition, Nancy ranks 7<sup>th</sup> in career triples; fifth highest in batting average in a season (.405); and 4<sup>th</sup> most in hits and runs in a season (62 apiece). She earned an All-Conference First Team selection as a senior and team captain. Remarkably, Nancy was only one of three players at Albany in the 1990s to reach the 100-hit mark—keep in mind that she did it in just two seasons. Yet it was always about the team when Nancy played, as the records show. In her junior year, SUNYA won the first ever New England Collegiate Conference championship with a record of 32-9. In her senior year, SUNYA set a school record with 33 wins 14 losses and won the ECAC Mid-Atlantic championship. Nancy was also a three-time Adirondack Region Empire State Games Open Softball Team member. Although she played just a year of field hockey at Albany, Nancy opened the season in style, scoring a pair of goals and adding an assist, and the team closed out by winning the ECAC post-season tournament.

After earning a degree in psychology at Albany, Nancy has worked for Child Protective Services for sixteen years, the last nine as a CPS supervisor.

## **Andrew Rose**

### **Class of 2001**



Andrew Rose is a Columbia High School graduate of the Class of 2001. During his athletic career, he lettered twice in basketball and five times in baseball. In the latter, Andrew was an impact player as an eighth grader who benefitted from the mentoring of teammate Ian Locke and never looked back. He was a three-time Suburban Council All-Star pitcher for the three-time Section II champion Blue Devils, and set individual records that stand to this day. In the 2000 season, he pitched 91.1 innings and went a stellar 12-3 with three shutouts, earning All-State Honors, for an NYS Final Four team that went 13-5 in the league and 22-6 overall. Gifted with three quality pitches and exceptional control, he also showed impressive skills at the plate.

Coach George Czerno offered this appraisal to *The Troy Record* prior to Andrew's senior year: "One of the most durable and consistent pitchers I have ever seen. Andrew is a warrior and I've never once heard him say he's tired." In other words, Andrew was an ideal captain for a team; a laconic alumnus, he nonetheless still remembers his playing days with pride: "I don't remember if it was my junior or senior year, but we played Schenectady at Schenectady on our way to a sectional title. The atmosphere was electric: we took the lead in the sixth, and I got to pitch in the seventh to end the game. After we got the last out, I remember throwing my glove in the air as my teammates rushed in to celebrate." A two-time Columbia Baseball MVP in 2000 and 2001, Andrew finished his baseball career as the holder of school records in strikeouts (278) and wins (33) in addition to being part of team that twice won the regional title. In high school, he also volunteered in Habitat for Humanity and the Special Olympics.

A walk around the campus of Gardner Webb convinced Andrew that this Division 1 college, which had offered him an athletic scholarship, was where he would be most comfortable. Majoring in Environmental Science, he enjoyed his college years pitching against high caliber hitters. When asked about the highlights, Andrew immediately cited a special moment: "I got the opportunity to pitch at Georgia Tech and was able to strike out Corey Patterson's son. "

Currently, Andrew is working as a construction inspector for the state of Vermont. He is honored to be inducted into the Columbia High School Athletic Hall of Fame, joining several former teammates and his legendary coach, George Czerno, who together put Columbia varsity baseball on the map.

## Kaylyn Smith Class of 2006



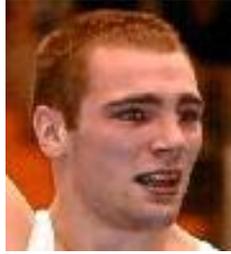
Kaylyn Smith is a Columbia High School graduate of the Class of 2006. Coming from a family renowned for athletics and coaching, she was a standout scholar-athlete in three varsity programs (field hockey, basketball and lacrosse) who displayed an impeccable work ethic, loyalty and resilience, especially when faced with adversity. During her time at Columbia, Kaylyn served as team captain in field hockey and basketball, was an active member of S.A.D.D., Interact, and Iron Devils, and volunteered for the disabled basketball league in town.

Kaylyn was a member of the 2004 field hockey team that went 14-6 and won the Gold Division Championship. As the captain of the field hockey team, #22 was also selected in 2005 as an All-Star by the Section II field hockey committee and named to the 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-Area squad. In addition to playing four years of field hockey, Kaylyn was a standout for three years in basketball; she was a complete player in every sense of the word, scoring, rebounding and defending with tenacity. During her junior year, Kaylyn suffered a torn right ACL that ended her basketball season with just four games left and precluded her chance of playing lacrosse that spring. On the eve of going in for surgery, Kaylyn shared a vision of the future in a personal narrative essay for Mr. Rudofsky's English 11 class. With crutches and a podium for support, she reflected on how she was an "ambitious" athlete who would bounce back from this traumatic setback and represent Columbia sports with pride once more during her senior year. True to her word, she did just that after a rigorous summer physical therapy program, by leading her field hockey team in scoring for the second straight year and ending up as the second-leading scorer of the basketball team, earning Dunkin Donuts "Player of the Week" honors along the way. Kaylyn also earned an All-Sports Club Scholarship in 2006 and the Robert D. Chipp Memorial Award for Athletics & Citizenship. Named as the 2005-2006 female recipient of the American Alliance for Physical Education, Health, Recreation and Dance Leadership Award, she was also selected to the Suburban Council All-Stars in 2006.

After Columbia, Kaylyn was an academic and athletic scholarship recipient at Western New England College. She excelled in field hockey for two years and basketball for four despite facing adversity. During the fourth game of her junior year of basketball, Kaylyn tore her left ACL, which sidelined her for the rest of the year. At the same time, her father, Robert Smith, was battling for his life and passed away on August 1, 2009. Back on campus in October after a harrowing several months, Kaylyn developed a MRSA infection that left her sidelined until December. Yet on the sideline, she was an undeniable presence, attending every practice and game, rooting for her teammates and looking forward to returning to play. Cleared for her senior game, Kaylyn led her team to victory with 11 points and 10 rebounds; she would start the final five games and averaged seven points and five rebounds per game. At Western New England, Kaylyn received the NCAA Champs Life Skills Award, served as the basketball representative and president of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, and took part in various fundraising projects for local charities.

After earning a master's in athletic administration from Springfield College, Kaylyn interned at Westfield State University and at the College of Saint Rose. She coached women's lacrosse and was the NCAA Division III Ethnic, Minority and Women in Sports grant recipient at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts. In 2014, she received a national award, the Division III Administrator of Tomorrow, in the same year that she was appointed an Assistant Commissioner/ Senior Woman Administrator to the Commonwealth Coast Conference. She has lent her time to nationwide causes such as the Chris Herren Project, Play 4 Kay, and the Save Our Kids Foundation. Today, she is the Assistant Director of Facilities and Operations at Wheaton College, which is home to eighteen varsity sports teams.

## Zachary Crain Class of 2008



Zachary Crain is a Columbia High School graduate of the Class of 2008. A member of the 2002 and 2003 cross-country team and the 2004 modified baseball team, he made an indelible mark on Columbia sports history as a wrestler for six years. In Coach Anthony Servidone's estimation, Zachary is "one of the finest examples of a student-athlete Columbia High School has ever had." Beginning as a 96lb. competitor in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and closing out as a formidable 135 lb. senior, Zachary's remarkable list of accomplishments—including four years as a team captain—supports this characterization.

Four school records belong to Zachary: 5X NYSPHSAA Section II Division 1 Wrestling Finalist; 221 career wins, the most by any Columbia athlete; most wins in a single season (50); and the most takedowns in a single season of wrestling (141). In his last five years on varsity, he never lost by a fall or technical fall. Four times, he was the Columbia Holiday Tournament champion. Twice, Zachary was the NYSPHSAA Section II Division 1 Champion, and a recipient of the Champion of Champions Award in Section II (2008). Five times he was a Suburban Council 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-Star All-Area Selection; four times he was named a 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-Star by the *Albany Times Union*, *Daily Gazette*, and *Troy Record*. In 2007 and 2008, Zachary earned National High School Wrestling All American accolades.

A member of the National Honor Society, he was the winner of the Robert D. Chipp Memorial Award for Athletics and Citizenship, the All Sports Club Scholarship Award, and Suburban Scholastic Council Top Scholar Award in 2008.

When asked what his proudest moments were as a wrestler at Columbia, Zachary is emphatic: "I recall persevering to win my second Section II title in 2008 after being defeated in the finals the three previous years in a row; additionally, I made it to the NYS finals that year."

An impeccable work ethic, enthusiasm for learning and good-natured disposition garnered Zachary more than just the respect of his peers and teachers; in 2008, he earned an academic and athletic scholarship to Binghamton University to wrestle at the Division 1 level.

After wrestling for one year at Binghamton and a year at Oneonta, Zachary earned a B.S. in Criminal justice at the College of Saint Rose in 2012. After working with the New York State Park Police in the Taconic Zone, he is now attending the NYS DEC Law Enforcement Training Academy in Pulaski, NY. Upon graduation in September, Zachary will be an Environmental Conservation Officer. An avid outdoorsman, Zachary enjoys hunting, archery, target shooting, hiking, and spending time in the Adirondacks with his family. Zachary is engaged to be married to MacKenzie Burke (CHS '08) this October.

Congratulations to the 2016 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 all 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.

Michael G. Leonard,  
Athletic Director

*Thank you to all who have helped in preparing for this year's Athletic Hall of Fame Celebration. Please join us next year.*

# ***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) \*  
TED BUREK (1952)  
MILT GRAHAM (1952)  
DOUG CANFIELD (1953)  
ROBERT FEDERCHUCK (1954)  
JOHN TULLAR (1954)  
RICHARD ALOISE (1954) \*  
ROGER HOWARD (1954)  
JAMES CLIFFORD (1956) \*  
FRANCIS CLIFFORD (1958)  
CLARENCE SEEBERGER (1958) \*  
RALPH BLAIR (1959) \*  
THOMAS BOYLE (1960)  
WILLIAM GLEASON (1960)  
HENRY ROMER (1961)  
WILLIAM ROMER (1962)  
MICHAEL M. MAHAR (1966)  
ROBERT MOORE (1967)  
GERALD ELLIOT (1967)  
PAUL THOMPSON (1969)  
ALBERT RAUSCH (1973)  
ROBERT HELLWIG (1977)  
MARK NARDACCI (1977)  
ERICA (BERGMAN) PUENTES (1977)  
MICHAEL REGA (1978)  
INGE (STOCKMAN) AIKEN (1979)  
SCOTT PLADEL (1980)  
DONNA GIRTLER (1982)  
PETER HOWE (1983)  
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) HORST (1998)  
IAN LOCKE (1998)  
MELISSA (ROY) BASIUK (1998)  
ELIZABETH (ELLIOTT) PALUSHAJ (2000)  
CRAIG FORTH (2001)  
CASEY HALLORAN (2002)  
CHRISTOPHER ROSENBAUM (2002)  
CHRISTA WITTMANN (2002)  
STEPHANIE ARANGO (2003)  
THOMAS ARCIDIACONO (2003)  
THOMAS GENOVESI (2003)  
JUSTIN HELLWIG (2004)  
ERIC FERGUSON (2004)  
JOHNATHAN NICOLLA (2004)  
KYLE SMITH (2004)  
SARAH HAYES (2005)  
KYLE MEYER (2005)  
ALEXANDER ZAMPIER (2006)  
MARK HERRINGTON (2007)

## **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  
JAMES OBERMAYER  
HENRY WYSOCKI  
ROGER SEYMOUR  
DOUG HADLEY

## **COMMUNITY MEMBER CATEGORY:**

DICK DORAN \*  
JAMES FINKE

\*Deceased