

***EAST GREENBUSH  
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT***

***2017***

***FIFTEENTH ANNUAL***

***ATHLETIC  
HALL OF FAME***



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

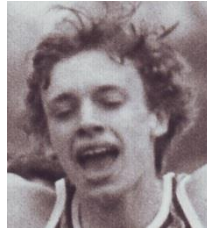
# **ALUMNI ATHLETE INDUCTEES**

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.

**James N. Westman**  
**Class of 1979**



James N. Westman, a graduate of the Class of 1979, ran year-round for four years in cross-country, indoor track and outdoor track, lettering in all three during his junior and senior years and setting several school records. He was the recipient of the Robert D. Chipp Memorial Award for Athletics and Citizenship. He accepted a track scholarship to Rutgers University, where he set numerous individual and team records, became an NCAA Division 1 Champion, was named the recipient of the Donald Leslie Coursen Award as Rutgers' Outstanding Senior Male Athlete in 1984, and earned a Bachelor's degree. Afterwards, James earned his M.S. in Special and Elementary Education at SUNYA and his certification in Physical Education from SUNY Cortland.

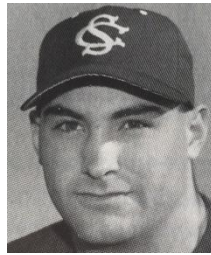
Track records are meant to be broken, so when a runner can say his times still stand years later, it is a rarity. James N. Westman is rare indeed. According to the Columbia All Sports Club, James still holds CHS outdoor records for the 440 yard (**50.3**) and 880 yard (**1:54.0**) and the indoor 660 record of **1:13.4**. A four-time Metropolitan Champion in the 800 meters during his college years, James set the Empire State Games record in 1981 in the same event; amazingly, it still stands. Yet these examples are only part of the story for James, who was a Suburban Council and Section 2 champion; in the latter, he set records in the indoor 600 yard run, the outdoor 880 yard run and 800 meter run. He also ran the leg of a record mile relay team. 1979 was a milestone year: *Track and Field News* ranked James with the 9th fastest time in the nation for the indoor 600 yard run; he placed third in that event during the NYS High School Championships. In the outdoor 800 meter run, James finished second in the state. As a senior at the Eastern States Invitational held in New Jersey, he placed 4th in the 600 yard run, closing out his indoor season by posting the best time of the year, a Section 2 record, for a NYS runner.

At Rutgers, James enjoyed a remarkable career, and his list of records and achievements would take up pages. What follows are several choice highlights. In addition to becoming a 1981 NCAA Champion and receiving All American Honors as the anchor for the university's indoor NCAA Championship Two-Mile Relay Team, he posted the fifth-fastest indoor 800 meter time in the nation. 1981 alone was an incredible year: Track Athletic Congress Northeast Regional Champion in the 800 meter, 6th place in the National Sports Festival, a semi-finalist finish in the 800 meters at the Track Athletic Congress Nationals, and numerous national rankings as a member of the Rutgers 4X 800 meter and distance medley relay teams. In 1982, James and his relay teammates ranked highly in the nation in indoor and outdoor seasons. James *remains* the Rutgers school record holder for the indoor 1000 meter run, which he set while winning the 1983 IC4A Championships-- an athletic legacy in the truest sense.

After Rutgers, James set his sights on teaching and serving his community; in both areas, he has been superlative, just like during his athletic career. James has worked for 29 years in the Greater Johnstown School District, having taught special education and elementary education students throughout the district and serving as an instructional technology specialist for the past eight years. In 2004, he was named the New York State Lottery's Educator of the Week by WNYT (News Channel 13). Meanwhile, James has served as an assistant fire chief and EMT with the Town of Glen Fire Department, a Montgomery County fire investigator, a hazardous material technician, and NYS fire instructor. In 2009, James was named the Town of Glen's Firefighter of the Year; he also received honorable mention as a Montgomery County firefighter. James has been an assistant coach at Fonda-Fultonville in two seasons for running; for several years, he served as a NYS track official, too. He serves as a deacon and elder at the Reformed Church of Canajoharie, where he is a member.

James and his wife of twenty-four years, Betsy, reside in the Town of Glen; they have two sons, James and Daniel, who were runners at Fonda-Fultonville and later at SUNY Alfred and SUNY Oneonta, respectively. James is honored to have graduated from Columbia High School and Rutgers University, and proud to have represented both schools with distinction as a student-athlete who was dedicated to supporting his teammates in every meet.

## Matthew T. Thompson Class of 1992



Matthew T. Thompson is a graduate of the Class of 1992. At Columbia, he was a member of the National Honor Society and an acclaimed three-sport athlete (baseball, soccer, and basketball) who lettered seven times and earned the Robert D. Chipp Memorial Award for Athletics and Citizenship and the Stuart Pitcher Memorial Award. After graduation, he attended Montgomery Junior College before transferring for his final two years to the University of South Carolina, where he was a perennial Dean's List student who graduated with a degree in Sport Administration in 1997. He played baseball throughout his collegiate years.

Regarded by coaches from the era as one of the finest student-athletes to ever graduate from Columbia High School, Matthew was a perennial Honor Roll recipient who excelled on the court and field as well. A quiet, unassuming leader who chose to lead by example, Matthew captained three varsity teams in his senior year. Driven by a fervent desire to win, he was a model of intensity and focus for his teammates to emulate. Indeed, Matthew played soccer for two years for Coach Roger Seymour and was recognized for his contributions with a Third Team All-Suburban Council Honor.

In basketball, Matthew was a solid contributor to several of Bob Smith's highly successful teams in the early 1990s. Matthew's court sense, unselfish play and athletic ability made him a tough defender, a superior rebounder, and a consistent offensive threat as a shooter and passer. The 1991-1992 Blue Devils were an offensive powerhouse, averaging 75 points per game en route to capturing the Suburban Gold Division Title and advancing to a first-ever Class A championship game. Matthew started in forty varsity games; to date, he ranks ninth in rebounds and second (only behind Hall of Famer Craig Forth) in blocked shots with 78.

In baseball, Matthew enjoyed two excellent varsity seasons under Coach Timothy Lange; he also played American Legion baseball (.410; 48 RBI in two seasons) and represented the Adirondack entry during the summer at the Empire State Games in 1990 and 1991. In his senior year with the Blue Devils, he hit .320 with 27 RBI, registered fifty-two assists defensively (a program record), and had a 1.85 ERA to lead the pitching staff. Matthew was selected to the Suburban Council All-Star First Team and was the winning pitcher in the Exceptional Senior Game in 1992.

Matthew's collegiate baseball career was quite successful, too. He attended Montgomery Junior College in Rockville, Maryland, where he hit .343 and knocked in 43 RBI, helping the team to the NCJCAA Region XX Championship. In his junior and senior years, Matthew played third base and shortstop, and pitched for the University of South Carolina Gamecocks.

Matthew works for Franklin County Metro Parks in Central Ohio, and lives in Columbus with his wife, Christine, and their daughters, Amy, Audra, and Emma. He joins his former varsity baseball coach, Timothy Lange, in this year's Athletic Hall of Fame induction class.

**Dr. Lindsay Pieper**  
**Class of 2003**



Lindsay Pieper was a three-sport athlete at Columbia, running cross-country for a year and playing for the varsity basketball and lacrosse teams. She was the Vice President of the Class of 2003, and spoke as its Salutatorian during commencement. In 2007, she graduated from Virginia Tech, where she played lacrosse for four years, with B.A. degrees in Communication and History. Lindsay earned an M.A. in Women's History at The Ohio State University, where she later earned a Ph.D. in Sport Humanities in 2013. As a graduate student, Lindsay served as a U.S. representative at the International Olympic Academy in Olympia, Greece.

Lindsay ranks among the most respected and talented scholar-athletes in Columbia's 21st century athletic program history. An exceptional student in any class she took, Lindsay was the quintessential team player and a natural leader, too. She played midfield in lacrosse under coaches Rich Jones and Dotty Masiello from 1999 to 2003, and shooting guard in basketball under coaches Rich Jones and Mike Bennett from 2000 to 2003. Lindsay was also the captain and leading scorer of both teams. Her most memorable sports moment at Columbia occurred during the semi-finals of the 2003 lacrosse regionals in her senior year. Lindsay recalls: "We had previously lost to Niskayuna in the regular season and were not expected to win." Columbia, the lower seed, defeated Niskayuna in a nail-biter.

Lindsay earned major recognition in both sports; in 2003, she was a Suburban Council All-Star in basketball and was named a US Lacrosse Academic All-American and member of the New York State National Lacrosse Team. She was also named First Team Council All Star in both sports. To date, Lindsay ranks among the top ten players in several of Columbia's girls basketball categories: 737 career points; 111 assists; 52 three-pointers; 165 free throws; and career games with 10 or more points (36). She also played in 81 games, tied for 2nd. In lacrosse, Lindsay's teams enjoyed excellent seasons, making the Section 2 semi-final round in 2002 and winning the South Division Championship in 2003.

Lindsay participated in several lacrosse clinics and camps: Albany Capitals Youth Lacrosse, the All-American Lacrosse Camp, Herndon County Youth Lacrosse Camp, and Virginia Tech Lacrosse Camp. In demand among lacrosse programs nationwide, Lindsay, a New York State Scholar Athlete, selected Virginia Tech. Playing in a Division 1 program, Lindsay distinguished herself in all phases of the game at VT; as a midfielder, she was a four-year starter and two-year captain of the lacrosse team from 2003-2007. Her most memorable sports moment at Tech occurred at the end of her freshman year, when her team defeated a ranked George Mason, 5-4. This bumped the team up into the rankings, the first time in Tech lacrosse history. Lindsay ranks in the top ten in several categories in her alma mater's history. At Virginia Tech, she ranks 7th in career goals (115), and is tied for 6th in goals for a season with 46 in 2006. She ranks 8th in career points (144), 3rd in creating turnovers, and among the top ten players in the program's history for draw controls and ground balls.

Lindsay made the All-ACC Academic Team in 2006 and 2007. She was honored as the team's MVP in 2005 and 2006, and the school's Scholar-Athlete recipient in 2006 and 2007. In 2007, Lindsay was named a Women's Lacrosse Academic All-American by *ESPN the Magazine*, an Atlantic Coast Conference Scholar Athlete of the Year, and an ACC Post-Graduate Scholarship recipient.

Today, Dr. Lindsay Pieper is an Assistant Professor of Sport Management at Lynchburg College in Lynchburg, Virginia. Dr. Pieper's research interests include gender and sport, sports law, and Olympic history. Her book, *Sex Testing: Gender Policing in Women's Sports*, named an American Library Association "Outstanding Academic Title," examines the implementation and implications of the International Olympic Committee's sex testing policies. Married to Kyle Krisko in 2013, Dr. Pieper is an avid runner in marathons and coaches youth lacrosse.

**Lyndsey (Marquit) Lutz**  
**Class of 2003**



Lyndsey Marie Lutz (formerly Lyndsey Marquit) is a member of the Class of 2003. She was the Vice-President of S.A.D.D. and a member of the Interact Club and National Honor Society. At Columbia, Lyndsey played soccer, basketball, and softball, lettering perennially in the latter two sports multiple times. After a memorable collegiate basketball career, Lyndsey graduated from Oswego in 2007 with a B.S. in Adolescent Education 7-12 with minors in Coaching and History; she later earned a Master's in Literacy 5-12 with *magna cum laude* honors from SUNY Albany.

A multi-talented athlete, Lyndsey played soccer for three years, which included a season on the varsity team as a junior. Lyndsey also played freshman basketball for Coach Siver as an 8th grader, and then went on to play varsity for Coach Richard Jones and Coach Michael Bennett. Known for her quickness and defense on the court, and versatility (she played guard, but also could fill in at the point and the post) and resilience, too, Lyndsey served as team captain for two years; she earned Section 2 recognition and played in the Exceptional Seniors Game. A Suburban Council All Star in 2003, she closed out her high school career ranking among the best in the program's history in several categories. To date, Lyndsey ranks as Columbia's 7th all-time scorer (752 points); she had 38 games with 10 or more points; her top game was 25 against Mohonasen. She also ranks 7th in free throws (139). Lyndsey compiled 90 assists, 41 three-pointers, and 205 steals. A testament to her durability, Lyndsey is tied with Hall of Famer Sarah Hayes for most games played (82) for the girls varsity team.

In her early years, Lyndsey played for the East Greenbush Softball League. Her transition to the varsity ranks was quick and had an immediate impact on the Columbia program. Lyndsey played shortstop for Coach Gary Holtz from 1999-2003; the team's record during that span was **90-29**. In 2001, the Lady Blue Devils attained a **22-4** record, winning their second Section 2 title in three years, and closing out as the runner-up in the state championship. In that year, she was named Second Team All-State.

Lyndsey played basketball for four years at Oswego State College; served as a captain during her senior year. Just like at Columbia, her impact was immediate and indelible. In 2005, the Oswego women's basketball team won over 20 games; the following year, the program won the 2006 SUNYAC Championship for the first time in college history. During Lyndsey's tenure, Oswego made two trips to the NCAA tournament and compiled an impressive record of **86-26**. Coach Michelle Collins, in assessing the legacy of the 5'8" guard from Castleton, said: "Lyndsey is the most athletic player I have ever coached." Lyndsey played in 113 games, the second-most in team history; to date, she ranks tenth in steals (166) and is remembered for often guarding the opposing team's leading scorer. Lyndsey was also a star off the court, making the Dean's List (2003-2005) and President's List (2005-2007), serving as a member of the Student Athletic Advisory Committee, and being recognized by *Who's Who of American Colleges and Universities*.

After her graduation from Oswego, Lyndsey worked as a substitute teacher in high schools throughout Rensselaer County, including her Columbia. She later worked full-time at Brighter Choice Charter School and the Ark Charter School in Troy.

Today, Lyndsey teaches 3rd grade students in the Troy School District, where she has also been an assistant coach for the girls basketball team. Married in 2014, Lyndsey and her husband, Matthew reside in Wynantskill with their one-year old son, Bryson.

## Bryan Rose Class of 2006



Bryan Rose is a graduate of the Class of 2006; he was an acclaimed three-sport athlete (football, basketball and baseball) at Columbia. He also played for the South Troy Dodgers summer league team that finished third in the Connie Mack World Series held in Farmington, New Mexico, and was selected to play in the Pony League Tournament of Stars in Joplin, Missouri in 2005. In 2005, Bryan was awarded a baseball scholarship to attend the University of Kentucky; redshirted in 2007, Bryan began 2008 memorably: his first at-bat with the Division 1 team was a home run. He was also the New York College Baseball League Tournament All-Star Game MVP in 2007. In 2011, Bryan graduated *cum laude* with a Master's in IT from the University of Northern Kentucky.

Raised among siblings with a great passion for sports, it was natural that Bryan would follow suit. In 2001, he was recognized (with a picture and listing) by the United States Achievement Academy as physical education award winner and by *Who's Who in Youth Baseball*. At Goff, he received the Thurston Thompson Award for showing the most excellence in athletics and leadership in 2002; the summer before he attended Columbia, Bryan won the Sorensco Babe Ruth MVP Award, and his All-Star Team finished runner-up in the NYS Championships.

Bryan's excellence at in Columbia's athletic programs is noteworthy not only for the many individual accolades and records but also the leadership and versatility that he brought. In 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006 Bryan was the varsity football team's Offensive Player of the Year; meanwhile, he was named to the 2004 All Suburban 1st Team as a running back and garnered an All Suburban Honorable Mention as a kicker. After winning the 2003 modified basketball MVP award, Bryan played forward for the next two seasons on the varsity, earning the Hustle Award and Rebounding Award and making the All-Star Team in the CHS Holiday Tournament in both seasons. One could argue with compelling evidence that Bryan's greatest moments occurred while playing varsity baseball for Coach George Czerno. Called up for playoffs in 8th grade, Bryan would elevate his game on the diamond every season in record-setting fashion and see his team become one of the best that Columbia athletics has ever produced. As an outfielder, he made the All-Suburban Council 2nd Team in 2003 and the 1st team in 2004, a record-setting year in which he batted **.527** and collected five hits in a game; he also saved six games (in six chances) with a **.46 ERA**. So impressive was his 2004 season that Bryan was selected MVP of the league. Yet 2004 was more than just about individual statistics, it was about winning and making school and baseball history. Indeed, the **26-2** Blue Devils won the Suburban Council, the Section 2 Class AA and NYS Central Regional Championships, and the New York State Class AA Championship for the first time ever in the baseball program's history. During Bryan's four years on the varsity, the team record was **76-18**, according to the Columbia All Sports Club guide. He earned Suburban Council First Team All Star honors in 2005 and 2006; was named MVP of the Columbia varsity in 2005, the same year he was selected to the All-Area 1st Team by the Albany Times Union and 2nd Team Class AA by the NYS Sports Writers. In his senior year, Bryan was named the Suburban Council Class AA Player of the Year ;in 2006 as a first baseman and DH, he set team records in getting on base (73), walks (28) and slugging percentage (1.014). A decade later, Bryan's career nineteen home runs still stand as the Columbia High School record.

In four collegiate seasons (two at Kentucky, two at Northern Kentucky), Bryan hit .287, with 18 HR, 100 RBI and 31 stolen bases. His on-base percentage was .399; his slugging percentage was .465.

Today, Bryan Rose resides in Union, Kentucky with his wife, Kristi, and son, Hudson, and works as a software engineer for a consulting firm in Cincinnati Ohio. With his induction, Bryan joins his older brother, Andrew, and his former coach, George Czerno, previous honorees in the CHS Alumni Athletic Hall of Fame.

## Timothy Lange Coach



**Mr. Timothy Lange** coached football (1982-1989); softball (1982); golf (1992-1994); baseball (1982-1992); and boys' basketball (1982-1996). In addition to his long career as an educator and administrator, he has also served as the Master of Ceremonies for the Columbia High School Athletic Hall of Fame gala since its inception.

Timothy "Tim" Lange is the son of Mary ("Dot") Lange and the late Edward Lange, a legendary basketball player at Siena College who was the second student-athlete to be inducted into its Hall of Fame. Tim grew up with several siblings in the Capital District; given that his father took him to games everywhere, Tim became an ardent sports fan at an early age. A two-sport athlete (football and baseball) and graduate of Christian Brothers Academy in 1977, Tim attended Siena College, where he captained the 1980 football team and set several receiving records for the school; following his graduation, he earned an M. A. from the State University at Albany in 1987.

From 1982-1995, Tim taught Spanish and coached a variety of sports in the East Greenbush Central School District. Initially, he coached freshman and junior varsity teams in football, basketball and baseball. Later, he was the head coach for varsity golf (four years), baseball (three years), and boys' basketball (four years). He also coached summer basketball camps. From 1989-1991, Tim served as an assistant varsity basketball coach for his mentor, the legendary Bob Smith, who took the 1991-92 squad to the title game against Shaker. Coach Smith, after that season, stepped down to concentrate on his athletic director's duties and offered Tim, age 33, the varsity coaching job. It was an offer Tim could not refuse.

In varsity basketball, Coach Lange's attention to detail and unwavering belief in his players resulted in the program's best season since 1951-52, outscoring their opponents by an average of **65 to 57**. Tim had attended many coaching clinics and read often about preparation and strategies. "I decided to set some goals for my team to give them some direction," Coach Lange recalled to the *Albany Times Union* in 1995. His hard work and ambition paid off. After a 4-2 start, the 1994-95 Blue Devils won 16 of their next 17 games, en route to an overall **20-4** record, which included a first-ever win against an out of state opponent, and the Suburban Council Gold Division Championship. Yet that was not all.

Dedicating the March 7th game to Bob Smith, Lange's Blue Devils captured their first-ever Section 2 Class A Sectional title, too, beating rival Shenendehowa **59-58** in front of 3,205 fans at the Glens Falls Civic Center and becoming the first Columbia boys team to go on to play in a regional contest. Seniors Louis Case (Class A MVP) and Paul Bigness (Section 2 All Star) scored 19 apiece, breaking down the Plainsmen's 1-3-1 zone to bring the team back from an eleven-point deficit. Interviewed moments after the game, Coach Lange summed up the victory against Shenendehowa: "It was an emotional night for everybody. "Columbia played Henninger, a much taller team, in the regional round the following Saturday at LeMoyne College. Late in the game, when the opponent was mounting a rally, Coach Lange huddled up his team and said, "No matter how this game turns out, I just want you to know that this coaching staff loves you guys." Henninger went on win, 75-65, but as the late Bob Smith's daughter, Kathleen Russell, observed recently, "Tim still speaks to many of his former players, which is very rare. It just shows what type of person Tim remains to his former student-athletes." Accolades in 1995 came pouring in: Section 2 Coach of the Year; News Channel 13 Coach of the Year; *Times Union* and *Troy Record* Coach of the Year honors ; and a Special Recognition by the State of New York Legislature. At the 13th annual Columbia boys' basketball awards dinner, Coach Lange and his team were honored to meet Coach Harry Rapenske and seven members of the 1952 Columbia team that had won the Class C championship.

Following his coaching and teaching career, Tim earned a Master's in Educational Administration in 1996 from SUNYA and began his administrative career, first as the Athletic Director at Mohonasen. He later worked as an assistant principal at Columbia for several years, followed by a year-long stint as the Assistant Superintendent in East Greenbush. From 2008-2014, Tim was the Superintendent of the Waterford-Halfmoon Union Free School District, earning numerous awards along the way. Since his retirement in 2014, Tim has been seen on Channel 13 as a contributing scout, offering his expertise about notable players during the high school basketball season. He also has perhaps the perfect post-retirement gig, working at the Saratoga National Golf Course. To this day, Tim roots for his three favorites: the Boston Red Sox, the North Carolina Tar Heels, and the Pittsburgh Steelers. He and his wife, Dawn, enjoy the opportunity to travel whenever they can.

Tonight, we are honored to pay tribute to this humble, dedicated and enthusiastic teacher, coach, administrator, master of ceremonies and mentor to so many. Welcome to the Hall of Fame, Coach Lange!



## NEW YORK STATE SOFTBALL CHAMPIONS 1992 - CLASS A



When it comes to the truly great teams, there are rarely any overnight sensations. It takes years to develop talent, hone instincts, build personal character and team chemistry. Health, luck, and timing play roles in a successful season, too. When all of these factors come together, sports fans--even the casual ones--must take notice. Individual records may come and go, but to be the first team in a school's history to win at the highest level is an indelible achievement. The Columbia varsity girls softball team did just that--it made its mark.

Coached by Helene Piel (Class of 1981) and her assistant, Barbara (Finke) Sauter (Class of 1985), the 1992 Columbia varsity girls softball team went **24-4** overall, a school record for wins for any team in school history. Previous seasons had been very successful for the program, yes, but increasingly bittersweet when the post-season ended. In 1985 and 1986, the varsity team had won Class A titles; the 1987, 1989 and 1990 teams were Class A runner-ups, and the 1988 and 1991 teams had been New York State semi-finalists. Individual players had received accolades, but the *ultimate goal*, a state title, remained elusive. The heart of the team and its coaches, however, never wavered; all they knew was there was work to do.

1992 was the year when all the elements of winning came together. Eighteen players, who included senior tri-captains Christine Nalley (New York State Player of the Year), Michele Bottachiari (2nd Team All-State), and Athena Geracitano (4th Team All-State), went **14-1** in the league. During the Sectionals, the Lady Blue Devils outscored their opponents 24-4, capped by an 8-0 win in the finals over rival Shenendehowa. Cicero-North Syracuse, in the opening round of the Regionals, fell to Columbia 16-1. Then, the post-season got interesting.

On June 13, 1992, John Jay delivered some stingy pitching, allowing only three hits, but Columbia would prevail in the morning semi-final game, 2-0, behind a two-hitter by Nalley. With the title game scheduled later that day, one can only imagine the mindset of the Lady Blue Devils, who had been close before to winning it all. One thing was for certain: it would take a team effort to win it all.

With five seniors playing in their last game, the fight to win the title game against Chenango Valley was certain to be intense. In 2017, Coach Barbara (Finke) Sauter recalled that this team of young women had displayed "character, talent and coachability" all year, and never more so was this case than when the game, a 1-1 stalemate, went into extra innings. Team defense, determination, and timely hitting were the motifs of the game. In the top of the eighth, sophomore centerfielder Julie Frezon (who had tied the game with a triple in the third) tracked down a ball that had been hit over right fielder Carey Leahey's head, and hit junior shortstop Maureen Klee with a relay throw. Klee made an impressive catch, wheeled around and threw a strike to sophomore Deb Luby, who tagged the runner out at third. In the bottom of the ninth, Klee hit a one-out triple to right. Back to back bunts by sophomore Kate Carnevale and freshman Nancy Nicsevic loaded the bases for Nalley. After falling behind in the count 0-2, Nalley had to jump the next pitch, which nearly hit her in the foot. On the next pitch, Nalley was locked in and lined a single to right centerfield to drive in the game-winning run. Moments after the thrilling win, Coach Piel summed it up best: "I'm proud of every one of these girls. It is a very special group."

The following Monday, the Town of East Greenbush held a victory parade for the championship team. The players and coaches also got to meet Governor Mario Cuomo, who spoke with each player about her part in the team's accomplishment, presented Coach Piel with a Certificate of Merit, and posed for pictures with the team in the Red Room at the State Capitol.

This June marks the 25th anniversary of the most successful softball team in school history, and *the first team in any sport in school history to win a state title*. Tonight, the Hall of Fame welcomes the first team in school history to its esteemed ranks. May the memories of your historic season and bonds of friendship never fade.

Congratulations to the 2017 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.*

*Blue Devil Pride*

## ***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)  
RICHARD NEAD (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)  
GARY TREMBLAY (1980)  
DONNA GIRTLE (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)  
NANCY NICSEVIC (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)  
ANDREW ROSE (2001)  
CASEY HALLORAN (2002)  
CHRISTOPHER ROSENBAUM (2002)  
CHRISTA WITTMANN (2002)  
STEPHANIE (ARANGO) ESTREIDGE (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)  
KAYLYN SMITH (2006)  
MARK HERRINGTON (2007)  
ZACHARY CRAIN (2008)

### **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 WY SOCKI  
ROGER SEYMOUR \*  
DOUG HADLEY

### **COMMUNITY MEMBER CATEGORY:**

DICK DORAN \*  
JAMES FINKE

\*Deceased