

# DOWN AT THE HALL

Photos courtesy of Alan/Tom Piotrowski & Mark Gaier

## Spring 2010

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## The President's Posting

Dave Mills, President of the Bristol Sports Hall of Fame

The Bristol Sports Hall of Fame (BSHOF) is in its thirteenth year of existence. Once again, we have sponsored many successful events this year including a Leadership program, Induction ceremony, Scholar-Athlete event, volleyball tournament and a golf tournament. The organization is fortunate to have a Board of dedicated individuals that eagerly take on tasks to insure each event is a success.

As President, I would like to give special thanks to the chairmen of each event for the outstanding work. Bob Kalat and Hank Lodge for the Induction Program, Bernie O'Keefe for the Scholar-Athlete event, Gail Ericson for Volleyball, Mark Ziogas for Leadership, Brian Farrell and Hank Lodge for our Golf tournament, John Fortunato for his continued guidance for all events, and the rest of the Board for all their hard work and dedication.

Please visit the BSHOF website to stay up to date with our activities and events. The website is managed by Hank Lodge and it can found at [www.bshof.org](http://www.bshof.org).

## Stanley "Butch" Brzezicki, Johnnie Floyd and Dick Redman Remembered

Three of the Bristol Sports Hall of Fame's most respected inductees passed away during 2009. Butch Brezezcki swam in the Connecticut Senior Olympics, winning numerous events and national awards. He also carried the Olympic torch for the 1996 Olympics. Johnnie Floyd loved Bristol and hearing about his city long after moving to Georgia to live with his daughter due to illness. Dick Redman, an avid golfer who was unable to play in recent years, enjoyed attending our annual golf tournament at the Chippanee Golf Club and riding the course with our Hall of Fame directors. The BSHOF extends our condolences to their family members. They will be missed.

Preserving Bristol's Sports Heritage

## BSHOF Welcomes Class of 2009 Inductees



**George  
Amsden**



**Paul  
Castolene**



**Bruce  
Kuczenski**



**Richard  
Kowalczyk**



**Beth Kauke  
Lafferty**



**Vito  
Montelli**



**J. Grattan  
O'Connell**



**Fran  
Serratore**

The Clarion Hotel was the setting for the 13<sup>th</sup> annual induction program which was held on November 20, 2009. Over three hundred patrons witnessed the induction of local sports legends George Amsden, Paul Castolene, Bruce Kuczenski, Richard Kowalczyk, Beth Kauke Lafferty, Vito Montelli, J. Grattan O'Connell and Fran Serratore. With the Class of 2009, one hundred and five individuals and one organization have been recognized for their role in maintaining the tradition and glory of Bristol sports. Commemorative plaques of the Class of 2009 inductees, along with all Hall of Fame members, are on display at the Dennis Malone Aquatic Center on Mix Street in Bristol.

The BSHOF would like to extend its gratitude to the many businesses and individuals who supported the induction program's advertisement booklet along with all of those who attended the event or sponsored tables. Special thanks go to Jack Hines and the First Bristol Federal Credit Union for their sponsorship of the VIP Reception held prior to the induction program.

We are also grateful to Tom Mazzarella for his assistance with the production of the video portion of the program and to Tom Monahan, WVIT Channel 30 News political reporter, for marking his thirteenth year as master of ceremonies of the event. And last but not least, the BSHOF induction committee would like to thank the board members who helped make the 2009 event a success.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Volleyball Tournament

The recent 2009 Volleyball Tournament held at Stock's Playground Sand Courts was a huge success with 10 men's "A" teams, 5 men's "B" teams and 5 women's teams competing for prizes.



The tournament was co-sponsored by the Bristol Sports Hall of Fame, Bristol Parks and Recreation and First Bristol Federal Credit Union. Proceeds will be donated to local charities. Tournament directors were Gail Ericson and David D. Pecevich.

The men's "A" division was won again by Matt King's powerful volleyball team consisting of Jason Fink, Matt King, Matt Cretella and Greg Davis. The runner ups were an outstanding team from the Winsted area led by Chuck Drda, Matt and Eric Jassen and Lee Jacobs.



The women's division was won by a strong, undefeated Torrington based team led by Clarissa Wiles, Sabrina Smeltz, Michelle Branche and Karri Chapman. The 2<sup>nd</sup> place team consisted of Megan Thibodeau, Bri Kledsner, Joanne Melendez and Arlene Clamarca.

The men's "B" division was dominated by a dominant team from Bloomfield who went undefeated in regular play and playoffs. The team consisted of Mark Tian, Andrew Kirshner and dynamic twins Leah and Maureen McDaniel. The runner ups were Kevin Kalat, Ryan Flaherty, Nancy Priemer and Jason Stafford.

## Leadership Council

Since 2004 the BSHOF has gathered the captains from the local high schools to assist them in improving their leadership skills, not only on the ball field, but in the classroom and the community.

**Stephen Ziogas**, a 2009 graduate of Brown University was the speaker at the Leadership Breakfast at Nuchie's Restaurant September 15<sup>th</sup>. Ziogas spoke about some of the captains he played with during his football career at Bristol Central HS, where he was All State and at Brown where he earned All Ivy league recognition. He told the students that there are different types of leaders; quiet, smart and hard working leaders. Some lead by example, some with passion and others with a positive attitude. Being a leader involves a constant struggle to improve on the gifts you already possess.

Ziogas emphasized that leaders need to gain the respect of their teammates, but that respect is not given it is earned. Ziogas stressed that they must continue to have a great academic focus, as true leaders want to excel in all areas. In closing he told the students that hard work overcomes talent when talent doesn't work hard. Treating your teammates with respect will only strengthen your sports experience. Be confident in your abilities, you already have the tools and skills to become a leader.

**Jay Calnan** spoke at the December 15<sup>th</sup> Leadership breakfast at Nuchies. Owner of Jay Calnan and Associates in the Boston area, he showed the students how to take lessons from athletics and use hard work, integrity, and teamwork to become successful.

The essence of Jay's message was "be proud of being from Bristol". The diversity of the population, the rigors of the academics, the lessons and skills of athletics, football in particular, support of the community and caring people in his life helped formulate the values he uses today.

## Jack Hines Scholar Athlete Dinner

Shortly after the formation of the Bristol Sports Hall of Fame, its Executive Director, Jack Hines proposed a program to honor students who were not only outstanding achievers in their academic studies but individuals who were equally successful in their athletic pursuit at their respective schools. The Scholar Athlete program honors such individuals.

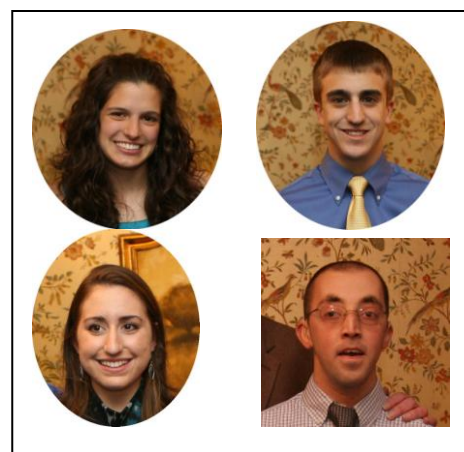
In recognition of his service, the Bristol Sports Hall of Fame named its Scholar Athlete Recognition Dinner in honor of Jack Hines. To qualify as a Scholar Athlete a junior or senior must maintain a B+ average and have earned three varsity letters.

At the recognition Dinner the BSHOF awards a \$1,000 scholarship to recipients from the three local high schools. The 2009 recipients were Rachel Dombroski (Bristol Central), Kevin Kaye (Bristol Eastern) and Kelly Casey (St. Paul).

To learn more about this program and prior recipients please visit our website at [www.bshof.org](http://www.bshof.org).



*From top to bottom: Brown graduate Stephen Ziogas, and above is Jay Calnan with our president Dave Mills.*



**Top: Scholarship recipients Rachel Dombroski, Kevin Kaye, Kelly Casey and the 2009 Joe McGinn Award Recipient, Jonathan Davis. To read more about these outstanding students please visit "Scholar/Athletes" and "Award Recipients"**

## 2009 Golf Tournament A Huge Success



The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Bristol Sports Hall of Fame golf tournament was held on July 27, 2009 at Chippanee Golf Club in Bristol.

Through the generosity of the golfers and many sponsors, the proceeds of the tournament are used to support the Bristol Sports Hall of Fame's Scholar Athlete Program which includes scholarship money for Bristol high school seniors.

Among the participants were hall of fame members Jim Bates, Jr., Gail Ericson, Dave Mills, Jim Ziogas, Dave Raponey, Duke Snyder, Paul Castolene, Marge Funk and Mike Ziogas. They were joined by Bristol Mayor Art Ward, former Major Leaguer Dick McAullife, NBC news correspondent Tom Monahan, Avon HS Football Coach Brett Quinon and former BSHOF Executive Director Jack Hines.

The tournament was held under a scramble format with winners in both the gross and net categories. First place gross winners with a score of 56 were the team of Todd and Keith Salamon, Steve Brasile and Matt Lewis. Finishing one stroke behind the winning foursome was the team of Gail and Bernie Ericson, Mike Butler and Bill Fearney. On the net side, the winning foursome, with a score of 46, was the team of Charlie Revoir, Bruce Voisine, Bruce Till and Don Kreh. Finishing second two strokes behind was the team of Seamus Farrell, Brian Farrell Sr, Bunty Ray and Jeff Roy.

Long Drive winners were Seamus Farrell and Cathy Sessions while closest to the pin winners were Marge Funk and Mike Schweighoffer.

The event drew 104 golfers who also enjoyed lunch and dinner in addition to some great golf at Chippanee Golf Club.

## Helping BSHOF help the Community

The Bristol Sports Hall of Fame sponsors many activities that benefit both student-athletes and adults who are involved in sports in the Bristol community. These programs are the result of generous contributions from local businesses and individuals who recognize the value of promoting the accomplishments of Bristol athletes. Without community support, the BSHOF would not be able to continue the scholarship and educational programs that it sponsors. These events include:

- Three \$1,000 scholarships awarded at the Jack Hines Scholar-Athlete Dinner
- The Bristol Sports Hall of Fame Annual Induction Ceremony
- The Robert J. Fiondella Leadership Breakfast
- The Community Speakers Program
- The Bristol Park and Recreation Department Hershey Track Meet (co-sponsor)
- The Bristol Sports Hall of Fame Annual Scholar-Athlete Golf Tournament

If you or your business would like to support the community activities sponsored by the BSHOF, we offer the following:

- The BSHOF Scholarship Golf Tournament Sponsorships - Tee - \$100, Carts - \$500, Lunch/Dinner - \$1,000
- The BSHOF Annual Induction Ceremony Booklet  
Full Page Ad - \$200    Half Page Ad - \$100    Quarter Page Ad - \$ 50

One time contributions of any amount are always welcome and appreciated. For more information regarding financial support of the BSHOF, please contact Bob Kalat at 860-589-2415 or on line at [rkalat@aol.com](mailto:rkalat@aol.com).