

DOWN AT THE HALL

Photos courtesy of Alan/Tom Piotrowski

Spring 2009

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The President's Posting

Dave Mills, President of the Bristol Sports Hall of Fame

The original intent of the Bristol Sports Hall of Fame (BSHOF) was to honor individuals or groups who have made significant contributions to the local sports community at an annual recognition ceremony. The BSHOF has achieved this goal by honoring twelve classes of inductees, with the most recent ceremony taking place on November 21, 2008.

In keeping with the mission statement of preserving the sports history of Bristol, the BSHOF has sponsored or participated in many programs that recognize the diverse roles athletics plays in the community.

For example, the BSHOF sponsors The Jack Hines Scholar-Athlete Dinner, a spring event that recognizes both the athletic and the academic accomplishments of Bristol's high school student-athletes. This event is named in honor of Mr. Hines, the former executive director of the BSHOF.

The Bristol Sports Hall of Fame and the activities it sponsors would not exist without the financial support of the local business community and the participation of the BSHOF's board of directors. I would like to thank the Bristol business community and the board of directors for its selfless dedication to the BSHOF.

2009 will be a challenging and exciting year for the BSHOF, but rest assured that we will continue to offer quality programs that recognize accomplishment, foster leadership, and teach sportsmanship.

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.

Preserving Bristol's Sports Heritage

BSHOF Welcomes Class of 2008 Inductees



*Moe
Baker*



*Bob
Freimuth*



*Bernice
LaFerriere*



*Phil
Lewis*



*Dave
Raponey*



*John
Reardon, Sr.*



*Joe
Riley*



*Bristol
Tramps*

The Clarion Hotel was the setting for the Bristol Sports Hall of Fame's (BSHOF) 12th annual induction program which was held on November 21, 2008. Over three hundred patrons witnessed the induction of local sports legends Moe Baker, Bob Freimuth, Bernice LaFerriere, Phil Lewis, Dave Raponey, John Reardon, Sr., and Joe Riley. This year a special induction was made as The Bristol Tramps organization was recognized for their contributions to the Bristol sports community. With the induction of the Class of 2008, ninety-nine individuals and one organization have been recognized by the BSHOF for their role in maintaining the tradition and glory of Bristol sports. The commemorative plaques of the Class of 2008 inductees, along with all Hall of Fame inductees, are on display at the Dennis Malone Aquatic Center on Mix Street in Bristol.

The BSHOF would like to extend its thanks to the many businesses and individuals who supported the induction program's advertisement booklet. Thanks also go to 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.

A big thank-you goes out to Tom Mazzarella for his assistance with the production of the video portion of the program and Tom Monahan, WVIT Channel 30 News political reporter, for marking his twelfth 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 2008 event a success.

2nd Annual Volleyball Tournament



The Bristol Sports Hall of Fame (BSHOF), The Bristol Parks and Recreation Department, and the First Bristol Federal Credit Union sponsored a volleyball tournament at Stocks Playground in Bristol. The proceeds of the tournament were donated to Sheppard Meadow Riding Center, Inc., a therapeutic horseback riding facility that specializes in enhancing the lives of children and adults with emotional and physical disabilities through therapeutic interaction with horses and other animals. Sheppard Meadow was the recipient of a \$1,000 check.

This year, fourteen 4-member teams participated in the early August event. And a new twist was added to the rules of play: female athletes were allowed to participate in the men's division, but no male competitors were given entry to the women's division. The men's division was won by a team led by Matthew King and Michael O'Donnell, two of the best sand court players in Connecticut. They were supported by Jason Fink and Kyle Pecevich. Second place was taken by a team from Lebanon representing The Church of Our Lady of Lebanon. This spirited and highly competitive team was led by captain Mark Thomas, along with John Atallah, Anthony Atallah, and Tony Karam. In the women's division, a Bristol team led by captain Kelli Bigelow, with Lisa Hubina, Mary Blair, and Jen Coleman, captured the top spot.

Tournament Director David D. Pecevich said the participants enjoyed the tournament and are looking forward to next year's competition. He also added that the Bristol Parks and Recreation Department deserve praise for maintaining the quality of the volleyball courts.

The Leadership Council

In 2003, Dave Mills had a goal of bringing together community and business leaders, sports figures, and underclassmen from the three Bristol high schools to discuss the qualities of leadership. Mills felt the student athletes needed the opportunity to learn about the responsibilities leaders must face every day, and who better to learn from than the captains of the Bristol community. But Mills also wanted to work local educators and BSHOF directors into the mix so the students would be able to share the concepts they had learned, return to their respective schools, and then put what they had learned into practice. Thus, The Leadership Council was born.

The inaugural speaker for The Leadership Council was Robert Fiondella, the former CEO of the Phoenix Company. Mr. Fiondella believed so strongly in the value of the leadership program that he decided to fund the program's three annual events. The Leadership Council meets in September, December, and April of every school year. The goal of The Leadership Council is to help the student-athletes improve their leadership skills on the playing fields, in the classroom, and within the community. In addition to attending the three conferences, the student-athletes also participate in the United Way's Day of Caring.

We are fortunate to have the program coordinated by Mark Ziogas, long time BSHOF Director and a driving force in sustaining the program.

The 2008-2009 Leadership Council speaker roster has included Bristol Central and UCONN All-American cross-country runner Jillian Sullivan, Avon High School head football coach and commodities trader Brett Quinion, and Ultimate Wire Forms co-owner Nancy Blanchette.

From the Secretary's Seat

If you attend a Bristol Sports Hall of Fame (BSHOF) board meeting, you will notice Ellie Wilson quietly recording every word that is spoken about the nightly agenda. Ms. Wilson, the recording secretary of the BSHOF, keeps a meticulous record of the monthly business that is conducted at the board meetings. After the meeting, Ms. Wilson then transcribes the minutes of the meeting, types them into a report, and then mails them to each member of the board. She also is responsible for notifying the board members of the date, time, and location of each monthly meeting.

But keeping track of the BSHOF's monthly activities is not Ms. Wilson's only responsibility. She also maintains a connection to the community by sending out thank-you notes, recognizing achievements, and extending sympathies on the behalf of the BSHOF. Ms. Wilson scours the local newspapers and websites for information about local athletes, Hall of Fame members, coaches, and everyone else who has a connection to the BSHOF. During the past year alone, Ms. Wilson has sent out 38 congratulatory notes to local athletes, teachers, and coaches to acknowledge their accomplishments in the field of sports.



From top to bottom: Brett Quinion with President Dave Mills. Jillian Sullivan and Nancy Blanchette.



BSHOF Directors Hank Lodge (webmaster) and Ellie Wilson (Secretary).

2008 Golf Tournament A Huge Success



Sunshine and blue skies greeted golfers as they prepared to tee off at the 4th Annual Bristol Sports Hall of Fame Golf Tournament which was hosted by Chippanee Golf Club in Bristol. Eighty four golfers, fortified by a hearty lunch, battled through a scramble format with the eventual winning team of Dick Day, Mike Fries, Ed Donovan, and Bob Messier shooting a sizzling combined score of 56. Right behind them in second place, a foursome of Dan Ahern, Kevin Monahan, Le Thuc, and Rich Yadach shot a combined 57, but fell one stroke short of the top slot. Other prize winners were Le Thuc and Marge Funk in the Long Drive Competition and Gail Ericson and Brent Quinion in the Closest to the Pin Contest.

After a buffet and cocktail hour, tournament participants were treated to a raffle which featured a set of golf clubs, a Cleveland Driver, foursomes at Chippanee, Topstone, The Farms, Hawk's Landing, and Pequabuck, an original major league baseball contract signed by Babe Ruth, and a \$350 gas grill. Through the generosity of the golfers and the tournament sponsors, the proceeds from the tournament and the raffle allow the BSHOF to support the Scholar-Athlete Program which provides scholarships to Bristol student-athletes.

Among the participants in the Golf Tournament were BSHOF inductees Jim Bates, Jr., Gail Ericson, Dave Mills, Dick Day, Jim Ziogas, and Mike Ziogas. They were joined by Bristol Mayor Art Ward, former major leaguer Dick McAuliffe, and NBC news political correspondent Tom Monahan.

Helping BSHOF help the Community

The Bristol Sports Hall of Fame (BSHOF) sponsors many activities that benefit both student-athletes and the adults who are involved in sports in the Bristol community. These programs are the result of the 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 Scholarship 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.