

DOWN AT THE HALL

Photos courtesy of Alan/Tom Piotrowski & Mark Gaier

2010 in review

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The President's Posting

Dave Mills, President of the Bristol Sports Hall of Fame

In addition to our annual events, the Bristol Sports Hall of Fame (BSHOF) with the co-operation of the Bristol Tramps and the Bristol Bd. of Education, sponsored a fundraising event entitled *"Raise the Roof"* on behalf of Shepard Meadows Therapeutic Riding Center. The event featured UConn men's varsity basketball coach Jim Calhoun and Dan Doyle, founder of the Institute of International Sport. Both men delivered inspiring messages on "Life Lessons from Sport". Proceeds from the event, which amounted to over \$11,000 will be used to begin construction on a roof to cover the riding facility which will enable them to extend the riding season and thus benefit more riders. The program was a huge success and acted as a spring board for additional funds to be raised to complete the project.

The HOF was also the recipient of the prestigious "Ambassador of Peace" award recently at a Mohegan Sun ceremony. We were chosen for our outstanding work in the Bristol Community by the Institute of International Sport which will sponsor the "World Peace Summit" this summer at the University of Connecticut. All of our efforts in the community are possible because of a dedicated Board of Directors and a willing community. As president, I am honored to represent this outstanding organization.

Please visit the BSHOF website at www.bshof.org.

Bristol Tramps honor John Fortunato

Our own John Fortunato, co-founder of the Bristol Sports Hall of Fame, was honored by the Bristol Tramps at its annual dinner held on Friday, April 9, 2010 at the Clarion Inn. Upon being introduced by the evening's MC, Maryellen Holden as the 2010 recipient of the Chuck McCarthy award, John received a standing ovation.

John's biggest accomplishment may well have been the Bristol Sports Hall of Fame. He came up with the idea in 1996 and when he met up with Bristol Press sportswriter Bob Montgomery, the two agreed to "do it" and they did. John was key in helping direct the organization as one of its founders and longtime vice-president. Today, the BSHOF is well-respected in sports circles.

BSHOF Welcomes Class of 2010 Inductees



**Diane
Connolly**



**Roland
Dumont**



**Gene
LeBlanc**



**Berdie
Monico**



**Tom
Moylan**



**Butch
Paradis**



**Porky
Santorso**



**Dennis
Schermerhorn**

The Clarion Hotel was the setting for the BSHOF's 14th annual induction program which was held on November 19, 2010. Over three hundred patrons witnessed the induction of local sports legends Diane Connolly, Roland Dumont, Gene LeBlanc, Domenic "Berdie" Monico, Tom Moylan, Butch Paradis, Joseph "Porky" Santorso and Dennis Schermerhorn. With the induction of the Class of 2010, one hundred and thirteen individuals and one organization have been recognized by the BSHOF for their roles in maintaining the tradition and glory of Bristol sports. The commemorative plaques of the Class of 2010 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. Tom Monahan missed what would have been his fourteenth year as master of ceremonies of the event due to his retirement party after 45 years as WVIT Channel 30 News political reporter. Tom will start his streak again next year. And last but not least, the induction committee would like to thank the board members who helped make the 2010 event a success.

5th Annual Volleyball Tournament attracts 17 teams.



The volleyball tournament, sponsored by the Bristol Sports Hall of Fame, First Bristol Federal Credit Union and Bristol Parks and Recreation, held at Stocks Playground's sand courts on July 24, 2010 was very successful. Seventeen teams from all over Connecticut attended.

The men's "A" division was won again by the powerful team consisting of Matt King, Jason Fink, Jay Interlande and Don Fisher. Second place went to a strong team from Hartford, led by the strong spiking of Keywane Grant, who was accompanied by Lee Kochawi, Jacex Puwarski and Glenn Kawasaki.



The men's "B" division was won by a foursome from Terryville consisting of Justin Tharau, Matthew Le Claire, Dennis Woebel and Doug Sekorski.

The women's "A" division was won by Clarissa Wiles, Lisa Plourde, Kelli Bigelow and Jen Coleman. Runner-ups were a very spirited team from Harwinton, consisting of Karli Drda, Mairi Poisson, Kirsten Warner and Ashley Drda.

Tournament directors were David D. Pecevich and Gail Ericson. Mayor Art Ward opened the tournament by thanking all the participants for playing and donating the proceeds to Bristol Boys and Girls Club and the Shepard Meadows Riding School for handicapped children.

Robert Fiondella Leadership Council Speakers Marc Gonsalves and Bob Freimuth

The September 14th gathering featured Bristol native Marc Gonsalves. He spoke of his February, 2003 ordeal when he was captured by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia. The abduction took place when Gonzales and his two co-workers were on a U. S. drug surveillance mission in Columbia's cocaine producing jungle when their plane crashed. He was later rescued in July, 2008.

"I would never wish that on anyone," he told the students. He said it was important he wasn't alone." "I'm glad my co-workers were with me, he said. "It was critical to have them with me. With three different people, one would fill in when the others suffered. One of us would compensate for the others."

This point was directed to the students so they would better realize every member of a team is valuable. You can't do it alone. "The value of people around - you might not realize how important they are - we needed each other, thus we survived."

The speaker at the December 14, 2010 meeting was Robert Freimuth, Varsity Baseball Coach at Plainville High School and winner of 5 state championships. Coach Freimuth talked about some of the players he has coached who went onto careers in the NFL, MLB and the Secret Service. The one common thread all these former players had was great leadership skills. Those leadership traits included Courage, Big Thinkers, Change Masters, Persistence, Risk Takers, Positive Attitudes, Decision Makers, Responsibility Takers, having a Sense of Humor and Being Committed 110% all the time.

Coach Freimuth's message was well received by the student-athletes and gave them plenty of food for thought.

The Bristol Sports Hall of Fame Leadership council, consisting of over 60 student-athletes from the three local high schools, participated in the United Way's annual Day of Caring. This year the students assisted the United Way, in their initiative to inform senior citizens of assistance available to them in the community, by placing door hangers on doors throughout the City.

BSHOF also assisted the United Way in their annual Joy of Sharing holiday program by contributing presents to be distributed to children in the community in need of some assistance

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 in their respective schools. The Scholar Athlete program seeks to honor such individuals.

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

At the recognition Dinner the BSHOF awards a \$1,000 scholarship to recipients from the three local high schools. This year the recipients were Amanda Savath (Bristol Central), Kilee Bayne (Bristol Eastern) and Jordyn Rombola from St. Paul Catholic High School. Jamie Botteon (Bristol Eastern) was the 2010 recipient of the Joe McGinn Award.

To learn more about this program and prior recipients please visit the "Scholar/Athletes" and "Award Recipients" on our website at www.bshof.org.



From top to bottom: BSHOF President Dave Mills with Marc Gonsalves and below Coach and Hall of Fame inductee Robert Freimuth addressing the Leadership Council.



Top: Scholarship recipients Amanda Savath, Kilee Bayne and Jordyn Rombola (bottom left) with the 2010 Joe McGinn Award Recipient, Jamie Botteon.

2010 Golf Tournament Another Success



The 6th Annual Bristol Sports Hall of Fame Golf Tournament was held on July 26, 2010 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 "Jack Hines Scholar Athlete" Program which provides scholarship money for Bristol high school seniors.

Among the participants were hall of fame members, Jim Bates, Jr., Paul Castolene, Gail Ericson, Robert Freimuth, Dave Mills, Dave Raponey and Duke Snyder. They were joined by Bristol Mayor Art Ward, former Major Leaguer Dick McAuliffe, NBC news correspondent Tom Monahan, Avon HS Football Coach Brett Quinion 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 54 were the team of Jeff and Noah Hedberg, Mike Longo and Neil Forte. Finishing four strokes behind the winning foursome was the team of Steve Brasile, Matt Lewis, John Chapman and Keith Salamon.

On the Net side, the winning foursome with a score of 45 was the team of Brian Farrell, Jr., Chris Sullivan, Sean McMahon and Gary Swanson. Finishing second two strokes behind was the team of Mike and Chris Nicastro, John Leone and Morrie Laviero.



Long Drive winners were Brian Farrell, Jr. in the Men's division and Dick McAuliffe was our inaugural winner in the Men's Senior Long Drive. The Closest to the Pin was won by Tony Pannazzo 7'8". The event drew 88 golfers who also enjoyed lunch and dinner in addition to some great golf at Chippanee Golf Club. We thank all our players and sponsors for allowing us this privilege to support our community.

Bob Watson "Mr. Forestville" Remembered.

Hall of Fame inductee Bob Watson passed away in February of this year and left behind a huge legacy that affected all that knew him.

One day, over 55 years ago, Bob stopped at the old Shular's Market on King St. and witnessed a coach mistreating a young little leaguer at Wilson Field across the street. After confronting the coach about his behavior, the coach said, "If you could do a better job, why don't you help out." Well, Bob knew he could do a better job and that day was the beginning of his over 55 year involvement with little league. He served as a coach, a mentor, a father, a taxi driver, a board member, an administrator, and most of all a friend to thousands of youngsters.

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 via email at rkalat@aol.com.