

# BRISTOL SPORTS HALL OF FAME

Photos courtesy of Alan/Tom Piotrowski & Mark Gaier

## 2015 in review

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## The President's Posting

Jack Hines, President, Bristol Sports Hall of Fame



One of the real joys of the holiday season is the opportunity to say thank you and to wish you the very best for the New Year. It is again time for me to share the progress we've made throughout the year. This progress was dependent upon the dedication of our Board. The HOF Board is deeply thankful to and inspired by the many supporters who made possible all the activities reflected in this report.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Police Chief Tom Grimaldi for his service to our board and to the community at large. As many of you know, Tom has accepted the same position in Florida and has moved on. During his time on the board he chaired the Mum-A-Thon 5K Race successfully for the last two years. He will be missed.

In summary, the HOF celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2016. Please visit our BSHOF.org updated website to view and hear the events and programs mentioned above. Acceptance speeches from this year's inductees and inductees from previous years are available as well.

## Coach Greene Honored at Breakfast of Champions.

The Ralph Papazian Award has been presented annually at the Breakfast of Champions since 1995. Mike Greene, longtime Bristol Eastern assistant soccer and track coach, was honored as the recipient of the Ralph Papazian Award at the annual Breakfast of Champions held on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving at St. Paul Catholic High School.

## New Hall of Fame Website Released

On September 18, 2015 the Bristol Sports Hall of Fame New Website committee released its newly redesigned website to a large audience at the Bristol Library. Earlier in the year the BSHOF appointed a committee consisting of Directors Mark Ziogas, Brian Farrell, Sr., Bob Kalat and Pat Parente, led by co-chairs Tom Mazzarella and Hank Lodge. The committee completed a Request for Proposal and made an exhausted and concerted effort ending with choosing (a)squaredsstudio as their vendor of choice. All through the summer months, Alex Donovan and his wife Ashley worked diligently to incorporate our needs as set forth by the committee. We are very pleased to announce the site is up and running and was built in such a manner as to take advantage of all state-of-the-art technologies and it's something all of us are very proud of. To learn more about the new site please visit us at [www.bshof.org](http://www.bshof.org) and look under "Past Events".

## BSHOF Welcomes Class of 2015 Inductees



**Henry Brophy**

**Chris D'Amato**

**Bob Fiondella**

**Chris Ghiglia**

**Dr. Wes Holden**

**Jennifer Hadley Houle**

**Jerry O'Brien**

**Bob Zysk**

The DoubleTree by Hilton was the setting for the BSHOF's 19<sup>th</sup> annual induction program, which was held on November 20, 2015. Almost three hundred patrons witnessed the induction of local sports legends Henry Brophy, Chris D'Amato, Bob Fiondella, Christian Ghiglia, Dr. Wes Holden, Jennifer Hadley-Houle, Jerry O'Brien and Bob Zysk. With the induction of the Class of 2015, one hundred and fifty five individuals and three organizations have been recognized by the BSHOF for their roles in maintaining the tradition and glory of Bristol sports. The Class photo, along with all the classes will be on display at the Dennis Malone Aquatic Center on Mix Street in Bristol early next year.

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 Mark Cornacchio, CEO & President of 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 Director Tom Mazzarella for his assistance with the production of the video portion of the program and to our Ticket Coordinator, Director Brian Farrell, Sr. Also Tom Monahan served as master of ceremonies for his eighteenth year, his tenure only interrupted for one year due to his retirement party after 45 years as WVIT Channel 30 News political reporter in 2011. And last but not least, the board would like to thank Bob Kalat and Hank Lodge for Co-Chairing the event and the entire Induction Committee who helped make the 2015 event a success.

## Former Inductee Accomplishments & Milestones



**Dudzinski**



**Giovinazzo**



**Kuczemski**



**Palladino**

Harry "Whitey" Dudzinski.....inducted into the New England Basketball "Hall of Fame".

Mike Giovinazzo .....inducted into the Connecticut High School Coaches Association "Hall of Fame"

Bruce Kuczemski.....inducted into the New England Basketball "Hall of Fame"

Gary Palladino.....joined the ranks of successful authors with his release of "CHARGE".

## Spotlight on Director Ellie Wilson



Ellie Wilson has been the secretary of the Bristol Sports Hall of Fame since its inception in 1997. She has steadily provided meeting notes and completed many other responsibilities of the volunteer job in a prompt and professional manner. She is active in other community-minded ways, and that includes chairing the program committee at Bristol Historical Society and serving as the organization's longtime historian. She is also the historian of St. Joseph's Church and works part-time in the church office. A retired librarian, she is also active with the Friends of the Bristol Public Library and serves as its liaison to the Bristol Public Library Board of Directors

## Robert Fiondella Leadership Council Speakers: Hernandez & Esau

Davina Hernandez is currently the varsity Softball Coach at Southington High School after completing a successful career playing at Bristol Central, University of Massachusetts, and playing for the Puerto Rican National Team. She spoke on training, hard work and adversity that led her to her current coaching career and her work with the Lupus Foundation.

Linsie Esau, a 1988 Bristol Eastern graduate who played both football and basketball for the Lancers and went on to Hamilton College to do the same, was the guest speaker Tuesday morning at Nuchies when the Bristol Sports Hall of Fame presented its Leadership Council Breakfast — a gathering of high school athletes, teachers, school administrators and Hall of Fame directors. The students, all juniors, were there for the first of three such programs aimed at helping them become leaders in high school sports, the classroom and community. Linsie was inducted into the Bristol Sports Hall of Fame in 2014.



Sixty-six Team Leaders and Captains from St. Paul's, Bristol Eastern and Bristol Central High Schools met in April, September and December at Nuchie's Restaurant for the BSHOF Leadership Breakfasts for the 2014-15 season. Each team Captain summarized his or her season and was asked to state any problems that arose and how as a team leader it was resolved. Cutting practice, tardiness to practice, not enough playing time, being overly critical of other players and not having enough players on teams were major issues discussed.

The students also participated in activities which helped to instill certain skill sets they will need as team leaders; listening, thinking outside the box, and how instruction and encouragement get positive results. The students were also given ethical scenarios to discuss among themselves.

The group also participated in a community service project in the United Way Day of Caring Event. In May the students volunteered a one-half day at Indian Rock Environmental Learning Center doing general maintenance and clean up.

This was a good group of students who actively participated in the activities and hopefully came away with a better understanding of what it takes to be an effective leader and captain. BSHOF gives a special thank you to the Robert Fiondella Foundation, which helps to partially underwrite the cost of the program

## Scholar Athlete Recognition 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 who were also equally successful in their athletic pursuits in their respective schools. The Scholar Athlete program seeks to honor such individuals.

To qualify as a Scholar Athlete a junior or senior must have an 88 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 \$1,500 scholarship to recipients from the three local high schools. 2015 recipients were Andrew Damon-Smith (Bristol Central), Stephen Goodrich (Bristol Eastern) and Brendan Carroll from St. Paul Catholic High School. Tad Doyle was the 2015 recipient of the Joe McGinn Award.

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



*From top to bottom: Davina Hernandez and Linsie Esau delivered strong messages to the Leadership Council.*

*BSHOF Leadership Council students volunteering at United Way Day of Caring for Indian Rock Preserve Environmental Learning Center.*



**Top: Scholarship recipients Brendan Carroll, Andrew Damon-Smith, and Stephen Goodrich. (Bottom right) the 2015 Joe McGinn Award Recipient Tad Doyle .**

## 2015 Golf Tournament Another Success



The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Bristol Sports Hall of Fame Golf Tournament was held on July 27, 2015 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, Gail Ericson, Robert Freimuth, Spec Monico, Dave Raponey, Beth Lafferty, Rick O'Brien, and Fran Serratore. They were joined by Jack Hines, President of the Bristol Sports Hall of Fame. On Course management was firmly supported by our Co-founder Bob Montgomery.



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 50 was the team of Jake, Jeff and Noah Hedberg and Mike Longo. Finishing six strokes behind the winning foursome was the team of Bob Freimuth, Pat Hall, Bunty Ray and Brian Rooney.

On the Net side, the winning foursome with a score of 45 was the team of Russ Wentland, Sean McCarthy, Anthony DiPalo and Nick Urso. Finishing two strokes behind was the team of Gary Mann, Carl Marinelli, Mary Beth Morrow and Charlie Revoir. Team Lodge is still on the course.

Long Drive winners were Jake Hedberg in the Men's division and Morrie Laviero in the Men's Senior Long Drive. Ladies Long Drive went to Mary Beth Morrow. The Closest to the Pin was won by Dave Butkus 6'6" and Terri Boyko 39'3". The event drew 92 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.

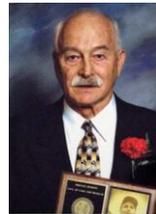


Special thanks go to our Co-Chairs Hank Lodge and Brian Farrell, Sr. for their leadership and commitment to making this another successful fundraiser for BSHOF and our community.

## Al Benecick and Eddie McHugh will be missed.



He graduated from Bristol High in 1955 after starring in football and track & field. He went on to play football at Syracuse in blocking for Jimmy Brown and became the 62nd pick in the 1959 NFL Draft before earning Hall of Fame induction honors as a CFL Saskatchewan Rough Riders offensive linesman.



Eddie McHugh is considered as one of Bristol's all-time best athletes. A 1947 graduate of Bristol High, he went on to captain the basketball and baseball teams at Yale. From there, he played in the Boston Braves organization, reaching Triple A ball before injuries curtailed a professional career.

## 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 \$1,500 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
- The Annual 5K Mum-A-Thon Road Race & The Breakfast of Champions

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](mailto:rkalat@aol.com).