

MYNDERSE ACADEMY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME NEWSLETTER

Issue XIII

July 2018

The Class of 2018

LIFETIME CONTRIBUTORS
SENECA FALLS SMS LODGE

FORERUNNER TO TITLE IX
MRS. JOANNE MILLS ANTILLA – CLASS of 1973

HONORED TEAM
1994 BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM

INDUCTEES
STEVE AVVEDUTI – CLASS of 1973
ED CARACCILO – CLASS of 1988
DAN CARAHER – CLASS of 1967
KEVIN KABAT – CLASS of 1975
ADEN "ABE" VANCLEEF – CLASS of 1931

INDUCTION WEEKEND 2018

The 2018 Induction Class has been selected and announced. It's time to begin thinking about the fall induction ceremony. Here are some items to put on your calendar...

- 2018 Induction Ceremony, October 7, 2018, NYCC, 4:00-5:45 cocktails & buffet.
- Tickets can be purchased at the Mynderse Academy High School Office, the SMS or from any HOF committee member. Price \$30.00 per ticket.
- Informal gathering for all HOF members and their guests at the Seneca Falls SMS Lodge on Saturday, Oct. 6 from 6:00-8:00. – no charge.
- Guided tour of Mynderse Academy and Athletic Facilities, Sat. Oct 6, 5:00PM. This tour is open for any HOF member and their guests. Meet at the front doors of Mynderse.

PRICE INCREASE

This marks the ninth year of the MA Athletic Hall of Fame. For the past eight years the Hall has been able to keep the cost of an induction ceremony ticket to \$25. Unfortunately, like everything else, the Committee has to increase the ticket price to \$30. The Committee could no longer maintain the lower price.

1994 MYNDERSE BOYS' BASKETBALL

The boys' basketball team was selected for induction into the HOF. This team is one of only four athletic teams to reach the New York State finals in the history of Mynderse Academy. The team recorded a 24 win 3 loss season including a WFL East and Sectional championships.

SMS HONORED

From the humble beginnings of this Italian organization of men and women, the Seneca Falls SMS Lodge has been, and continues, to be a leader in the athletic development of our community's youth. For decades, the SMS has encouraged, developed and supported local athletics. If you grew up in Seneca Falls, it would be impossible not to recognize the athletic involvement this organization has promoted. Dinners honoring high school teams, sponsoring youth sports, presenting athletic awards, bringing in nationally recognized athletes to speak, donating to worthy athletic programs & athletes and organizing local athletic events, are just a sampling of our SMS Lodge's contributions. The Mynderse Academy Athletic Hall of Fame is proud to recognize this group of people with their induction into the Hall of Fame this October.

A CONVERSATION with GEORGE VALESENTE

By Wendy Caraher

George Valesente, a 1962 Mynderse graduate, was a three-sport athlete in high school. He played football, basketball, and baseball. He won a league championship as a junior in football and his team came in second his senior year. In baseball, he won sectionals as a junior and lost in the finals his senior year. George Davis and Norm Law were two coaches who helped him along the way. Valesente had the utmost respect for his coaches and noted Davis as a strong disciplinarian who motivated his team and was very demanding in a great way. Norm Law was another coach who touched his life in a positive and encouraging way.

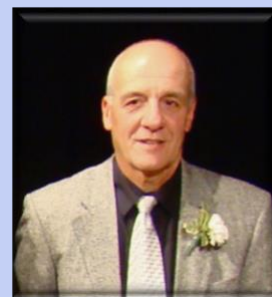
His most memorable experience in high school was the wonderful group of friends that were also his teammates. This group formed a strong bond and spent a lot of time together both athletically and academically. Valesente valued all these friendships and said they were a great group from top to bottom. He cherishes his memories of Seneca Falls.

After high school, Valesente was accepted at Ithaca College and majored in Physical Education. During his college career he played soccer, basketball and baseball and played on NCAA playoff teams in all three sports. In three varsity basketball seasons he scored 745 points, and as a senior was ranked third on the all-time school scoring list. He also set school single-game baseball records for at-bats (seven) and runs scored (five). Valesente's sports success carried over after his 1966 graduation from Ithaca playing professional baseball. He spent four seasons in the minors advancing as far as the Triple A level with the Buffalo Bisons and the top farm team of the Washington Senators.

Following his playing career, Valesente was the head baseball coach for two at Brockport, for two years, and then New Paltz. He then continued his coaching career at Maritime for two more years before returning to coach at his alma mater, Ithaca, in 1978 where he coaches to this day. He just completed his 40th year at Ithaca where he has led the Bombers to two national championships, 10 World Series appearances and 33 NCAA postseason berths. His teams have never had a losing season.

Valesente has been honored numerous times as Coach of the Year and has belonged to many professional organizations such as the NCAA Baseball Rules Committee, NCAA Regional Committee, ABCA All-America Committee, the ABCA Executive Board, USA Baseball, U.S. Baseball Federation Senior Olympic Team Preparation Committee, business manager for USA Baseball's International Cup Tournament in Taiwan, and coordinating clinic sessions in Columbia.

Valesente still resides in Ithaca with his wife Dianne. He has two children a son David, and a daughter Christine. Both children were Division I athletes, Christine playing hockey at Clarkson and David playing baseball for St. Joseph's. David was also a professional player within the Pittsburgh Pirates organization.



“George Davis and Norm Law were two coaches who helped me along the way”

MAA HOF PROUDLY INDUCTS THE MYNDERSE ACADEMY 1994 BASKETBALL



Front: Managers, Chris Markel, Joe Nigro, Bob Krebbs

Kneeling: Mike Nigro, Jason Herron, Steve Guy, Todd Harrison, Larry Brown, Brad VanDusen, Duke Verkey, Duane Perozzi

Standing: Coach Kevin Loucks, Coach Bob Nearpass, Bob Markel, Brian Noble, Eric Tyler, Jason Hunt, Mark Novak, Matt DeJohn, Jared Lorenc, Zack O'Dell, Head Coach Scott Smith, Coach Scott Johnson

MYNDERSE ACADEMY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

MEMBERS

MEMBERS

JERRY ANDERSON - 1992
JOSEPH AVVEDUTI - 1970
STEVE AVVEDUTI - 1973
LISA CARACCILO ANDERSON - 1986
BETH ANNE BRADSHAW - 1993
BOB BUCHWALD - 1962
GARY BULLIS - 1979
GEORGE CAPACCI - 1971
DOM "CARTS" CARACCILO - 1952
DOMINIC CARACCILO - 1980
ED CARACCILO - 1988
GENE CARACCILO - 1955
DAN CARAHER - 1967
LINDSAY GOTHAM CORNUE - 2001
CHERRIE BARRETT DEMING - 1986
DANA DICKSON - 1978
CHRIS DRAGONE - 2002
COACH GEORGE DAVIS
COACH MIKE FERRARA - 1975
LARRY GIUSTI - 1971
LISA POLZINETTI GALVIN - 1982
COACH ALAN HENRY
KEVIN KABAT - 1975
JOE LAWSON - 1969
LEE LETIZIA - 1948
KRISTA RUSCHAK LONG - 1997
KAREN LOUCKS - 1977
KEVIN LOUCKS - 1980
JEFFREY MANNING - 1977
COACH MICHAEL MARRIAM
DAVE MCNANEY - 1973
RICHARD "ABE" MEYERS - 1956
COACH JOHN NICHOLSON
JOHN PANNUCCI - 1953
FRAN PISCITELLI - 1966
MARK PISCITELLI - 1969
STEVE RITTER - 1967
LES ROBINSON - 1962
STEVE SIEGFRIED - 1982
THERESA SHIPLEY - 1981
BOB VALESENTE - 1958
GEORGE VALESENTE - 1962
ADEN "ABE" VANCLEEF - 1931
ANDREW VERKEY - 1997
MATT VERKEY - 1992
ROD VERKEY - 1964
COACH KIRK WARD
NICK WILSON - 2007
DAVE WORMUTH - 1959

LIFETIME CONTRIBUTORS

ART BAKER
DAVE BAKER
ELIZABETH BECHT - 1970
JOHN BRACHT - 1903
PETER DEBOTTIS
JERRY GALUSHA - 1982
BRUCE KNAPP, SR. - 1950
DR. J. STANLEY MARSHALL
NICK NETTI
MICHAEL NOZZOLIO - 1969
DOM PARADISE - 1949
ANGE SUFFREDINI
PETER WORMUTH - 1954
WARREN "SPEED" WORMUTH
SENECA FALLS RECREATION DEPARTMENT
SMS LODGE

MYNDERSE TEAMS

MEMBERS

1946 FOOTBALL TEAM
1938 FOOTBALL TEAM
1992 BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM
1985 GIRLS' SOCCER TEAM
1994 GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM
1952, '53 & '54 BASEBALL TEAMS
1966 & 1967 WRESTLING TEAMS
1993 VOLLEYBALL TEAM
1970 FOOTBALL TEAM
1994 BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM

FORERUNNERS TO TITLE IX

MEMBERS

ANGIE BANTUVANIS
HAZEL REYNOLDS WESTFALL - 1958
BARRIE DOANE CLARK - 1946
DIANA PANNUCCI - 1957
1922-23 GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM
JANE COOK - 1941
JOANNE MILLS ANTILLA - 1973

Departed Member

In December 2017, Domenic "Carts" Caraccilo passed away. Dom was inducted into the HOF in 2010, the Hall's inaugural year. Also, Dom was honored for being a member of the inducted (12-1) 1952 Mynderse Baseball team, the first baseball team in the history of the school to win Sectionals. Carts was renown for his stories and humor. The Committee expresses sympathy to his family and friends.

We would remind all members to contact any HOF Committee member, listed to the left, if they hear of a Hall member that has passed.

The Mynderse Academy Athletic Hall of Fame Committee

*Lisa Anderson, Liz Becht, Wendy Caraher
 Mike Ferrara, Tony Ferrara, Mike Marriam,
 Ted Novak, Rod Verkey and Pete Wormuth*

A Welcomed Addition to the HOF Display

The current Mynderse Academy Athletic Hall of Fame display is located outside the Arthur L. Baker Gymnasium, Mynderse Academy's main indoor arena. After 8 years of inductions, this permanent display has become crowded with member plaques. Last year, the MAAHOF Committee initiated an appeal to members of the Hall asking for financial help in purchasing an additional display case to house its permanent plaques. We're pleased to announce that the funds were raised and the new case has been installed. The MAAHOF Committee wishes to express sincere gratitude to the 1970 football team for their generous contributions for this new display case.

As you can see, the new case has reached capacity, but this new case has freed up the original display case to accept new inductees over the next several years. Eventually, both cases will fill up again. With limited space, the Committee is researching a large touch screen electronic display that could store members and team photos along with bios and other records.



HALL OF FAME WEBSITE

You're invited to check out the MA Athletic Hall of Fame on the Seneca Falls School District website.

The website contains information and photos of every Hall of Fame member and team.

Go to the district website at www.senecafallscsd.org and click on the "Departments" tab. Then click on the "Athletics" tab. You should see the link for the Mynderse Academy Athletic Hall of Fame.

CAN'T MAKE IT TO THE INDUCTION?

There's nothing like being there on Induction Sunday, but if you're unable to attend for some reason, FingerLakes1.com will cover the induction ceremony again LIVE. Go to FingerLakes1.com around 5:45 PM on Sunday, Oct. 7.

Our next issue of the MAAHOF Newsletter will be mailed in January 2019. This winter edition will cover the 2018 Induction Ceremony and other HOF information. Remember, if, for some reason, you would like to be removed from the mailing list, please contact one of the HOF Committee members listed on the previous page.