



# PEOPLE

**you should know**



## Mike Welch - 2019 Inductee



Michael (Mike) Welch graduated from Dansville High School in 1969. He attended Ithaca College where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1973 and he later earned his Master's degree in Education from the University at Albany (1977).

Mike's leadership qualities can be seen in his numerous athletic endeavors as an athlete, a coach and a mentor to countless students. Mike played football, basketball and baseball while at DHS. He was an integral member of the '67-'68 undefeated football seasons and a starting second baseman for the 1968 Section V Championship Baseball team. Mike brought these physical skills and influence to the next level at Ithaca College where he played football (Captain '72) and lacrosse. After graduation Mike started his illustrious coaching career as an assistant football and head lacrosse coach at Rush-Henrietta High School. He moved to the college level as an Assistant Coach in both football & lacrosse at the University at Albany and soon thereafter became the Offensive Coordinator at

Washington University (Missouri). In 1984 Mike returned to Ithaca College to serve as the linebacker coach and helped the Bombers win two National Championships (1988 and 1991). Based on these achievements Mike was awarded the head coaching position in 1994 and held that position until retiring in 2016. As head coach, Mike compiled a record of 169 wins and 78 losses and secured eight Empire 8 Championships with eight appearances in the NCAA Tournament and four ECAC Bowl games. During his tenure, Mike also coached 32 All-Americans and two Empire 8 Players of the Year and he was named Empire 8 Coach of the Year four times.

In 2006 Mike was elected to the American College Football Association's Board of Trustees and served as President in 2014. He was previously inducted into the Dansville High School Wall of Fame as well as the Ithaca College Athletic Hall of Fame (2015).

Upon his retirement Ithaca Athletic Director Susan Bassett said of Mike's tenure, "First and foremost, Mike is an educator of the highest order, teaching the men in his charge how to conduct themselves with sportsmanship, integrity and class; values and lessons learned that will serve them well in life after Ithaca and football." Mike is an example for all Dansville students showing what is possible when you are willing to lead and guide others. Always humble, Mike Welch has never forgotten his roots as he returns to Dansville often and refers to it as "The Center of the Universe."