

CENTER COURT

February, 2016

A Message from the Executive Director.....

It has been a busy year for our organization. No sooner had we completed our 2015 induction banquet than Lee Franzman's Nominating Committee presented us with another outstanding list of inductees for 2016.

The HOF co-sponsored an intern to locate newspaper articles to create a history of the CIAC Girls' Basketball Tournaments. It was fascinating to read about the tournaments one after another...to read about teams that won several championships in a row, players that dominated and led their teams to victory, or coaches that reached significant milestones. So many of those mentioned have been inducted into our Hall of Fame and we now have a long list of future inductees.

I had the opportunity to spend several days at the Tricia Fabbri Girls' Basketball Camp at Quinnipiac University. Tricia graciously sponsors our CWBHOF Camper Scholarship each year. Tricia, her secretary Lori Landino, and her team do an outstanding job of teaching basketball basics and building self-esteem among the participants. Our own Tina Gonyea is one of the counselors.

The fall was spent working with a graduate student who was creating a document which captured the annual highlights of the Quinnipiac University Women's Basketball Team. This project was especially meaningful since we are inducting our first Quinnipiac player into the HOF this year.

Finally, we need help! We are in need of someone [male, female, young, or old] with the computer skills to enhance the photo gallery on our website. We have many sources for photos; we just need someone with the skills and time to download them onto our site. Please contact me if you are interested or know of someone who is willing to help us. [ljwooster@gmail.com]



Linda J. Wooster,
President/Executive
Director/Founder

Louise Albrecht,
Vice President/Membership
Chair/Founder

Ann V. Fariss, PhD
Banquet Coordinator/
Founder

Tony Candido,
Fundraising Chair/
Founder

Brenda Reilly, PhD
Founder (Posthumous)

Lee Franzman,
Nominating Chairperson

David Strong,
Historian/Archivist

Marge Dolan,
Regional Project Director

Sue Crisafi,
Secretary/ Liaison to Web
Master

Tracey Finer,
Creative Writer/
Newsletter Editor

Tina Gonyea,
Publicity & Promotion

Pamela Moffo,
Publicity & Promotion

Elaine Piazza,
Events Promotion

Jeff Goddu,
Website Designer

Tracey Flynn,
Coordinator



Laura Page, recipient of the 2015 Brenda Reilly Youth Basketball Camp Scholarship, at the Tricia Fabbri Girls' Basketball Camp at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, CT.

At basketball camp, learning can be fun!

Written by Tina Gonyea

Quinnipiac Girls' Basketball Camp is one of the best basketball day camps in the area. Coach Tricia Fabbri and her players, some of the Quinnipiac men's players, many well-known coaches from around the state, as well as high school and collegiate players (some former campers) make for a terrific staff for this camp. Coach Fabbri takes a lot of pride in making sure she has the best staff working hard to teach all they can about basketball to the kids, and to be the best role models possible. She is present at the camp every day, all day, constantly checking in at every station, drill and/or game to see how things are going.

(Continued on Page 2)



History of CIAC Girls' Basketball Championships

Written by Linda Wooster

This summer I had the privilege of working with a Quinnipiac University sports media student, Michael Corigliano. Our mission was to create a history of Connecticut girls' basketball since the beginning of the CT Interscholastic Athletic Conference [CIAC] state tournaments in 1974. Our initial visit to the CIAC Office in Cheshire resulted in the realization that the only information available was tournament brackets and game scores.

Mike and I decided to try to obtain a newspaper article from each girls' semifinal and championship game since 1974. Neither of us realized what an "adventure" we were undertaking!

Mike completed a Google search on the computer...finding information primarily for games since 2000. There were gaps in that information. We reviewed microfilm, microfiche and volumes of old newspapers at the offices of the New Haven Register, Hartford Courant, Waterbury and State Libraries. By the end of the summer, we had obtained an article or reference for every semifinal and final game in every division of the tournament [132 games].

We found game stories of many of our past and current CWBHF inductees. It really was a blast from the past to read about all of these players and many of those games that I had attended, officiated or read about in the newspapers. It was fun to read about the exploits of the many outstanding female athletes, many of who went on to play their collegiate basketball in Connecticut. Comments from many of our Hall of Fame coaches were very insightful.

The project also resulted in an outline of how much coverage of girls' sports has changed through the years. The first couple of articles were just small blurbs at the end of long articles detailing the boys' basketball tournament. As time went on, there were more and larger articles about the girls' games with photographs.

This project was very fulfilling and provided our organization with many names to consider for future induction. I'm not sure what our organization is going to do with this piece of research; it is many hundred pages long and I don't know enough about computers and clouds and websites to provide it for the public. We would appreciate your suggestions.

"The past actually happened but history is only what someone wrote down."

A. Whitney Brown

IN MEMORY



The Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame created the **Brenda Reilly High School Basketball Award** and the **Brenda Reilly Youth Basketball Camp Scholarship** in honor of Dr. Brenda Reilly, the Associate Athletic Director of Central Connecticut State University and one of the organization's founders.

The **Brenda Reilly High School Basketball Award** is awarded annually to the most outstanding high school girls' basketball team in the State of Connecticut. The coach and a representative of the selected team are invited as honored guests to the Hall of Fame's annual banquet.

The **Capital Prep Magnet School of Hartford, CT** Girls' Basketball Team was awarded the 2015 Brenda Reilly High School Basketball Award for a second consecutive year.

The **Brenda Reilly Youth Basketball Camp Scholarship** provides the opportunity for a young girl to attend a summer basketball camp in Connecticut. The recipient and her parents or guardian are invited as honored guests to the Hall of Fame's annual banquet.

Laura Page of North Haven, CT was the recipient of the 2015 Brenda Reilly Youth Basketball Camp Scholarship. She attended the Tricia Fabbri Girls' Basketball Camp at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, CT.

(Continued from page 1)

This camp is well organized from start to finish, every day until the end. The kids learn quite a bit in a short amount of time and have a blast doing it. I had the pleasure of taking part in this great experience once again and enjoyed it immensely! I would highly recommend this camp to anyone looking for a great camp to send his or her daughter too.



Emoji Basketball....it's only a matter of time!

New England Basketball Hall Of Fame 2015 Inductees

The New England Basketball Hall of Fame “recognizes the people whose excellence has contributed to the rich legacy of New England Basketball”. The induction ceremony was held on August 8, 2015 in Worcester, MA. The 2015 inductees were:

1976 Shelton High School Women’s Basketball Team



Bernice Nicolari, Coach (1988 Inductee), Celeste Beattie, Asst. Coach (1992 Inductee), and the Gaelettes (Karen Meade, Michele Katz, Michele LeBlanc, Diane Dietman)



Perry Award

(Awarded to inductees who have achieved distinction in two or more NEBHOF categories)
Elaine Biercevicz Piazza - 2012 Inductee

(Like mother, like daughter..... Elaine’s daughter, Jennifer Piazza Laffin, was inducted into the NEBHOF (High School Player) in the same year.)

Madison Athletic Hall of Fame - 2015



Jim Bombaci, a 2015 CWBHOF inductee, was also inducted into the Madison Athletic Hall of Fame in 2105.

Bombaci took over the reins as Daniel Hand Girls’ Varsity Basketball head coach during the 1979-80 season and stayed for 24 seasons compiling an 354-189 overall record with 7 League Championships, 21 of 24 appearances in the State tournament and 10 semi-final appearances. In 1999, the Daniel Hand Girls’ Basketball team won their first and only State Championship.



College Administrator

Linda Wooster



Coach

Cindy Hitchcock
(1995 Inductee)

Special Recognition.....



Pat Meiser (2014 Inductee), a recognized veteran in the sports industry, retired in 2014 as the director of athletics and special assistant to the president at the University of Hartford after leading the Hartford Hawks program for 21 years.

Prior to coming to the University of Hartford, Meiser spent 11 years at UConn as an associate athletic director and senior women’s administrator and 6 seasons as the women’s basketball coach at Penn State (1974-1980).

She has received numerous honors and awards over the years. In 2006 and 2010, Meiser was named NACDA Division 1 Athletics Director of the Year in the Northeast Region and in 2014 was selected as the recipient of the DI-AAA 2014 Garry Cunningham Lifetime Achievement Award.

Pat has recently been involved in events, which highlight the length and depth of her career. She was inducted into the J. P. McCaskey High School Hall of Fame in Lancaster, PA. and announced the creation of Meiser Sports Consulting. She has mentored many professionals now performing in today’s marketplace and is regularly sought after to speak on topics of leadership, program development and community engagement.

Carolyn Vanacore (2006 Inductee) received the Saint Clare Award at the 30th Annual Franciscan Sports Banquet & Silent Auction “Celebrating Excellence in Athletics and Christian Values” held on June 2, 2015 at the Aqua Turf Club.



Elaine Biercevicz Piazza was selected as the 2015 recipient of the Connecticut Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Pathfinder Award. The Pathfinder Award was established to recognize “women who have demonstrated continuous dedication to the advocacy, recruitment and enhancement of girls and women in sports and sport leadership in their states.”

Kelly Penwell-Landino (2000 Inductee) became the head coach of the Westbrook High School Girls’ Varsity Basketball team.



(Answers from page 4)

1. Bill Scarlata (Norwich Free Academy); 2. Charlene E. Shepard; 3. Jennifer Monti (Ellington High School); 4. Kara Crismale-Burgarella (Guilford High School); 5. Francine Perry Little (Quinnipiac University); 6. Carla Berube (UConn); 7. Judy Sylvester



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

2016 Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame Ceremony

Inductees:

Carla Berube	Jennifer Monti
Kara Crismale-Burgarella	Bill Scarlata
Charlene E. Shepard	Judy Sylvester
Francine Perry Little	

When: April 20, 2016
 Where: CASCADE (Hamden, CT)
 Reception: 6:00 p.m.
 Dinner: 7:00 p.m.

Don't forget to visit us on the Web.....

www.ctwomensbasketballhalloffame.com

The Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame seeks to honor those who, in a superlative fashion, have contributed to the enhancement of women's basketball in Connecticut –either through participation, through service, through support or through achievement.

Contribution to the Cause.....The CWBHOF Committee is determined to provide maximum service to/for Connecticut Women's Basketball. To give you the best we have to give and to keep pace with the increasing demands of our operating initiatives, we would welcome any financial contributions to defray our operating costs. CWBHOF is a Section 501C (3) TAX ORGANIZATION FOR FEDERAL INCOME TAX PURPOSES. Certain Contributions to CWBHOF MAY BE deductible to the person making the contribution. The CWBHOF recommends that a person consult with his/her legal advisors as to the deductibility of the donation. If interested in donating, please contact Louise Albrecht at 203-256-0930.

EMAILS WANTED!!

In an effort to begin the move from print to digital media, we are trying to compile a list of email addresses, which will allow us to provide you with information about the CWBHOF in a more timely and cost efficient manner. If you would like to send us your email address, please forward it to Tina Gonyea at tlghoop@aol.com. We are especially looking for email addresses for all inductees inducted into the CWBHOF prior to 2001.



Updated Postal Addresses



Please help us in our efforts to keep our list of members and inductee postal addresses current and up to date. If you are aware of address changes, please notify Lou Albrecht at labbz323@yahoo.com or Tracey Finer at george.finer@snet.net.

2016 CT Women's Basketball Hall of Fame Quiz

1. This coach's resume includes 7 Class LL State Championships and four undefeated (27-0) seasons.
2. Her playing resume includes 1,681 points and 1,024 rebounds; she has officiated the game for 20 years.
3. Currently a cardiologist, this point guard averaged 23.4 points per game, was a three-time All-Stater and the Gatorade Player of the Year as a senior.
4. This attorney scored 1,195 career points, led her team to the program's first Class L Championship, and was an All-Stater.
5. During her freshman year, she scored 27 points and pulled down 29 rebounds in one game and was eventually named to the Kodak All-American Team.
6. She was a blue-collar player for the 35-0 UConn national championship team who eventually graduated with 1,381 points and a career record of 132-8.
7. The administrative assistant for the CIAC Girls' Basketball Tournament for 46 years, she is a member of the National Duckpin Bowling Hall of Fame.

(See page 3 for answers)



THE BEAUTY OF A CHARITABLE BEQUEST

Charitable bequests to the Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame help to ensure that we may continue our goal of honoring individuals who have contributed to the enhancement of Connecticut women's basketball through their participation, service, support, or achievement.

Please consider the Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame when making future plans.