

RECENT OBITUARIES



Lester Getz - January 18, 2009
Inducted with Bradley's Famous Five in 1981

Don Wyss - May 4, 2009
Inducted in 1988



Ken Olson - July 14, 2009
Inducted with Bradley's Famous Five in 1981

Ray Ramsey - August 25, 2009
Inducted in 1982

THANKS TO RON WALLACE

Ron Wallace is the webmaster for The Greater Peoria Sports Hall of Fame website. Visit it at www.gpshof.org and take a trip down tri-county sports memory lane.

GREATER PEORIA SPORTS HALL OF FAME BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Welcome to two new Hall of Fame board members - Matt George and Doug Sluser. Both bring extensive knowledge of Greater Peoria sports history to the board.

W.C. Corky Robertson, President
Larry Dunn, 1st Vice President
Bob Sulaski, 2nd Vice President
Secretary, Rhonda Parker

Regular Board Members

Barbara Bell	Gary Childs
Matt George (new)	Roger Monroe
Mike Burns	Bobby Parker
Don Mathews	Gene Petty
Doug Sluser (new)	Ed Murphy
Dr. B Michael Higgins	Phil Salzer
Sue Sinclair	Susie Stockman
Scotty Sullivan	Kirk Wessler
Junior Watkins	Lee Youngman

Associate Board Members

Dan Shea	Paul King	Lorene Ramsey
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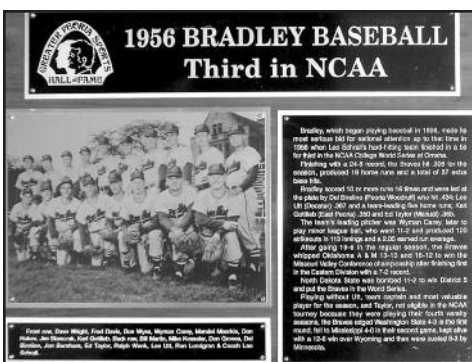
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The cost of producing and mailing our newsletter is offset by benefactor donations, Hall of Fame memberships and ads in our banquet program and Newsletter. Business Card size ads are \$100 a year. We mail the newsletter to 2,000 addresses. Please consider supporting us by including your ad in our next newsletter, please send your business card and \$100 check to the:

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Thanks for your support!

Special gifts available for individual and team inductees.



Former individual and team members may order duplicates of their 12 x20 inch plaques displayed at the Peoria Civic Center. You may order them by contacting Don Gustin at Joan's Trophy. don@awardsnow.com 309-674-3290. The cost is \$135.

Jostens has developed a design for Greater Peoria Sports Hall of Fame rings pictured at right.

Contact Robert Sulaski at bobski@comcast.net or by phone 309-691-8580 for ordering information.



GREATER PEORIA SPORTS HALL OF FAME

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GREATER PEORIA SPORTS HALL OF FAME

Located at the Peoria Civic Center

Dedicated to those individuals making significant contributions to sports history in the Greater Peoria area.

President: William C. "Corky" Robertson • **1st Vice President:** Larry Dunn
2nd Vice President: Robert L. Sulaski Sr. • **Secretary:** Rhonda Parker

The 29th Annual Greater Peoria Sports Hall of Fame Banquet will be held Sunday March 14, 2010 at the Peoria Civic Center. Tickets are \$30, tables of 10 are \$300. Call 309-682-4255 to make reservations. These individuals and teams will be inducted.

2009 INDIVIDUAL INDUCTEES



WAYNE WIEBLER - Motorcycle Racing

Wayne is the only Peorian to ever win a national motorcycle racing title. In the 1959 season, when he was just 22 years old, he won 19 races, finished 2nd 10 times and 3rd 3 times, thereby earning him the American Motorcycle Association National Amateur title.



TONYA GILLES KOCH - Softball Pitcher

Tonya had an outstanding softball career at Bergan High School, Illinois Central College, the Pekin Lettes, and Illinois State University. She was named 1st team Junior College All-American in 1979 & 1980. She also had a role in the women's softball movie "A League of Their Own."



MARTY STROMBERGER - Football Coach

Marty is recognized as the "Father of Metamora football." From 1962 through 1971 his coaching record was 63-12-3. His 1966 team was the first undefeated team in the school's history.



GEORGE MIKE CHIANAKAS

- Bradley Basketball and Track

Mike was a multi-sport star at Eureka High School where he won 16 varsity letters in football, basketball, track and baseball. He was the Illinois State High School Discus Champion in 1943. He enrolled at Bradley and was an outstanding member of both basketball and track teams. He was a member of the ranked 1949-1950 Bradley basketball team and he threw the discus and javelin on the Bradley track team.

2009 TEAM INDUCTEES

1975, 1976 and 1977 Manual Football Teams

Each of these teams had undefeated 9-0 records in the regular season. They were coached by Bob Smith and assisted by Hal Montville and Dennis Winkler. Included among the many outstanding players were Greg Dentino, Earl Gant, Leon Abner and Jeff Stokowski.

1950, 1951 and 1952 Pekin Tennis Teams

These outstanding teams compiled a regular season record of 80-1-0. They were coached by John Moss and among the great players were Doyle Glass, Buck Wright and Chuck Reed.

1974 Peoria High Football Team

This undefeated football team was coached by Larry Lavery and assisted by Phil Salzer and Bill Sissel. Among the many stars were Al Purham, Jesse Lopez, Sam Hardiman, Kevin Polk, and Dan Ruffin.

The 29th Annual Greater Peoria Sports Hall of Fame Induction Banquet

Sunday, March 14, 2010
Peoria Civic Center

Tickets are on sale now for the 29th Annual Induction Banquet to be held Sunday, March 14, 2010 at the Peoria Civic Center, rooms 401-404. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. for the reception and dinner is served at 12:00 noon. Introduction of the new Hall of Fame inductees follows dinner. Come early and say hello to former inductees that will be in attendance.

Tickets are \$30 each or \$300 for table of 10.
Call 309-682-4255 to make reservation.

IT HAPPENED IN GREATER PEORIA SPORTS HISTORY



On December 20, 1957, Rafer Johnson, Olympic decathlon gold medalist, played basketball for UCLA against Bradley at the Fieldhouse. Bradley's scoring leaders were Shelly McMillan, Mike Owens, and Bobby Joe Mason in the 67-43 victory. Rafer was held to just three points.

In 2006, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the 1956 Bradley baseball team (GPSHOF Inductee 1993) that finished 3rd in the 1956 College World Series, this historical marker was placed at the exact home plate location on the former on-campus Bradley Athletic Field.



On April 22, 1952 Roger Maris played his first games in Peoria for the Keokuk Kernals against the Peoria Chiefs at old Woodruff Field. Maris hit home runs in both games of the doubleheader. His home run in the second game carried over the high right field screen and on to the Corps of Engineers parking lot.

The Greater Peoria Sports Hall of Fame's mission is to promote the many and varied sports programs in the Greater Peoria area (Peoria, Tazewell, and Woodford Counties). Our aim is to honor those men, women and teams that have contributed to the area's rich sports history. With the cooperation of the Peoria Civic Center Commission, The Peoria Journal Star, and generous community support we have served the area since 1979.

The first recorded baseball game in the United States was played in 1846. Peoria's first recorded baseball game was played on June 23, 1862. It was played on the 4th district school grounds between North Madison and North Adams. This is believed to be the area around Greeley Grade School. The Peoria Olympia Baseball Club won 38 to 31.



Photo courtesy of the Peoria Historical Society

Charles "Old Hoss" Radbourne pitched for the Peoria Reds in 1878. Later while pitching for the 1894 Providence Grays of the National League, Radbourne won 60 and lost only 12 games with a 1.38 era. He was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1939. He died in 1897 and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Bloomington IL.



THANKS TO ROMOLO & ASSOCIATES

The Greater Peoria Sports Hall of Fame wishes to thank Romolo & Associates, Certified Public Accountants. They have volunteered their assistance and guidance to the Greater Peoria Sports Hall of Fame in the preparation of our required financial and government reports.

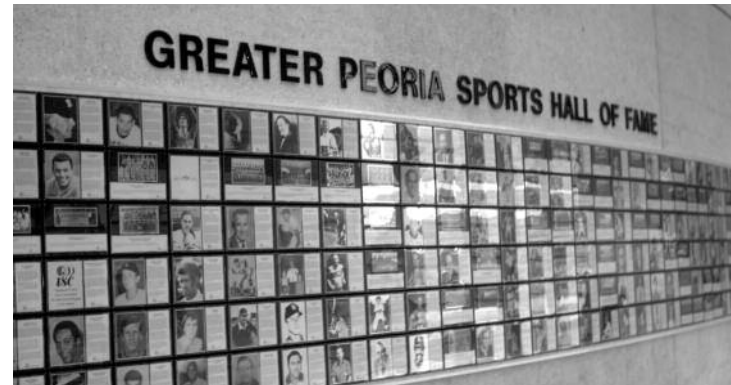
NOMINATIONS

Each year in September the 25-member Greater Peoria Sports Hall of Fame board of directors reviews a long list of nominees to determine the select few individuals and teams to be inducted at the annual banquet in March. Do you want to nominate someone? Visit our website www.gpshof.org and under "Contact Us" you can pull up and print a nomination form.

THANKS FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

The Greater Peoria Sports Hall of Fame wishes to thank the benefactors that made contributions to us last year. All of our board members are unpaid volunteers. Your generous contributions support our mission to honor the athletes and teams that have contributed to the rich sports history of the tri-county area.

RECENTLY IN GREATER PEORIA



A new sign was added to the Peoria Civic Center arena over the Hall of Fame plaque display. The new plaque display is accessible for visitor viewing from the Fulton Street entrance every day and without purchasing a ticket for an event.

SPECIAL AWARDS 2008 BANQUET

Each year the special awards are presented at the banquet. The 2008 honorees were:



2008 Female Coach of the Year
Leanne Bonifas - Limestone Softball



2008 Male Coach of the Year
Mike Bare - Peoria Notre Dame Soccer

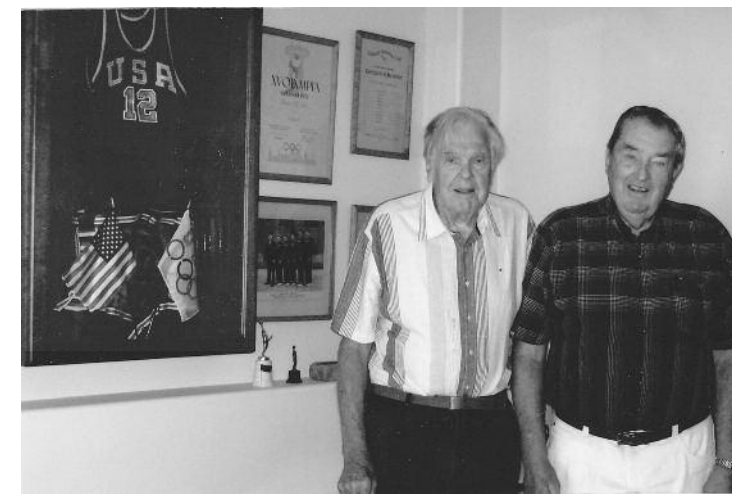


2008 Female Athlete of the Year
Mackenzie Camp - Limestone Softball



2008 Male Athlete of the Year
Matt Elliott - Richwoods Swimming

Bob Kurland, 1948 and 1952 Olympic gold medalist, stopped in Peoria in August for a visit with 1952 Olympic teammate Frank McCabe.



Bob Kurland and Frank McCabe are pictured in 1952 with the captain of the Russian team. The US team defeated the Russians twice. They won the first game 84 to 56 as the Russians tried to run with the bigger, faster Americans. In the finals the Russians tried stalling and they were losing only 17 to 15 at the half, but the US team held on to get the gold medal with a 36 to 25 victory.

2009 NEVE HARMS MERITORIOUS SERVICE TO SPORTS AWARD

Mike McCoy will be presented the Neve Harms Meritorious Service Award at the March 14, 2009 Greater Peoria Sports Hall of Fame Banquet. Mike is being recognized for his annual leadership of the St Jude Memphis to Peoria Run. He co-founded the event in 1982 and through his leadership it grown to involving over 1600 runners from throughout Illinois and has raised \$15.6 million.



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