

CENTER COURT

February, 2014

Newsletter of the Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame

A Message from the Executive Director.....

" We need to remember..."

How many times have you heard that? How many times have you thought that? As the years since the founding of the CT Women's Basketball Hall of Fame pass by, we risk forgetting who we are and what we have accomplished.

The late Arden Curtis [Honorary, '93], that legendary CIAC Girls' Sports' Pioneer and Advocate, once proclaimed: "Connecticut Women's Basketball History is what we are about!" Arden's battle-cry highlights a stark realization: We must renew our efforts to preserve Connecticut Women's Basketball History for, if not us, then who?

Therefore, the Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame is exploring ways to create a "Virtual" Hall of Fame via our Website. Instead of housing our Hall of Fame at a specific geographical location, we would make our Hall accessible to everyone through a significant expansion of our Website.

But we need your help...

Perhaps you have photos you've saved over the years---team shots, action shots. Perhaps your scrapbooks hold news' clippings about your teams and games and awards.

Remember: We're preserving our history, so feel free to go way back in time or revel in the present! All of it will help to enrich and define Our Self-Portrait.

Take a moment, please, to remember where you stored those photos and articles from your playing/coaching days and share them with the Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame.

Please scan, photocopy, or send originals to our Historian, Dave Strong, or to me. Contact Dave via e-mail at: david.strong@snet.net. My e-mail address is: ljwooster@gmail.com. My mailing address is: 134 Gaylord Mountain Road, Bethany, CT 06524.

Help us to record and preserve the history, achievements, and legacy of Connecticut Girls' and Women's Basketball.

Linda J. Wooster, Executive Director
Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame

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



Yariliz Santiago, recipient of the 2013 Brenda Reilly Youth Basketball Scholarship, and Ryleigh Shortell-Gonyea enjoy a break from the action at Tricia Fabbri's Girls' Basketball Camp at Quinnipiac University.

AWESOME TIME HAD BY ALL

The overwhelming sentiment from the campers at Tricia Fabbri's Girls' Basketball Camp at Quinnipiac University was one of elation and inspiration. Some of the comments taken from the campers' thank you letters included phrases like, "great experience", "increased my confidence", "my efforts and hard work were not going unnoticed", "best experience of my life", "inspired me not to just be a better basketball player but a leader", "not only were these activities fun but effective in improving skills, strength, conditioning" and "counselors were great".



CT WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PIONEER AWARD

"Remembering the Pioneers of Connecticut Women's Basketball"

The CWBHOF is honored to recognize Helen "Jean" Cruickshank as the 2nd recipient of the CT Women's Basketball Pioneer Award. This honor is awarded to an individual who has played a role in blazing the trail for women's basketball in Connecticut; preparing the way for others to follow.

Helen "Jean" Cruickshank was first introduced to the world of sports at her sixth birthday when her Dad bought her a ball, bat and glove. At Stonington High School, the first school Helen attended that had a gym, she played volleyball, softball, soccer, basketball, and was part of the tumbling club. At graduation, she was named the best all-around female athlete and received the Achievement Cup, which was presented to the best male and female all-around students of the year.

Helen attended the University of Rhode Island where she played sports at every level, intercollegiate, house and class competition. She participated in basketball, softball, volleyball, field hockey, tennis, badminton, lacrosse, and archery. She excelled on the varsity field hockey and basketball teams for all 4 years and was the first sophomore to win the Women's Athletic Association Cup for athletic excellence.

After graduating from URI, Helen applied to the Army's Women Specialist Medical Corps and accepted a commission as 2nd lieutenant in the U.S. Army (physical therapy). During her career in the army, she continued to excel in sports and was recognized as one of the greatest female athletes of her era. She coached and played second base on the softball team that won the military district championship. She won the Army's Women's Athletic League tennis doubles championship, was a member of the volleyball and bowling teams that won both the hospital and district titles and competed against the top women's golfers of the Army, Navy and Marine Corps. Helen retired as a lieutenant colonel from the army in 1971 after a 20 year career.

Helen was inducted into the URI Athletic Hall of Fame in 1989, only the 9th women at that time to have received that honor. She was also inducted into the Stonington High School Hall of Fame in 2006.

TITLE IX CONFERENCE HELD AT SCSU

Ann Meyers Drysdale joined many other notable names, Donna Lopiano, Carolyn Vanacore, Meghan Pattyson-Culmo and Louise O'Neal, to present at the Title IX Conference, "Title IX: Equality in Action: The Enduring Legacy of Title IX" held on October 11, 2013 at Southern Connecticut State University. The event focused on the impact of the passage of Title IX and raised the important question.....where do we go from here?

IN MEMORY.....



The Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame created the **Brenda Reilly Memorial 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 Memorial 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 **Mercy High School** Girls' Basketball Team was awarded the 2013 Brenda Reilly Memorial High School Basketball Award.

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.

Yariliz Santiago was the recipient of the 2013 Brenda Reilly Youth Basketball Camp Scholarship. She attended Tricia Fabbri's Girls' Basketball Camp at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, CT (August 5-9, 2013).



Ann Meyers Drysdale, pictured above with CWBHOF Board Members, Elaine Piazza and Tina Gonyea, is VP of the Phoenix Suns and Mercury, Olympic Silver Medalist, UCLA National Collegiate Champion and Broadcaster.

CWBHOF Inductees Honored.....

CTAHPERD

Marge Dolan (Referee, 1993) received the 2013 Pathfinder Award given by the Connecticut Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. The Pathfinder Award was established in 1991 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."

New Haven Tap-Off Club Hall of Fame

Tony Candido (Referee, 2004) and Celeste Beattie (Honorary, 1992) were inducted into the New Haven Tap-Off Club Hall of Fame held on November 12, 2013 at Amarante's in New Haven.

New Agenda Northeast Hall of Fame

Cynthia Hitchcock (High School Coach, 1995) was inducted into the New Agenda Northeast Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony was held on November 3, 2013. This award honors women who have "made a significant contribution to the advancement of girls and women in sport within the six New England states through coaching, officiating, mentoring, or advocating."

New England Basketball Hall of Fame

Tina Gonyea (High School Player, 2004) was inducted into the New England Basketball Hall of Fame at an induction ceremony held on June 22, 2013 at the DCU Center in Worcester, MA. The NEBHOF "recognizes the people whose excellence has contributed to the rich legacy of New England Basketball."



BLAST FROM THE PAST



Heather Conway Liberman (High School Player, 2012), Karen "Pie" Draughn (High School Player, 2013) and Sue Crisafi (High School Player, 1994) are thumbing for a ride to New Orleans, LA to represent Connecticut in the National AAU-USA Junior Olympic Basketball Tournament. The year was 1980.

Special Recognition.....

Tony Candido and his wife, Diane, were named Co-Chairs of the United Way Milford Fundraiser.

Gail Strumpf-Cheney, former head coach at Sacred Heart Academy High School, has been appointed Assistant Coach at Fairfield University. She will be walking the sidelines with Head Coach, Joe Frager.

Kate Lynch, 2014 CWBHOF Inductee, was named the head coach of the Molloy College women's basketball team.

Pamela Moffo, Health and Physical Education teacher, retired in June, 2013 after 40 years at Conard High School, West Hartford, CT.

Quinnipiac University Head Coach Tricia Fabbri was named Northeast Conference Coach of the Year in March. Tricia reached the 250-win mark as the Bobcats earned their first NCAA Division I Tourney appearance during their 30-3 season.

Connecticut Public Television celebrates the 20th anniversary of the 1st televised women's basketball game. CPTV began its coverage of UConn basketball when it broadcasted the 1994 Big East Women's Basketball Tournament.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

2014 Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame Ceremony

Inductees:

Chryssandra Watts
Patricia H. Meiser
Joseph Russo
Fran Vandermeer

Kate Lynch
Jen Gombotz
Nykesha Sales

When: April 23, 2014

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

www.ctwbhbf.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 Addresses



Please help us in our efforts to keep our list of member and inductee addresses current and up to date. If you are aware of address changes, please notify Ann Fariss at avfariss@sbcglobal.net.

Don't be afraid of the space between your dreams and reality. If you can dream, you can make it so.

Belva Davis



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.

Dr. Helen Spencer, a retired educator and administrator, recently included a bequest in her will to benefit the Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame. A family friend mentioned that Dr. Spencer wished to express her gratitude for the honor bestowed upon her and that "she wanted to leave a gift in appreciation for that honor and ensure that the same could be done for others."

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