

CENTER COURT

February, 2019

Newsletter of the Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame

A Message from the Executive Director.....

In mid-January, I enjoyed attending some basketball games played by young ladies, whose ages ranged from eight to twenty-two. A co-ed rec league in Bethany featured eight year olds learning basic skills and rules of the game. Several of the girls had attended basketball camp, and were clearly more advanced than their teammates. My other interesting observations: boys rarely pass to a girl (if they pass at all); girls enjoy doing back flips and cartwheels while waiting their turn during drills.

The high school girls' game I attended included some players that I recognized. Their coach led a summer basketball camp for young girls that I visited, and several members of her high school team helped out there. During camp, these high school players amazed me, as they confidently guided and taught the youngsters. Indeed, those same Amity High School players, and their coach, impressed me, as I watched the drills and strategies practiced at camp, on full display in an actual game!

Of course, it's exciting to take advantage of every opportunity I get to watch my Quinnipiac Bobcats in action too! Cheering on members of Coach Tricia Fabbri's team, who had also worked so successfully as teachers/coaches at their coach's summer camp, brought the game to yet another level. Once again, lessons that I had watched them teach to their campers, were enthusiastically put into action.... screening, breakout plays, tenacious defense, filling the lanes, teamwork and sportsmanship. Fantastic! What a wonderful feeling I had, while watching the skills and strategies learned throughout the stages of their lives, come together so beautifully, in a very competitive collegiate game.

Observing the different age groups, over a relatively short period of time, really got me thinking. What tremendous growth! The skills, speed, strength and overall ability, demonstrated in women's basketball today, have all grown considerably. It's really amazing! With these thoughts in mind, please allow me to encourage you to attend a high school game. I believe you'll experience the true appreciation of the continuous development that brings us to the great collegiate games we all enjoy on our televisions.



Linda J. Wooster,
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Our name embedded in the landscape of New Haven!



What do you see when you look around your town? ☺



Reilly Camp Scholarship helps camper's court game



Thank you to the CT Women's Basketball Hall of Fame for sending me to the Quinnipiac Girls' Basketball Camp. I had a wonderful time and met many new friends. My coach was Paul Henry Fabbri, the coach's son. He taught us a lot about basketball, always playing hard, and good sportsmanship. Our team lost in the championship game of our league.

The best part of camp was getting better at playing basketball. We spent a lot of time on learning to play defense, shooting plays, and how to screen. Three things I learned were different break plays on inbounds passes, how to screen, and how to improve my foul shooting.

Thank you again. Natylee Green



Did you know...

- 🏀 ...in 1892, Senda Berenson organizes the first women's basketball team at Smith College, one year after basket ball is invented by James Naismith
- 🏀 ...in 1896, the first women's intercollegiate basketball game is played between Stanford University and the University of California at Berkeley. Stanford wins, 2-1
- 🏀 ...in 1926, the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) sponsors the first national tournament for women's basketball, using men's rules
- 🏀 ...in 1972, the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (IAIW) holds the first national intercollegiate basketball championship. Immaculata College defeats West Chester, 52-48
- 🏀 ...in 1982, the first NCAA women's basketball Final Four Championship is held. Louisiana Tech defeats Cheyney State 76-62
- 🏀 ...in 1985, Senda Berenson Abbott, L. Margaret Wade, and Bertha F. Teague are inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, the first women to be so honored

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 award is sponsored by Central Connecticut State University Women's Basketball in honor of Brenda Reilly and is given to a team based on the criteria of character and sportsmanship, the principles on which the hall of fame was founded. 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, Middletown, CT** Girls' Basketball Team was awarded the 2018 Brenda Reilly 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.

Natylee Green, Bethany, CT was the recipient of the 2018 Brenda Reilly Youth Basketball Camp Scholarship. She attended the Tricia Fabbri Girls' Basketball Camp at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, CT.

CT WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PIONEER AWARD

"Remembering the Pioneers of Connecticut Women's Basketball"

The Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame honors those individuals who have played a role in blazing the trail for women's basketball in Connecticut; preparing the way for others to follow. The CWBHF, which first awarded this honor in 2013, has recognized three such individuals, Stacia A. "Skeets" Gayeski (2013), Helen "Jean" Cruickshank (2014), and Edith Olson Buckley (2015).

If you know of an individual who you think is deserving of this honor, we would be interested in hearing from you. Please forward all relevant information (i.e. name, contact information, history of involvement in the game, etc.) to Lee Franzman at franzmanlee@sbcglobal.net

CWBHOF Inductees Honored in 2018



Celeste Beattie (Honorary, 1992) was inducted into the Shelton High School Hall of Fame, Class of 2018. Beattie had an impact on her students at Shelton High School in both the classroom and on the court. She was a biology and physical education teacher for 36 years and served as the assistant basketball coach under Head Coach Bernice Nicolari from 1962 to 1979, winning Housatonic League Titles (1969-1979) and the CIAC Class LL State Championship in 1976.



Kathy Rusch (High School Coach, 1993) was selected by the CIAC Boys' and Girls' Basketball Committees to receive the Basketball Merit Award (2018), presented at the dedication ceremony at Mohegan Sun on March 17, 2018. Rusch began her coaching career at Windsor Locks High School, going 15-0 in her first season. She then moved to South Windsor High School compiling a 243-119 record in fifteen seasons with the Bobcats, including a 68 consecutive game win streak against Central Valley Conference competition and trips to the CIAC finals in 1978 and 1979.



Carolyn D. Vanacore (Honorary, 2006) received the Southern Connecticut State University Alumni Association's 2018 Distinguished Alumna Award. SCSU President, Joe Bertolino, presented the award to Vanacore at the 2018 Homecoming celebrations where he also honored the 50th Reunion Class of 1968.



Kate Lynch (College Player, 2014) was inducted into the Southern Connecticut State University Alumni Hall of Fame, Class of 2018. Lynch is the all-time leading scorer in the history of SCSU women's basketball and was part of the Owls' 2007 NCAA Championship team, being selected as the tournament's Most Outstanding Performer. Lynch returned to SCSU in 2015 as the Owls' women's head basketball coach.



Chris Dailey (Honorary, 2013) was inducted into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame, Class of 2018 in Knoxville, TN. Dailey, UConn Women's Basketball Assistant Head Coach, joins UConn's Head Coach, Geno Auriemma, and many other former UConn players into the hall of fame. In their 33 years together, Auriemma and Dailey have lead UConn to an all-time record of 11 NCAA National Championships and a 1027-135 overall record. Dailey and fellow 2018 inductee, Mickie

DeMoss, are the first assistant coaches to earn entry into the Hall of Fame.

Announcements and Milestones

Hall and Dickson recognized for contributions



Barbara Hall and Lea Dickson were inducted into the New Haven Tap Off Club Hall of Fame, Class of 2018. The

hard work, courage, and perseverance of these two women forever changed the landscape of women's sports. The lawsuit Hall and Dickson filed in 1974 against the Stratford school system, claiming an unequal system of remuneration and opportunity, resulted in the courts mandating, by law, "equal terms and conditions of employment for coaches of girls' and boys' sports, including but not limited to provision of uniforms, use of facilities, scheduling, use of equipment, allocation of monies and support services."

400 wins and counting!

With an 83-74 win over the Siena Saints on February 11, 2018, Quinnipiac University Women's Basketball Coach, Tricia Fabbri, earned her 400th career victory. Fabbri is the fifth coach in Quinnipiac Athletics history to reach this milestone and the first female head coach to do so. Last season (2017-2018) was Fabbri's 23rd with the Bobcats.

Coming Soon to the CWBHOF website

The original 1974 landmark lawsuit (and supporting documentation) filed by Barbara Hall and Lea Dickson against the Stratford school system claiming an unequal system of remuneration and opportunity will be posted on our website www.ctwomensbasketballhalloffame.com. Check it out!



Lauren Anderson (Honorary, 2010) has been selected for induction into The University of Rhode Island Athletics Hall of Fame on March 9, 2019 in Newport, RI. Anderson was the Senior Associate Director of Athletics at URI when she retired in 2008. She served on countless national committees working to provide opportunities for females in collegiate athletics. She received numerous professional honors including the Div. I-AA Administrator of the Year for the National Association of Collegiate Women Athletics Administrators (2005), induction into the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference Hall of Fame (2018) and will be inducted into the Southern CT State University Athletic Hall of Fame in May, 2019.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

2019 Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame Ceremony

Inductees:

Joan F. Belmore
Katie Cizynski
Marc Glenney
Frank Lombardo

Daniel B. Mara
Joyce E. Rivers
Ray Ulatowski

When: April 24, 2019

Where: CASCADE (Hamden, CT)

Reception: 6:00 p.m.

Dinner: 7:00 p.m.

Contribution to the Cause.....The CWBHF 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. CWBHF is a Section 501C (3) TAX ORGANIZATION FOR FEDERAL INCOME TAX PURPOSES. Certain Contributions to CWBHF MAY BE deductible to the person making the contribution. The CWBHF 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.

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

www.ctwomensbasketballhalloffame.com

Never stop Dreaming!



Dream

Reality

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.

Guess Who?

Which of our 2019 inductees.....

1. Spent eight summers in Ireland coaching for the Irish Basketball Association, now known as Basketball Ireland.
2. Was inducted into the Connecticut Women's Scholastic Collegiate Softball Hall of Fame (Umpire) in 1992.
3. As a high jumper in high school, tied the record in 1997 with a jump of 5'4", qualifying for state open.
4. Coached basketball, cross-country, track and field, tennis and golf at the high school varsity level.
5. Reached the state finals in 2017, 2007, 2006, and 2002 as head girls' basketball coach at Holy Cross High School.
6. Averaged 22.3 points, 14 rebounds and 4 assists per game her senior year in high school.
7. Played one season in Germany (2014-2015) for the Wolfenbuttel Wolfpack.
8. Spent two years serving in the Peace Corps on the Island of Dominica in the West Indies.
9. Was inducted into the Norwich Free Academy Sports Hall of Fame in 2014.
10. Was selected to referee in five League championships and three State championships.
11. Was recognized by the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) as Conference Commissioner of the Year in 2016.
12. Led the Housatonic League in scoring in both her junior and senior years in high school.
13. Scored 1690 total points at Pomperaug High School and 1197 at Fairfield University.
14. Was named the 2013 Connecticut High School Coaches Association Coach of the Year.

Answer Key: 1. Mara 2. Ulatowski 3. Glenney 4. Belmore 5. Lombardo 6. Rivers 7. Cizynski 8. Belmore 9. Glenney 10. Ulatowski 11. Mara 12. Rivers 13. Cizynski 14. Lombardo

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.

