

FRANK SCOTT BUNNELL HIGH SCHOOL



Fifth Annual
Bunnell Bulldog Club

Senior Recognition Athletics Hall of Fame Banquet

Liedle's Caterer's
6:45 p.m.
May 8, 1997



LEA DICKSON

This 1972 graduate of the University of Bridgeport was instrumental in starting girls sports at Bunnell as she founded and was the first coach of the softball and basketball teams. Selected as the Most Outstanding Female Graduate at Arnold College's School of Physical Education at the University of Bridgeport, this product of Gouverneur High School in Gouverneur, New York has taught physical education and health at Bunnell High School since 1972.

She began the softball program as a club sport at Bunnell in the spring of 1973 and quickly established it as one of the MBIAC's best. Her 1974 squad won the MBIAC Championship with a perfect 12-0 mark and advanced to the CIAC Class LL quarterfinals before bowing to eventual state champion Shelton 4-3. In 1975, the Bunnell Blue's recorded a fine 10-4 record and advanced to the Class LL semifinals by winning three of four state tournament games.

The girl's basketball program began during the 1973-74 season. The team was led its first three years by All-MBIAC guard Lisa Dennis. In only its third season in 1975-76, the Lady Bulldogs qualified for their first state tournament.

In addition to her coaching success, she is remembered for her courageous effort to bring equal opportunity to girl's sports in Stratford. Along with Stratford High School coach Barbara Hall, she initiated legal action in 1976 to bring coaches pay, facilities, budget, uniforms and equipment for girls up to par with the boys. Her perseverance resulted in a landmark court case that established a legal mandate in Stratford's Public Schools requiring that female athletes receive the same opportunities as male athletes.