

CENTER COURT

February, 2012

Newsletter of the
Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame

A Message from our Executive Director....

As I reflect upon the last 25 years, it seems like only yesterday that I was given the opportunity to lead the Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame as its first Executive Director. Little did I know how much it would impact and enrich my life. The experience has been both enjoyable and rewarding and I want to express how fortunate I feel to have been able to meet and work with so many outstanding people. Thank you all for your support, patience and contributions to our hall of fame.

The journey we have taken in our first 25 years has been quite a ride. I am so proud of the many accomplishments the hall of fame has been able to achieve. However, the time has come for me to hand over the leadership responsibilities. Following the 2012 banquet, I will be stepping down and Linda Wooster, a CWBHOF founder, will become the next Executive Director. I cannot thank the executive board enough for all they have done, not only for me, but also in honoring those individuals who have given so much to women's basketball in the State of Connecticut. I am confident the hall of fame will continue to grow and

play a significant role in honoring the best of the best.

Some of the wonderful things people accomplish and experience in life happens through membership on a team and because of you, our hall of fame has grown in size, visibility and impact. You have not only been instrumental in helping us to fulfill our mission but you have also allowed us to far exceed our wildest expectations. We greatly value your interest and commitment and hope that you will continue to support the Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame.

I look forward to seeing you on April 11, 2012 at the CWBHOF banquet to celebrate our 25th year.

Don't forget to stop by and visit us by logging onto our website at ctwomensbasketballhalloffame.com.

Ann V. Fariss, PHD
Executive Director

25
Years Old

STARTED IN 1987

FOUNDERS: 5

1ST STATE HALL OF
FAME FOR WOMEN'S
BASKETBALL IN THE
COUNTRY

1ST INDUCTION
CEREMONY :
APRIL 1988



The founders: Louise Albrecht, Ann Fariss, Tony Candido, Linda Wooster, Brenda Reilly

Ann V. Fariss,
President/Executive
Director/Founder

Louise Albrecht,
Vice President/Membership
Chair/Founder

Linda J. Wooster,
Banquet Coordinator/
Scrivener/Founder

Tony Candido,
Fundraising Chair/
Founder

Brenda Reilly,
Founder (Posthumous)

Lee Franzman,
Nominating Chairperson

David Strong,
Historian/Archivist

Marge Dolan,
Regional Project Director

Sue Crisafi,
Secretary

Tracey Finer,
Creative Writer/
Newsletter Editor

Tina Gonyea,
Publicity & Promotion

Pamela Moffo
Publicity & Promotion



CWBHOF Inductees Honored.....

CIAC Merit Award

Cathy Inglesse was selected as a recipient of a 2011 Merit Award, presented by the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) Girl's Basketball Committee. This award is presented to individuals who have made a significant contribution to high school girls' basketball over the years and have supported the CIAC athletic program.

Henry "Hank" Luzzi Sportsmanship Award

Tina Gonyea was awarded the Henry "Hank" Luzzi Sportsmanship Award by the Con-

necticut Board 10 Basketball Referees. This award recognizes the often overlooked efforts and hard work of the high school junior varsity coaches.

Monroe Sportsperson of the Year Award

David Strong was honored with the Monroe Sportsperson of the Year Award presented by the Fairfield County Sports Commission. The FCSC honors individuals in each of the 15 communities the Commission serves.

CHSCA Hall of Fame

Jody Rajcula was inducted into

the Connecticut High School Coaches Association Hall Of Fame. This award is a tribute to coaches who have given their time and dedication to Connecticut high school youth.

Connecticut Field Hockey Hall of Fame

Arden Curtis and Linda Dirga were inducted into the Connecticut Field Hockey Hall of Fame. This honor recognizes those who, either through participation, support, service, or achievement have contributed to the enhancement of field hockey in Connecticut.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!! CWBHOF TURNS 25 YEARS OLD

Twenty five years ago five friends refused to put a limit on their imagination. Their idea was simple, to honor individuals who had contributed to the enhancement of women's basketball in the State of Connecticut. The fact that no other state hall of fame existed for women's basketball in the country was not viewed as an obstacle but as an opportunity to be the first thereby setting the standard for others to follow. The "founders", Louise E. Albrecht, Linda Wooster, Dr. Ann V. Fariss, Dr. Brenda A. Reilly and Tony Candido, would go on to create the constitution and organizational framework for what would be known as the Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame (CWBHOF).

Twenty five years later the hall of fame has grown gracefully with age gaining in experience, wisdom and importance. Happy 25th birthday to the CWBHOF and best wishes for another great 25 years!

Special Recognition.....

Stepping Down / Stepping Up

Following the 2011 basketball season, David Strong stepped down as head girls' basketball coach at Masuk High School. Strong was the Panther's head coach for 35 seasons and amassed quite an impressive resume. He had a state best 704 victories, appeared in the state tournament every year since it began in 1974, appeared in 7 state finals, won 3 state titles and captured 19 league championships. Strong was inducted into the National High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2009 and is a 2004 CWBHOF Inductee.

Ann Odoy will take over the reins for David Strong as head girls' basketball coach at Masuk. Odoy, a former Masuk 2,000 point scorer, was the Panther's assistant coach for 15 years. She previously coached at Boston College and Duquesne and played professionally overseas. In 1991,

Odoy was inducted into the CWBHOF and in 2008 was honored with the CHSCA Asst. Coach of the Year.

Stepping Down.....

Linda Dirga, a 2012 CWBHOF inductee, has retired as the Pomeraug High School field hockey coach after 27 years. During Dirga's tenure, the Panthers won over 400 games, captured 8 state championships and 19 conference titles including a share of the Class L state title in 2011. Dirga was inducted into the National High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

Congratulations.....

Tina Gonyea, a former standout player for Platt High School, has replaced Tom Johnson as the Panther's head girls' basketball coach. Gonyea, a 2004 CWBHOF inductee, takes over the program after 14 years as the assistant coach at Platt.

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 **Hillhouse** Girls' Basketball Team was awarded the 2011 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.

Each year a different Connecticut camp is selected. The recipient and her parents or guardian are invited as honored guests to the Hall of Fame's annual banquet.

Cori Ouellette from Polson Middle School in Madison, CT was the recipient of the 2011 Brenda Reilly Youth Basketball Camp Scholarship. She attended Bill Barker's Madison Hoop Dreams Camp in Madison CT.

Congratulations to all the recipients!

Cori Ouellette

2011 Brenda Reilly Youth Basketball Camp Scholarship Recipient

The 2011 Brenda Reilly Youth Basketball Camp Scholarship was awarded to 14 year old Cori Ouellette, an honors student at Polson Middle School in Madison, CT. She was an 8th grade varsity starter for her middle school team and played for the AAU Connecticut Breeze.

Ouellette is no stranger to carrying her team to victory. In a 6th grade game versus Guilford, she hit six – 3 pointers and finished the game with 26 points to beat Guilford by three.

Ouellette is a big fan of the UConn Huskies and plans to go to London for the 2012 Olympics to cheer on the USA women's basketball team.

Sixsmith Wins Kolinsky Scholarship

Daniel M. "DJ" Sixsmith Jr. was named the winner of the Bohdan Kolinsky Memorial Journalism Scholarship. Sixsmith, of Staples High School, is the sports editor of his school paper and station manager and sports director of his school FM station, WWPT. He plans to attend Fordham University.

In 2011, the CWBHOF made a donation in support of this scholarship which is named after Bohdan Kolinsky, a longtime scholastic sports editor of the Hartford Courant who died in 2003. He was a 2002 CWBHOF Honorary Inductee.



The CWBHOF would like to welcome aboard Jeff Goddu, who will be helping with the design and maintenance of the CWBHOF website and the design of the banquet programs and invitations. Goddu attended Central Connecticut State University where he received his bachelor's degree in Management Information Systems. He has been providing computer support, web design and promotional materials design to local businesses for over 8 years. Goddu is currently employed by Yale University as an IT Support Specialist.

Thank You!

Dear Hall of Fame Members,

I was very pleased with how the night went when I modeled the 1920's basketball uniform and I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity. I really enjoyed modeling the uniform and learning the history about it. I will be using this information for a Social Studies project. I would also like to thank you all for the CD and pictures of the night. I really enjoyed watching the video and was so pleased with the pictures that I went through all of them just about twenty times. Thank you for everything especially for giving me that All Star moment. Some people said I made the night but I say you guys did for picking me out of a million other people who could've modeled the uniform. I thank you so much and would love to help out sometime again.

Thanks again,
Tamra Gonyea



THANK YOU!!

In 2011, the CWBHOF was the beneficiary of a generous donation made by the Goodwill Gala organizers. The Goodwill Gala is a private party fundraiser whose goal is to raise money for organizations in memory of Brenda A. Reilly, as well as other non-profit organizations. The hall of fame is extremely grateful for this most generous contribution.

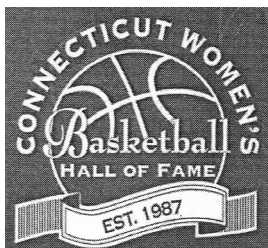
CONGRATULATIONS PAT!

Sports Illustrated named legendary coach Pat Summitt as its Sports-women of the Year for 2011.

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.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

2012 Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame Ceremony

Inductees:

Jackie DiNardo	Linda Iverson Dirga
Elaine Biercevicz Piazza	Beryl Piper
Heather Conway Liberman	Kim Belliveau
Gail Strumpf Cheney	

When: April 11, 2012

Where: CASCADE (Hamden, CT)

Reception: 6:00 p.m.

Dinner: 7:00 p.m.

We Need Your Help!

Archive Information

We are always in search of news clippings, photographs, live action footage, equipment, or any other pieces of Connecticut women's basketball history that we can add to our collection. If you have any such items you are interested in giving to the CWBHOF, please contact David Strong at david.strong@snet.net.

CWBHOF Website

Don't forget to check out our updated website. Please let us know if there is any other information you would like to see included on the website.

Membership

Please consider becoming a member of the CWBHOF. Your contributions will make it possible for us to continue to honor those individuals who have contributed to the enhancement of women's basketball in Connecticut. The success of the CWBHOF is a testament to the hard work and dedication not only of its founders and board of directors but most importantly, of its members.

Volunteers / Retirees

If you have some spare time and would be interested in sharing your talents with us, we would like to hear from you. If you are interested in joining our organization, please contact Ann Fariss at avfariss@sbcglobal.net.

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.



Please let us know if you are no longer interested in receiving the CWBHOF Newsletter and/or ceremony invitations. We will remove your name from our mailing list. Please notify Ann Fariss at avfariss@sbcglobal.net. Thank you.