

**Norwalk
Old Timers'**



**ATHLETIC
ASSOCIATION, Inc**



**Welcome to Our
61st Sports Awards Presentation
Honoring Yesterday's Stars
2025**



The Norwalk High School
Athletic Department
congratulates

Mike Ashley

George Diamantis

Dennis Fabian

Terry Fuller

Cherise Mickle

Bobby Ross

Carrie Seymour

Regina Trimboli

Thank you for your contributions
to the Norwalk community!

GO BEARS!

*Greetings
From the President*

NOVEMBER 12, 2025



Welcome to the 61st *Norwalk Old Timers' Sports Award Dinner*. It has been my

distinct honor and privilege to serve as president of the Norwalk Old Timers as this night has become a great tradition for the City of Norwalk. It reunites friends and honors those who have made significant contributions to the Norwalk sports scene.

Tonight we honor nine individuals who have distinguished themselves in sports and beyond.

I want to thank all of you attending this evening, especially those who come every year. Your support has enriched the City of Norwalk with this event and sustained the scholarship fund that has grown to three scholarships each annually for Norwalk and Brien McMahon High Schools.

I must also thank our dedicated Old Timers executive committee, the members of which put in many hours of work to make this a special evening.

Finally, we are especially grateful for the vital support of our major sponsors: The BJ Ryan's Group, LaJoie's Auto and Scrap Recycling, and the Laurel Athletic Club; the advertisers in this program book; and our patrons and donors.

I hope everyone will enjoy this great Norwalk Old Timers' evening.

Pete Tucci
President

CONGRATULATIONS CARRIE SEYMOUR!

You've made the old neighborhood proud.
From the early days at the Tracey School
Playground to a star college coach. Keep
up the good work.

Matt & Tim Hefferan

CONGRATULATIONS JIM WRINN

2025 MIKE ERRICO AWARD WINNER



And best wishes to all of this year's
Honorees, very well deserved.

MICHAEL & LAURA WRINN

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CONGRATULATIONS OLD TIMERS!



FAIRFIELD COUNTY INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC CONFERENCE, INC.

Congratulations to those with FCIAC
connections as Norwalk Old Timers
Inductees!

Mike Ashley
Dennis Fabian
Terry Fuller
Cherise Mickle

Rob Ross
Carrie Seymour
Jim Wrinn

The FCIAC is proud of you!

Congratulations!

to the 2025 honorees



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Congratulations to all the 2025 Norwalk Old Timer Honorees

Don LaJoie, 1995 Old Timers Honoree
Randy LaJoie, 2018 Old Timers Honoree

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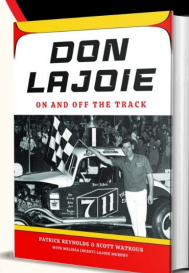


"Don LaJoie was a racer's
racer. No driver had more
success on Saturday nights at
the tough Danbury,
Connecticut Racetrack. This
story of Don's life and career is
told by those who knew him
best: family, friends, crew, fans
and competitors. Everything
Don achieved in business and
on the track was the result of
lots of hard work, a little hard-
headedness, and unwavering
determination. He passed
those talents and work ethics
on to his son and grandson,
and enjoyed seeing both excel
at the highest levels of the
sport."

—Mike Joy, FOX Sports

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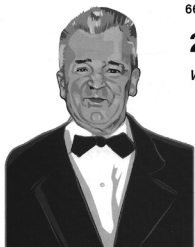


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**CONGRATULATIONS
to all honorees!**

~KP, Owner

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2025 Norwalk Old Timers Honorees

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MAJOR EVENT SPONSOR



Laurel Athletic Club

NORWALK, CT 06851

On behalf of the city's
oldest athletic club,
we would like to extend our
congratulations and gratitude
to the **Norwalk Old Timers
2025 Honorees.**

You have all enriched the
City of Norwalk.

Thank you.

CONGRATULATIONS

to all the

**2025 Norwalk Old Timers'
inductees**

Enjoy your evening!



The Moffett Family

Frank, Sheila,
Patrick, Katelyn,
Brayden, and Connor

CONGRATULATIONS!

GEORGE DIAMANTIS

*on this well-deserved honor
as one of the best athletes
Norwalk has ever seen.*



**Josh, Rizzo, Bobby,
Michael, and Mark**

CONGRATULATIONS CARRIE!

A well-deserved
honor



Love,
Aunt Gaye
and your favorite
cousins

Congratulations to all the
well-deserving honorees
this year – you’ve made
Norwalk proud!

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*The McMahon Football Family
would like to send out much deserved*
CONGRATULATIONS

*to the
2025 Norwalk Old Timers inductees!
Your impact on student athletes is
immeasurable.*

GO McMAHON FOOTBALL!



CONGRATULATIONS, JIM WRINN

*In gratitude for your contributions
to our baseball community.*



THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY FOOTBALL OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

*Congratulates all the
Norwalk Old Timers
2025 Honorees!*

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Congratulations to the
**2025 Norwalk Old Timers Athletic
Association Honorees.**

You are a shining example of what
all Norwalk athletes and coaches
should aspire to be!



Norwalk High School Baseball

ONCE A BEAR . . .
ALWAYS A BEAR!

*A special congratulations to
Coach Mitchell's Father-in-Law and
Friend, Dennis Fabian.*

We miss you, Big Den!

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
2025 NORWALK OLD TIMERS'
HONOREES!**

You are a large part of
Norwalk's rich sports history.



MARC GRENIER, ESQ.
CCHS Class of '84



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NAA

The Norwalk Athletic Association

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CONGRATULATIONS JIM WRINN

A generation of Norwalk's
youth salute you

- ♦ NAA Girls Basketball ♦
- ♦ NAA Cal Ripken Baseball ♦
- ♦ NAA Pop Warner Football ♦
- ♦ NAA Norwalk Youth Football ♦



Congratulations to all the 2025 inductees!



www.geeserelief.com

Chris Santopietro

For over three decades, Coach Wrinn was the heart and soul of our football family. His passion for the game, commitment to his players, and unwavering belief in teamwork, discipline, and character have left an impact that will last far beyond the scoreboard.

Coach Wrinn didn't just build winning teams – he built young men of integrity, resilience, and respect. Under his leadership, countless athletes learned not only how to play football, but how to handle adversity, celebrate success with humility, and give their best in everything they do.

Whether it was under the lights on game day or out on a muddy practice field, Coach Wrinn led with heart, humor, and an unshakable dedication to his players. His legacy is written not only in victories, championships, and records, but in the lives he's shaped and the community he's inspired.

Coach Wrinn's spirit will continue to live on – in today's freshman players who lace up their cleats knowing they were his last Norwalk Junior Football team, in the older athletes continuing their high school and even college football journeys, and in all his former players who now find themselves coaching and carrying on his way.

Because for Coach Wrinn, football was never just a game – it was a family. And that family will carry his legacy forward, always.

NORWALK JUNIOR FOOTBALL & CHEER



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Town Clerk

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**CONGRATULATIONS
TO CARRIE SEYMOUR**



*"It was an honor to be one of your
coaches."*

~Ray Barry

CONGRATULATIONS

to all the 2025 inductees

into the

**Norwalk Old Timers'
Athletic Association**



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A Great Leader
A Wonderful Person



Congratulations CHERISE MICKLE

*"What a pleasure it was to be your coach for
eight straight seasons."*

DON FOUST

Cherise Mickleson's Basketball Coach
Norwalk High School 1980-83
University of Bridgeport 1984-87

FROM ONE COACH TO ANOTHER

CONGRATULATIONS to CARRIE SEYMOUR



Photo courtesy of Eastern Connecticut State University Athletic Communications

from
DON FOUST

Congratulations to Norwalk's Newest "Old Timers"

Mike Ashley
George Diamantis
Dennis Fabian
(posthumous)
Terry Fuller
Cherise Mickle
Rob Ross
Carrie Seymour
Regina Trimboli
Jim Wrinn
(Mike Errico Award)

from Larry Cafero and



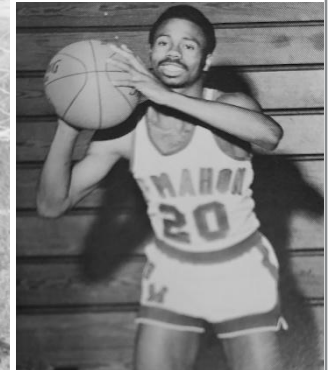
CONGRATULATIONS!
to Three Senators who
continue to make us proud



TERRY FULLER
BMHS Class of 1971



ROB ROSS
BMHS Class of 1974



MIKE ASHLEY
BMHS Class of 1979

from Ralph and Joan King
and
The Brien McMahon Athletic Family

PETE CORRENTY
and
THE HOME OILERS HOCKEY CLUB
salute
The Norwalk Old Timers Athletic Association
and all the **2025 honorees**



PETE CORRENTY
(Team Founder, General Manager, Head Coach)
2010 Old Timers Honoree

HOME OILERS ROSTER

Peter Correnty (Coach) 1931 Norwalk, CT USA	Larry Davenport (F) Glencoe, ON, CAN
Mark Burns (G) 1948 Boston, MA, USA	Frank Grace (F) 1948 Toronto, ON, CAN
William Diercks (G) 1947 St. Louis, MO, USA	Carl Kraft (C) 1939 Elora, ON, CAN
Charlie Brown (D) 1947 Minneapolis, MN, USA	Russ McClenaghan (C) '39 Huntingdon, QC, CAN
Christopher Gurry (D) Andover, MA, USA	Kent Parrot (F) 1946 Boston, MA, USA
Don Newman (D) 1943 Kamloops, BC, CAN	Johnny Sherban (RW) 1928 Vonda, SK, CAN
Paul Patrick (D) 1950 Riverside, CT, USA	Dick Toomey (F) 1947 Newtonville, MA, USA
Paul Tanguay (D) Montréal, QC, CAN	Bob Veilleux (LW) '39 Thetford Mines, QC, CAN

<u>Season</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Games Played</u>	<u>W L Tie</u>	<u>Pct</u>
1962-63	Norwalk Home Oilers			
1963-64	Norwalk Home Oilers	16	10 4 2	0.688
1964-65	Norwalk Home Oilers	16	14 2 0	0.875
1965-66	Norwalk Home Oilers	22	19 2 1	0.886
1966-67	Norwalk Home Oilers	22	18 3 1	0.841
1967-68	Norwalk Home Oilers	21	18 3 0	0.857
1968-69	Bridgeport Home Oilers	21	17 3 1	0.833
1969-70	Bridgeport Home Oilers	18	16 2 0	0.889
1970-71	Bridgeport Home Oilers	22	17 3 2	0.818
1971-72	Bridgeport Home Oilers	18	13 4 1	0.750
1972-73	Bridgeport Home Oilers	19	12 4 3	0.711



The Brien McMahon High School
Alumni Association

CONGRATULATES

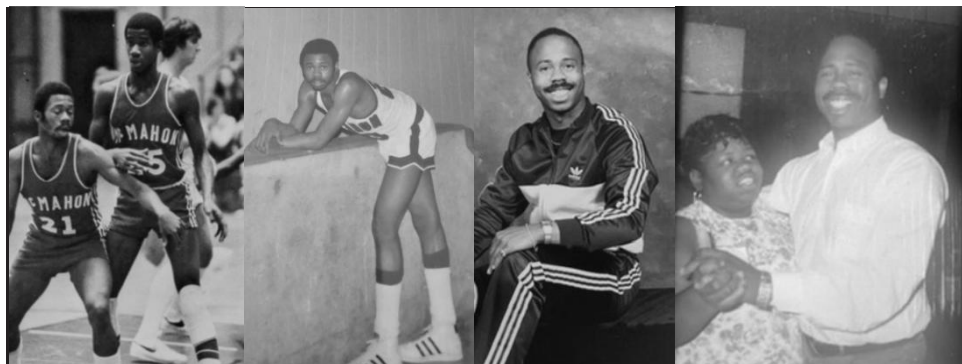
BMHS Class of '71
TERRY FULLER

BMHS Class of '74
ROBERT ROSS

BMHS Class of '79
MIKE ASHLEY

and all the

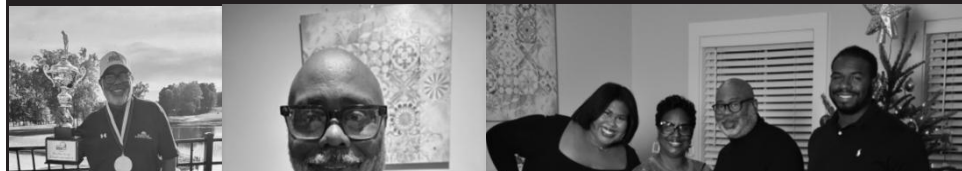
2025 OLD TIMER HONOREES



CONGRATULATIONS MICHAEL ASHLEY!



**We are so proud of you!
So well deserved!
Cheers to you!
We love you!**



Mike Ashley



MIKE ASHLEY loves to talk about growing up and going to the Roodner Court Neighborhood Center at Nathaniel Ely School to watch the older kids play basketball.

“Everyone in the city who could play was there and we watched on the stage as they played full court,” he recalls.

There were some future All-FCIAC, all-state, and All-City players among them, and even a few future Norwalk Old Timers honorees like Marvin Spencer, Willie Brooks, and Greg Pritchett. For a young Mike Ashley, it was an education in Basketball 101.

The “classroom lessons” he learned certainly paid off some years later as Mike, too, earned his share of accolades on the hardwood as a player at Brien McMahon. Now he joins some of his basketball teachers as a Norwalk Old Timers honoree.

The 1979 McMahon graduate enjoyed an outstanding basketball career for the Senators. As a sophomore, he averaged 26 points a game for the junior varsity team and coach Ralph King rewarded his young guard by letting him sit on the bench for the varsity game that followed. Mike managed to get some playing time at the end of a few one-sided contests, but his minutes increased once the state tournament began.

He came off the bench in the quarterfinals against Westhill to play defense and held the Vikings’ top scorer, who scored 17 in the first half, to just eight points in the final two quarters. But it was during the Class LL state semifinals at the New Haven Coliseum when many local basketball fans first learned who Mike Ashley was. The Senators were in a tight battle against Hartford Weaver when coach King subbed his sophomore guard into the game. He responded by hitting his first five shots to spark the offense, and would finish 6-for-9 for 12 points as McMahon won 69-57 to advance to its first state final ever.

The Senators were back in the Coliseum a few days later to face FCIAC rival Stamford and Mike again came off the bench to play stellar defense and contributed a key bucket in McMahon’s 68-66 overtime win to claim the state championship.

But it was the semifinals that will always be remembered as Mike Ashley’s coming out party. After the game in the locker room, King was asked by reporters who this sophomore they had never heard of was, and the veteran coach replied, “You’ll hear plenty of him in the future.” He was right. As a junior, Mike started at guard and was second on the team and third in the city with a 15.2 scoring average as he helped the Senators win a second straight FCIAC championship and reach the state semifinals.

Then as a senior, Mike, the only returning starter, averaged a team-high 19.4 points while shooting over 50 percent from the field to lead McMahon back to the state tournament. He was named First-Team All-FCIAC and All-City each of his final two seasons while earning second-team all-state honors as a senior.

He received a basketball scholarship to Sacred Heart University, where he continued to hit some big baskets and help the Pioneers make back-to-back NCAA tournament appearances. After

As many of you know, George Diamantis has always had a way of bringing people together. Whether it was leading the team with quiet confidence, pushing to be the best, or sharing a laugh after a tough loss, he always knew how to keep the spirit alive. And those are the qualities that go far beyond the games themselves.



When honoring our Old Timers, let's remember that it's not just about what was achieved on the field, but about the relationships built, the memories made, and loves lost.



A few years back, George lost his wife Sue, after a courageous battle with cancer. Losing a loved one is a sorrow no one should have to endure, and yet, through his grief, George remains a source of strength and inspiration for his sons, and really, for all of us. His perseverance is something we've always admired about him.



Whether it's for the love of the sport or his family and friends, the fire still burns deep within George.

**Congratulations, George, for being
inducted into The Norwalk Old Timers
Athletic Association!**

The Boys from Milford

George Diamantis



GEORGE DIAMANTIS cemented his place in Norwalk football history on a cool and crisp Friday night 40 years ago this fall.

It was on that November 8, 1985 night that the Central Catholic running back had the greatest single-game offensive performance ever by a local high school football player when he scored a state record 48 points in the Cavaliers' 50-12 rout over Brookfield on the Bobcats' home turf.

All George Diamantis did that night was score seven touchdowns, run in a two-point conversion and kick four extra points to give him a total of 48 points. That not only set a new city of Norwalk record, but it also eclipsed the previous state record of 44 points set in 1974.

And while George's seven TDs — on runs of 3, 1, 17, 25, 20, 65, and 36 yards — tied a state record, it was his six conversion points that put him over the top and all alone in the state record book. But that was only part of his great night. The 5-foot-11, 185-pound back, who combined his natural speed with his strength, would carry the ball 39 times for 284 yards, another new Central Catholic record.

While that record-setting game was undoubtedly George's best effort in a CCHS uniform, he certainly had several other standout games. In fact, he rushed for over 100 yards in nine of the Cavaliers' 11 games that season, including over 200 three times. The only two games he didn't reach the century mark he had 90 and 77 yards. In other words, no team ever stopped him cold.

In Central's fourth game against Weston, George ran the ball an amazing 45 times and gained 266 yards, which at the time set a new team record. That record lasted four weeks before he broke it with his one-man show against Brookfield. And one week after his 284-yard effort, he ran for another 271 yards and three touchdowns against Bullard Havens.

He also had games of 199, 179, 163, 162, 147, and 119 yards on the ground. That 199-yard effort came in the final game of the season on Thanksgiving morning against rival St. Mary's of Greenwich. Diamantis came into the season finale with 1,807 yards rushing and needed a 193-yard game to reach the coveted 2,000-yard mark. He was at 1,980 yards as the final minute ticked away, but on what would be the final play of the game and the season, George got the ball for the 36th time and rambled 26 yards to the end zone to provide a dramatic finish to his fabulous season.

That gave him a city-record 2,006 yards rushing for the season, while the touchdown, his third of the game, gave him 23 for the season and another city record. He also kicked one PAT to account for all the scoring in the Cavaliers' 19-0 win. That gave him 151 points for the season, yet another city record, as were his 205 career points.

And in a touch of irony, George also won the city scoring title as a junior with 48 points — the same number of points he would score in one single game a year later.

His postseason accolades included being named All-Western Connecticut Conference, All-State, and All-City co-MVP.

CONGRATULATIONS TERRY FULLER!!!

A well-deserved honor for such an amazing Athlete!
You are truly loved by all. Not only are you the apple
of our eyes, but continue to shine brightly within everyone's
hearts. May you be blessed always as you walk along Life's way,
and to keep in mind how we care for you,
as you go about your day



With Love, Elaine, Terry Jr., Amber,
& Our Five Grands,
Brothers, Best Friends, Sisters,
Nephews & Good Family Friends

Terry Fuller



TERRY FULLER never met a sport he didn't love ... or didn't excel in. Whether it was football, wrestling, baseball, or even karate, Terry could always be found near the head of the class.

He left perhaps his biggest mark in football, a sport he began playing as a nine year-old in the Norwalk Pop Warner program. That prepared him for the junior high school tackle football league, a then-popular program sponsored by the Norwalk Recreation Department with games played on Sunday mornings. As a ninth grader in the fall of 1967, Terry, a running back, helped the Ponus Ridge Green Devils win the city championship.

All roads led to Brien McMahon High School, where he established himself as a standout defensive back for the Senators and was named First-Team All-FCIAC as a senior.

That fall of 1970 was the same season Terry set a new FCIAC record with seven interceptions as McMahon, ranked as high as No. 6 in the state, went 8-1 for the best record in program history to that point. The only blemish was a one-touchdown loss to state champion Stamford High.

Terry had several big games that season, including a pair of interceptions in a 28-6 win over Danbury. Two weeks later he set a new school record for most tackles in a game with 16 as the Senators beat Greenwich 16-12. He also picked off his sixth interception of the season.

But Terry's biggest tackle of the season—and his career—came in McMahon's annual intracity rivalry game against Norwalk High when he tackled an NHS player in the end zone for a safety. That second-quarter play by Terry proved to be the only scoring in McMahon's exciting 2-0 win in one of the most talked about games in the 65-year city series between the two local high schools.

The football season was no sooner over when Terry began his final wrestling season for McMahon. But it was his memory from the end of the wrestling season that he covets the most. That's when Terry went into the state tournament unseeded, but defeated four straight seeded opponents to capture the 145-pound state championship.

While his wrestling career was over, Terry's high school football career still had one more game to go. He was selected to play in that summer's annual Nutmeg Bowl, which featured the best players in the entire state. Terry was the starting safety for the West squad and also returned punts and kickoffs. Then when the team's two running backs were injured, Terry was used on offense in the second half.

He didn't get much of a break before it was time to report for preseason football practice at Central Connecticut State College in New Britain. As a senior in 1975, he anchored the Blue Devils' defensive backfield and was among the team leaders in tackles and interceptions, had one fumble recovery, and returned punts. He capped off his collegiate career by being voted the team's MVP, and was even invited to a tryout with the NY Giants.

And his football days still weren't over as he played several seasons in the Norwalk Recreation Jack Casagrande Touch Football League. His team, the Carver Bucs, coached by his older brother

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Program design & layout by Judie Szuets
Biographies of 2025 Honorees written by George Albano
Cover design by Heide Follin, Creative Advertising

PROGRAM

Master of Ceremonies..... George Albano

Welcome..... President, Pete Tucci

DINNER

* * * * *

TONIGHT'S HONOREES

Presentation of Sport Awards

Michael Ashley
George Diamantis
Terry Fuller
Cherise Mickle
Rob Ross
Carrie Seymour
Regina Trimboli

Posthumous Honoree

Dennis Fabian

Mike Errico Award

Jim Wrinn



Congratulations
CHERISE MICKLE LIVINGSTON
for being selected to be a
2025 Norwalk Old Timers Honoree!
Your Family is so very proud of you and your
amazing Basketball career.

Love,
Husband Jeremiah Livingston
Dad Lewis Rawles
Aunt Denise Rawles
Sister Denise Mickle
#1 Fan, Brother Anthony Mickle
Sister Cherae Kingwood Wilson
Brother-in-law Ted Wilson
Niece Chyia Wilson
Aunt Sheila Mickle

Cherise Mickle



When a young **CHERISE MICKLE** began playing in the Carver Center Girls Basketball League, no one, including her, knew an outstanding career on the hardwood was on the horizon.

But fast forward a few years and many points and rebounds later, and Cherise would become one of the cornerstones of Norwalk High School's memorable run of championships in the early 1980s.

Indeed, the 5-foot-9 Cherise was a starting forward on each of the Lady Bears' three straight FCIAC championship teams in 1981, '82 and '83, while going to the state finals twice and winning the program's first state title. By the time she was done, the standout power forward would graduate as the city of Norwalk's all-time leading scorer.

"The word I would use is 'dependable.' She was always so dependable," recalled Don Foust, the NHS head coach during those glory years. "Even when she was a freshman and came off the bench for us, I had all the confidence whenever I sent her in the game."

That 1979-'80 Norwalk team went to the FCIAC finals and finished runner-up, but the next three seasons would spell a different outcome as Cherise moved into the starting lineup as a sophomore and helped Norwalk go 25-1 and win the FCIAC and Class LL state championships. She stepped her game up even more as a junior, leading the Norwalkers in both scoring (14.8) and rebounding (10.5) while earning first-team All-FCIAC and All-City honors en route to another conference crown.

She saved the best for last, however, and as a senior co-captain in the 1982-'83 season, she again led the team in scoring (16.4) as the Bears won their third straight FCIAC championship. It was during the conference semifinals, a 52-44 win over Darien, that Cherise Mickle became only the fourth player in city girls basketball history to reach 1,000 career points. She finished with 18 points and 11 rebounds in the win.

But perhaps just as important, after being a valuable and productive role player her first three seasons, Cherise became the team's undisputed leader on and off the court.

"Everybody on the team looked up to 'Mama' that season," Foust pointed out. "I saw her do so many positive things."

While her 1,000th point milestone was a big moment, Cherise wasn't done yet. There was still another FCIAC title to secure a couple nights later, and then four more wins in the state tournament to reach another Class LL final. But despite her game-high 20 points, the top-seeded Bears were upset by No. 6 Bristol Eastern 52-47. The NHS girls still finished a glossy 25-2 while Cherise finished with 1,117 career points and No. 1 on the city's all-time scoring list. She capped off her high school career by being named first-team All-State and All-City MVP.

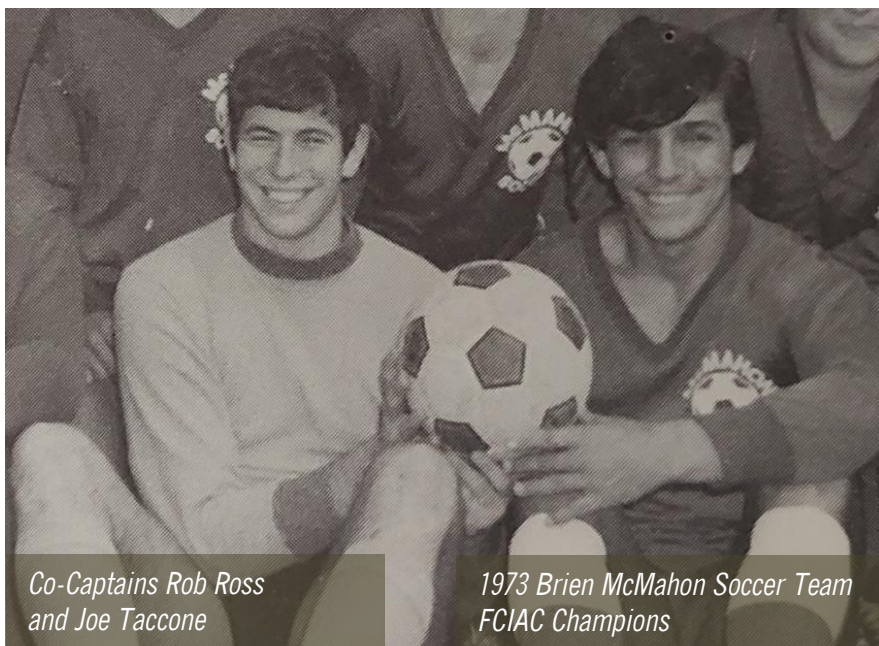
Shortly after Cherise concluded her scholastic career, Don Foust stepped down as the NHS

continued **MICKLE**, p.52

Congratulations to **ROB ROSS** on your well-deserved honor

from your former teammate,
fellow co-captain,
and good friend

Joe Taccone
Italia Pizzeria Restaurant



*Co-Captains Rob Ross
and Joe Taccone*

*1973 Brien McMahon Soccer Team
FCIAC Champions*

Rob Ross



In a city that has produced its share of outstanding soccer goalies over the years, the name **ROBERT ROSS** sits right near the top of that impressive list.

Ross made his mark between the goal posts in high school at Brien McMahon and later in college at the University of Connecticut, contributing to the great success of both programs during his time there.

It was at Ponus Ridge Junior High School, however, where a 13-year-old Rob Ross began his soccer journey. Despite no prior experience in the sport, he went out for the team on a whim and it wasn't until the first day of practice that he decided to try his hand — literally both hands — as a goaltender.

And with that, an outstanding soccer career was born.

Junior HS was 7th, 8th and 9th grade back then and as an eighth grader in the fall of 1968, Rob helped Ponus win the city championship. Then after another outstanding season in the nets, he arrived at McMahon and by 11th grade had taken over as the Senators' starting goalie. After allowing just one goal in a season-debut win, Rob posted back-to-back shutout victories. Four more shutouts would follow during that 9-3-3 season, including a 1-0 win over Wethersfield in the opening round of the state tournament.

But it was during his senior season in the fall of 1973 that Ross established himself as one of the top goaltenders in the state. He allowed one or less goals in 14 of McMahon's 15 games with five shutouts and a microscopic 0.73 goals-against average. That impressive stat line helped the Senators go 9-2-4, capture the West Division title, and win a share of the FCIAC championship after tying rival Staples 1-1 in the conference final. Rob made nine saves in that title contest, including two very difficult stops in the closing minutes to preserve the tie.

Following his graduation in '74, Rob took his talents upstate to the University of Connecticut, right about the same time the Huskies' soccer program started to grow on a national level. After starting on the freshmen team, he became the backup varsity goalie his sophomore year. UConn advanced to the NCAA 'Sweet 16' that season and met rival Brown University in the New England Regional championship game when head coach Joe Morrone decided to make a surprise change in goal and start Ross. He rewarded his coach's trust in him by turning in an outstanding game as the two teams battled to a 1-1 tie in regulation and then play four scoreless 15-minute overtime periods before Brown finally won on penalty kicks in fading daylight in Storrs.

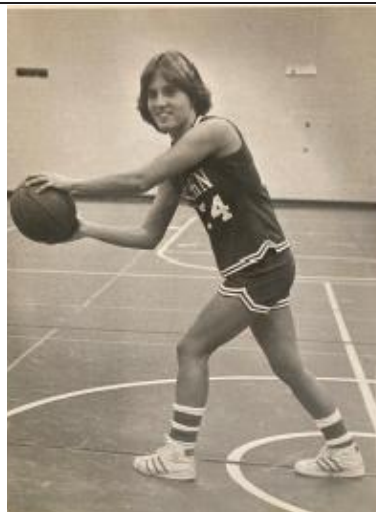
But that performance set the tone for the fall of '76 and a breakout junior season by the Norwalker. Rob took over as the starting goalie and was named All-Yankee Conference after posting a school-record 14 shutouts in 22 games to lead UConn to an 18-2-2 record, at the time tying the most wins in program history. His 11 goals allowed and 0.50 GAA that season were both second lowest in program history.

He was looking forward to an even better senior year, but sustained a serious neck injury early that 1977 campaign, which ended his season. He was able to redshirt the rest of that season and return for a fifth season in 1978, only to dislocate his shoulder in the season opener. He was sidelined for a month, but returned in time to lead the Huskies back to the NCAA tournament.

continued **ROSS**, p.52

CONGRATULATIONS CARRIE!

*Through the years, we've
been so proud of you!*



We watched your talent begin at the hoop in Ruggieris' backyard! Then we watched you play at NHS and Eastern CT State University basketball! Then, we followed your assistant coaching at Eastern CT, Marist, College of the Holy Cross, St. John's! And, since 1992, we've cheered you on as Head Coach at Pace University! That's a whole lot of expertise, accomplishment, and fun!



*We love you,
Seymour
and
Sweeney
Families*

Carrie Seymour



CARRIE SEYMOUR has certainly done a lot of winning during her sports career, first as a player and then as one of the most successful Division II women's basketball coaches in the country.

In fact, last week the former Norwalk High School three-sport athlete began her 34th season as head coach at Pace University in Pleasantville, NY. She entered the 2025-'26 campaign with a career record 555-386, placing her 10th for the most wins among active NCAA D-II coaches in the country. Her sparkling .590 winning percentage is also among the best nationally.

After serving as an assistant coach for eight years at three different Division I schools, Carrie was named the head coach at Pace in 1992-'93 and led the Lady Setters to 20-win seasons her first five years, including a program record 27 victories her second year. She won 24 games six other seasons and has had 13 seasons overall with 20 or more wins. She became the fourth fastest Division II coach to record 100 career wins, reaching the milestone in just her 127th game. Meanwhile, win No. 500 came on Jan. 22, 2022, becoming only the 17th active D-II coach to accomplish this feat.

Overall, Carrie has averaged 17 wins per season and has guided the Pace women to 18 postseason appearances, including 11 trips to the NCAA tournament, highlighted by four runs to the "Sweet 16" and making it all the way to the "Elite Eight" in 2001 and 2022. Under Seymour, the Setters have also won three Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference (ECAC) championships, including her first season.

Not surprisingly, Carrie has been recognized regionally and nationally with numerous coaching awards. Among them was being named the Division II Coach of the Year by the Metropolitan Basketball Writers Association seven times. She's also a two-time District Coach of the Year, while earning the New York Collegiate Athletic Conference Coach of the Year award in 1993-'94.

Her biggest honor, however, occurred in 2023 when she was inducted into the Pace University Athletic Hall of Fame.

Long before her coaching success began, however, Carrie Seymour was experiencing that winning habit at Norwalk High School where she played field hockey, basketball, and softball. As a senior, she was a key member of the Bears' 1979 girls basketball and softball teams that both went unbeaten during the regular season and captured the FCIAC Western Division title. That softball team also won the FCIAC championship that season while the '79 basketball team went to the conference and Class LL finals and finished runner-up.

But it was in her junior year that Carrie became a footnote in NHS softball history. Tied 1-1 in the last of the seventh against Westhill in the FCIAC championship game, the Bears got the leadoff batter on and coach Ray Barry promptly inserted Carrie as a pinch runner for her speed. She was bunted to second and when a low throw got a few feet away from the first baseman, Carrie sprinted to third. Then on the same play, when the first baseman made an errant throw to third,

continued SEYMOUR, p.52



CONGRATULATIONS, MOM!

Your family celebrates you for a lifetime of leadership, sportsmanship, and achievement — from your days starring at Barlow High School, to your success at Sacred Heart

University, to your dedication to the Norwalk Biddy Basketball Program, to your induction into the Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame.

You've inspired generations through your love of the game, your humility, and your commitment to giving back. Your example continues to shape players, families, and communities across Norwalk and beyond.

We are so proud of you and grateful for all you've done — both on and off the court.

WITH LOVE AND ADMIRATION,

*Your Family – TJ, Kelley, Bobby, Amanda, Mikey,
Lisa, Gina, Matt, Cara, AJ, Ryan, Sadie, Cory,
Gianna, Brooklyn, Arya, Baby #2, Paul and Griffin*

Regina Trimboli



At a time in her life when most people have long stepped away from playing competitive sports, **REGINA TRIMBOLI** was just getting started.

Well, actually she never stopped. But for the past dozen years the longtime Norwalker has really taken her game to another level and the result has been six national championships in the sport of basketball.

Regina is a member of the Connecticut Classics women's basketball team, which competes every other year in the National Senior Games. And all Regina and her teammates have done is bring home a half-dozen gold medals back to the Nutmeg State.

Their incredible run began in 2013 in Cleveland where they won the national title in the 55-59 age group and then repeated as champs in 2015 in Minnesota. The Classics moved up to the 60-64 division in 2017 and played in Birmingham, Ala., where

they lost their one and only national final to date with a crushing two-point loss to San Diego.

But Regina and company bounced back in 2019 to reclaim the crown in Albuquerque, NM. The 2021 Games were cancelled due to Covid, but the Classics won 65-69 age group title in 2022 in Ft. Lauderdale, and again in 2023 in Pittsburgh. Then this year they travelled to Des Moines, Iowa and won their sixth national championship, breaking the record for the most Senior Games titles, men or women.

In off years, qualifying tournaments for the next year's Senior Games are held. But in addition to playing and winning those, the Classics play in a number of invitational tournaments throughout the country and win all of them as well.

"We are probably the most traveled Senior team in the country," Regina said.

Growing up in Redding, Regina Wright played four years of basketball at Joel Barlow High School just as girls basketball was slowly starting to grow as a result of Title IX. A shooting guard, she averaged just over 18 points a game.

"There was no 3-point shot back then, either," she pointed out. "I remember I scored 32 points one game."

This was also around the time when Sacred Heart University in Fairfield started its women's basketball program and offered its very first female athletic scholarship to her.

"There were six of us on the first team," Regina said of that inaugural 1974-75 season. "We just celebrated our 50th anniversary and were honored at halftime of a game. Three of us were there."

Regina also played softball at Barlow and then joined the newly formed women's softball team at Sacred Heart, although it was not a scholarship sport yet. She still plays for a senior women's softball team called the "Nor'easters," who, like the Classics, travel to different states for tournaments. And if that's not enough, Regina has played in a pickup softball league in Fairfield on Sundays for the past 44 years.

Congratulations to the **FABIAN FAMILY** from the **Mitchell Family**



In honor of Papa Dennis's athletic achievements, dedication, impact, and love of the Norwalk sports community. May his talent and passion for "the game" live on in Caden, James, Tyler, Trevor, Brody, and Kiley.



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Posthumous Honoree Dennis Fabian



Nearly six decades after he caught his last pass for Norwalk High School, **DENNIS FABIAN** is still considered one of the best receivers the city has ever produced.

The 1967 season was certainly testament to that as Dennis scored seven touchdowns, all of them on pass receptions, to help NHS go 6-2-1 for the program's best record since its 1948 state championship team.

Dennis, who passed away in 2019 at the age of 70, was one of the main reasons behind the success of that talented '67 team, which finished runner-up in the tough Eastern Division. In addition to his seven TDs, he tallied six extra points to finish tied for the team scoring lead with 48 total points. He certainly impressed opposing coaches around the conference, who voted him to the All-FCIAC first team.

His NHS teammates also came away impressed.

"One thing I remember about Dennis is he had the best pair of hands around. He caught everything," said Billy Howard, another all-conference selection who shared the team scoring title with Dennis. "He was just a good natural athlete. He played on the basketball team, the baseball team, and the football team."

Even football coaches as far away as Des Moines, Iowa fell in love with Dennis's pass-catching ability and recruited him to play for Graceland College. One of them, Bill "Duke" Dudek, now 82 and retired, was an assistant on the Yellow Jackets' coaching staff when Dennis played.

"He was definitely one of the greatest wide receivers in Graceland history," Dudek, who also played at Graceland and served as head coach there for 18 years, said. "I really think he was one of the two or three best receivers from that era."

But while he enjoyed his time in college, the Norwalk High football program back home was always Dennis's first love and he would eventually return to his roots as a volunteer with the Bears.

"He would do anything that needed to be done," former NHS coach Pete Tucci said. "He would chase down footballs during the game. If we were close to the end zone and about to score, he would start walking down there to give the officials the football for the extra point and the kickoff. When he had trouble walking, I'd tell him let one of the kids get it, but he would say, 'No, I can get it.'"

"He was just a really great guy and he had a heart of gold," the Norwalk Old Timers president added. "He loved sports, all kinds of sports — high school, college, pros. And he had a wealth of knowledge."

Dennis was also a big supporter of local high school and youth sports leagues, and coached his three children in their sports growing up.

Indeed, his love of sports never faded. Neither did his love for the Norwalk Old Timers dinner, which he rarely missed. ■

Congratulations to all the past Norwalk Old Timers and the 2025 Inductees

**A Special Congratulations
to this year's
Mike Errico Award Winner,
Jim Wrinn**

**For your many years of
tireless service in making
Norwalk Sports better and
inspiring so many young athletes**

Gloria Wrinn

Mike Errico Award Jim Wrinn



JIM WRINN, who dedicated over three decades of his time as a coach, league official, and tireless worker to youth sports, is the recipient of this year's Norwalk Old Timers Athletic Association **Mike Errico Award**.

The award, named in honor of the late local sportsman who helped start the Norwalk Old Timers in 1963, is presented to an individual or group for the positive impact they've made to the Norwalk sports community.

For Jim Wrinn, that "impact" began in 1987 when he became a coach in the Norwalk Cal Ripken Baseball League and did so for 22 years, while also finding the time to serve as league president. Then three years after he started coaching baseball, Jim became a head coach in the Norwalk Pop Warner Football program and did that for 28 years. He would win three state championships, including an undefeated 11-0 season in 2016. He was even more proud of his team receiving the Fairfield County Referee Sportsmanship Award that season.

But Jim felt he could make an even bigger impact as a league officer and became president of the entire Norwalk Athletic Association in 2006, a position he held for two years before moving to vice president for the next decade. Under his watch, the Pop Warner program expanded, acquired new uniforms and equipment, and eventually made the switch to the growing American Youth Football (AYF) organization.

He also brought Cal Ripken Baseball, the league he began coaching in, under the Norwalk AA umbrella. He also coached and served as president in the NAA Girls Basketball League and eventually added coaching in the Norwalk Junior Soccer Association to his already-packed schedule. With soccer and football seasons both in the fall, Jim would conduct football practice three days a week and soccer practice two days. And on weekends, he would be on the sidelines coaching a football game on Saturday and a soccer game on Sunday.

Jim Wrinn's involvement in local sports, however, goes beyond the youth leagues. For 20 years he was "The Voice of the Bears" as the public address announcer at Norwalk High football and basketball games. He was also responsible for eventually securing a permanent home for the Norwalk AA trophy case in City Hall.

Outside of sports, Jim was involved with several civic organizations, including a life member with the American Legion Post 12, the Norwalk Veterans Memorial Committee, and a Memorial Day Parade Marshal for 12 years.

But Jim's passion with coaching, especially youth football, goes back to when his father, Gene Wrinn, was a head coach in the Norwalk Pop Warner program in the 1970s and a young Jim was on the sidelines helping him. In a full circle moment, Jim began coaching his son Joshua in 1990, and Joshua is now a Pop Warner coach in Stratford coaching Jim's grandson. ■

NORWALK OLD TIMERS 2025 SCHOLARSHIPS

The Norwalk Old Timers Athletic Association also honors “Young Timers” with six high school scholarships.

The 2024–25 school year marked the 34th year of the *Eugene ‘Ike’ and Alberta Kern Scholarship Award*, which is named after the late legendary Norwalk High School football coach and his wife, and is presented annually to an NHS senior football player. Presented in the spring, the 2025 recipient was **ETHAN HUDSON**.

Since 1993, the Old Timers have presented the Williard R. Williams Scholarship Award in memory of the longtime *Norwalk Hour* sports editor who covered local sports for more than half a century. The scholarship recognizes a male student-athlete at Norwalk and Brien McMahon high schools. This year’s recipients were **EDGARDO TORRES** of NHS and **KENNEDY FERDINAND** of McMahon.

The *Thomas C. O’Connor Scholarship Award* was created in 2001 and recognizes a female student-athlete at each high school. O’Connor, the former Mayor of Norwalk, was a big fan of girls sports and this scholarship was started shortly after his passing. The 2025 recipients were **MACEY BRASHER** of Brien McMahon and **AVERY VACCARO** of Norwalk High.

The Norwalk Old Timers also created a new scholarship in 2011 in the memory of Jack Casagrande, the former coaching legend at Brien McMahon who passed away in December 2010. It recognizes a senior football player for the Senators, and the 2025 recipient was **JERMEL BYNUM**.

All six high school scholarship winners were awarded \$1,000.

*‘Ike’ Kern, Williard Williams, Tommy O’Connor, and Jack Casagrande
are all past Old Timers honorees.*

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www.norwalkoldtimers.org

ASHLEY, from p.29

his playing days Mike returned to the McMahon basketball program as an assistant coach for three seasons before relocating to Chicago and becoming an assistant coach at Harper Junior College. He currently resides in the Atlanta area and volunteers his time working with youth

programs, but not coaching basketball. Instead he introduces them to the game of golf, his second love.

But whether it’s on the basketball court or the golf course, this Norwalk Old Timer is still making an impact. ■

DIAMANTIS, from p.31

While Diamantis dominated on offense, he also shined on defense for Central Catholic. So much so that when he enrolled at Graceland College in Des Moines, Iowa, he was used strictly on the defensive side of the ball as a defensive back and became one of the best in the Heart of America Conference. In fact, he was named All-Conference and All-District three straight seasons, while earning All-America Honorable Mention as

a junior and second team All-America his senior year.

Longtime former Graceland football coach Bill ‘Duke’ Dudek, when recently asked about Diamantis, called him “one of the greatest defensive backs in Graceland history. We could put him at free safety, we could put him at cornerback, and he also returned kickoffs and punts. He was one of the best players I ever coached.” ■

FULLER, from p.33

McMahon Nips Norwalk, 2-0 On Terry Fuller’s Tackle

Headline from The Norwalk Hour

Ricky, won a pair of league championships in 1986 and ’88.

His brother also coached him in Little League, where Terry was an all-star catcher and later played second base in the Norwalk Babe Ruth League. He also excelled in martial arts and in 1992 received his third-degree black belt in Tang Soo do Karate.

This year’s Norwalk Old Timers award for Terry

continues a Fuller family legacy. His father Lloyd Fuller Sr. was honored by the Old Timers in 1983, while his older brothers Ricky and Lloyd Jr., were recognized in 2001 and 2015, respectively. Before them, his uncle, George Fuller, was honored in 1976, while his cousin, Mike Ashley, joins Terry as a 2025 Norwalk Old Timers honoree. ■

MICKLE, from p.39

coach to become the new head coach of the University of Bridgeport women's basketball team. And as fate would have it, one of his first recruits was Cherise Mickle, who was a four-year starter for the Lady Purple Knights.

"I felt so blessed to spend another four years as Cherise's coach," the Hall of Fame coach and 2010 Norwalk Old Timers honoree said. "I told her back then she's probably the only basketball

player in the country to play for the same coach in high school and college eight straight years."

It seemed only fitting that Cherise's entire basketball journey eventually came full circle as well. When her playing days were finally over, she would return to the Carver Center where it all started to coach a team in its boys basketball league. ■

ROSS, from p.41

Some 47 years after he played his final game, the name Robert Ross can still be found on several lines in the UConn soccer record book. Besides his single-season marks, Rob owns the career record for lowest goals-against-average with 0.35 from 1975-79, while his 14 goals allowed in a career is also No. 1, and he still has the fewest career losses

by any Huskie goaltender with three. His 19 career shutouts also rank in the top-10 all-time.

Saving the best for last, he added one more special UConn memory on June 11, 2012 when Norwalk's Robert Ross was inducted into the Fairfield County Sports Hall of Fame UConn Wing. ■

SEYMOUR, from p.43

Carrie raced home with the winning run to give Norwalk High its first ever FCIAC championship in softball. It was also the first of four straight conference crowns by the Bears and the first of their FCIAC record 11 championships. And Carrie Seymour helped jumpstart that dynasty with her daring base running.

But her future would be in basketball and following her graduation from NHS she continued her career at Eastern Connecticut State University where she was three-year letter winner. As a senior captain in 1982-'83, she was named team MVP

after averaging a team-high 10.2 points and leading the Warriors to their first NCAA tournament bid in women's basketball. She capped her collegiate career by being named All-New England.

After her playing days, Carrie remained part of the Eastern Connecticut program as an assistant coach and then became an assistant at three Division I schools in eight years, including the last six seasons at St. John's. All roads led to Pace University, where the following season she began building her own legacy. ■

TRIMBOLI, from p.45

Her love for basketball also extended to the Norwalk Biddy League, which she was involved in for 30 years as both a coach and later as league director. And when the Norwalk Girls Basketball Association (GBA) was formed, Regina coached and served on the Board.

In 2024, Regina Trimboli and her Connecticut

Classics teammate were recognized by the Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame. She has also been inducted into the Joel Barlow Athletic Hall of Fame, and was recently named the Connecticut Masters Female Athlete of the Year. ■

FROM: THE NORWALK UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

Congratulations to all the 2025 Norwalk Old Timer Honorees



In Memoriam

We remember fondly and honor two of our past honorees who died in the year since our last Sports Awards Dinner.

RUDY GISOLFI

MILT PECKHAM

May they rest in peace.



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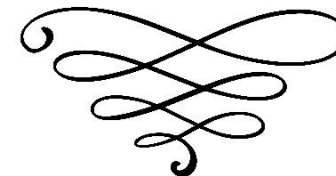
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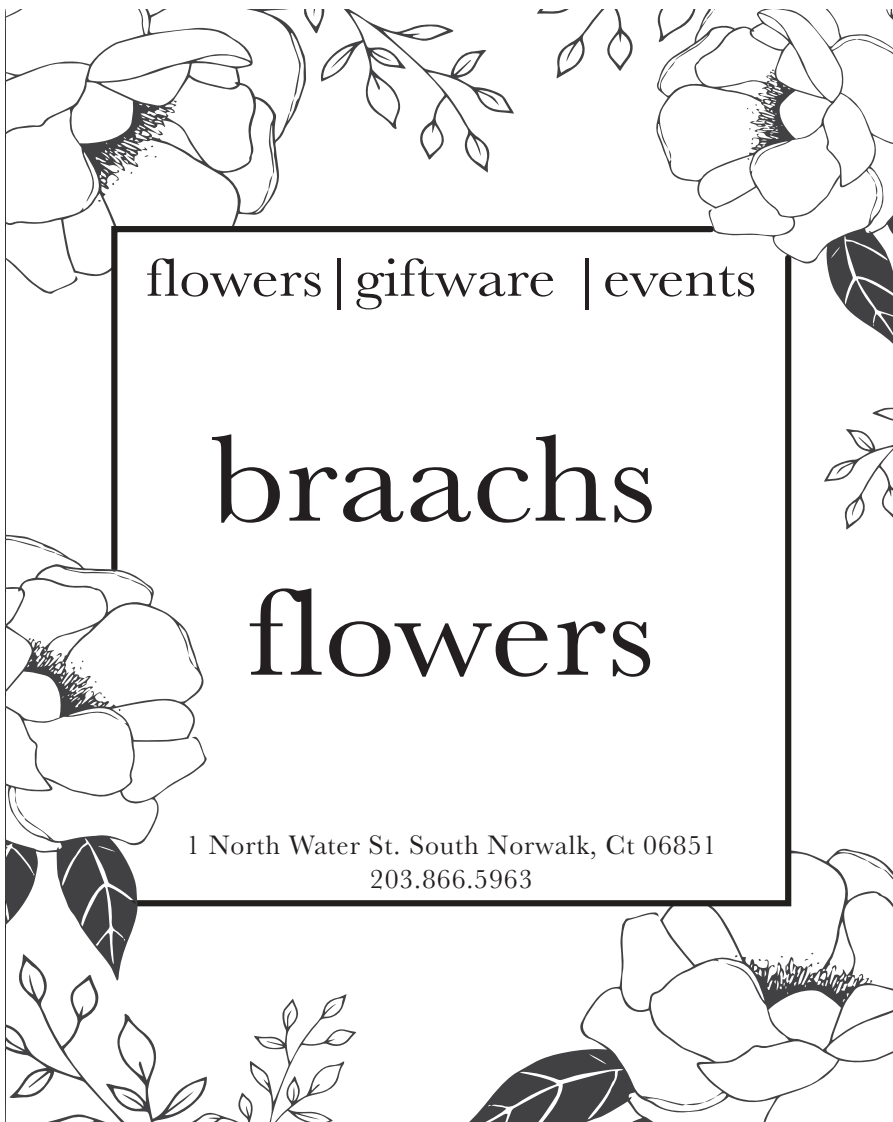
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Honorees*



*"Not Just Softball,
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