

Riil Rhode Island Interscholastic League
High School Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees

Pasquale J. Abbruzzi	2005	Sara Fabrizio	2016	William "Babe" Mousseau	2011
Louis "Duke" Abbruzzi	2008	Tolulope "Tolu" Fayanjuola	2014	Frank J. Murgo (Golden Legacy)	2015
James N. Adams	2012	James J. Federico, Sr.	2003	Kate Nagle	2010
James J. Ahern	2008	Joanne L. Fitts	2008	Cindy Neal	2003
Charles J. Ajootian	2009	Gerald Foley	2014	Msgr. Robert C. Newbold	2003
William Francis Almon	2009	Jane Forman	2013	Laura Turner O'Hara	2013
Bobb Angel	2012	Donald D. Gaaney, Ed.D	2016	John Pagano	2010
Jean E. Angell	2011	Larry Gallaghy	2004	Donald Panciera	2008
Leroy Archibald	2008	Frank Geiselman	2014	Donald Pastine	2004
Denise Armstrong-Florio	2017	Charles Edward Gibbons	2016	Gloria R. Patterson	2007
Tim Army	2011	Steve Gordon	2011	Raymond Pepin	2004
Salvatore J. Augeri	2006	Bob Gourley	2015	Shannon Perry	2014
Rocco Baldelli	2014	John R. Gray	2009	Stephanie Perry	2013
Ray Beattie	2011	Leah Grant	2014	Meghann Carney Peterson	2017
Normand "Bill" Belisle	2004	Paul Guay	2015	Marilyn Hartley Picerelli	2011
J. Robert Bellemore	2012	Jane Hale	2006	Bernie "Slick" Pina	2012
Curt Bennett	2013	Joyce Ryan Harvey	2006	George Pulliam	2004
Bryan Berard	2016	John B. Harwood	2006	Domenic "Zip" Raiola	2012
Craig Blanchard	2016	Joseph P. Hassett	2005	Kenneth V. Reall	2015
Alexis & Robin Boss	2010	Kathleen E. Hazard	2012	Mike Reeder	2017
Elaine E. Botelho	2015	Richard Hazard	2009	Tim Regan	2010
Brian Boucher	2017	John William Henry	2007	Sue Reposa	2016
Henry Z. Brenner	2015	Anne L. (Sullivan) Hird	2006	Richard Reynolds	2003
Robert L. Brooks	2005	Gary Hudson	2015	Roland "Rollie" Rodrigues	2012
Maura McGonagle Brown	2013	Pamela Hughes	2004	John H. Rollins	2006
Mary L. Burke	2009	Carolyn Thornton Iannucci	2016	Emily Selvidio Scharu	2011
Emily B. Carsten	2010	Katherine (Johnston) Itacy	2017	Jane Schwechheimer	2010
Keith Carney	2014	Cynthia T. Jacobson	2007	Irving A. Scott	2007
Luis S. Carvalho	2007	Kevin Jackson	2012	Paul Shawyer	2010
Lawrence "Larry" Caswell	2014	Ray E. Johnson	2013	Christina Batastini Sheehan	2009
Ralph Catuogno	2004	Thomas M. Kenwood	2015	Dan Smith	2010
Joseph Cavanagh	2004	Henry "Skip" Kenyon	2008	Thom Spann	2008
Robert "Bob" Cavanagh	2016	Arthur J. Kershaw III	2009	Edward C. Stebbins	2006
Shelley Zanfagna Cavanaugh	2017	Philip W. Kershaw	2013	Dr. John Stellitano	2013
Louis A. Cimini	2006	Cathy Lanni	2017	David R. Stenhouse	2014
Joseph V. Conley	2008	Richard Lawrence	2013	Michael Stenhouse	2009
Jane Corcoran	2015	Brian Lawton	2008	Alice Sullivan	2003
Manuel "Manny" Correia	2009	Keith Lawton	2016	Charles Sweeney	2010
A. Lenore Cranston	2005	Bob Leddy	2016	Victoria S. Tefft	2007
John P. "Jack" Cronin	2003	Richard "Dick" Lee	2007	Bobby Thompson	2013
Jo-Ann D'Alessandro	2016	Lou Lepry	2010	Jane M. Toomey	2014
G. Gail Davis	2005	Richard B. Lynch	2006	John J. Toppa	2003
Sara DeCosta-Hayes	2015	Richard Magarian	2004	Tony Torregrossa	2017
Ameio "Emo" DiNitto	2007	Julie Maguire	2017	George M. Tracy, Sr.	2003
James Dionizio	2009	Elizabeth "Betty" Marquis	2016	Michael A. Traficante	2011
Edward L. DiSimone	2012	John E. "Jack" Martin	2011	Mark van Eeghen	2006
Paul F. Donovan	2012	Frank "Monk" Maznicki	2003	Haig Varadian	2005
Robert "Bobby" Doyle	2012	Karen M. McAvoy	2005	Dr. Kenneth R. Walker, Sr.	2010
Jim Doyle	2017	Don Mezzanotte	2007	Tim Walker	2011
Virginia L. "Gini" Duarte	2017	Pat Monti	2017	Daniel Wheeler	2015
Raymond T. Dwyer	2003	Theresa M. Moore	2007	Kim Zifcak-White	2016
Maureen Sullivan Dyer	2008	Frank Eugene Morey, Jr.	2005	Ron Wilson	2013
Thomas Eccleston, Jr.	2007	Jerome P. Morgan	2009	Gerald Zifcak	2016
George M. Egan	2009	Maria Hero Morin	2011		
David Emma	2014	Ann Morris	2005		
Gordon Ernst	2003	Holly Morris	2015		
Richard "Dick" Ernst	2008	Alfred Morro	2005		

Rhode Island Interscholastic League



Induction Ceremony

Wednesday, October 30, 2019

Crowne Plaza, Warwick, RI

**MESSAGE FROM
THOMAS A. MEZZANOTTE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE**

A remarkable group of fourteen of the most significant individuals in the history of interscholastic athletics has been selected for 2019 induction into the Rhode Island Interscholastic League High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

High school athletics in the United States represents the largest amateur sports body in the world. As such, interscholastic athletics provides a classroom in which values such as sportsmanship, honesty, education, self-discipline, loyalty and cooperation are learned and practiced. An integral part of education – interscholastic athletics – is the master teacher of values; and the teaching of values is essential to the education of our youth.

The spirit of America is embodied in high school athletics, which reflect the aspirations, dedication, involvement and teamwork that make dreams come true. The extreme dedication of coaches, officials, athletic administrators and athletes makes possible the continued growth of high school athletics and the values derived from participation. Rhode Island interscholastic athletics is truly indebted to these individuals who have touched the lives of so many through high school sports.

This class has met the standards that have been established for the selection of all inductees. The Principals' Committee on Athletics and the administration and staff of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League take great pride in inducting the members of the Class of 2019, members who symbolize achievement in athletic competition, coaching, athletic administration and officiating. Congratulations to all!

**Members of the
RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE
PRINCIPALS' COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS**

Sean T. Kelly, Chairman
Principal, Cranston High School East

Daniel F. Warner, Assistant Chairman
Principal, Narragansett High School

Thomas Barbieri, Principal
Cranston West High School

Donald Kavanagh, Principal
La Salle Academy

Scott D. Barr, Principal
Classical High School

Michaela Keegan, Ed.D., Principal
Blackstone Valley Mayoral Prep

Christopher Cobain, Athletic Director
East Greenwich High School/ RIIAAA

Gail Ponte, Principal
Middletown High School

Colleen Gribbin, Principal
St. Mary-Bay View

Michael Sollitto, Ed.D., Superintendent.
Burrillville Schools / RISSA

Gerald Habershaw, Principal
Pilgrim High School

Shani Wallace, Principal
East Providence High School

Neeltje Henneman, Principal
Wheeler School

Michael Whaley, Ed.D., Principal
Burrillville High School

Rhode Island Interscholastic League High School Athletic Hall of Fame

Selection Criteria

The Rhode Island Interscholastic League High School Athletic Hall of Fame is dedicated to preserving the colorful tradition of high school athletics in Rhode Island and seeks to highlight the past in order to insure a promising future for Rhode Island high school athletics.

Nominees must exemplify the highest standards of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and moral character and will be considered on the merits of their contributions and achievements to Rhode Island high school athletics. Categories in which a person may be nominated are: competitor, coach, or administrator. In addition, a category has been created for any person whose activities as a game official, school supporter, or one whose combination of activities have resulted in a service qualified as outstanding or excellent. There is also a Golden Legacy category to acknowledge the outstanding accomplishments of a high school athlete who participated 50 years prior to the present year.

The Rhode Island Interscholastic League High School Athletic Hall of Fame Committee is comprised of representatives from the Rhode Island Interscholastic League Principals' Committee on Athletics, as well as from the Rhode Island Association of School Principals; Rhode Island Association of School Administrators; coaches and officials associations; retired administrators; and sports journalists.

Nomination forms and guidelines are available on the Rhode Island Interscholastic League website: www.riil.org or for more information, contact the Interscholastic League Office at (401) 272-9844.



History of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League

March 9, 1899: A meeting was held with delegates from Cranston High School, Hope High School, East Providence High School and Classical High School to state their ideas as to the advisability of forming a league. On a motion made and carried, the league was formed by the schools represented and officers were elected.

The first recognized sport was baseball. On June 13, 1899, the Interscholastic League awarded Classical High School the Baseball Championship of the 1899 season.

September 29, 1899: Manual Training High School, Providence English High School and Pawtucket High School were admitted to membership. In addition, the committee approved a football season. The football schedule was approved, and the first football game was held on October 13, 1899 between Cranston High School and East Providence High School, with East Providence prevailing, 5-0. The Spalding Football Rules were adopted. East Providence High School was awarded the first Football Championship.

January 23, 1900: The Board of Directors moved and seconded that the sport of polo be accepted. Hope St. High School was awarded the first Polo Championship in 1900.

February 23, 1900: The Board of Directors voted to approve **five eligibility rules** to be applied to all League Athletics:

- *No professionals were allowed to participate*
- *The Board of Directors would investigate all eligibility matters*
- *Five years of eligibility for each player*
- *There was a transfer rule*
- *Penalty for violations was forfeiture*

May 5, 1900: The league approved the Interscholastic Field Athletic Meet (track & field). Classical High School was awarded the first Field Day Championship.

January 1901: The Board of Directors voted mandating that all member schools submit a list of eligible athletes in all sports.

December 2, 1902: The Board of Directors voted to allow the league to arrange for a hockey season. Hope St. High School was awarded the first Hockey Championship for the 1903 season.

March 1904: The Board of Directors voted to approve the National League Baseball Rules with the exception of the foul strike.

Initial League Issues:

- * Uneven competition
- * Few suitable playing surfaces
- * Lack of eligibility standards
- * No professional preparation for coaches
- * Organization
- * Officials were usually chosen from the crowd
- * Spectator riots, mob scenes....
- * If the home team lost – the visiting team was stoned out of town

1928: A group of high school principals became interested in forming an organization which would control and administer athletics as one of its objectives.

1932: The R.I. Secondary School Principals’ Association was organized, defining its objectives as follows: *Its object shall be to raise the standards of the secondary schools of RI and to advance the professional interests of the members of this association.*

Committees were established: R.I. Honor Society, Relations with the Office of the R.I. State Director of Education and Athletics

March 1932: The Interscholastic League was formally organized as it is today. It was organized to meet the expressed needs of high schools for a functional sports program that would be governed by a committee of principals.

1952: The RIIL joined the National Federation of State High School Associations.

Today: Now in its 118th year of existence, the R.I. Interscholastic League is governed by the Principals’ Committee on Athletics, and its 72 member schools.



PROGRAM

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Bobb Angel
Broadcaster, WADK Radio
RIIL Hall of Fame 2012

INTRODUCTION OF 2019 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

NATIONAL ANTHEM

RIIL STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Grace Pelletier
Sierra Ricci
Bryn Shunney

INVOCATION

WELCOME

Daniel F. Warner
Assistant Chairman, RIIL Principals’ Committee on Athletics School

Introduction of Principals' Committee on Athletics Members

DINNER

INDUCTION CEREMONY AND PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Daniel F. Warner and Thomas A. Mezzanotte

SPEAKER OF THE CLASS

Linda Cimino

TRIBUTE SONG TO INDUCTEES

“One Moment In Time”



CLOSING REMARKS

Thomas A. Mezzanotte
RIIL Executive Director





David Belisle

Coach

When David Belisle arrived at Mount St Charles Academy as a student in the 1970s, he brought passion, a sense of loyalty and the strongest of work ethics. Those qualities first helped him to excel as a three-sport athlete at Mount and eventually carried him to a long and successful coaching career at his alma mater.

Playing varsity hockey, soccer and basketball for the Mounties from 1973 to 1977 and earning All-State honors in hockey as a senior, Belisle went on to Providence College. He played two seasons for the Friars' Division I hockey team before returning to Mount to embark upon a coaching career that would span four decades.

Becoming his father Bill's assistant coach at Mt. St. Charles while still in college and later becoming co-head coach, Belisle remained at the legendary Hall of Famer's side for the next 39 years, stepping down together in an emotional farewell last winter. During that time, Belisle helped guide Mount to most of its impressive run of 26 consecutive State Championships (1978 to 2003). He also helped to develop more than 100 future college players, as well as numerous players who went on to compete in the National Hockey League.

In addition to his contributions as a high school coach, Belisle has coached various levels of youth hockey and baseball since the early 2000s. He has coached all four of his sons both in hockey and baseball and brought he and his late wife Nancy's two youngest sons, James and John, to the Little League World Series on

two separate occasions (2011 and 2014).

During the Cumberland All-Stars' 2014 trip to Williamsport, Belisle delivered an inspirational post-game speech that has been viewed on YouTube more than one million times. He was a finalist for the Sports Illustrated "Sportsman of the Year" Award that year and also was one of nine people to receive the Stan Musial Lifetime Achievement Award for Sportsmanship. In the years since, Belisle has assisted ESPN with its coverage of the Little League World Series.

The NFHS R.I. Hockey Coach of the Year for the 2012-13 school year, Belisle has received the Knights of Columbus Hope Award and the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council Sports Contribution Award, among many other honors.

Acceptance Remarks: *I would like to thank the Rhode Island Interscholastic League Hall of Fame Committee for honoring me into their class of 2019. I'm so humbled by this great honor. How blessed am I to be elected into this prestigious Hall of Fame for doing something that I love mostcoaching incredibly gifted young athletes at Mount Saint Charles Academy, the high school that I'm so proud to have graduated from and doing it with the greatest high school hockey coach that ever lived, my father Bill Belisle.*

Richard Stapleton

Celebrating his 81st birthday just last week, Richard Stapleton has been involved in gymnastics either as a participant, teacher, coach or judge since 1948 – with no signs of stopping. First learning the sport as a youngster with the Providence Turners in the early 1950s, he went on to graduate from Mount Pleasant High School before entering the Air Force at the age of 17 in 1956. After serving four years in the military, he married his wife Dorothy in 1963 and graduated in 1965 from the University of Rhode Island, where he lettered in track as a pole vaulter.

Stapleton then began his 22-year career as a health and physical education teacher in Warwick. He embarked upon his coaching career in 1968, as well, starting the boys gymnastics team at Pilgrim and also serving as an assistant outdoor track coach there.

Stapleton went on to coach the Toll Gate girls gymnastics team from 1975 to 1990 and the R.I. College women's gymnastics team from 1992 to 1998. The 1996 Division III Coach of the Year while at RIC, his teams twice qualified for the Division III Nationals.

He has judged high school gymnastics for the last 18 years and has also served on many gymnastics committees, formerly serving as the RIIL's co-director of the sport and currently serving as the co-assignor of officials.

Over the years, Stapleton has watched the equipment evolve from modified boys parallel bars to cable bars, from wrestling mat to spring floor, from horse to vaulting platform and from wooden beam to the padded reflex beam. All of which changed the skills performed and the abilities needed by today's gymnasts.

He feels fortunate to have coached many great student athletes, including 1991 Providence Journal Honor Roll Girl Jen Lynch. They have gone on to become teachers, nurses, lawyers, doctors and even a superior court judge. Seven have become high school gymnastics coaches, including Nicole Centazzo, who coached Mt. Hope to the 2019 Division I Championship last winter. Seven others are presently gymnastics officials and two are gymnastics club owners who value interscholastic competition.

Stapleton and his wife of 56 years have three married children, Jim, Jeff and Sue. These days, they enjoy watching granddaughters Kayla, Lillian and Mackenzie compete at their respective high schools. Kayla cheers for West Warwick, Lillian plays soccer for Scituate and referees, while recently-graduated Mackenzie played soccer, unified basketball and golf at Scituate.

Acceptance Remarks: *Participation in interscholastic sports can be on a number of levels, as an athlete, teammate, coach, official, parent, grandparent, school member, or alumnus. Individually, each level provides opportunity for involvement, accomplishment, pride, lasting friendships and memories. I am grateful to the RIIL for my friendships, my memories, and the recognition of my involvement by the league.*



Coach/Official

Peer Quote: *It is impossible for me to imagine a person more deserving of this honor. Five decades of excellence as an educator, a coach, an official, a mentor, an ambassador for gymnastics, and for all of those that know him, a kind and wonderful person. His passion and dedication to gymnastics student athletes, coaches and officials over the years are immeasurable. Perhaps most impressive is that he has managed to do this without a smile ever leaving his face.*

- Christy DeMelis
Gymnastics Official



Athlete/Coach

Peer Quote: *Coach McMullen has been connected to Avenger athletics her whole life. Deb does an amazing job coaching her field hockey program, but more importantly her commitment to connecting our present day Avengers with the rich tradition of our past is ever present and greatly appreciated. Deb has personally made every effort to help all present and future EGHS athletes understand the true meaning of what it is to be an AVENGER!!*

- Chris Cobain
Director of Athletics
Cole & East Greenwich H.S.

Acceptance Remarks: *Realizing that I have been a part of the RIIL for 40 years, it is an honor to be recognized in the RIIL Hall of Fame. As a freshman athlete in 1979, to a young coach of 3 sports in 1988, and to a veteran field hockey coach of 32 years, the RIIL is a huge part of my life. I and my family are very grateful for what the RIIL has provided for us.*

Debra Sylvia McMullen

Involved in athletics for as long as she can remember, Deb Sylvia McMullen first made her mark at East Greenwich High School in the 1980s as a multi-sport athlete. Inducted into the East Greenwich Athletic Hall of Fame in 2005, she earned All-Division honors in varsity field hockey, basketball and softball, along with second-team All-State honors in both softball and field hockey.

Graduating from EGHS in 1983, McMullen went on to Springfield College. An ACL injury midway through her rookie season brought her college basketball career to an end, but certainly not her involvement in athletics. In fact, it was only just the beginning.

In the summer of 1987, McMullen was recruited by then longtime East Greenwich athletic director Art Kershaw to be the assistant varsity field hockey coach at her alma mater. The following season she became the head coach at East Greenwich and has been coaching there ever since.

Over the last 31 years, McMullen has guided the Avengers field hockey team to five state titles (1989, '91, '92, '94, 2010), eight division titles, a total of 11 appearances in the Division I Championship and 20 Final Four appearances. A past president and treasurer of the R.I. Field Hockey Coaches Association, she has been named Coach of the Year several times by different organizations.

Earning a Masters of Education at Rhode Island College, McMullen has been a physical education/health teacher at Cole Middle School since 1991 and served as East Greenwich athletic director from 2002 to 2005.

She has also coached softball at East Greenwich high school, as well as girls basketball at Cole and EGHS, while also running field hockey and basketball camps in her community for many years.

McMullen and her husband Sean have four children, Kaley, Courtney, Abbey and Jack, all of whom are proud to call themselves Avengers. Deb had the pleasure of coaching two of her daughters on the field hockey team, watching Courtney go on to

Will Blackmon

A USA Today, ESPN.com, SuperPrep.com and PrepStar All-American, three-time All-Stater and Gatorade R.I. Player of the Year, Will Blackmon will be remembered as one of the most successful players in the history of Bishop Hendricken football.

A great running back, who combined speed and strength, he broke all records for rushing yardage and rushing touchdowns, helping Hendricken advance to the State Championship Super Bowl both in 1998 and 1999. Blackmon also excelled at wide receiver and cornerback, leading the Hawks in interceptions. He contributed on special teams, as well, running back many punts and kickoffs for touchdowns.

Blackmon was also a standout in basketball and outdoor track for the Hawks, winning the state title in the 100-meter dash.

The 2002 graduate went on to have a record-setting career at Boston College, playing three seasons as cornerback and his senior year at wide receiver, earning All-Big East Conference honors.

Drafted by the Green Bay Packers in the fourth round of the 2006 NFL draft, he went on to play 11 seasons in the NFL, the first four with the Packers. His next two seasons were with the New York Giants, highlighted by a thrilling 21-17 win over the N.E. Patriots in Super Bowl XLVI.

Blackmon signed with Jacksonville as a free agent and spent two seasons with the Jaguars, before playing his last three years in the NFL with the Washington Redskins. After his final season in 2016, Blackmon became an analyst for the NFL Network.

For the last five years, he has received a grant from the NFL Foundation to run a free football clinic at Hendricken and has seen the camp grow to nearly 200 youngsters. For the last two years, Blackmon and former Brown and Arena League quarterback Kyle Rowley have hosted the Blackmon-Rowley Combine Camp, also at Hendricken.

Blackmon, now 35, and his wife Shauna have two children, Ryder and Jade, and make their home in California.

Acceptance Remarks: *It is definitely an amazing honor to be added to a list of other Rhode Island Greats. I never had a plan or a dream to receive this award; I just simply loved playing and competing in the game of football. At Hendricken, it was a blessing to have men like Coach Mike Quigley, Coach Bill Stringfellow, Coaches Keith and Buddy Croft, Coach Arthur Jordan, Mr. George A. Coombs, Paul Danesi and Coach Ron Mosca. These guys genuinely wanted to see me succeed. Not just in football, but in life. For me that is what the ultimate Hendricken experience is about—other people wanting to see you win.*



Athlete

Peer Quote: *It was a pleasure and an honor to coach Will. It was easy to see his athletic abilities, but what always stuck out to me as a young coach was his ability to make all his teammates feel comfortable and accepted. Will was and always will be one of the greatest football players to ever come out of Bishop Hendricken as well as Rhode Island, but more importantly he is a tremendous ambassador for our sport and state.*

- Keith Croft
Football Coach
Bishop Hendricken H.S.



Athlete

Peer Quote: *Brian Boucher still holds the NHL record for shut-outs and it is an amazing feat that he accomplished, but it didn't surprise me when it happened. Brian and I spent many years together sharing the ice...whether it was playing pond hockey at Cass Park, or playing amateur for the Woonsocket North Stars, or lacing up our skates together for Mount Saint Charles. It was always comforting to know I had a great goalie supporting me every time I stepped on the ice and it was a great feeling to see him drafted back in 1997. Brian went on to have an amazing NHL career and continues to be a great role model for all of the goalies in the sport today. I enjoyed watching Brian play goalie throughout his career and continue to enjoy watching him between the glass on NBC Sports.*

- Bryan Berard
Teammate, Mt. St. Charles
RIIL Hall of Fame, 2016

Brian Boucher

Before embarking on a professional hockey career and then becoming a television analyst, Brian Boucher honed his game on the frozen pond at Cass Park and at Adelard Arena, establishing himself as one of the best goaltenders ever to play for Mount St. Charles' storied hockey program.

During the Woonsocket native's time at Mount, the hockey team boasted a record of 79-4-2. In his junior season, he gave up just eight goals, recording nine shutouts and posting a .950 goals-against-average.

Boucher was in net on March 18, 1994, helping Mount St. Charles defeat Bishop Hendricken, 8-1, in the opening game of the RIIL State Hockey Championship series at Brown's Meehan Auditorium. And he was back in net the next night, helping the Mounties complete a sweep of the Hawks with an 8-4 victory to capture what was then a record-breaking 17th straight state title.

From Mount, Boucher played in the American Hockey League from 1994 to 1999, earning WHL Goaltender of the Year and a spot on the IIHF World Junior Hockey Championships All-Star team in 1997. The following year, he helped the Philadelphia Phantoms capture the Calder Cup.

Drafted 22nd overall by the Philadelphia Flyers in the first round of the 1995 NHL entry draft, Boucher played in a total of 328 games and posted a career goals-against-average of 2.71 while playing for seven different NHL teams over 13 seasons. He led the Flyers to the Eastern Conference and Atlantic Division regular-season titles in the 1999-2000 season and was a member of the Flyers' squad that appeared in the 2010 Stanley Cup Final.

While with the Phoenix Coyotes, he broke the modern-day NHL record for the longest shut-out streak by a goalie, going unscored upon for 5 ½ games – or a total of 332 minutes – during the 2003-04 season.

Boucher, 42, currently serves as an 'Inside-the-Glass' analyst and studio analyst for NBC Sports Group's coverage of the NHL on NBC. He is also an analyst for the NHL Network and for CSN Philadelphia's telecasts of Philadelphia Flyers games. He lives in the Philadelphia area with his wife Melissa and their children, Tyler and Brianna.

Acceptance Remarks: *I am very honored to be included in this year's Rhode Island Interscholastic League Hall of Fame class and want to extend sincere congratulations to the other inductees. I am most grateful to my parents and siblings who always encouraged me and came to cheer me on; their support in my early years fueled my passion and love for the game of hockey. I am thankful for all my youth coaches who showed me the fundamentals of the game but also made it fun. I am most thankful to coaches Bill and Dave Belisle for instilling in me a competitive level and resiliency I never knew I had. To all my teammates I've played alongside, thank you for sharing in some of the best memories of my life. Lastly, thank you to my wife Melissa and children Tyler and Brianna for their love and support throughout my professional playing days; their sacrifice and understanding allowed me to play hockey long after I should have been retired.*

Bill McCagney

Bill McCagney produced a Hall of Fame career as an athlete at Barrington High School in the 1970s, which he then followed with a Hall of Fame coaching career at his alma mater that spanned nearly four decades.

Graduating from Barrington in 1973, the multi-sport athlete – and Eagle Scout – was a force on the football field. He earned All-State honors at linebacker both his junior and senior year and was team MVP and Captain during the 1972 football season. Also an All-League catcher, McCagney played a crucial role in the Eagles baseball team's successful run to the 1971 Eastern Division Championship and runner-up finish in the State Tournament that year.

He received a full football scholarship to the University of Rhode Island and had an impressive career there, as well, captaining the 1976 team and earning team MVP and All New England Conference honors that year. He then played for the Providence Rugby Club from 1978 to 1985, twice earning selection to the All Regional Northeast team.

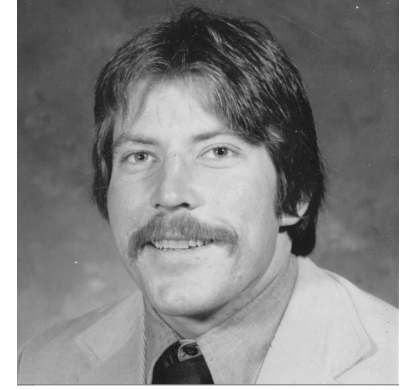
In 1977, McCagney started his coaching career in Barrington, first as freshman football coach then varsity assistant two years later. After short stints as an assistant at Robinson High in Tampa, Fla., a defensive coordinator at Roger Williams University and an assistant at New Bedford High in Massachusetts, he was appointed the head varsity football coach at Barrington in 1990.

Compiling an overall record of 187-109-2 over the next 25 years, the five-time R.I. High School Football Coach of the Year guided the Eagles to 10 Super Bowl appearances and five Championships – two in Division I (2005 & '09), one in Division IAA (2004), one in Division II (2003) and one in Division III (1995). Also coaching the golf team from 2004 to 2007, McCagney guided Barrington to three State Championships in that sport, as well.

A lifetime member of the Rhode Island Association of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, he also coached Barrington's freshman baseball team to two league titles and the freshman state championship in 1978.

The success of both the football and golf teams in 2005 earned McCagney distinction as the Words Unlimited R.I. Schoolboy Coach of the Year. A member of the first class to be inducted into the Barrington High Athletic Hall of Fame, McCagney has also been inducted into the R.I. High School Football Coaches Hall of Fame and the Providence Gridiron Club Hall of Fame.

Acceptance Remarks: *I am both honored and humbled by my induction into the RIIL high school athletic Hall of fame. It was thrilling to compete for both Barrington High and the University of Rhode Island. At a very young age I knew I wanted to be a coach and to be able to spend the majority of my career at Barrington High allowed me to give back to athletics and a community that were so good to me.*



Athlete/Coach

Peer Quote: *I have had the pleasure to know and work closely with Bill for over 17 years as a colleague and athletic coach for our football and golf programs here at Barrington High School. . . .I have observed an individual who is focused on his team and is passionate about the sport he coaches each season. One significant trait is that Coach McCagney always evaluated his roster every year and would build that team on the strengths of the athletes who came to play for him each August. It was an obvious transformation during the football season as his players would improve and perform at their best as the season progressed. During the few years he coached the golf program . . .his strength was to guide them to improve their skills and become better both on and off the golf course.*

- George Finn
Dir. of Athletics & Student Activities
Barrington High School



Athlete

Peer Quote: *I've known Chelsea since she was in elementary school and started coaching her in middle school. It was very clear even early on that she was a special athlete. What was most impressive was her desire to get better and how humble and coachable she was. . . While all the accomplishments added up, Chelsea never lost sight of who she was and how she got there. Chelsea Marandola is a true hall of fame basketball player, arguably the best to ever play in the state of R.I. Yet her greatest quality is how genuine of a person she is. Great heart, humble and loyal. I was truly blessed to be her coach, more blessed to be her friend.*

- Chris Corsinetti
Former Girls Basketball Coach
Johnston Sr. High School

Acceptance Remarks: *I am honored to be receiving this induction into the RIIL Hall of Fame with such an amazing class of individuals. My career as an athlete was some of the best time of my life. I met some amazing athletes but more importantly forever friends on my journey. I will forever be grateful for the impact each teammate made of my life and on my athletic career. I would also like this opportunity to thank my parents without their support and efforts of my achievements would have never been possible. Thank you again for this honor, I am extremely humbled.*

Chelsea Marandola

A five-sport athlete at Johnston High School in the early 2000s, Chelsea Marandola left an indelible mark on the R.I. high school sports history books.

Honored in 2018 as an RIIL Female Basketball Legend, she is still the all-time leading scorer among Rhode Island high school female basketball players with her 2,631 career points. Twice named Gatorade R.I. High School Player of the Year (2004 and 2005) and a four-time first-team All-State selection while playing for Johnston from 2001 to 2005, Marandola scored in double figures 102 times, leading the Panthers to the 2002 Division II basketball title and back-to-back Division I Final Four appearances.

A member of the Johnston High School Athletic Hall of Fame, Marandola also played soccer, softball and volleyball and ran track. She helped Johnston's girls soccer team reach the Division III finals in 2002 and the girls volleyball team capture the Division III Championship in 2004. She competed just one season in outdoor track, but it was a successful one, as she earned All-Class C and All-Northern Division honors

In 2005 Marandola realized her lifelong dream of playing at Providence College. Earning multiple All-Big East Conference honors, she helped turn around a program that had won a total of three games in the previous two seasons, guiding PC to its first postseason appearance in nearly two decades. The 2010 Providence College Female Athlete of the Year concluded her career as the Lady Friars' third all-time leading scorer with 1,795 points and ranked 16th all-time in rebounds with 651.

After graduating from PC, Marandola played briefly for the Flying Foxes Post SV Wien team in the First Division of the Austria Women's Basketball League.

The only child of Roger and Lois Marandola, the 32-year-old is the niece of longtime Johnston basketball coach Dan Mazzulla and cousin of former Hendricken stars Joe and Justin Mazzulla.

Ed Bradley

"The sign of an outstanding coach is the person who leaves a program in better shape than when they took over," former University of Rhode Island athletic director Tom McElroy once pointed out. "Rarely does a person do that three times in a career."

However, Ed Bradley did just that with the Barrington High School, Rhode Island College and URI men's soccer teams.

A graduate of La Salle Academy and then URI, where he was a three-year varsity starter and All-Yankee Conference midfielder, Bradley actually had two coaching stints at Barrington. The first began in 1972 when he guided the Eagles' jayvee team to a 22-1 record. Becoming the varsity head coach in 1973, he amassed a 66-33-22 record over the next seven seasons, leading Barrington to the 1977 State Championship and two league crowns.

Bradley spent the next three seasons at Rhode Island College, coaching the Anchormen to a 27-9-14 record and an ECAC playoff berth, while earning Coach of the Year honors himself in 1982.

He returned to Barrington the following year and coached the Eagles to an 80-15-17 record from 1983 to 1988, leading them to two more state championships and five more league championships, as well as two division titles.

Named the R.I. High School Coach of the Year four times, Bradley's teams recorded 58 shutouts and boasted the lowest goals-against average in the state. Later earning himself induction into the R.I. Soccer Coaches and N.E. Soccer Halls of Fame, he coached 34 All-Staters, seven All-N.E. players and four All-America selections.

Taking over the reins at URI in 1989, Bradley went on to become the winningest coach in program history there. Compiling a 192-137-22 record over the next 17 years, the URI Hall of Famer led the Rams to 10 Atlantic-10 titles and six NCAA tournament appearances.

After retiring from URI, Bradley coached at the Community School of Naples prep school from 2008 to 2013, compiling a 58-18-12 and twice earning Class A Coach of the Year honors. In 2013, he returned to URI to serve as the Director of Soccer Operations in 2013.

He has held an A-License from the United States Soccer Federation and an Advanced National License from the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, conducting local camps, as well as international good will tours on behalf of the "People to People" program. He is also a retired RIIL basketball official.

Bradley and his wife Gail make their home in Narragansett. They have three children - daughter Jill and sons Brian and Michael, both of whom played soccer at URI - and eight grandchildren, most of whom share their grandfather's love of soccer, as well.

Acceptance Remarks: *Barrington was a great place to start because the kids were very coachable, very smart and very loyal. I wanted to make sure I gave the kids the best, and it reinforced the ideas I had learned at the National Coaching School and allowed me to go to the next level at Rhode Island College and then the University of Rhode Island. I think the most important thing in coaching besides the Xs and Os is giving kids a role, getting them to accept that role and convincing them that it is the best role for them. I wouldn't ask the kids to do anything that I wouldn't do, and they always responded. I am very honored to be inducted into the RIIL Hall of Fame. The RI Interscholastic League and every-one who runs it should be proud of their organization and the many great opportunities they have given boys and girls to play high school sports.*



Coach

Peer Quote: *Every year Ed Bradley's Barrington soccer team was prepared to challenge the rest of the league for the top spot. Ed's team was always the team to beat. Ed set the bar high for his teams and the rest of the league. If you were to have any chance of beating an Ed Bradley coached team you better bring your "A Game" and then some!*

- Bob Cavanagh
RIIL Hall of Fame, 2016



Athlete

Peer Quote: *Linda Cimino is a tireless advocate for women in athletics. She is a strong recruiter, a demanding coach and a person who truly cares for her players, on and off the court. She never asks her players to do anything she would not do or hasn't done in her past as a basketball player. She leads by example, always poised and prepared, involved in her community, and seeking to better herself, personally and athletically.*

- Merry Caswell
Parent of Emily Caswell,
a Rhode Islander who went on
to play for Cimino at Caldwell

Acceptance Remarks: *Being inducted into the Rhode Island Interscholastic League (RIIL) Hall of Fame is an incredible honor. I'm thankful for my family, friends, coaches, teammates, teachers, the RIIL and other influential people in my life who helped shape me into the woman I am today and who had a role in my development as an athlete. Athletics and the RIIL gave me more than just an opportunity to develop my talents and abilities on and off the court and fields; they helped me grow and mature as a young woman and gave me a safe place to learn life skills such as discipline, work ethic, sportsmanship, resilience, how to be a great teammate and leader. I'm blessed to have made a career out of my passion and will never forget my roots as I'll always consider Rhode Island home.*

Linda Cimino

To set yourself up for success, Linda Cimino often says, find something in your life that you can be passionate about, then establish some goals, develop a strong work ethic and be prepared to make sacrifices along the way to achieve those goals. That philosophy led her to many impressive achievements in the world of R.I. high school sports during the 1990s and continues to guide her today as a successful women's college basketball coach.

Attending St. Raphael Academy for her first two years of high school and the next two at North Smithfield High School, Cimino earned a total of 12 varsity letters, playing tennis, basketball and softball for the Saints and soccer, basketball and softball for the Northmen. Earning multiple All-Class, All-Division and All-State honors both in basketball and softball over the course of her career, the 1997 Woonsocket Call and North Smithfield High School Female Athlete of the Year finished as North Smithfield's all-time leading scorer in basketball with 1,224 points. She also guided the Northmen to back-to-back appearances in the Class B Championship.

Cimino earned herself a scholarship to Adelphi University, where she enjoyed a record-setting basketball career. Graduating cum laude from Adelphi with a bachelor's degree in health and physical education and a master's degree in health education, and later earning her master's in administration from Touro College, she taught and coached various high school sports on Long Island for several years before embarking on a college coaching career at age 22.

Cimino concluded an eight-year run at Caldwell University as the program's all-time leader in wins with an overall record of 128-100, guiding the team to the 2011 Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference Championship and a share of the 2013 title. After four successful seasons at Binghamton University, where she was named the 2016 America East Coach of the Year, she is about to kick off her second season at St. Francis College in Brooklyn Heights, N.Y., where last year she led the Terriers to a program-record 12 Northeast Conference wins.

She has served on a number of committees, appointed last year to the NCAA Women's Basketball Rules Committee and also serving on the NCAA Women's Basketball Regional Advisory Committee

Always wanting to give Rhode Island girls an opportunity at the next level, Cimino has actively recruited more than a dozen RIIL players over the years, signing at least four to scholarships.

Cimino currently resides in New York City, but still calls Rhode Island home. She credits much of her success to a strong support system that includes her mom, Mary Ellen, her stepdad Bob Reall, twin sister Kelley, older sister Michelle, brothers Ray and Gerard, as well as her coaches and mentors Sean and Deb Reddy.

Robert Littlefield



Administrator

Peer Quote: *As it has been said many times, an individual's true character is revealed through adversity and when situations were at their most trying is when he excelled. Mr. Littlefield no matter the role he performed embodied the RIIL mission of 'Good Sports Are Winners.' His integrity, respect for others, and work ethic are a lasting foundation with all who worked with him here at Portsmouth High School and the R.I. Interscholastic League family. Always willing to give time to a student, coach, teacher, parents, or administrator, he made you feel as if you were the most important person when you stood in the room with him.*

- Stephen Trezvant
Director of Athletics
Portsmouth High School

A standout himself in football and track & field both at Rockland (Mass.) High School and Bates College, Bob Littlefield's teaching and coaching career began at Norwell (Mass.) High School, where he coached football, cross country, indoor track and outdoor track for 18 years and was named the Boston Globe Coach of the Year three times.

Littlefield arrived in Rhode Island in 1993 and began a new phase of his career, first as an assistant principal at South Kingstown High School. During his five years in that position, he often assisted the Rebels' outdoor track teams and worked the score clock at many a basketball game.

For the next 18 years, Littlefield was the principal of Portsmouth High School. Once again, he was an ardent supporter of the Patriots' athletic teams, regularly assisting the outdoor track and field athletes and supporting the addition of unified basketball and volleyball programs at the school.

Littlefield has spent the last three years as Director of Secondary Schools for the Warwick School Department.

Steadfastly committed to the RIIL's mission to provide fair and equitable education-based athletic opportunities for its 35,000 student-athletes, Littlefield served as a member of the RIIL Principals Committee on Athletics for 21 years and sat in on dozens and dozens of participation waiver committee hearings. He also served for 21 years as director/co-director of Outdoor Track & Field, helping to establish division dual-meet schedules with division championships, firm guidelines for state meet entry and coaching certification for the pole vault, among other things. He was a member of the Games Committee/Jury of Appeals at RIIL Outdoor Track & Field Championship meets for 22 years and belonged to the Rhode Island Track & Field Officials Guild for 5 years.

Honored in 2017 by the National Federation of State High School Associations with its State Award for Service to High School Athletics, Littlefield has also been inducted into the Massachusetts Track Coaches and Norwell High School Halls of Fame.

He lives in South Kingstown with his wife Maureen, a nurse at South County Hospital, and is most proud of his two sons, Timothy (Boston University '11) and Adam (Northeastern University '15) who were both student-athletes as SK Rebels.

Acceptance Remarks: *I cannot imagine how my life would have turned out without the benefits I gained as a young man from athletics. Throughout my career as a teacher, coach, administrator, and official I have done my best to repay the debt for future generations of student-athletes. I thank the RIIL and the Hall of Fame Committee for this honor.*



Athlete

Peer Quote: *I have known David for over 50 years as a friend, a teammate and an opponent. I grew up with David the Harrington family in Edgewood. I was able to witness their commitment to academics and athletics. When David was admitted to Yale, he was just one of many in that family to become an Ivy Leaguer. Their excellence in school and drive to consistently be the best was impressive. His father Walter and mother Jean were the pillars of the many successes that came to the humble Harrington family.*

- Jim Bennett
Former Cranston East/Brown
ice hockey star

Acceptance Remarks: *I am grateful to be recognized by the Rhode Island Interscholastic League and to join such a distinguished group of athletes and educators. Throughout my interscholastic athletic and academic pursuits, I was fortunate to have encountered teachers and coaches who strived for excellence; to them, I offer my heartfelt thanks. But it was the love, support and sacrifice of my entire family, my parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, and uncles, that formed the bedrock of all that I achieved in sports and in the classroom. I have been truly blessed.*

David Harrington

David Harrington’s philosophy on high school athletics is this: “Combining a rigorous pursuit of academics and athletics allows individuals to achieve a more balanced perspective on life. High school athletics achieves this by teaching students about teamwork and working hard together to achieve a common goal.” He seems to have followed that philosophy to a ‘T’ beginning with an exceptional academic and athletic career at Cranston High School East. Playing baseball, hockey and soccer for the Thunderbolts in the early 1970s, he earned a total of five All-State selections and would later be inducted into the Cranston Athletic Hall of Fame. Graduating near the top of this class, he was named the Providence Journal Honor Roll Boy of the Year in 1974, an award presented annually to the Rhode Island’s top senior male high school student-athlete.

After graduating from Cranston East, Harrington went on to star in both baseball and hockey at Yale University. In hockey, he scored a total of 110 points (49 goals and 61 assists) in 94 games. One of Walter and Jean Harrington’s seven children, he was joined by his brothers Steve and Gerry on the Yale baseball team, and they hold the distinction of being the only three brothers ever to play on a varsity sports team in the same season in the history of Yale University athletics.

After Yale, Harrington attended Cornell Business School and went on to work in the New York investment industry. He is the Managing Director and Portfolio Manager for MJX Asset Management and boasts 34 years of experience in the Fixed Income Capital Markets.

He and his wife Carol have raised their three children on Long Island. Natalie graduated with honors from Brown, where she played field hockey and was a Teach for America grad who taught English in the South Bronx for four years. Hayley graduated Magna cum laude from Richmond University and is a singer/songwriter in New York City. Sam graduated from Miami (of Ohio) University where he majored in history and business marketing and played a variety of club sports. He is an account executive at Darktrace, a world-leading Artificial Intelligence cybersecurity company.

Gerard Dandeneau

Beginning with his days as the girls basketball coach at the R.I. School for the Deaf in the mid-1970s, Dandeneau has served the state’s high school student-athletes for the better part of five decades, not only as a coach, but as an official and a sport director, as well.

At the R.I. School for the Deaf, Dandeneau guided the girls basketball team to multiple New England and Eastern School for the Deaf championships, as well as Class B playoff appearances when the team joined the RIIL in the early 1980s.

He also coached the R.I. Deaf softball team in 1983 and ’84, as well as the boys soccer team from 1983 to 2004, guiding that team to nine New England Schools for the Deaf Championships in 11 years.

In the mid-1980s, Dandeneau coached the North Providence High School baseball team to the Class B Championship in 1994. During his time there, the Cougars also finished as B-Central Division co-champs in 1997 and 1998.

Dandeneau had a short stint as the Scituate High School baseball coach, leading the Spartans from 2000 to 2002.

Along the way, he also coached Babe Ruth baseball for many years and was the scheduling coordinator for the Catholic Athletic League for more than a decade.

When the RIIL and R.I. Special Olympics began a partnership to establish a Unified Basketball League in 2010, followed by a Unified Volleyball League soon after, Dandeneau became the league’s sport director for both. He has seen the sports expand to include more than 100 high school and middle school teams competing between the two seasons and is also now overseeing the emergence of unified cross country at the middle school level.

Also a basketball referee, Dandeneau has been a member of the R.I. Board of Girls’ Basketball Officials since 1984 and the International Association of Basketball Officials since 1985.

The North Providence Hall of Famer has been honored with awards three times by Board #84. He was named National Deaf Women’s Basketball (1981) and Boys Soccer (19994) Coach of the Year and has been recognized by both the R.I. Boys and Girls High School Coaches Associations and North Providence-Smithfield Babe Ruth.

A graduate of La Salle Academy, Providence College and URI, Dandeneau and his wife Jacquelyn of 52 years have two children, Chris and Deb, and four grandchildren, C.J., Sean, Casey and Caroline, all of whom grew up playing interscholastic athletics.

Acceptance Remarks: *Being inducted into the RIIL Hall of Fame is an honor for me and my family, who have for over 50 years walked with me through my coaching, officiating and Unified Champion Schools leagues. Along the way in the over 1,000 games I have coached, the many thousands of games I have officiated and along with the building of the best RIIL and Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools sports program in the USA, all I can say is that hopefully I helped the student athletes develop discipline, love of the game and the joy of working together. Personally, I have enjoyed each and every game, individuals I have met and worked with along with the many events that I have been involved in all these years. Thank You for this honor.*



Coach/Official Sport Director

Peer Quote: *I have worked with Jerry as a coach, as a referee, and as a sports director. In each of these roles, Jerry has demonstrated dedication, hard work, and compassion. He never loses sight of the “big picture” of interscholastic athletics and he genuinely displays an affection for teaching and for kids. Gerard Dandeneau is the true symbol of Rhode Island high school sports. He embodies the idea that interscholastic athletics is an extension of the classroom. At the heart of all he does is his love for teaching and his caring for kids. For decades, Jerry could be found on fields and courts throughout the state. He has served as both a coach and a referee with integrity and respect.*

- Michael Sollitto
Superintendent
Burrillville School District



Bill Falk

"I'm not really interested in building my name up. I really don't care about that one way or another, but I think you have to have something in life that you uplift."

One would be hard pressed to find another individual who has done as much to uplift the sports of Rhode Island high school cross country and track and field as Bill Falk.

A nationally-respected pole vault coach, his involvement with both sports spanned more than six decades, including six years at Hope High School in the early 1960s where he guided the Blue Wave to a dozen state titles combined in cross country and indoor and outdoor track.

A member of both the National Pole Vault, R.I. Track Coaches Association and URI Athletic Halls of Fame, Falk coached for nearly 20 years at URI, where he was named New England Coach of the Year five times and nurtured the careers of five All-Americans, five IC4A titlists and 20 individual New England Champions. In addition, he was a pole vault coach at the University of Miami for many years.

Also a teacher, businessman and philanthropist, the Brown University graduate with a Masters from Columbia co-founded M-F Athletic in 1960 when he developed a plastic heel protector cup. The company has grown to become a leader in the sporting goods industry.

Wanting to do his part to bring "stability" and "credibility" to the sports, Falk began sponsoring all three of the RIIL's state championships more than a decade ago, establishing the Bill Falk Fund with the R.I. Track & Field Foundation. The fund, created through a personal donation by him, also served to fund many clinics for coaches, athletes and officials.

"What Bill did with coaching the vault was a microcosm of what he did in life," Mark Strawderman said of Mr. Falk, who died last fall at the age of 91. "He was always looking for better ways to do things. . . . Bill was always taking the time to help other people. He always put others before himself."

Acceptance Remarks: Bill Falk was very fortunate to have been able to turn his passions of coaching and business into his life's work. He thoroughly enjoyed helping students realize their athletic aspirations while also teaching them life lessons. Bill would have been very proud to receive this honor from the RIIL, whose mission is so closely aligned with his own. Thank you from the Falk family for honoring him, and congratulations to the other inductees.

Coach/Supporter

Peer Quote: *A true gentleman and scholar – and lover of jazz – Bill was a leader in all he pursued. The fruits of his life – as an educator, a coach, a businessman – are lasting and visible throughout the track and field community locally and nationally. Our state's high schools are extremely fortunate to have the "Bill Falk Fund" as the presenting sponsor of the RIIL's cross-country and track & field championships for the 12th consecutive year.*

- Rick Marshall

co-founder, R.I. T&F Foundation

John Gillooly

In the summer of 1964, John Gillooly was given his first job at The Providence Journal, working in the circulation department, where he loaded papers onto the delivery trucks at 75 Fountain Street in Downtown Providence. He was 18 and had just graduated from Cranston High School East, where Gillooly played baseball and hockey and just a few months earlier had helped the Thunderbolts capture the 1964 Hockey State Championship.

The native Rhode Islander spent the next 54 years at The Journal, steadily moving up the ranks from copy boy to sportswriter to columnist. Only retiring just last August, Gillooly spent that half century chronicling the many great achievements of generations of high school student-athletes, many of whom went on to enjoy Olympic and professional sports careers.

During the 1997-98 hockey season, he shadowed the Mt. St. Charles hockey team, coached by NFHS Hall of Famer Bill Belisle and his son, fellow RIIL Hall of Famer Dave Belisle. The Mounties were on their way to winning a national-record 26 consecutive state titles, and Gillooly wrote an award-winning six-part series entitled "Ice Kings," which he later expanded into a book, "Pride on the Mount: More than a Game."

By his count, the stories number in the thousands and include both game stories, features and columns. To those who occasionally asked if he ever tired of the task, Gillooly would say: "Believe me, you never get tired of writing stories of teenage determination, discipline and success."

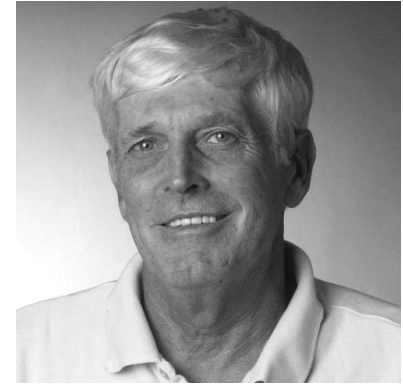
During his early years at the paper, Gillooly also worked as the sports information director and tennis coach for what was then known as Bryant College.

He chaired the Providence Journal Honor Roll Selection Committee for more than 30 years and has been a member of the R.I. Chapter of the National Football Foundation's executive board.

Inducted into the Words Unlimited and Providence Gridiron Club Halls of Fame, Gillooly has been honored by numerous organizations over the course of his career. Included among those honors is the R.I. High School Athletic Directors Association Special Achievement Award, the R.I. Football Coaches Service Award, R.I. Football Association's Jack Martin Award and the R.I. Swim Coaches Association Joe Tracey Service Award.

Gillooly and his wife Sandy of 43 years have a daughter, Melissa, and son, John Ryan, and two young grandsons.

Acceptance Remarks: Sports at every level is about people and there are no purer, more honest human-interest stories than those involving high school student-athletes. It was a privilege and joy telling the stories of Rhode Island high school student-athletes on the pages of the Providence Journal over a half-century.



Journalist

Peer Quote: *For nearly five decades, the name John Gillooly was synonymous with high school sports in Rhode Island. He combined a reporter's skill and instinct with a love of sports in general and youth sports in particular, enabling him to find the inspiring and heartwarming stories that touched every corner of the community while simultaneously maintaining the independence and objectivity needed to serve the readers properly. His was a strong and unique voice, and it served our state well.*

- Art Martone

Former Sports Editor
Providence Journal
Retired Managing Editor,
nbcportsboston.com