CONNECTICUT LACROSSE HALL OF FAME ~ CLASS OF 2017

Mission
The Connecticut Lacrosse Hall of Fame was established to honor men and women, past and present, who by their deeds as players, coaches, officials, or administrators have contributed to the growth of lacrosse in Connecticut and the stature of Connecticut lacrosse nationally, and who by the example of their lives, personify the great contribution of lacrosse to our way of life.

JB CLARKE
Coach ~ Limestone College ~ Wilton, CT

Clarke is a 1983 graduate of Wilton High School where he played under CT Lacrosse Hall of Fame coach, Guy Whitten. In his senior year, the Warriors were 15-4 and won their 9th State Championship against New Canaan in overtime. J.B. was honored in his senior season by being selected to the Connecticut Senior All Star, All-FCIAC, and All-State teams. After graduation, Clarke attended and played at Roanoke College for two years and subsequently graduated from Southern Connecticut State University in 1989.

Clarke's first college coaching stop was at Ohio State University as an assistant, and then back to Roanoke. After a year as an assistant at Roanoke, he moved on to Duke University, where he worked for four years as the offensive coordinator. In 1997, J.B. took his first head coaching position at Greensboro (NC) College. In his one season at Greensboro, he turned a 3-9 record from the previous year into a 9-5 mark and a Top 20 Division III national ranking. In 1998 he was hired as an assistant at Loyola and served as the Greyhounds offensive coordinator. The team reached the NCAA Division I semifinals that season and finished ranked #2 in the nation.

J.B. next stop was as head coach at Washington College in Maryland. In his 12 seasons as head coach he guided the Shoremen to a combined 138-63 overall record, becoming the fastest coach to reach 100 wins in program history. He led the program to seven NCAA Division III tournament appearances and reached the conference championship in eight consecutive seasons. In the summer of 2010, Clarke was hired as head coach at Limestone University. In his seven seasons at the helm, the Saints have made five national title game appearances and won three championships (2014, 2015, and 2017). The 2014 and 2015 USILA Division II Coach of the Year J.B. has led Limestone to three straight 20-win seasons, and is coming off back-to-back 21-win campaigns — both NCAA Division II records for most wins in a year. As Limestone's head coach, Clarke has mentored 39 All-Americans. Two of them, midfielder Mike Messenger and face-off specialist Kevin Reisman, have combined for the last three national player of the year awards. The Blue and Gold has been especially dominant over the last four years, reaching dynasty-level accomplishments with an 81-4 overall record and three NCAA Division II championships. Clarke is the all-time winningest coach in Limestone history.
He holds a 129-10 (.928) record over his first seven years including seven straight Conference Carolinas regular season and tournament championship sweeps. Overall, in 19 years as a head coach, Clarke boasts a combined record of 276-78 and has coached in the NCAA Final Four at the Division I, II, and III levels. Clarke currently serves as president of the Intercollegiate Men's Lacrosse Coaches Association board of directors. He has been a member of the USILA Division II and III All-America committees, the USILA National Poll committee and the U.S. National Team selection committee.
New Canaan’s Boyd E. Harden excelled as a defenseman during his highly successful career at the high school and collegiate levels. Boyd played four years of varsity lacrosse at New Canaan High School from 1980-1983. In his junior year in 1982, the team recorded its first ever undefeated season with a 17-0 record while capturing both the FCIAC and CT State Championships. In his senior year in 1983, the team again captured the FCIAC Championship with a 16-1 record. As a senior, Boyd received First Team All-FCIAC, First Team All-State and high school All-America honors and also played in the CT North-South Senior All-Star game.

After high school, Boyd attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Boyd made the varsity lacrosse team as a walk on his freshman year and went on to earn four varsity letters from 1984-1988 playing for National Lacrosse Hall of Fame coach Willie Scroggs. Boyd helped lead UNC to the ACC Championship in 1985 and to NCAA Division I National Tournament Semi-Finalist appearances in 1984 and 1985. Boyd was redshirted during UNC’s 1986 NCAA Championship season because of an injury, but upon his return, helped lead UNC to another ACC Championship in 1988 and to NCAA Quarter-Finalist appearances in 1987 and 1988. Boyd was selected First Team All-ACC and Third Team All-America as a sophomore in 1985 and again First Team All-ACC and First Team All-America as a senior in 1988. Boyd finished his collegiate career playing in the 1988 North-South Senior All-Star game.

After college, Boyd joined the United States Marine Corps and served eight years as an officer and pilot. During this timeframe, Boyd was a regular participant in the annual Vail Lacrosse Shootout and, in 1993, he and his brothers, Graham and Holmes, who both also attended UNC, were a part of the MAB Paints team that won the Elite Division championship. Boyd currently works for Global Jet Capital, which is a company that provides financing solutions for the private aircraft market. A big believer in the benefits of youth sports in the development of all children, Boyd has volunteered endless hours to New Canaan’s ice hockey, lacrosse and soccer programs over the years. He and his wife Keri live in New Canaan and have three children, McKenna, Kaleigh and Chase.
Ken McCarthy grew up a multi-sport athlete in Ellington, Connecticut and played lacrosse in neighboring Somers for Connecticut Hall of Fame Coach Lee Pinney. McCarthy went on to play at Springfield College under legendary coach Keith Bugbee who ignited his passion for coaching.

After graduating college, McCarthy was named the first varsity lacrosse coach at South Hadley High School in Massachusetts. Ken coached the Tigers for three years with an impressive 16-3 record and an All American in his final season. In 1993, McCarthy accepted a middle school teaching position in Somers and took over the high school varsity lacrosse program where he continued the traditions of hard work and respect, all attributes established and learned from his mentor. In the past 25 years, Coach McCarthy’s Somers Spartans have made 24 consecutive state tournament appearances and his teams won a combined 17 league/tournament championships. The Spartans have also made six state championship appearances winning 5 State Championship Games. The state titles began in 1996 and 1997 with back-to-back Division II State Championships. Winning seasons continued every year for the high school with approximately 450 students after being moved to Division I in 1998. McCarthy’s team won the first Class S State Championship when the tournament went to the class system in 2006. The Spartans took home the runner-up banner in 2012 before returning to back-to-back state champions in 2016 and 2017. With an overall coaching record including 386 wins, McCarthy ranks fifth all-time for high school varsity lacrosse wins and second among active coaches in Connecticut. Coach McCarthy has received multiple "Coach of the Year" honors and takes pride in the countless All-State players and multiple All Americans. An astounding one hundred and fifty (and counting) of his student-athletes have gone on to play at all levels in college.

While winning is certainly a goal, Ken states, "It’s the positive relationships that I’ve built with my players and their families that I find the most rewarding aspect of my continued career". In addition to players and parents, McCarthy also praises the talented and dedicated assistants that he has been fortunate to work with over the years. He also recognizes the strong feeder program in Somers Youth Association that has contributed to overall program success.

Ken McCarthy continues to coach in the offseason for Connecticut Rip-It and resides in Somers with his wife Heidi. Their son, Kenneth "Ray" is currently a junior in the Physician Assistant program at Springfield College, playing lacrosse for the Pride.
Rachel began playing lacrosse in 4th grade through the Old Greenwich-Riverside Community Center and played youth lacrosse for CT Chapter Hall of Famer, Maureen O'Shea. At Greenwich High School, she was a four-time All-FCIAC selection and at the time of graduation was the all-time leading scorer in school history. Rachel was also part of a state championship team in 2001 and was named US Lacrosse All-America in 2002 and 2003. In 2003, Rachel was named Greenwich Times Athlete of the Year and selected to play on the U.S. Under 19 team and won a gold medal at the World Championships.

After graduating from Greenwich High School, Rachel continued with her collegiate career at Duke University. After redshirting her freshman year, she became a starting midfielder and led the Blue Devils to three Final Four appearances (2005, 2006, & 2007). In 2005, Duke also captured their first Atlantic Coast Conference Championship by defeating defending National Champions, Virginia. Rachel was named to the All-Tournament team after scoring 3 goals in the finals. She was also a three-time All-ACC selection and an IWLCA/US Lacrosse All-America selection in 2005, 2006, and 2007. Rachel also captained the Blue Devils her senior year and lead them to a 13-2 regular season record and a #3 ranking in the nation before losing to Virginia in the national semi-final game.

Since graduation Rachel has found a niche in the hospitality industry holding a variety of positions with Hillstone Restaurant Group, Breckenridge Brewery and Park Burger. After graduating with an MBA from the University of Denver in 2011, she has worked as a creative consultant helping businesses to operate more efficiently and develop quality employees. Although her career has kept her busy, Rachel is still not far from the lacrosse field. She also serves as a youth coach for 3D Lacrosse and the Denver Lacrosse Club and has won the girls U13 and U15 State Championships in 2012 and 2013.
With an athletic career that began as a defenseman in Madison Youth Lacrosse before transforming to a prolific scorer in high school and college, Tom Zaccagnino remains today as arguably the greatest lacrosse player to ever wear the Black and Gold for the Daniel Hand High School Tigers. A four year varsity starter, Tom made an immediate and lasting impact on the field as a great feeder, play-maker and scorer. By his junior year Tom had established himself as one of the best players in the state and was honored by the state coaches as a first team All Northern Division and First Team All-State Attackman and was named one of the Tiger captains for 1992. In his junior and senior year, Hand captured Northern Division championships and made deep runs in the state tournament before bowing out to eventual state champions and perennial powerhouse, Wilton. In Tom’s senior year he scored 87 goals and had 58 assists. For his high school career, Tom had a phenomenal 206 goals and 125 assists and he remains the career scorer and assist leader in Daniel Hand boy’s lacrosse history to this day.

After graduating from Daniel Hand in 1992 where he was an All-State, All Conference, and All America player, Tom began his college career at Hobart College where he immediately made an impact for the Upstate NY school as it compiled an 11-3 record in 1993, including an unblemished 9-0 mark against Division III opponents, on the way to the program’s 13th Division III title in 14 seasons. In 1994 Tom transferred to Yale University and as a sophomore he made an immediate impact by being named the Ivy League Rookie of the Week after the second game of the season while setting a torrid scoring pace that garnered him a spot on the ECAC All-East Team. By the end of his junior season in 1995, Tom reaped additional praise for his outstanding season performance by being named to the All New England First Team as an Attackman. Both in 1995, and for his senior year in 1996, Tom was Yale’s two-time Most Valuable Player, a two-time first team All-Ivy League, and a two-time NCAA All American Attackman capping a career which saw him average four goals and three assists during his tenure as a Bulldog offensive leader.

Married and a dad, Tom’s life revolves around his wonderful wife Kristie and four beautiful children Nicholas, Adrian, Luca, and Mila, while he works as a successful business entrepreneur on numerous projects both stateside and internationally from his suburban Boston home. Tom has just begun to reconnect with lacrosse as a youth league coach in Weston, MA and is thoroughly enjoying the experience teaching and watching his kids and their friends learn the game he loves.
John Zinser had always had a passion for sports and leading others to success in all aspects of life. It started back in his high school days playing football under the watchful eye of Coach Crotty at Danbury High School. He continued to play ball during his college days, at the University of Connecticut, even earning the Title of All-Yankee Conference in his senior year. Shortly after college, John began his own coaching career at South Catholic and began officiating basketball in the off-season.

In the fall of 1974, John moved his family from Enfield to New Fairfield, after accepting a teaching position at the new high school. Proudly, he started the varsity Football program as well. After the 1981 Football season, in which New Fairfield won their first Wild Division Championship, John stepped down from his head coach position. It was at that time, his son John, was beginning his freshman football season. It was important for him to give his son the opportunity to play without an over-bearing father on his back – however, it did not stop him from walking the end zone.

In the mid-70s, John was approached by Peter Kohut to look into officiating lacrosse. Powerhouse schools, such as Darien, Wilton and New Canaan, were already being noticed for their talents, but the southwestern part of the state had only just begun to look into the game. John loved what he saw and continued to official well into the 1990’s. He did not just officiate the game; he was a mentor to young coaches and other officials during his tenure. His leadership was not only noted on the field, but he was very involved at the governing board level.

John’s influence was visible as his son, Scott, became Head Coach of the Varsity Lacrosse Team at Trumbull High School. In 2005, Trumbull won the Division II State Championship by defeating New Fairfield High School. He is currently Head Lacrosse Coach and the Quarterback/Running Back Football Coach at Mashpee High School on Cape Cod. His son, Douglas, developed his love of the game playing High School lacrosse at New Fairfield and post-grad at Avon Old Farms.

Scott recalls his dad saying, “You should always be a teacher and a mentor to the younger coaches, officials and players. Share what you know to help them become better, let them take whatever techniques of yours they feel will help them to be better, so they too can mentor the next group coming up.” This summarizes John Zinser and his unwavering passion to teaching, guide and better us all.
No one knew who put the copy of Bob Scott’s *Lacrosse* and the two wooden lacrosse sticks in the library display window at Conard, but it made 3 of us curious enough to approach our football coach, Bob McKee, to ask about the sport. He was immediately excited about something his lay about football players could do in the spring to stay in some semblance of "shape". I don't remember if Coach Hunter was coaching swimming at that time, but Coach McKee contacted him about starting a lacrosse program.

I have no recollection about how things happened from an organizational standpoint, nor do I remember our first meeting with Coach Hunter. I do know that he seemed to move heaven and earth to get the program off the ground. He was a member of the Connecticut Valley Lacrosse Club and was able to beg, borrow, and steal enough equipment for us to get started. The custodial staff built two (six hundred pound) goals. I know because we had to move them on and off the field after practices. We looked like a ragtag troop, and didn't have enough players to have full scrimmages, but somehow Coach Hunter fashioned us into a team, playing against what competition he could muster through his connections.

My first (and lasting impression) of Will Hunter was that he was the most soft-spoken and supportive coach I have ever had. He rarely raised his voice, even when frustrated with our thick-headedness; he never argued with a referee's call; and he was always the epitome of sportsmanship. Most of us didn't know which end of the stick was the business end, but Coach Hunter was patient and encouraging, teaching us the fundamentals of the Native American game. We learned to scoop, cradle, pass, and shoot under his tutelage, and not that it was important, we won some games!

In 1965, Charles Richter, Superintendent of Schools, recommended that the BOE allot funds to start the Varsity Lacrosse Program at Conard in the 1966-67 school year with a budget of $628.00. Transitioning from the club sport, which had been in existence for four years, coached by future Hall of Fame Coach Will Hunter. The plan was to add lacrosse at Hall High School the following year. The newest varsity team at Conard High School began play in the spring of 1967 with 49 members on the team. Their first varsity season featured games against Loomis, Avon Old Farms, Choate, Kingswood and the Wilton Lacrosse Club.

Physically Coach Hunter was not imposing, but he gave the impression of solidity. He was of average height, sturdy with strong legs and the thickest calves. He wore Bermuda shorts and high top Converse sneakers at practice and looked like he could run all day. As I have implied, he had a reserved and gentlemanly approach. While he seemed serious, when he smiled or laughed the warmth was right there. I have been able to refer to my other coaches more informally, but Will Hunter has always been Coach Hunter. He imbued many of us with a love and respect for him and for the sport of lacrosse. He is certainly one of the main reasons that I have remained active in the sport for the past 55 years, for which I am most grateful.

Thanks Coach.