



**Centre County Sports
Hall of Fame
P. O. Box 133
Lemont, PA 16851-0133
centrecountysportshof.com**

February marks an important milestone for the Centre County Sports Hall of Fame. We will celebrate our 8th birthday, having been founded in February of 2016, and we will announce the 2024 class to be inducted this fall. It will be our 7th induction banquet, since we took the first year to elect officers, establish bylaws and raise funds, and then, like many organizations, we lost a year due to COVID.

The year 2023 was a banner year for the Hall of Fame. We inducted a great class, increased our membership, doubled the size of our scholarship grants, and had a very successful golf outing. In the event you were unable to attend our banquet at The Penn Stater, we had more than 350 people witness the induction of Jon Condo, Josh Hull, Eric Brugel, Doug Taylor, Kelly Kephart-Rees, Dave Breon, Ann Infield, Ron Pavlechko, Gawen Stoker, Larry Wisner and Kenny Walker. Jeff Byers did his usual outstanding job as MC, and the buffet luncheon served by The Penn Stater staff was outstanding. If you have never attended, you need to do so. This year's induction banquet will again be held at the Penn Stater on Sunday, October 20th. Mark your calendar now.



As we wrap up the 2024 election process, we want to remind you that memberships to our Hall of Fame, as well as nominations for election to the Hall, are open all year long. The necessary forms can be located on our website - CentreCountySportsHOF.com. Lifetime memberships are only \$60.00, \$90.00 and \$120.00 depending on age, and are very reasonable compared to most organizations. As a member you get to participate in the single most important thing we do - nominate and elect worthy sports personalities into our Hall of Fame.

We are often asked questions regarding who is eligible for our Hall of Fame. We seek to recognize outstanding individuals who were either native Centre Countians, came here to play or coach athletics, or perhaps came to Penn State and then chose to reside here for decades. Eligibility is decided on a case-by-case basis, with the nominations being made by the membership and the final ballot being decided by the 15-member Board of Directors on a secret ballot basis.



Another important function of the Hall of Fame is the contribution of a \$1,000 scholarship to 12 Centre County senior student-athletes. Both a senior male and female are selected from State College High, Bellefonte High, Bald Eagle Area, Penns Valley Area, Philipsburg and St. Josephs to receive this award. During the 2023 year we doubled the scholarship from \$500 to \$1,000 per student. If you wish to make some contribution to our scholarship fund you should get in touch with our Treasurer, Tina Powers. To date, 72 students have received this award, while an identical number of 72 athletes/coaches/sports personalities have been inducted into our Hall of Fame.



Last year the annual golf outing, now named THE BLUE BY YOU, was held at the Penn State Blue Golf Course. A record number of foursomes, twenty-one (21), had an outstanding day with great weather on a challenging course. We were fortunate to have many great sponsors and dozens of raffle prizes were awarded with each prize having a dollar value of at least \$100. This year's tournament will again be held the Saturday of The Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts, July 13th, at the Penn State Blue Course. We are limited to twenty-five (25) foursomes, so it is never too early to get your group together for the event. We learned a lot from last year's effort, and hope to make the 2024 version even bigger and better.



Centre County Sports
Hall of Fame
P. O. Box 133
Lemont, PA 16851-0133
centrecountysportshof.com

While the Centre County Sports Hall of Fame is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, it is a very time-consuming group for many of us. We begin the year with the voting for our induction class in January, the votes are counted and announced in February. We immediately begin working with the new class for the fall banquet preparations. In May and June our scholarship recipients are announced, and by then the planning is well underway for our July golf outing.

Securing the attendance for the banquet and all advertising for the program booklet is already occurring by the time of the golf outing, and continues right thru the banquet in October. The nomination and ballot process for the next year literally begins the day after the banquet and takes much of November and December. So, as you can see, there is always something to work on in support of the Centre County Sports Hall of Fame.

We currently have 14 Board of Directors members with a vacancy for a Penns Valley area representative. We are ALWAYS looking for volunteers to assist us with our efforts. Maybe you want to volunteer for the golf outing, or perhaps help with a membership drive. Maybe you want to help obtain advertising for either the banquet or golf outing or obtain raffle prizes for our events. Please feel free to reach out and contact us if you believe you will have the time to help us out.



There are far too many people to thank on an individual basis for their 2023 contributions to our efforts. We had a very successful year due to the efforts of all these people and we anticipate 2024 to make us even bigger and stronger as an organization. Again, please remember these dates - July 13th, 2024 Golf Outing at The Penn State Blue Course - \$125.00 per golfer, and October 20th Induction Banquet at The Penn Stater. We hope to see you at one or both events.

We sincerely believe the effort we make to honor Centre County's sports' history is a very worthwhile process. We also believe that providing scholarship support to young student/athletes enhances our mission. Please join us in any way possible to help our efforts.

Thank You.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Keith Bierly'.

Keith Bierly, President
Centre County Sports Hall of Fame