

## GARY PALLADINO

Gary Palladino has accumulated over 500 wins while coaching on the high school level for 41 years at various schools throughout the state, including South Catholic, Portland, St. Paul, and East Hartford. While at St. Paul, he won back-to-back state championships. He then coached at the University of Hartford from 1975-81.

In 1982, Gary joined the Notre Dame High School faculty as a teacher and head basketball coach. He is well-known as a teacher of the game of basketball; and Notre Dame has enjoyed great success under his tutelage, having reached the finals of the state tournament two times. Gary has been a featured speaker at numerous camps and clinics, spreading his knowledge on "The Art of Scoring" throughout New England.

Gary feels lucky to have received many awards and honors during his tenure as a high school coach. He has been selected as "Coach of the Year" eleven times. Gary has been inducted into seven Halls of Fame, including the University of Hartford, the Connecticut High School Coaches Association, the New England Basketball, Bristol Sports, Notre Dame High School, St. Paul High School and the New Haven Tap-off Club. He has also been selected as the Northwestern District 1 candidate for the national High School Coach of the Year in 1998, 2000 and in 2002. The award he is most proud of is the Doc McInerney Award, received in 1975. Gary has had articles published in the Athletic Journal and Scholastic Coach Magazine.

Gary has been an active member of the CIAC and served in several different positions since 1986. He was on the executive committee of the CHSCA from 1999-2005 and chairperson of the All State/Academic All State since 1999. He has been on the Connecticut All State Festival Committee and the CIAC Basketball Dedication Committee since 1989.

Gary is still doing what he loves to do most - coaching basketball at Notre Dame High School.

## ANTHONY SCALISE

Anthony Scalise started his basketball officiating career in 1969 when he joined IAABO Board #6. During his early career he was mentored by Frosty Francis and Ed Batogowski. In 1974, he was promoted to varsity status and his career took off. After two years of varsity high school officiating, he joined the CBOA, a college basketball officiating organization. Anthony started working Division II and Division III games for two outstanding commissioners, Frosty Francis and Charlie Diehl. In 1980, he was promoted to Division I. For the next twenty-two years, he officiated in the Patriot League, Ivy League, and American East League, working 10 NCAA Division II tournaments including three semi-finals and one final.

While officiating at the collegiate level, Anthony also continued working high school games for IAABO Board #6. He served Board #6 as assistant commissioner for twenty-three years, assistant interpreter for fifteen years, teacher at IAABO training camps for ten years, and president for two years (1990-91). He was co-chairman of the 1994 Annual IAABO meeting and he was State Board #5 President from 1994-95. He is a recipient of the James E. Coogan Award (2001), and the Connecticut High School Coaches Association Official of the Year Award (2004). During his years of high school officiating, he had the honor and pleasure of working for two great Board #6 commissioners, Gerry McGrath and Ed Lynch.

Anthony also had the honor of working for Tom Monahan and Tom Murray, officiating the CIAC high school basketball tournaments, working four girls' finals and twenty-two boys' finals. A career highlight was officiating a girls' final and boys' final in the same year.

Through his years of officiating, he has worked with many outstanding officials and coaches. Anthony made many lasting friendships and has some great memories.

## JACK TAGLIA

A 1972 graduate of Assumption College, Jack Taglia earned a bachelor of arts degree in History. He subsequently went on to receive a master's degree in American Studies from Fairfield University in 1975 and a master's degree in School Counseling from Central Connecticut State University in 1981.

Jack began teaching Social Studies in 1973 at the Alternative School in his home town of Waterbury. From there he went on to teach at Kennedy High School in the early 80's. His career path eventually changed when he was appointed as a guidance counselor at Kennedy. He continued in that position until his retirement in 2008. His career in education spanned 35 years, all in the Waterbury school district.

Basketball was a passion for Jack. He began coaching in 1974 when he began the first basketball program at the Alternative School. In 1975, he took the position of assistant basketball coach at Kennedy High School and he was appointed the head coach in 1977. Jack coached for a total of 34 years. His teams won 355 games in his 31 years as head coach. During that time, Kennedy won three consecutive Naugatuck Valley League championships, in 1989, 1990, and 1991. At that time, Kennedy was the first league school to win three consecutive championships in a row. His team also played for the Class M state championship in 1990.

Jack has been honored with several awards during his career. In 1988-89, he was named coach of the year by the Olympian Club of Waterbury; and, in 2004, he was given the Olympian Club Award. In 1990, he was named outstanding coach by the New Haven Tap-off Club, and, in the same year, he was given the Sportsmanship Award by the New Haven Board of Officials.

Jack was involved in many committees during his tenure as coach. He served on the CIAC Boys' Basketball Committee from the late 1980's until 2008. He began as one of the representatives for the coaches and eventually remained on the committee as a consultant. As a representative and eventual chairman of the coaches, he also served as chairman of the Boys' Basketball Committee for the Connecticut High School Coaches Association. In addition, Jack was chairman of boys' basketball for the Naugatuck Valley League. He is presently a member of the CHSCA High School All Star Game Committee and serves as a member of the All-State Basketball Committee.

Jack and his wife Sandi have been married for 25 years.

### CIAC BOYS' BASKETBALL COMMITTEE

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| • Walt Zalaski, Granby Memorial H.S. - Chair   | • George Synnott, Berlin H.S.                  |
| • Phil House, Westbrook M.S.                   | • Anthony Azzara, Woodland Reg. H.S.           |
| • Joe Castagnola, New Fairfield Public Schools | • Dan Scavone, Holy Cross H.S.                 |
| • Edward Malizia, Weaver H.S.                  | Coaches:                                       |
| • Rick Misenti, Guilford H.S.                  | • Neal Curland, Norwich Free Academy           |
| • Stephen Perry, Capital Prep School           | • Dan Nemergut, Bristol Tech. Education Center |
| • Lee Panagoulis, Branford H.S.                | • Gregg Hunt, Bethlehem                        |
| • Joseph Arcarese, Plainfield H.S.             | • Larry Anderson, Windsor                      |

### The Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference

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(203)250-1111 • FAX: (203) 250-1345 • www.casciac.org

## The Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference

presents

## The 87th Annual Boys' Basketball Tournament

# DEDICATION

## 2009



### Saturday, March 21, 2009

The Cabaret Theater  
Mohegan Sun, Uncasville  
3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Event Sponsors:

- IGA • Subway • Waterbury Republican-American •

## PROGRAM

**Welcome:** George Synnott - Principal, Berlin High School  
Chair, CIAC Board of Control

**Introductions:** Walter J. Zalaski - Athletic Director  
Granby Memorial High School  
Chair, CIAC Boys' Basketball Committee



### 2009 CIAC BOYS' BASKETBALL MERIT AWARDS

#### JACK TAGLIA

Presenting: Neal Curland • CIAC Boys' Basketball Committee

#### RUSS HANSEN

Presenting: Walt Zalaski • CIAC Boys' Basketball Committee

#### GARY PALLADINO

Presenting: Thomas Murray • CIAC Boys' Basketball Committee

#### ANTHONY SCALISE

Presenting: Thomas Murray • CIAC Boys' Basketball Committee



### 2009 CIAC BOYS' BASKETBALL SPECIAL SERVICE AWARD

#### JOHN ZADNIK

Presenting: Robert Cecchini • CIAC Boys' Basketball Committee



### 2008 CIAC BOYS' BASKETBALL DEDICATION AWARD

#### ANTHONY "BUTCH" AZZARA

Presenting: Walt Zalaski • CIAC Boys' Basketball Committee



**Closing Remarks:** Walt Zalaski, AD, Granby Memorial H.S.  
Chair, CIAC Boys' Basketball Committee

#### ANTHONY "BUTCH" AZZARA

**A**nthony "Butch" Azzara is a native of Waterbury, Connecticut. He grew up and attended local public and parochial schools. While at Sacred Heart High School, he lettered in football, baseball, and basketball. Butch then continued his academic and athletic career at Fairfield University. While there, he played Division I baseball under Don Cook and earned his BA degree in 1971. He earned his master's degree in administration from Fairfield in 1979 and a 6th year in administration from Central Connecticut State University in 1985. He began his teaching career in the Waterbury Public Schools in 1972. He coached cross country, track, basketball and varsity baseball at Crosby and Kennedy High Schools. His baseball team had nine straight CIAC berths, and in 1984 recorded the best season in school's history with a 17-6 record while advancing to the finals of the CIAC LL tournament.



In 1987, Butch was appointed assistant principal at Crosby High School in Waterbury where he served for ten years. In 1996, he was appointed principal of Kennedy High School, retiring in 2007 after 35 years of service to the Waterbury Public School System. He currently works for the Region 16 school district as coordinator of student support at Woodland Regional High School.

Butch has had a 40-year association with the CIAC. As a player, he was a member of the 1967 Class L state championship team and, as a coach, led his team to the 1984 Class LL state baseball finals. In 1986, he was elected to coach the District III Connecticut High School All Star Team. As an official, Butch worked CIAC girls' basketball games from 1986-1999. He was an alternate official in two Class LL girls' basketball finals in 1992. As an administrator, Butch has served on several CIAC committees: Track and Field (1992-1999); Eligibility (2003-2005); Board of Control (2003-2007); Cooperative Team (2004-present); Baseball (1994-present Chairman); and basketball (1999-present).

Butch currently resides in Watertown, CT with his wife of 35 years, Patricia. He has two married sons, Steven and Christopher.

#### JOHN ZADNIK

**J**ohn Zadnik has been the athletic director at Plainville High School since 1998. Since John began his education at the Linden Street School at the age of five, he has been involved in the Plainville school system as a student, teacher, or athletic director his entire life, with the exception of his college years. After graduating from high school, John attended Sacred Heart University for one year and then transferred to Fairfield University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in English in 1968. During the fall of 1968, he started his teaching career as a long-term substitute at the elementary level in the field of Special Education. Ten years later, he was assigned to teach 6th graders in a regular classroom setting. In 1993, John was transferred to the brand new Middle School of Plainville, where he continued his teaching career until he was appointed athletic director at the high school in 1998. In 2004, when the athletic director's job was cut from a full-time to a part-time position, John retired, but he was quickly rehired as the part-time athletic director, a position that he still holds today.

John's proudest accomplishment as an athletic director is the formation of Plainville High School's Student-Athlete Leadership Team. In 2001, John and three outstanding Plainville H.S. student-athletes were selected to represent Connecticut at the initial National Federation of High Schools' Student Leadership Conference in Indianapolis. Cromwell and Staples of Westport were also selected to participate. As part of the 3-day event, participants had to create a State Action Plan, which they would then have to implement locally during the next school year. The Connecticut

plan was to have a State Leadership Conference at which student leaders could pass on what they learned at the national conference to other student leaders from all over Connecticut. In order to implement this plan, with the help of the students from Cromwell and Staples, John realized that he needed a larger group of student-athletes within his own school. That is how the Student-Athlete Leadership Team was born. Today, S.A.L.T., is one of the most active and influential clubs and community service organizations within the high school community.

Before becoming athletic director, John was actively involved in high school athletics as an official. He has been a member of IAABO for 35 years. He is a past president and is currently the secretary/treasurer of Board 6. He has worked several boys' and girls' state tournament games, including a girls' semi-final game in each of the last three CIAC tournaments. In the sport of softball, John has been a member of ASA for over 25 years. He has officiated 15 high school state championship games. He has also worked at the college level since 1995.

John is the current treasurer of the Northwest Conference, the Nutmeg Football League, and the Nutmeg Swim League, which are all in their last year of existence. John and the coaches at Plainville High are looking forward to the challenge of competing in the 32-team Central Connecticut Conference next year. John and his wife, Sharon, will be celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary in August. They have three sons, Christopher (37), Michael (35), and Todd (31).

#### RUSS HANSEN

**R**uss Hansen was born and raised in Waterbury, CT. He attended Crosby High School and was a three sport athlete, playing football, basketball and baseball. It was actually in his senior year, while recovering from a Thanksgiving Day football injury, that his officiating career began. While recuperating, he started officiating elementary and freshmen basketball games. Not too long after he passed his officials exam, he received another break. A fellow official broke an ankle and recommended Russ as someone who could help fill the void. Russ then received a handful of varsity assignments in his first year and never looked back. For the next 35 years, he was a mainstay in CIAC basketball, both regular season and post-season. In at least one year, he officiated seven tournament games, including the final. In the Housatonic League, he did 15 consecutive championship games. Elsewhere in the state, he would be found in most of the "big" games, such as Wilbur Cross vs. Hartford Public, and the like. At the age of 27, he also embarked on a 30-year college officiating career and, again, would often be found working some of the more high-profile contests. He actually worked the first "three man" game in the east, Boston College vs. St. Joseph's. He was a much sought after official on both the high school and college scene.

Additionally, he held leadership positions in the Litchfield Board of IAABO. He was its interpreter for 17 years, as well as the president. Among his numerous honors, he was given the prestigious James E. Coogan Award and the Litchfield Board's Commendation Award upon his retirement.

Baseball and football were also sports in which Russ gained officiating notoriety. He umpired both high school and college for 30 years and high school football for 33 years; and, he had amazingly similar experiences to those he had in his basketball career. In baseball, he was consistently in the Eastern Regional playoffs, as well as the Cape Cod league. In high school football, he was a recent inductee into the sports' Officiating Hall of Fame. High school and colleges all wanted a man of his caliber in their games.

And yes, he did have a "day job" too! He was a dedicated educator, receiving his undergraduate degree from UConn, his master's from Western Connecticut, and 6th year from Fairfield University. He then served the city of Waterbury as a principal, both at the elementary and middle school levels, for the next 28 years.

Russ is very thankful for the aid, support and friendship of two former officials, Jim Crichton and Ed Mariano. Presently, Russ and Dorothy, his wife of 31 years, are retired in Naples, Florida.



**Tim Kohs, continued**

was named as Coach of the Year by the New Haven Tap-off Club in 2008.

Tim is a 1989 graduate of Springfield College where he was a four-year member of the basketball team serving as a captain during his senior year. After college, Tim returned to his high school alma mater, Xavier High School in Middletown. At Xavier, Tim started out coaching freshmen basketball and also coached varsity lacrosse for five years, taking his team to a Division II championship game. Tim has been a physical education teacher at Xavier for 13 years and has served as chair of the physical education department for the last six. Along with his teaching duties, Tim is also the assistant athletic director, a position he has held since 1999.

Since 1998, Tim has been a member of the CIAC Girls' Basketball Committee and has been the coaches' chairman for the last six years. In this capacity, he serves as the coordinator of the Connecticut High School Coaches Association All-State teams and has organized the All-State banquet for the past six years. Tim resides in Higganum with his wife Carlye, his 3-year-old daughter Avery, and his two-year-old son Brett.

**BARBARA STARTUP**

Upon her graduation from Central Connecticut State University in 1972, **Barbara Startup** began her teaching career in physical education in Newburgh, New York. Shortly after, she returned to Connecticut and was hired in Avon where, for the next 15 years, she taught physical education and coached varsity girls' volleyball, basketball, softball and tennis. While teaching and coaching, she earned her MA in physical education and health and completed her sixth year in school administration at CCSU.

In 1988, Barbara began her administrative career serving as an assistant principal at Vernon Center Middle School. After a short stay in Vernon, she was hired as the Coordinator of Physical Education, Intramurals and Athletics for the Enfield Public Schools, a position she held for the next six years. In 1995, she returned to Avon High School as the Director of Student Activities and, in 1998, she was hired as the Director of Athletics for Glastonbury High School, a position she held until her retirement in 2007. During the years Barbara served as an athletic director, she hosted numerous CIAC tournament events for which everyone at CIAC will be forever grateful. While athletic director in Glastonbury, her teams captured 75 team conference championships and 11 state championships.

During her distinguished career, Barbara has received numerous awards and recognitions, including the CHSCA Athletic Director of the Year Award, NIAAA Distinguished Service Award, and CAAD Distinguished Service Award to name just a few. She has also been inducted into the New Agenda Girls Northeast Women's Hall of Fame.

In addition to her outstanding career as a teacher, school administrator, athletic director and coach, Barbara was also recognized as an exceptional volleyball official at the high school and college level and is presently a member of the NFHS National Volleyball Rules Committee. In her retirement, Barbara continues to officiate and, over the past two years, she has participated in nine CIAC athletic program evaluations as a visiting team member.

Barbara's contributions to athletics in the state of Connecticut and to CIAC are truly exemplary and her dedication to high school athletics has earned her the CIAC Girls' Basketball Committee Award of Merit.

**CIAC GIRLS' BASKETBALL  
COMMITTEE**

- Susan Homrok, Principal, Henry James Memorial School, Simsbury - Chair
- Dan Sullivan, Principal, New London High School
- Howard Gura, Principal, Shelton Intermediate School
- Richard Cavallaro, Principal, Wilcox Technical High School, Meriden
- Matt Dunbar, Principal, Glastonbury High School
- Kirk Murad, Principal, Windham Technical High School
- Sheila Riffle, Assistant Principal, E.O. Smith School, Storrs
- Robert D'Aquila, Principal, Trinity Catholic High School, Stamford
- Doug Rubin, Assistant Principal, Darien High School
- Margaret Williamson, Principal, Northwest Catholic High School, West Hartford

**Coaches:**

- Tim Kohs, Mercy High School, Middletown
- Fred Williams, Northwest Regional High School, Winsted
- Chris Webster, North Branford High School
- Frank Lombardo, Holy Cross High School, Waterbury

**Consultants:**

- Robert Cecchini, East Granby
- Tom Murray, Branford
- Norm DeMartino, East Haven
- Bob Bernier, Dayville - Officials
- Bob Paskiewicz, East Granby - CAAD
- Dave Maloney - CIAC, Tournament Director

**The Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic  
Conference**

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The Connecticut Interscholastic  
Athletic Conference

presents

**The 36th Annual Girls'  
Basketball Tournament**

**DEDICATION**

**2009**



**Friday, March 20, 2009**

The Cabaret Theater  
Mohegan Sun, Uncasville  
4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Event Sponsors:

- IGA • Connecticut Sun • Waterbury Republican-American •

## PROGRAM

**Welcome:** George Synnott - Principal  
Berlin High School  
Chair, CIAC Board of Control

**Introductions:** Sue Homrok, Principal, Henry James Memorial  
Middle School, Simsbury  
Chair, CIAC Girls' Basketball Committee



### TIM KOHS

#### 2009 CIAC Girls' Basketball Merit Award - Coach

Presenting: Frank Lombardo • CIAC Girls' Basketball Committee

### PAUL GROSSMAN

#### 2009 CIAC Girls' Basketball Merit Award - Coach

Presenting: Fred Williams • CIAC Girls' Basketball Committee

### ROGER GAUTRAU

#### 2009 CIAC Girls' Basketball Merit Award - Official

Presenting: Tom Murray • CIAC Girls' Basketball Committee

### BARBARA STARTUP

#### 2009 CIAC Girls' Basketball Merit Award - A.D.

Presenting: Judy Samaha • CIAC Girls' Basketball Committee



### MARGARET WILLIAMSON

#### 2009 CIAC Girls' Basketball Dedication Award

Presenting: Dave Maloney • CAS Assistant Executive Director /  
CIAC Girls' Basketball Tournament Director



**Closing Remarks:** Sue Homrok, Principal, Henry James M.S.  
Chair, CIAC Girls' Basketball Committee

### MARGARET WILLIAMSON

**M**argaret Williamson was named principal of Northwest Catholic High School in 2000 and has worked in the Archdiocese of Hartford for 31 years as a teacher and administrator. Raised in New Milford, CT, she is a graduate of St. Francis Xavier elementary school and Immaculate High School in Danbury. She began her teaching career at Notre Dame School in New York City and then moved to Connecticut as a teacher at Notre Dame Academy in Waterbury where she also coached cheerleading.



Since coming to Northwest Catholic in 1987, Margaret has helped promote athletics for all students through her support of the many student activities at the school. Margaret can be seen at numerous games and matches – rain, cold or shine – where she encourages students to do their best. She calls herself the students' "biggest fan." As a parent, Margaret spent 15 years cheering on the CYO basketball teams of St. Brigid School and continued to support her children through their athletic careers at Northwest Catholic.

In recent years, Margaret has served on several committees for the CIAC including the Eligibility Review Committee, Girls' Basketball Committee, Girls' Lacrosse Committee (chair) and CIAC Board of Control.

Margaret resides in West Hartford with her husband Brian. They have three children, Patrick, Meghan and Kathleen.

Upon learning that she would be the recipient of the 2009 CIAC Girls' Basketball Dedication Award, Margaret stated: "I am most humbled to be selected for this award. I am grateful to the selection committee and I can only hope that whatever example I can provide will help foster all the proper ideals and goals of high school athletics for all students and will encourage more administrators to take an active role at their schools and in the CIAC."

### ROGER GAUTRAU

**R**oger Gautrau was born and raised in Stamford where he played high school basketball for first year coach Phil Ragozzino who became famous for his passionate and charismatic personality, but was also one of the greatest basketball minds in Connecticut high school history.

After graduating from St. Bonaventure University, he married his high school sweetheart, Jo-Ann Mocarski, who has been his bride and inspiration for 42 glorious years. They moved to Bethel in 1969 to raise their family and then to Danbury in 1978. They have three wonderful sons, Chris, Bret and Jeff, as well as four adorable grandchildren, Caroline, Emma, Ryan and Ava who are the loves of their lives.

Roger was recruited to officiate basketball by Don "Red" Lomme and Jack Lockery who are two of the most extraordinary people he has ever known. Initially, Roger was reluctant to become an official because he was still playing in various recreation leagues; but, Red took him to see an FCIAC final one night at Brien McMahon High School and he was hooked, just as he knew

Roger would be. From that moment on, he wore the blue lanyard Jack gave him for luck on the night of his first game until it literally fell off his neck. Roger will be forever grateful for the guidance and wisdom Red and Jack provided him.

Roger's officiating career began 38 years ago. He was added to the FCIAC varsity roster in his second year and the WCC in his third. A few years later he also began working in the MBIAC. He made the state tournament list for the first time in his third year and has been fortunate enough to be selected every year since. During his career, he has officiated 27 boys' and girls' state finals including five years where he worked both a boys' and girls' championship game. On his local IAABO Board #9, he has worked approximately 30 boys' and girls' league finals in the FCIAC, SWC and WCC.

Roger has had the honor of being on the court with many outstanding high school players who have gone on to successful collegiate and professional careers. They include Mike Giminski, Harold Jenson, Charles Smith and Chris Smith among the boys and Maria Conlon, Lisa Mikelic, Ann Odoj and Jen Rizzoti among the girls.

Roger states, "Being selected to receive a CIAC Award of Merit is the greatest honor I have ever received in my sports and officiating career and I will treasure it the rest of my life."

### PAUL GROSSMAN

**T**his season completes Paul Grossman's 25th year of coaching girls' basketball. Throughout the years, his coaching goals have always been consistent, regardless of his players' talent levels: "I want my players to demonstrate a great work ethic, unselfishness, and the highest level of sportsmanship." Paul first started as a head coach for the Oliver Wolcott Technical School in Torrington. Although they were consistently overmatched in talent, the Tech ladies always presented a positive attitude. They learned many important life lessons from Paul that served them well in their choice of careers and transition into adulthood. In 1990, Grossman took over the coaching job at Canton High School. That program had much success in the decade to follow. The 1997 season's team is the only one in Canton history to go undefeated, 20 and 0. This team lost in the state class finals and, unfortunately, to this day the defeat is "the only disappointment in my coaching career." Paul then returned to his hometown of Winsted to coach the Gilbert School and has remained there for the past seven years.

"In the short three months we have our kids, it is extremely important that, when we put away the balls and that last uniform and drive out of the parking lot, we have no regrets in the job we did or how hard we worked in guiding these young ladies at a very important time in their lives."

### TIM KOHS

**T**im Kohs has been the head basketball coach at Mercy High School for 16 years. He has compiled an overall record of 264-122. His teams have qualified for the CIAC tournament in all 16 years, with nine trips to the quarter-finals, six to the semi-finals, two to the finals, and a Class L state championship in 1996. As a member of the Southern Connecticut Conference, Mercy has won ten division championships and one SCC tournament championship in 2007. Tim has been recognized by IAABO Board #10 with the Rudy Canelli Sportsmanship Award in both 2003 and 2008, and