

## Baseball

# WNY Hall of Fame names Class of 2006

The names are set and the Western New York Baseball Hall of Fame will increase by 15 members next month.

The Hall of Fame directors have announced Bob Slammon, Kevin Lester, Sam Paxson, Stan Figiel, Tom Conwell, Dane Copeland, Paul Daddario, Don Griebner, Greg Honsberger, Gary Kaczor, Jim Klein, Joe Miano, Dale Tepas, Mike Wagner and Ken Fremming will comprise the Class of 2006.

The ceremony will take place Sept. 20 at Fontana's Banquet Center in West Seneca. This is the 10th anniversary of the banquet and will feature special gifts, a raffle for a TV and other events.

### Bob Slammon

Slammon was involved as a founder and director of the All American Amateur Baseball Association at its start in Buffalo in the 1950s. As were all of the founders, Slammon was a fireman. He was active in local and national AAABA for about 50 years.

### Kevin Lester

Lester is approaching 50 years in baseball in WNY. He started in the late 1950s as a catcher in the News Midget League, then at Bishop Turner, and then at St. Bonaventure University.

His career included 20 years in the MUNY League with the Eldredge Club, then with the Voyageurs, who won the National Amateur Championship. He spent more than 20 years as a Bisons bullpen catcher, youth clinic director and official scorer. He also coaches baseball at Williamsville South High School.

When the film "The Natural"

was shot in Buffalo, Lester was heavily involved, including a small, non-speaking role.

### Sam Paxson

Paxson played 10 years in the MUNY League in the 1940s when it was AA. He was a dominating pitcher for Shanley Cleaners, Dad's Root Beer and Pierce & Stevens, which won the division title in 1951.

Paxson, with a record of 61-15 for a winning percentage of .803, was signed by the Dodgers for the 1950-51 season, where he pitched a no-hitter. He later pitched for semi-professional teams.

### Stan Figiel

After a 20-year playing career, Figiel switched to the other side of the plate to become an umpire.

He was a member of the WNY Umpires Association for 25 years and was known as a good, very fair umpire. He was a veteran soccer referee at the college level and is a member of the Frontier Central High School Hall of Fame.

### Tom Conwell

Conwell was an outstanding hitter in his nine years with the Voyageurs during their 13-year run of consecutive championships in MUNY AAA, including a National Amateur championship.

He played for four years in the Suburban League for the Amherst City Mattress team, winning several divisional and Erie-Niagara League titles. Conwell was also a Junior College All-American at Erie Community College, hitting .544 and winning the Rawlings Big Stick Award for high average. He earlier starred for the Kenmore East teams in the late 1970s and 80s.

### Dane Copeland

Copeland is generally regarded as the most outstanding all-around athlete at Holland Central High School and Holland town team history.

He was a dominant pitcher and outstanding hitter and was voted the Suburban Association Central League MVP six times in a 19-year career. He pitched numerous no-hitters in high school and at least four no-hitters in Suburban competition. He also played four years of varsity soccer.

### Paul Daddario

Daddario, son of the Bison's George Daddario, was a sharp fielder and consistent hitter for Amherst teams in the Suburban Associate's Erie-Niagara League for 14 years.

While at the University at Buffalo, he hit .446 and was named All-ECAC in 1983. He was also named to the New York-Penn League All-Star team in 1984. He played four years of pro ball with the Braves and Indians organizations.

### Don Griebner

Griebner was voted All-ECIC two years and then All-WNY in 1976 at Williamsville North High School. He was a four-year hurler at the University at Buffalo, with a career that involved a powerful win over Miami University.

Griebner pitched for five years for the Voyageurs and helped them win five of their many MUNY titles and a national amateur championship. He pitched Amherst to three divisional titles in the Erie-Niagara League of the Suburban Association.

### Greg Honsberger

Honsberger starred for Clarence in the Suburban League

for 11 years during the 1980s.

An All-Star for four years, he hit a record .532 in 1982. Three years later, he pitched a no-hitter. His team won the league title two years, with Honsberger's home-run hitting as a key factor. He played three years at Canisius College.

### Gary Kaczor

In high school, Kaczor was a first baseman All-Catholic power-hitter for three years and All-WNY as a senior.

He was on the title teams of the Voyageurs (1976-1982). His career has included two years of American Legion with West Seneca Post. He was an AAABA All-Star for two years with the Almaroones and he earned All-Eastern Intercollegiate League second team honors, as well as being named to the All-Ivy first team once. He also starred in the Cape Cod League, before an injury ended his career.

### Jim Klein

Klein was an All-Star at Kenmore East High School.

He played for five years with the Sloan Bruins and was named MVP in his second year at Erie Community College, where he was voted the top athlete and earned seven letters in two years. He played two years in the American Legion with the district-winning Jurek Post. He also played two years in the AAABA. At Buffalo State College, he was named WNY-Collegiate Conference All-Star four years.

### Joe Miano

Miano was a slick-fielding first baseman who starred for Kicks & Eddies and then for the Buffalo

Mustangs where he consistently batted over .300 with plenty of homers and was named team MVP and captain for several seasons.

He led the Mustangs to the MUNY League title in 1973 and played two years for Jurek Post in the American Legion, winning the title one of those seasons, and two years for AAABA.

### Dale Tepas

Tepas played in the Cheektowaga Classic and MUNY Leagues from 1964-74.

He played with the famous Cardinals from 1967-73 when they won the MUNY AAA titles in 1970 and 1971. Also when they reached the National Amateur Baseball Federation World Series finals in 1969. He pitched for the Sloan Bruins, then was on the 1974 Painters Union MUNY title team.

At St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute, he played four years of varsity baseball and was named All-Catholic as a senior. He also pitched for four years for the American Legion Shamrocks, winning two district titles and in the AAABA in 1968 when they won the league title.

### Mike Wagner

Wagner pitched for Clarence when it won two consecutive Suburban League all-around play-off titles and the Rechlin Cup for second-place teams.

Wagner also won about 135 games for the Cheektowaga Travelers in 13 years. He also was on an Empire State Games gold medal team and is the varsity coach at St. Mary's of Lancaster High School.

For more information and tickets to the induction banquet, call Bob Miske at 834-1048.

## Buffalo Tennis Hall of Fame to induct its second class

Last year's inaugural class of inductees into the Buffalo Tennis Hall of Fame included Jimmy Arias, Bobby Banck, Joe DiCarlo, Charlie Garfinkel, Clay Hamlin, Rev. Bob Hetherington, Marvin and Dorothy Krasner, Leo Kronman, Tom LaPenna, Ethel Marshall, Carol (Kraus) Martin, Todd Miller, and Jack Sunderland.

This year's event will again be held at 6 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 30 at Transit Valley Country Club, 8920 Transit Road, East Amherst.

The list of inductees include:

Mike Albano, a premier doubles champion for over four decades; Seth Bowen, former ATP player; Jack Castle, was ranked No. 6 nationally with a mixed doubles win over Bill Tilden; Cathy Farrell, formerly ranked No. 223 in the world on the women's pro tour; Alex Gaeta, a three time Collegiate All American; Pat Lord, seven-time MUNY Champion; Bob Mack, coached numerous local champions; Terry McMahon, winningest high school tennis coach in Western New York history; Lou Schaefer - cap-

tured 15 MUNY doubles titles; Karen (Peterson) Schleifer, National Public Parks Champion and three-time MUNY singles winner; Ken White, former UB All-American and Mary Wilson, currently ranked No. 3 in the world in women's 60 singles.

The Buffalo Tennis Hall of Fame is located inside the Amherst Hills Tennis Club, 5959 Sheridan Drive Amherst, and is open to the public for viewing.

Reservations for the night of celebration (\$50 per person) can be made by calling 688-2235.

## Lightning Gold 16U

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Holly Johnson kept the Hornets off balance through 4.2 innings when the Hornets started to rally. The Hornets had runners on first and second when the Lightning called on Michelle Krier to come in relief of Johnson. After falling behind 3 and 0, Krier ended the inning with a strikeout.

The Hornets scored a run in the sixth and the Lightning were one out away from the championship when a Hornet batter hit a shot to deep center field. As the ball was going over her head, Amanda Cannizzo put her glove in the air at the last second and made a sensational catch to end the game.

This victory and the 10 other victories during the week were the result of a Lightning team that worked together and where every player had a special role.


Team members include Cannizzo (Sweet Home), Johnson (Amherst), Krier (Kenmore), Lancellotti (Clarence), Kyrstin Lekki (Niagara Wheatfield), Kaylee Lekki (Niagara Wheatfield), Kate Mankowski (Orchard Park), Danielle Martzolf (Lancaster), Sam Rajski (Frontier), Melissa Rogers (Clarence), Ulmer (Williamsville North), and Shannon Wilson (North Tonawanda).

At the conclusion of the championship game, the Lightning had played 27 games in 16 days. This past weekend, the Lightning won the 27th annual Plank Rd. Tournament in Syracuse also going undefeated. The team also won the Niagara Frontier Softball League 18U regular season and playoff championships. Becca Zimmerman (Jamestown) is also a member of that team.

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