



# **Waterford Athletic Hall of Fame**

9th Induction Ceremony  
Friday November 25, 2022

Langley's Restaurant at  
Great Neck Country Club  
Waterford, Connecticut

# Platinum Sponsor

The Mortimer Family  
and



The Waterford Athletic Hall of Fame would like to thank the Mortimer family and GNCC for their wonderful support of our efforts to honor those who have made special contributions to Waterford athletics. In addition to helping us with the induction ceremony, their support helped us reach a goal of a permanent location to honor the members of the Hall of Fame. A perpetual plaque is now displayed inside the Francis X. Sweeney Field House at Waterford High School to serve as a lasting memory of the inductees.

**2022 Induction Ceremony - Program of Events**

**5:30 PM**      ***Social Hour***

**6:30 PM**      ***Welcome***

Jim Cavalieri, HOF Committee Chair

**6:45 PM**      **Dinner**

***Hall of Fame Inductions/Honorees***

Michael Colston

Fred Malan

Jack O'Keefe

Kathy (Olson) Fugett

Christine (Perkins) Maclure

Gregg Swanson

Ron Twitty

Mark Winters

1969 WHS Boy's Track Team

## **The Waterford Athletic Hall of Fame**

The Waterford Athletic Hall of Fame was founded in 2002 by The Cactus Jack Foundation to honor those who have made special contributions to Waterford athletics, as a player, coach, administrator or community volunteer.

### **Class of 2002**

Howard Christensen  
Richard Cipriani  
Gerard Rousseau  
Francis X. Sweeney

### **Class of 2004**

Bill Gardner Sr.  
Arnold Holm  
Jan Merrill Morin  
Gary Swanson  
Joan Van Ness

### **Class of 2008**

Ron Bugbee  
Joe Carey  
Karen Mullins  
Gene Sutera  
Norman Tonucci

### **Class of 2010**

Marlene (Morth) Wiggins  
Liz Mueller  
Glenn Rupert  
David Sousa  
Warren Swanson

### **Class of 2014**

Lee Elci  
Ed Evento  
Billy Gardner Jr.  
Jeff Hedden  
Vicki (Bartolucci) Malone  
Karlton Perkins  
Jim White  
1973 WHS Football Team

### **Class of 2016**

Aaron Curry  
Stephen Harper  
Bridgit (Lawrence) Buscetto  
Joe Miller  
Kris Morton  
Rick Murallo  
Chris Podeszwa  
Katie Schoepfer

**Class of 2018**

1968 WHS Baseball State Championship Team

Marc Benvenuti

Rick McGuire

Sam Cheung

Jody Nazarchyk

Bob Eldridge

Greg Sweeney

Kerrienne Dugan Jensen

Melvin Twitty

Robert Kelley

**Class of 2021**

Keith Burrows

Erin (Patterson) Janicek

Tim Burrows

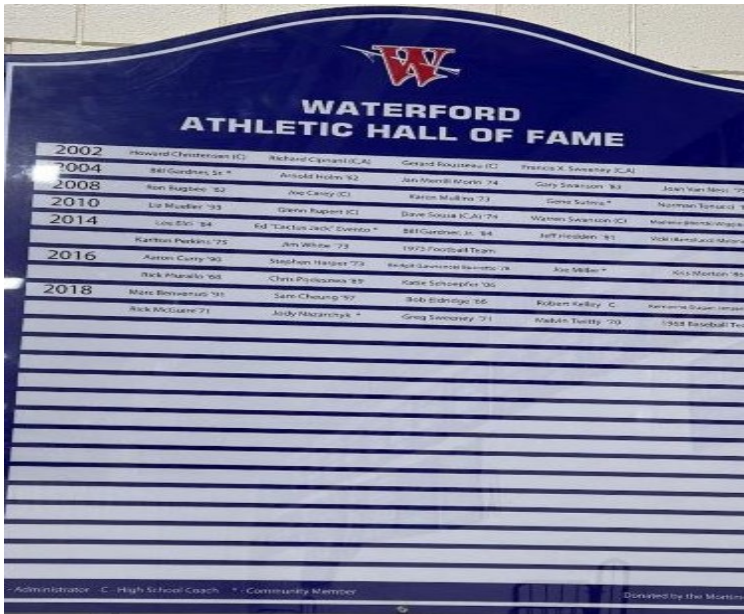
Tommy Pezzello

Billy Crocker

Amy Simpson

Todd Lathrop

Zack Sousa



For more information, visit us online or on Facebook at:  
<http://www.cactusjackfoundation.org/waterford-athletic-hall-of-fame.html>

[www.facebook.com/waterfordcthof](http://www.facebook.com/waterfordcthof)

To nominate someone for the HOF, please contact one of the committee members below:

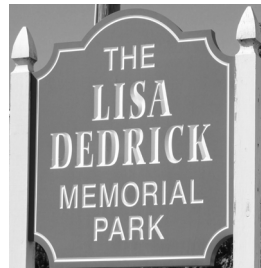
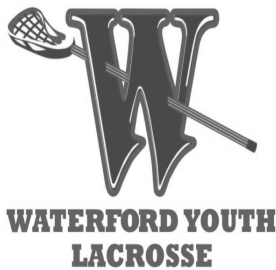
### **Committee Members**

Tim Burrows  
 Jim Cavalieri  
 Tim Egan  
 Rik Little  
 Chris Podeszwa  
 Rich Radicioni  
 Don Richmond  
 Dave Sousa

timburrows11@gmail.com  
 cavjim73@gmail.com  
 TEgan@montvilleschools.org  
 eriklittle@sbcglobal.net  
 dez5@sbcglobal.net  
 rradicioni@sbcglobal.net  
 drichmond@snet.net  
 dsousa64@gmail.com



American Legion  
Baseball  
*Waterford Post 161*





## **Michael Colston**

Michael Colston was born in 1950 in Honolulu, Hawaii, before moving to Quaker Hill where he attended Waterford public schools. He attended WHS from 1965 – 1969 and was an outstanding athlete, excelling in Football / Track & Field where he set ECC and State records in both sports.

Michael led the Track team to consecutive undefeated seasons in his Junior and Senior years. As a Senior, he went undefeated in the 100- and 220-yard dash as well as in the 180-low hurdles during the regular season, setting school records in all 3 events. He won the state championship in the indoor 60-yard dash while setting a new state record of 6.2 seconds. Michael competed in the New England Championships in his Junior and Senior years, finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 180-low hurdles as a Senior.



Over his 4-year track career at WHS, Michael scored 686 points, averaging 172 points per year and scoring 235 points in his Senior season.

At the conclusion of his WHS career, Coach Cipriani (HOF) stated "What can I say about Michael, he's just the greatest trackman I've had the pleasure of coaching and it has been a wonderful 4 years".

Michael was also a standout football player at WHS. In an outstanding Senior season, he scored 26 touchdowns and a total of 156 points. Against St. Bernard's, he rushed for 396 yards and scored 5 TDs leading the Lancers to their 1<sup>st</sup> ever victory against the Saints. He also ran for 335 yards on only 11 carries against Montville. At the conclusion of his Senior year, Michael was not only the all-time season scoring leader for WHS but also held the state record for points scored in a season.

Upon graduation, Michael accepted an athletic scholarship to the University of Nebraska for both Football / Track & Field. During his Track & Field career there, he set the school record in the 40-yard dash recording a time of 4.09 seconds. He also won the Big-8 conference 100 meters as a sophomore. He graduated in 1972 with a Master's degree in Chemistry. Michael then went on to earn a doctorate in Seed Biology from Kansas State University.

Michael currently lives in Colorado and has 4 children, Brande, Johnathan, Ahmani and Marcus.

### **Awards/Recognitions**

All-ECC (Track & Field): 1966 - 1969

All-ECC (Football): 1968

WHS Records (Track & Field):

- 60-yard dash (6.2 seconds)
- 100-yard dash (9.8 seconds)
- 220-yard dash (22.6 seconds)
- 180-low hurdles (20.6 seconds)
- Points scored – season (235)
- Points scored – career (686)

WHS Records (Football):

- Points scored – season (156)

State Record (Football):

- Points scored – season (156)



## **Fred Malan**

Fred Malan began his very successful athletic career playing baseball in Waterford North Little League for the "Radcaps" and basketball at St. Mary's school in New London. He led the "Radcaps" to the league championship in 1959 posting a .544 batting average, with 12 doubles, 5 HRs, 35 RBIs and 8 stolen bases, the league leader in batting average and doubles.

Fred entered Waterford High School in 1960 where he was a standout 2-sport athlete in basketball and baseball. He was the 1<sup>st</sup> freshman to play varsity basketball and earn a varsity letter all 4 years. Fred was also named a co-captain as a Senior. In 1962, Fred scored the winning basket to beat New London, 49-47, the 1<sup>st</sup> win for Waterford against the much larger NLHS. The team went on to win the ECC title that season.

Fred played varsity baseball for 3 seasons for the Lancers. He led the team in hits (21) and HRs (3) as a Junior and led the team in batting average (.333) and RBIs (20) as a Senior.

Upon graduation from WHS, Fred attended Westminster Prep school in Simsbury where he played both basketball and baseball. He had a successful year there and then then went on to play both basketball and baseball at the University of CT after being recruited to play baseball by Coach Larry Panciera. In baseball, he played in 64 games, hitting .310 and had a fielding percentage of .960 and was named a Captain as a Senior. Fred played guard on the basketball team where he was known as one of the "M&M Boys" with teammate and co-captain Jack Melan. As a sophomore (back then you couldn't play varsity until you were a sophomore), he played as a player coming off the bench behind Bill Holowaty and Tom Penders who went on to have successful and noteworthy athletic careers. As a Junior, Fred was a starter, and played with Bill Corley (UConn record holder for most points scored in a single game, on Fred's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday no less), averaging 10 PPG, shooting over 40% from the field and making 87% of his free throws.

After graduating from UConn, Fred taught English at Bristol CT Central High School where he also coached basketball, baseball and golf from 1970 - 1980. He changed careers to work in insurance for Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance in Hartford and then moved to Florida to work for Florida American Bankers Insurance Group. Fred then returned to teaching at the University School, a private K - 12 school on the campus of Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale. He spent 12 years there in various roles, including: English teacher, Dean of Students, Athletic Director and Basketball Coach.

Looking back on his decision to go to UConn, Fred said, "I'm very pleased I didn't leave the state, and obviously with the notoriety the university is getting through their success the kids that I taught were amazed when I tell them I played basketball at UConn. I think it's tremendous what UConn has elevated itself to. I'm very proud of UConn."



## **Jack O'Keefe**

Jack O'Keefe was born in Derby, CT on November 21, 1962. He moved to Waterford at an early age, attending Great Neck Elementary School, Clark Lane Junior High School and Waterford High School. Jack's passion and love for sports began at an early age as his father was the Recreation Director at Seaside Regional Center. He began playing youth baseball at Waterford Little League South and was fortunate to have such coaches as Joe Sullivan and Joe Carey (HOF) to teach him about more than just baseball. Jack was a member of the 1975 WLLS all-star team that was the 1<sup>st</sup> WLL team to win a state championship.

Jack graduated from WHS in 1980 where he played 3 years of varsity basketball for Wayne Lawrence and also played baseball for HOF coaches Howie Christiansen and Gerry Rousseau. As a junior, he was a starter on the 1979 Class L State Championship team and was named a team captain as a senior.

Upon graduation, Jack attended Mitchell College and then the College of the Holy Cross graduating from the latter in 1984. At Mitchell, he was named an All-New England first baseman.

In his senior year at Holy Cross, Jack won the "Hop Riopel" Award as team MVP and still remains 3rd overall in school history in fielding percentage.

Jack began his coaching career as an assistant with New London Legion in 1991. Two years later he was hired as the head baseball coach at Montville High School where he led the Indians to an ECC Championship. In 1995, Jack was hired as the 2<sup>nd</sup>-ever varsity baseball coach at WHS after the retirement of Gerry Rousseau where he would remain for the next 16 seasons. Jack was proud to have a great staff of talented coaches working alongside him as a constant during his tenure, including: Tom Sullivan, John Contillo, Art Peluso and Mike Loper, individuals who brought unmatched passion, knowledge and integrity to the program.

During Jack's tenure at WHS, his teams won numerous ECC Regular Season and Tournament championships. His teams also won state championships in 1998, 2000, 2002 and 2005, and were state runner-up in 2007 and 2010. In 2005 and 2006, Jack coached in the CT State all-star game with the 2005 team playing at Fenway Park. Jack won in excess of 300 games in his coaching career. He was named area Coach of the Year several times each by the Norwich Bulletin / New London Day and state Coach of the Year in varying years by the CIAC / New Haven Register / Team Connecticut Baseball. His players also earned countless honors with many going on to play collegiately and 5 playing professionally.

Jack continues to reside in Waterford with his wife Robin. He was fortunate to have had the honor to coach both of his sons, Jackie and Colin at Waterford. Jack has also coached youth basketball, was a past member of the Cactus Jack Foundation and the Waterford Recreation and Parks Commission. Since the mid 1990's, he and Robin have managed and organized the Strides for the Handicapped Road Race in town that has raised thousands of dollars for recreational opportunities for the developmentally disabled.

### **Awards/Recognitions**

CT Little League State Champion (player):	1975
Class L State Champion (player):	1999
All-New England 1 <sup>st</sup> base (player):	1982
Holy Cross "Hop Riopel" team MVP:	1984
CT State Champion (coach):	1998, 2000, 2002, 2005
CT State Runner-Up (coach):	2007, 2010



## **Kathy (Olson) Fugett**

Kathy (Olson) Fugett was born in New London in 1966, raised in Waterford and attended Waterford public schools. Kathy began running very early in her life competing in her 1<sup>st</sup> official race at the age of six. Per an article in the New London Day later in her career, she fell down at the end of the race and cried, but in the end, it gave her "nothing more serious than a bite from the running bug". She went on from there to have a prestigious career at Waterford High School and at the University of Georgia.

Kathy's Track & Field career at WHS from 1981 - 1985 was unparalleled. During her WHS career, she ran Cross Country and Indoor/Outdoor Track. In Cross Country, she was an ECC and Class M State Champion 3 times. As a Senior, Kathy was named team captain, ran to an undefeated season, was the CIAC State Open champion and named a Kinney Cross Country All-American.

Kathy also had an excellent indoor Track career which included being the high school 1-mile champion in the Boston College Relays as a Junior, and finishing 6<sup>th</sup> in the country in the prestigious Millrose Games at Madison Square Garden as a Senior.

Kathy was dominant in outdoor Track during her WHS career. During this time, she ran every race from the 400m – 3200m, winning multiple in the same meet on several occasions. She went undefeated as a Senior, was named The Day's top female athlete in the 400-, 800-, 1600- and 3200- and was invited to compete for the Puerto Rico National team. During her career, Kathy was named The Day Female Athlete of the Year 3 times.

Kathy earned a full athletic scholarship to run Cross Country for the University of Georgia where she competed for 3 seasons. She earned all-SEC honors and finished 13<sup>th</sup> in the SEC Cross Country championships as a freshman and was named a team captain and finished 27<sup>th</sup> in the SEC Cross Country championships as a sophomore. She graduated in 1990 with a BSED - Health & Physical Education and a minor in Health Promotion & Behavior.

Kathy is married to Daniel Fugett (USN Submariner, retired) and they have 5 children: Katherine, Ensign (USCG) Robert, Andrew, Emily and Marianna. She has been a stay-at-home mom, who also worked, when possible, as a paraprofessional, substitute teacher, physical education teacher, volunteer soccer coach, girl scout leader, and ombudsman.

### **Awards/Recognitions**

ECC X-Country Champion:	1981, 1982, 1984
CIAC Class M X-Country Champion:	1981, 1982, 1984
CIAC State Open X-Country Champion:	1984
Wickham Park X-Country Invitational Champion:	1984
Bear Mountain (NY) X-Country Invitational Champion:	1984
Kinney X-Country All-American:	1984
The Day Female Track Athlete of the Year 400-, 800-, 1600-, 3200-	1985
The Day Female Athlete of the Year:	1982, 1983, 1985
All-SEC X-Country:	1985



## **Christine (Perkins) Maclure**

Christine (Perkins) Maclure was born in New London on September 25th, 1976 to Richard and Donna Perkins. Chrissie was raised in Waterford with her older sister Dori, attending Waterford public schools. Chrissie began her softball career on the fields of Waterford North Little League and her basketball career in Waterford Pre-Teen basketball.

At WHS, Chrissie played softball for WHS HOF coach Joe Carey where she was a four-year varsity starter at shortstop and team captain. She earned 1st Team Class M All-State Honors in both her junior and senior years. Chrissie was also a recipient of the Arnold Holm Award, the Christopher Potvin Award and the Wayne Kittridge Award.

Chrissie also distinguished herself on the basketball court, where she was also a four-year varsity starter and team captain. She earned Honorable Mention Class M All-State as a sophomore and 1st Team Class M All-State Honors as a junior and senior.



Chrissie scored her 1,000th point in her junior year and surpassed WHS HOFer Marlene (Morth) Wiggins' career total (of 1,331 points) in her senior year. Chrissie graduated with a career record of 658 rebounds, 398 assists, 269 steals, 68 blocks, 110 three-pointers and 1,564 career points (still the school career scoring record for both boys and girls).

Chrissie accepted an athletic scholarship to play basketball at Sacred Heart University. At SHU, Chrissie was again a four-year starter and a two-year captain. She earned the New England Collegiate Conference Rookie-of-the-Year Award and followed that with All-New England Collegiate Conference Honors all four years. Chrissie led SHU in scoring her first three years and scored her 1,000th point in her junior year. She graduated third on the school's all-time career point total list with 1,308. Chrissie graduated with a B.A. degree in Mathematics with a minor in Education in 1998.

Chrissie then spent many years coaching basketball with the Connecticut Storm AAU program (2 yrs), Montville High School (1 yr), Windham Middle School (1 yr) and Windham High School (10 yrs). In 2005 and 2011 Chrissie's Windham High School teams won the Class M State Championship.

Chrissie resides in Windham and is a Math Teacher at Windham Technical High School in Willimantic. She is married to Tim Maclure (2005) and they have two children, Connor (2006) and Alexis (2013).

### **Awards/Recognitions**

All-ECC (softball / basketball):	1992 – 1994
The Day All-Area (softball)	1993, 1994
The Day All-Area (basketball)	1992 – 1994
Class M 1st team All-State (softball):	1993, 1994
Class M 1st team All-State (basketball):	1993, 1994
The Day Player of the Year (basketball):	1993, 1994
WHS All-Time Career Points Leader for both Boys & Girls Basketball:	1,564 points
NECC Rookie-of-the-Year:	1995
All-NECC:	1995 - 1998
SHU individual season scoring leader:	1995 - 1997
SHU 3 <sup>rd</sup> all-time for career scoring:	1,308 points



## **Gregg Swanson**

Gregg Swanson was born in 1962 at Lawrence & Memorial Hospital, grew up in New London attending Harbor Elementary School and New London Junior High School until moving to Waterford near the end of his 8<sup>th</sup> grade year.

Gregg then attended Waterford High School where he quickly found success as a premier soccer player and a well-rounded multi-sport athlete, also playing basketball and baseball.

Gregg was a tremendously skilled soccer player who helped lead the WHS soccer team to a new level of success in a town not yet known for their soccer program. In his junior year, the team reached the state championship game led by Gregg and a dedicated group of soccer players trying to put soccer on the WHS map. The team included Gregg's brother Gary, a freshman and Waterford Athletic HOFer and two international transfer students. The team captured the attention of the school and community and started to really drive enthusiasm towards the sport of soccer in Waterford.

During his soccer career at WHS, Gregg earned all-ECC / all-State honors during his Junior and Senior years and all-New England honors as a Senior.

Gregg was a very good baseball player at WHS playing varsity baseball for 3 seasons and was a member of 2 State Championship teams. As a Senior, he had a unique ability of getting on-base, recording 29 hits, 2 HBP, 18 walks, scored 34 runs, had 25 RBIs and stole 9 bases.

Gregg graduated from WHS in 1981 and went on to play soccer at Boston University enjoying a successful career by being named team captain twice, team MVP once and selected once for the all-greater Boston team.

Upon graduation from BU, Gregg began a long and successful career as a coach and as a volunteer in Waterford Youth sports. He was a coach in all of the town's youth sports programs, including Waterford Little League South, Waterford Babe Ruth, Waterford Pre-Teen Basketball and the Waterford Soccer Club. As a coach, his team's mirrored his personal athletic success winning at every level. He was a coach on the 2007 Waterford Little League Softball team that was New England Regional Champions and played in the World Series in Portland, Ore.

Gregg served as the WSC President for 25 years and was instrumental in building the program into the success it is today. During his tenure, he led the way to get the clubhouse built and irrigation system and lights installed. He has also served on the BOD for the SE Junior Soccer Club for 20 years.

Gregg was also a coach for many successful soccer programs, including: Head Boy's Coach at WHS (10 years), Assistant Coach at Clemson University (ACC Championship), CT College (4 years) and SE CT Premier for 15 years.

### **Awards/Recognitions**

All-ECC (soccer):	1980, 1981
All-State (soccer):	1980, 1981
All-New England (soccer):	1981
SE CT Junior Soccer Assoc. Hall of Fame:	2007
CT Soccer Hall of Fame:	2015



## **Ron Twitty**

Ron Twitty was born in Bethesda, MD in 1955 where his father served in the United States Navy, transferring to New London in 1958. The family moved to Waterford in 1963 where Ron attended Great Neck Elementary school, Clark Lane Junior High school and Waterford high school. He played multiple youth sports including for the Waterford Pee-Wee football "Tigers", the Waterford Little League South "Outboards" and "Biddy" basketball at the New London YMCA.

Ron attended WHS from 1970 - 1974 where he played football and baseball for all 4 years and indoor track as a Junior and Senior.

Ron helped his football team to three consecutive winning seasons culminating in the 1st undefeated season in school history as a Senior (9 - 0). That year, he rushed for over 1,000 yards and led the area in scoring. During his WHS career, Ron rushed for over 2000 yards, helped lead his team to 2 ECC championships and was named all-ECC twice.

Ron also enjoyed an outstanding baseball career at WHS. As a Senior shortstop, he batted .380 with 27 RBIs and led the team in stolen bases (8), triples (4) and runs scored (25). That team won the ECC regular season championship with a record of 11 – 1. Ron earned all-ECC honors 3 times.

Ron also ran indoor track as a Junior and Senior. He was the ECC champion in the 60-yard dash in both years and was a member of the 4 x 100-meter relay team that won the ECC championship, setting an ECC record along the way.

Upon graduation, Ron attended Westchester Community College for 2 years where he played football and baseball. As a freshman, Ron’s football team faced his brother Melvin’s (WTFD Athletic HOF) Mattatuck Community College team for the national championship! After 2 years at WCC, Ron went on to play baseball at the University of Southern California (USC) playing for 2 years as a centerfielder. He left to pursue his dream of playing professionally which he did in the Mexican league. He played there for 3 years batting over .320 for his professional career.

Ron stepped away from baseball to start a family, settling first in California for 13 years before moving back to the East Coast to begin a long career of helping the community. He worked for New London Adult Education as a counselor for 4 years and started a Teen-Father program for New London County Thru Planned Parenthood which he led for 5 years. Ron then joined Lawrence & Memorial Hospital as a counselor, a position he held for 23 years until his retirement in 2016. Ron was married to the late Sally Hunt who passed away on September 13, 2010.

### **Awards/Recognitions**

All-ECC (football):	1972, 1973
All-State Honorable Mention (football):	1973
All-ECC (baseball):	1972 – 1974



## **Mark Winters**

Mark Winters was born in New London in 1960 to James and Sheila Winters. He grew up in Quaker Hill attending Quaker Hill Elementary School and Clark Lane Jr. High. Mark showed an early flair for sports, pitching Waterford North Little League to the District Finals, led the YMCA pre-teen basketball league in scoring and won MVP of the Willimantic Invitational Tournament.

Mark attended Waterford High School from 1974 - 1978 playing basketball and baseball. He was a dominant left-handed pitcher with a devastating curveball. Mark had many pitching milestones at WHS, including twice striking out 20 batters in a game, pitched 2 no-hitters, and recorded a 13-inning shutout. He recorded 398 Ks in 3 varsity seasons and had a stretch of 65 consecutive innings without yielding an earned run as a Senior. He helped WHS to a state championship in 1976, recording 18 Ks in the state semi-final game. Mark made all-ECC 3 times, set the single-season and career strikeout records for WHS and was voted to the list of the top 15 high school players in the history of SE CT by the Norwich Bulletin in 2015.

Mark also played 3 seasons for Niantic American Legion winning 27 games, making the All-Star team all three years and winning multiple MVP and best pitcher Awards.

Mark was a very good basketball player at WHS as well. During his career he was named all-ECC 3 times, all-State 2<sup>nd</sup> team once and scored 1,083 points. Coach Wayne Lawrence called him the best all-around player and purest shooter he had ever coached. After his senior year, Mark was selected Male Athlete of the Year by the New London Day.

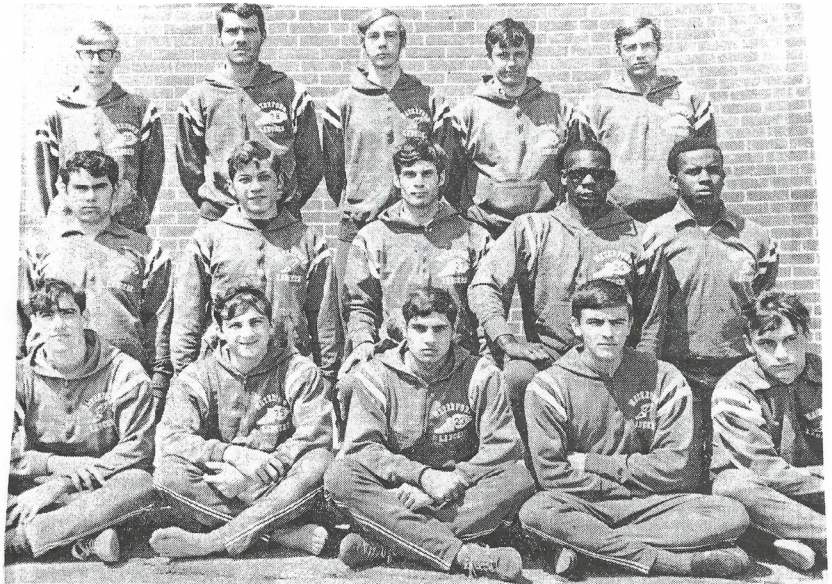
Upon graduation from WHS, Mark accepted a full athletic scholarship for baseball from the University of CT. As a freshman, he became the team's number two starting pitcher, threw 8 complete games and 2 shutouts as the team earned a trip to the College World Series. He was selected to the All-Yankee Conference Team as a freshman and sophomore. As a sophomore, he set school records of 10 complete games and 4 shutouts. Mark was voted to the all-New England Baseball Team, and was the starting and winning pitcher of the All-Star game played at Fenway Park.

Mark went on to play for the Falmouth Commodores in the prestigious Cape Cod League where he was again a champion throwing a shutout in the title game. He made the Cape Cod All-Star team playing the game at Yankee Stadium. Winters was drafted by the San Francisco Giants and played in the Arizona Instructional League, then 4 years in the Giants and Brewer organizations advancing to the Double-A level.

Winters met his wife, Kendall, during a minor league stint with the Fresno Giants and they've been married for the last 38 years, where they are the parents of a son McKay. They live in Fresno, CA where Mark is the shipping and receiving supervisor at Fresno State University.

### **Awards/Recognitions**

All-ECC (baseball):	1976 - 1978
All-ECC (basketball):	1976 - 1978,
2 <sup>nd</sup> team All-State (basketball):	1978
American Legion Zone All-Star:	1976 - 1978
The Day Male Athlete of the Year:	1978
All-Yankee Conference (baseball):	1979 - 1980
All-New England (baseball):	1980
Cape Code League All-Star (baseball):	1981



**SENSATIONAL SENIORS** — Fifteen reasons for the sensational Waterford High string of 35 straight track successes are shown in this picture — all seniors. The 15 and two others missing from the picture went through the greater part of their high school career without a loss in track. The seniors are: Front row, left to right — Bob Concascia, Charles

Good, Gene Fergione, Bob Skewes, Tom Chiavaglia; second row — John Belbruno, Russ Moore, Co-Capt. Peter Schlicht, Co-Capt. Mike Colston, Steve Stanley; third row — Ken Paulsen, Mike Green, Greg Dunn, Nick Jewett and Dudley Herndon. Missing from picture — Lloyd DeLong and Robert Hull.

## 1969 WHS Boy's Track & Field Team

1st Row: Bob Concascia, Charles Good, Gene Fergione, Bob Skewes, Tom Chiavaglia

2<sup>nd</sup> Row: John Belbruno, Russ Moore, Co-Capt. Peter Schlicht, Co-Capt. Mike Colston, Steve Stanley

3<sup>rd</sup> Row: Ken Paulsen, Mike Green, Greg Dunn, Nick Jewett, Dudley Herndon

Missing from picture: Lloyd DeLong, Robert Hull

Winning 35 consecutive dual meets over a three-year period, this senior group had back-to-back undefeated seasons in their Junior and Senior seasons. They were by far the best track team in Eastern CT. During this stretch, they defeated powerhouse programs; Fitch by 28 points, NFA by 55 points, New London by 64 points and Xavier by 48 points. The team averaged over 102 points per meet while holding the opposition to an average of 36 points. School records fell throughout the 1968 and 1969 seasons in the 100-, 220-, 880-, 2-mile, shot put and discus events.



Track & Field at that time had 16 different events that could be broken down into categories: field events like jumping/throwing, running distance events and running sprint events. To say that the 1969 Lancers were well-balanced in all events would be an understatement.

In the 1969 ECC conference meet, the depth was evident as the team scored 112 points with the 2<sup>nd</sup> place team coming in with a distant 62 points. The results for the meet:

<u>180 Low Hurdles:</u>	Mike Colston(1 <sup>st</sup> ) (new meet record)
<u>110 High Hurdles:</u>	Joe Capozza(3 <sup>rd</sup> ), John Miceli(4 <sup>th</sup> )
<u>100 Yard Dash:</u>	Mike Colston(1 <sup>st</sup> ), Peter Schlicht(2 <sup>nd</sup> )
<u>220 Yard Dash:</u>	Mike Colston(1 <sup>st</sup> )
<u>440-Yard Dash:</u>	Peter Schlicht(1 <sup>st</sup> ) (tied ECC record)
<u>880-Yard Dash:</u>	Ken Paulsen(1 <sup>st</sup> ), Ken Avena (3 <sup>rd</sup> )
<u>1-Mile Run:</u>	Gene Fergione(2 <sup>nd</sup> ), Steve Ziemba(3 <sup>rd</sup> )
<u>2-Mile Run:</u>	John Elliott(2 <sup>nd</sup> ), Randy Herndon(3 <sup>rd</sup> )
<u>Long Jump:</u>	Greg Dunn(2 <sup>nd</sup> ), Ken Stefanski(4 <sup>th</sup> )
<u>High Jump:</u>	Greg Dunn(1 <sup>st</sup> ), Ed Deer(4 <sup>th</sup> )
<u>Triple Jump:</u>	Ed Deer(1 <sup>st</sup> ), Ken Stefanski(3 <sup>rd</sup> )
<u>Shot Put:</u>	Tom Schacht(2 <sup>nd</sup> ), Tom Smith(4 <sup>th</sup> )
<u>Pole Vault:</u>	Guy Williams (4 <sup>th</sup> )
<u>Discus:</u>	Tom Schacht(1 <sup>st</sup> ), Mike Green(2 <sup>nd</sup> )
<u>Javelin:</u>	Nick Jewett(1 <sup>st</sup> ), Mike Green(4 <sup>th</sup> )
<u>880 Yard Relay:</u>	2 <sup>nd</sup>

The 1969 team won Waterford's 9<sup>th</sup> ECC title but Coach Cipriani (HOF) called this team the "most outstanding one he's coached".

In the fall of 1968, Coach Robert Kelley's (HOF) Cross Country team won the ECC title and finished 2<sup>nd</sup> at the State Open. The team was led by Gene Fergione, Ken Paulsen, Steve Zrenda, John Elliott and Dudley Herndon. The team also had great depth with Dennis Darling, Randy Herndon and Joe Cappello. Their success along with the high quality of the individuals on the team helped the spring track team to another undefeated season.

## **The Cactus Jack Foundation**

The Cactus Jack Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that had its origins in 1989 as a grass roots charity whose mission is to aid individuals, families and other charitable organizations in need throughout Southeastern Connecticut. Ed "Cactus Jack" Evento was a free spirit, who for many decades gave countless hours of his time to people from all walks of life. He was a firm believer in giving something back, and not in small doses. Cactus Jack was an inspiration to many and it is with his sense of community that the foundation is named.

Cactus Jack's memory and spirit were honored each year from 1989 through the mid-1990s with a softball tournament that attracted teams throughout New England. Since 1997, the foundation has held the annual Cactus Jack Charity Golf Classic. In 2002, the foundation joined with The ARC of New London County as co-sponsors of the annual Jack O'Keefe Strides for the Handicapped Road Race and also formed the Waterford Athletic Hall of Fame. In 2016, the foundation partnered with Mike Buscetto's "Bash at the Beach" to form the Cactus Jack Pediatric Fund which provides support for children and young people in need throughout SE CT.

The foundation is proud to be able to give back to the community in the same spirit of Cactus Jack himself.

### **Cactus Jack Foundation Board of Directors**

Rick Beaney	Steve Bellos
Mike Buscetto	Tom Eshenfelder
Tim Gigliotti	Chris Muckle
Dan Pickett	John Ryan
David Sutera	Jack Voelker





The Cactus Jack Foundation salutes this year's inductees to the Waterford Athletic Hall of Fame. Congratulations on an honor well-deserved!

We would also like to thank all of the members of the Waterford Athletic Hall of Fame for your contributions to Waterford Athletics and the fond memories that you have given to the Waterford community!

Thanks to the Waterford Athletic Hall of Fame Selection Committee for another outstanding job and for your dedication in honoring those who have made special contributions to Waterford Athletics!

Finally, a big thank-you to all of you for your continued support of The Cactus Jack Foundation. We could not do what we do without your help and generosity. It is truly appreciated!