

Paul Vachon



Mr. Paul Vachon grew up in Augusta, Maine and graduated from Cony High School in 1974, after an outstanding playing career for legendary coach Richard “Dick” Hunt. He then moved on to the University of Maine-Farmington where he received his BS in elementary education in 1978. The following year, saw him begin his teaching and coaching career at the Atwood-Tapley School in Oakland, Maine. In 1983, Paul served as the varsity girls’ basketball coach at Messalonskee High School in Oakland and in 1985, Paul accepted the varsity girls’ basketball coaching position at his alma mater, Cony High School in Augusta.

Over the next 23 years, Paul’s teams would qualify for post-season play every year, amassed a record of 451-37 games, captured 11 regional championships, and seven state championships. His 92.1% winning percentage places him at the top level of all Maine coaches.

Over his coaching career, Paul was recognized as the Maine Association of Basketball Coaches “Coach of the Year”, the Kennebec Valley Athletic Conference “Coach of the Year”, and was selected as an honorary coach in the McDonald’s Senior All-Star game.

In 2008, Paul moved on to become the athletic administrator at Cony High School. Over the past 11 years, Paul has directed the athletic department at the school and has served as the director of numerous regional and state championships in track & field, wrestling, baseball, and softball.

In 2002, Paul was inducted into the New England Basketball Hall of Fame as well as seeing his 1995 Cony team inducted into the same Hall of Fame in 2004.

Paul, along with his daughter Amy, are the first father-daughter duo to be inducted into the MPA Hall of Excellence.

The MPA is honored to be able to recognize one of Maine’s all-time great coaches, Mr. Paul Vachon.



Maine Principals’ Association in partnership with Lifetouch School Portraits Recognizes the 2019

**Maine Principals’ Association
Hall of Excellence**

Inductees

~ May 23, 2019 ~

Leslie Bancroft-Krichko

Dick Barstow

Dick Durost

Wes Jordan

Wally LaFountain

Dean Smith

Tony Tammaro

Dean Smith

Harold “Pinky” True

Amy Vachon

Paul Vachon

Program

5:00 p.m.

Reception

5:30 p.m.

Welcome and Meal

6:15 p.m.

Recognition of Inductees

8:30 p.m.

Closing and Photos

Amy Vachon



Ms. Amy Vachon is a 1996 graduate of Cony High School in Augusta, Maine where she had a storied athletic career in both field hockey and basketball. She led the Cony field hockey team to a Class A Championship in 1995 and was named the Most Valuable Player during that season. Over her four years in high school, where she played basketball for her father Paul, her basketball teams amassed an 82-5 record, claiming two state championships. During her high school basketball career, she scored a total of 1,418 points, handed out 977 assists, and had 524 steals.

She was a four-year All-State Selection, was twice selected as the Gatorade Player of the Year, and was honored as Miss Maine Basketball in 1996.

After her outstanding high school career, she moved on to a stellar playing career at the University of Maine, Orono. She finished her career at UMaine as one of the all-time assists leader in women's college basketball history. Her former coach at UMaine described Amy as the "most classic type of player, elevating those players around her." In 2011, Amy coached the Catherine McCauly High School girls' basketball team to the Class A State Championship.

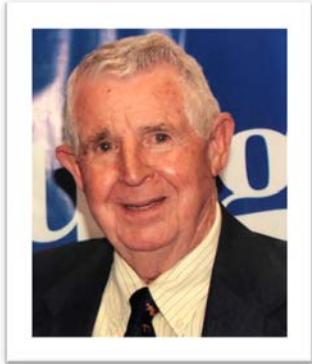
In 2011, Amy returned to UMaine as an assistant coach and in 2017 took over the head coaching duties, a position she remains in today.

In 2004, her 1995 Cony High School basketball team was inducted into the New England Basketball Hall of Fame. In 2013, Amy herself was inducted into the same Hall of Fame, in 2016 she was inducted into the Maine Sports Hall of Fame, and in 2018 was inducted into the University of Maine Sports Hall of Fame.

Amy, and her father Paul, are the first father-daughter duo to be inducted into the MPA Hall of Excellence.

The MPA is honored to recognize one of Maine's great female athletes, Ms. Amy Vachon.

Harold “Pinky” True



Mr. Harold “Pinky” True was a 1945 graduate of Gorham High School and a 1953 graduate from the Gorham State Teachers College. He began his teaching and coaching career at Porter High School in Kezar Falls, Maine, a position he held for nine years. He would then move on to teach at Gardiner High School for two years before moving on to Fryeburg Academy where he served as a teacher, coach, assistant headmaster, and the school’s first athletic director. In 1976, Pinky relocated to Maine Central Institute to serve as the headmaster at the school. While at MCI, he continued to coach basketball while serving as the headmaster. In 1979, he would return back to Fryeburg Academy as that school’s headmaster, but also continuing to work with the basket-

ball program. He would serve in that role over the next 11 years and upon his retirement would continue to assist his son Paul, who had become a varsity basketball coach in Maine.

Upon his retirement from teaching and coaching, he would have coached for over 43 years and had a positive impact on thousands of young people from across the State of Maine.

Pinky was an active member of the Maine Principals’ Association, serving as the president in 1989-1990. He also helped run the high school basketball tournament in Augusta for many years. In 1992, he was elected to serve in the Maine House of Representatives, an office he held for the next eight years.

Over his prestigious career, he was an active member of numerous service organizations (Kiwanis Club, Lions Club, American Legion, and the Sportsman Association of Maine) and was always willing to give back to his community.

The MPA Hall of Excellence is proud to induct a man that dedicated his life to Maine education, Mr. Harold “Pinky” True.

Leslie Bancroft-Krichko



Ms. Leslie Bancroft-Krichko was a pioneer in Maine high school skiing during her time at Oxford Hills High School beginning in 1975. She had been an Alpine skier and Oxford Hills started a Nordic ski team. Leslie excelled at both but found a passion in Nordic skiing. She won her first of three Skimeister awards as a freshman and that fueled a drive to see if she could compete at the Eastern Cup and National level, as well. She was a three-time Maine Nordic State Champion, but had even higher aspirations in skiing.

Leslie was very successful in a time that elite athletes didn’t have the benefit of today’s technology to be “discovered” and needed to consistently finish well and have the benefit of word of mouth to get opportunities to ski at the national level. That commitment to excellence paid off as she performed well in two national junior championships and was named to the US National team.

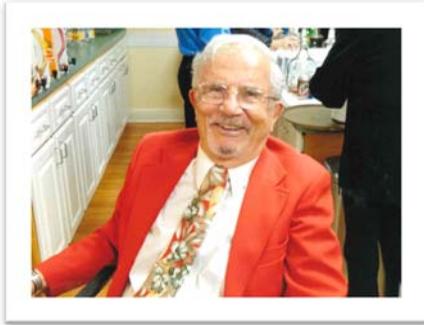
Following graduation from high school, Leslie qualified for the 1980 Winter Olympics at Lake Placid. She was the first Maine female athlete to compete in the Olympics. Leslie competed well in the 5K, 10K, and the relay. After the Olympics, Leslie began school at the University of Vermont. In the fall, Leslie was runner-up in the EISA Cross Country Championships. Following that strong fall season, Leslie helped the University of Vermont win the 1981 AIAW National Ski Championships skiing the final leg of the championship clinching the relay.

In the 1981-82 season, Leslie competed in the World Championships in Oslo and won three silver medals at the US National Championship. She took three years off from competitive skiing and returned to the US National Team in 1987. She won a gold and two silver medals at the US Nationals. She competed on the 1987 World Championship team and was again named to the 1988 Olympic team competing in Calgary.

Leslie has been a realtor in Connecticut for the past 16 years and traveled home to Maine on winter weekends to ski in Bethel and/or teach ski clinics. She has returned home to her beloved Maine and has stayed involved in skiing, completing her first year as an Assistant Nordic Ski Coach at Bowdoin College in Brunswick. Besides ski coaching, she is working as the program director and coach for the Learn to Row program at Merry-meeting Rowing in Brunswick. She and her husband DJ Townsend have recently discovered rowing and spend their summer and fall training and competing on the master circuit. DJ is an avid Nordic skier as well. She is a proud mother to her adult children Kade, Kori, Kalia, and Hayden who kept them incredibly busy over the years chasing sports schedules. She says that they are her greatest accomplishment. Leslie says that her entire extended family are still here in Maine and she has enjoyed watching her nieces and nephews ski race on many of the same mountains and trails that she competed on when she was in high school. Leslie Bancroft-Krichko was inducted into the Maine Sports Hall of Fame in 2017.

Ms. Leslie Bancroft-Krichko has left a lasting legacy on the Maine ski community.

Dick Barstow



Mr. Richard “Dick” Barstow has left an indelible mark on thousands of young people of Maine as a high school English teacher for 33 years and a coach for over 48 years. He has been a champion for girls’ sports and has coached girls in basketball, cross country, field hockey, and softball. Over those years, his teams have been known for great success. His teams won an Eastern Maine Championship in Cross Country, a Field Hockey State Championship, and two Eastern Maine Championships in Softball. He is most well-known for his legacy on the basketball sidelines.

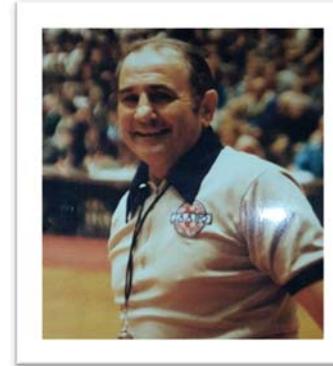
In the sport of basketball, Dick Barstow’s name is synonymous with excellence. Over his 48 years of coaching, his teams have won 664 games, seven Eastern Maine Championships, and Maine State Champions four times, winning two at Central Aroostook High School and two at Presque Isle High School. At one point from 1962-1968 his teams won 84 straight games, lost one, then went on another 24-game win streak. He never missed a practice or any of the 865 games that he coached in.

Dick Barstow was an outstanding high school athlete, graduating from Fay High School in Dexter (prior to Dexter Regional High School) in 1952. He was well known for his play on the gridiron, hardwood, and the diamond, excelling in all three sports. Following a year at Williston Academy in Massachusetts, Dick went on to compete at the college level. He was a first baseman on the Syracuse University baseball team and was a back-up running back to all-time NFL great Jim Brown.

Dick Barstow has been widely recognized for his great career as a player, teacher, and coach in Maine. He is a member of the Dexter Regional High School Hall of Fame, the Maine Basketball Hall of Fame, the Maine Sports Hall of Fame, and the New England Basketball Hall of Fame. Dick Barstow has been a mentor and outstanding role model to many young people by modeling the very best characteristics in educational athletics.

It is with great honor that we induct Dick Barstow into the MPA Hall of Excellence.

Tony Tamaro



Mr. Tony Tamaro was born and raised in the Washington County town of Woodland, a community that he loved. At the age of 15, Tony’s basketball officiating career began when he was asked to referee an alumni game at Woodland High School. It was a career that spanned eight decades, 60 years, more than 4500 games, while making 36 consecutive appearances in the Maine High School basketball tournaments and working the Canadian Collegiate Tournaments 48 years in a row. In 1942, Tony was a founding father and became a charter member of the original board of IAABO. He was a long-time rules interpreter for the Downeast Board of Officials. Tony’s basketball career was interrupted when he entered the US Army during World War II. While stationed at Ft. McLellan, AL, he entered the world of boxing, becoming a Golden Gloves champion in the junior welter-

weight division winning 17 bouts, 12 being KOs. He had offers to turn pro but ended his boxing career and returned home, beginning his baseball career. He organized several semi-pro baseball teams and leagues in the Washington County area. He played second base and managed the local team, the Woodland Red Sox for many years, while helping to organize Little League and Pony League for the town kids. Tony also had a baseball umpiring career that spanned many decades in Maine and the Maritimes. In 1983, the town baseball complex was renamed The Tony Tamaro Athletic Field, an honor he cherished.

Tony’s best known for his dedication and service to high school athletics and the youth of his community, but he was also concerned with educational priorities and the betterment of the community. Beginning in 1989, Tony served 10 years in the State Legislature. The Washington County section of Rt. 9 was renamed the Tony Tamaro Memorial Highway in August 2003, one year after his passing and was his final “great accomplishment.”

Tony was often referred to as a “Little man with a Big love for sports.” He was honored by many organizations. In 1986, he was the initial recipient of the James P. DiFrederico Memorial Award, named after his long-time friend and fellow official. In 1989, he received the Maine Interscholastic Athletic Directors Association Service Award for his contribution to high school sports. In 1994, Tony was inducted into the Maine Sports Hall of Fame, and in 2000 inducted into the Maine Baseball Hall of Fame. He was awarded the Canadian Executive Officials award for his contribution to Canadian basketball and was honored by the Maine Basketball Hall of Fame at their inaugural induction ceremony as a Legend of the Game. In 2003, the Downeast Board of Officials retired Tony’s officiating shirt. Tony’s shirt was displayed for one year at each Washington County school and has a permanent home in the gym of the Woodland Dragons.

Tony and his wife Marjorie were married for 65 years, and he always gave “Mum”, as he affectionally called her, all the credit for his achievements in life. They had four children, Barbara, Dottie, Jane and Peter, seven grandchildren, and 13 great grandchildren.

It is with great honor that we induct a true legend, Mr. Tony Tamaro, into the MPA Hall of Excellence.

Dean Smith



Mr. Dean Smith epitomizes excellence in educational athletics as a three-sport star at Foxcroft Academy. He is most well-known for being an outstanding student-athlete and particularly excelled in the sport of basketball. His total of 1,722 career points is a school and Piscataquis Country record and he averaged 30.1 points during his senior season.

Dean Smith was inducted in the first class of the Foxcroft Academy Hall of Fame. He was FA's Most Valuable Player his sophomore, junior, and senior year. He was the Gatorade Most Valuable Player and was named to the Eastern Maine All-Tournament team his junior and senior seasons.

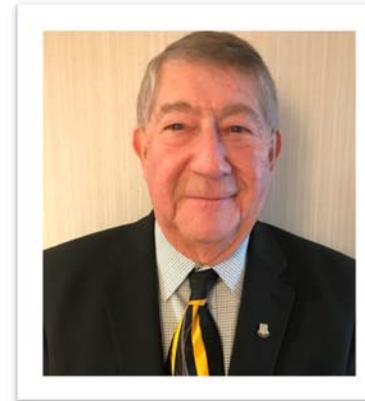
Dean was named to the All-State team his senior year. In addition, his senior year he was named Second Team All-New England Hoop Magazine, Honorable Mention Converse All-Star, and Maine Heart Association All-Academic Team.

Following his time at Foxcroft Academy, Dean moved on to the University of Maine where he continued his outstanding academic and athletic prowess. He compiled a 3.86 GPA in electrical engineering, while also starring on the basketball court. He was the top-ranked electrical engineer at UMaine. He was a three-time Academic All-American player and was the first Mainer to ever win the NCAA's prestigious Walter Byers Award as the nation's top male scholar athlete. This award granted \$7,500 for each year of post-graduate schooling.

Dean scored 1,131 points in his four-year career, ranking tenth all-time on UMaine's all-time scoring list. A 6' 3" forward, Dean was undersized but played with grit, intelligence, and determination. He was a captain his senior year and led the North Atlantic Conference in scoring with 19 points per game and led the Black Bears in rebounding with 5.8 per game. For his academic and athletic accomplishments, the University of Maine has established the Dean Smith Award, which is granted annually to the top male and female athlete who combines academic and athletic excellence.

The MPA is honored to recognize one of Maine's great student-athletes, Mr. Dean Smith.

Dick Durost



Mr. Dick Durost grew up in Mars Hill, Maine and is a graduate of Central Aroostook High School and later from the University of Maine, Presque Isle where he received his B.S. in Mathematics. He would later receive his master's degree in educational leadership from the University of Maine, Orono.

Dick started his teaching and coaching career at Penobscot Valley High School in Howland, a position he held for 14 years. In 1985, he moved on to become the principal/athletic director at Easton High School. Four years later he would move on to become the assistant principal, and later the principal, at Presque Isle High School. In 1996, he became the superintendent/elementary principal back in Easton, a position he held until his move to the MPA in 2001.

While serving in his administrative positions, Dick served on numerous MPA committees (Professional and Interscholastic Executive Committees, Basketball, Eligibility, Curriculum, and Educational Policies), as well as serving as the MPA President in 1995-1996.

For the past 18 years, Dick has served as the MPA Executive Director, leading both the professional and interscholastic divisions of the association. He was instrumental in bringing the Maine Secondary Principals' Association and the Maine Elementary Principals' Association together as one association. In addition to the outstanding work that Dick has done here in Maine, he also has represented our state on a number of national committees. He has served as the chair of the National Association of Elementary School Principals, served on the Advisory Committee for the National Association of Secondary School Principals, and was on the Board of Directors for the CSIET for six years. From 1996-2000 he was a member of the National Federation of State High School's Board of Directors and served as the NFHS President in 1999-2000. He has been a member of the NFHS Foundation from 2006-present, chairing the committee from 2008-2014.

In 1985, Dick was the recipient of a prestigious Milken Award. In 1981, he was named the UMPI Educator of the Year, in 2004 was inducted into the UMPI Athletic Hall of Fame, in 2015, he was inducted into the Maine Sports Legends Hall of Fame, was recognized with the MIAAAA Larry LaBrie this past Spring, and this summer will receive an NFHS Section 1 Citation Award.

It is a true honor to recognize the outstanding leader of the MPA, Mr. Dick Durost.

Wes Jordan



Mr. Wes Jordan's passion for sports started in high school. He graduated from Lisbon High School in 1957 and was a three-sport captain as an athlete. Wes went on to play football at both Colby College and the University of Maine. He began his athletic training career at the University of Maine as a student trainer when he was required to sit out a year of football with his transfer from Colby. Wes obtained his undergraduate degree from UMaine in 1962 and earned a master's degree in 1965. He became a full-time trainer at UMaine that year and would go on to spend the majority of his athletic training career of 32 years at the University.

Wes started his professional career at Brewer High School as an assistant football coach and athletic trainer and stayed connected with high school athletics over the years, serving as athletic trainer for the Eastern Maine High School Basketball Tournament for over 30 years. Wes went on to receive several honors in his field and for his contributions to athletics, such as the National Athletic Trainers Hall of Fame (1994), Maine Baseball Hall of Fame (1995), Maine Sports Hall of Fame (1996), the University of Maine Sports Hall of Fame (2002), and National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association Distinguished Service Award, (2002).

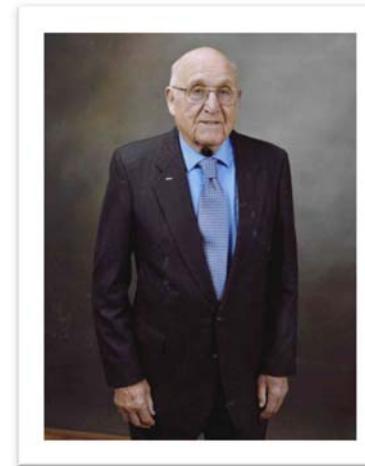
Wes's career took him all over the world and he was recognized with several awards, including the Distinguished Service Award from the Eastern Athletic Trainers Association (1979), Maine Interscholastic Athletic Directors Association Award for Outstanding Contributions (1992), Maine Big East Basketball Conference Award for Outstanding Contributions (1996), National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame - Contribution to Amateur Football Award (1996). As a long standing member of the National Athletic Trainers' Association, Wes served on the Board of Directors 1974-1980 and the Ethics Committee 1982-1996.

Some of the memorable teams that Wes worked with were the US Pan Am Team (1971), US Men's Field Hockey Team (1979), XIII Winter Olympic Games, Lake Placid (1980), USA-Korea collegiate baseball series (1983), USA Collegiate Baseball Team in Intercontinental Cup (1983), USA-Puerto Rico-Antillian Select Collegiate Baseball series (1983), USA Baseball Team (1990), USA-Japan collegiate baseball series (1990), USA Baseball Team Goodwill Games (1990), and the USA Baseball Team World Championships (1990).

After retiring from UMaine in 1997, Wes became a part-time athletic trainer at Brewer High School (1997-2000). Wes said of his three years at Brewer High School - "Those were the best three years I've had in my training career." Wes Jordan left a lasting impact in athletic training in Maine schools. He has mentored or had an indirect influence on many Maine high school certified athletic trainers.

It is with honor that we recognize a pioneer in Athletic Training in Wes Jordan.

Wally LaFountain



Mr. Wally LaFountain grew up as a farm boy in Woodstock, Vermont where he participated in basketball and baseball. After graduating from high school, Wally enlisted in the United States Army and received a Bronze Star for his service. After leaving the military he attended Springfield College in Springfield, Massachusetts where he was a four-year letterman in football. After graduating from Springfield, Wally moved to Bergenfield, New Jersey where he started his teaching and coaching career. He would later move on to Wellsville, New York where he served as the head football and head baseball coach while teaching physical education at the school.

In 1958, Wally moved to Winslow High School where he taught and coached football, baseball, and wrestling. While teaching and coaching, Wally also found the time to officiate all three of these sports. While at Winslow, Wally, along with a couple of other school's representatives, worked with the State Principals' Association (the precursor to the Maine Principals' Association) to establish the sport of wrestling as a recognized high school activity. After the sport gained recognition, he worked on the establishment of certification for wrestling officials, a pay scale for wrestling officials, and wrestling classification for those schools offering the sport.

Wally would later move on to the Maine Department of Education where he worked as a Curriculum Consultant for 15 years. For 13 years, he chaired the Maine State Secondary Accreditation Program, accreditation with the New England Association, and Basic School Approval. During his tenure with the DOE, Wally would often work with the State Principals' Association on issues that both groups were dealing with.

In the 1980's Wally served as the program director for the Sports Medicine Advisory Council, made up of people representing the law, medicine, nursing, athletic trainers, MD's, and the State Principals' Association.

It is an honor for the MPA to be able to recognize, Mr. Wally LaFountain.