

# CENTER COURT

February, 2018

## A Message from the Executive Director.....

2017 was a wonderful year for me!

Professionally, I was both honored and grateful, to celebrate the 30th anniversary of our organization with the dedicated members of our executive team. Over the years, the CT Women's Basketball Hall of Fame has proudly recognized nearly 200 outstanding, deserving people who have made significant contributions to the development and enhancement of women's basketball. I hope you'll take a moment to read and enjoy their biographies on our website [www.ctwomensbasketballhalloffame.com](http://www.ctwomensbasketballhalloffame.com).

Personally, though my emotions ranged from excited and amazed, to nervous, I was most of all, exceedingly proud, to support "my" Quinnipiac University women's basketball team, as they advanced to the Sweet Sixteen round of the NCAA Div. 1 National Tournament. The Quinnipiac team became the darlings of the tournament, as the #12 Bobcats upset both Marquette and Miami, before falling to the eventual national champion, South Carolina! The excitement, exhilaration and pure joy on the faces of the Quinnipiac players and fans, as they appeared during television broadcasts, was contagious! We'll never forget Rebecca Lobo's priceless pronunciation lessons for her colleagues, or Geno Auriemma's heart-warming show of support when he donned a Quinnipiac t-shirt during his UConn team's practice session! No doubt it was the "family spirit" and class, consistently demonstrated by Coach Tricia Fabbri and her entire team that made many of us feel as though we were a special part of this group too.

This year, in addition to honoring our 2018 inductees, the CWBHOF is especially pleased and proud to recognize Barbara Hall and Lea Dickson. Forty years ago, these two Stratford coaches filed a Title IX lawsuit that became instrumental in providing the foundation we needed to achieve equitable athletic opportunities for girls and women in Connecticut, and beyond!

On behalf of the CWBHOF, I welcome and encourage you to join us on April 18th, at Cascade in Hamden, to honor Barbara, Lea and the outstanding Class of 2018 inductees. Come and celebrate them, and others, who have contributed so much to making Connecticut women's basketball what it is today.



**Linda J. Wooster,**  
President/Executive  
Director/Founder

**Louise Albrecht,**  
Vice President/Membership  
Chair/Founder

**Ann V. Fariss, PhD**  
Banquet Coordinator/  
Founder

**Tony Candido,**  
Fundraising Chair/  
Founder

**Brenda Reilly, PhD**  
Founder (Posthumous)

**Lee Franzman,**  
Nominating Chairperson

**David Strong,**  
Historian/Archivist

**Marge Dolan,**  
Regional Project Director

**Sue Crisafi,**  
Secretary/ Liaison to Website  
Designer

**Tracey Finer,**  
Creative Writer/  
Newsletter Editor

**Tina Gonyea,**  
Publicity & Promotion

**Pamela Moffo,**  
Publicity & Promotion

**Elaine Piazza,**  
Events Promotion

**Jeff Goddu,**  
Website Designer

**Tracey Flynn,**  
Coordinator, Special Projects

## 2017-18 and 2018-19 Women's Basketball Rules Changes

There were some rule changes approved by the NCAA Women's Basketball Rules Committee and the Playing Rules Oversight Panel. Listed below are several of these changes.



To increase the size of the restricted-area arc from 3 feet to 4 feet.

**Rationale:** To assist players and game officials by eliminating the confusion of two arcs on the playing court.



To add a requirement that the screener must be inbounds while setting a screen.

**Rationale:** To correct an omission of a current rule that fails to require a screener to be inbounds.



Recommend that in order for a player who has been in the three-second lane to avoid a three-second violation, the player must place both feet on the playing court outside the lane.

**Rationale:** To reduce physicality by requiring the offensive player to physically leave the lane and assist officials in adjudicating the play.



Recommend that there shall be no new 10-second backcourt count when the offensive team is granted a timeout.

**Rationale:** To reward good defense and to potentially create additional possessions.



To permit the team that advances the ball to choose which side of the playing court to inbound the ball. It is recommended that a two-inch long by two-inch wide line be extended out-of-bounds from the sideline opposite the scorers' table.

**Rationale:** To permit more strategy when advancing the ball.



## CWBHOF Inductees Honored in 2017



Louise O'Neal (College Coach, 1988) and Kara Wolters (College Player, 2008) were part of the Class of 2017 inducted into The Women's Basketball Hall of Fame on June 10th in Knoxville,



Tennessee. O'Neal, who led SCSC to third-place finishes in the 1971, 1973, and 1974 Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (IAIW) Division I tournaments, was inducted in the Veteran category. Wolters, who was part of the 2000 USA Basketball Olympic gold medal team and 1997 AP National College Player of the Year, was inducted in the Player category.

O'Neal was also honored by the Ivy League as a member of the inaugural class of Legends of Ivy League Basketball for her significant contributions and lasting impact on the Yale women's basketball program. In 1979, she led the women to the first Ivy League championship in school history.



William Dixon (Honorary, 2017), Cyndie Adamski (Referee, 1990) and James Bombaci (High School Coach, 2015) were inducted into the New Haven Tap-Off Club Hall of Fame on November 8th. Dixon was the former Quinnipiac College women's basketball coach and is currently Deputy Director of New Haven Parks & Recreation Dept., Adamski has been a national basketball official since 1970 and Bombaci compiled a 511-305 record in a 35-year coaching career at Hamden, Hand and Haddam-Killingworth.



Bernice Nicolari (High School Coach, 1988) and Howard K. Gura (High School Coach, 2009) were members of the inaugural class of honorees inducted into the Shelton High School Hall of Fame on



September 16th. Nicolari and Gura's coaching terms combined to lead the Shelton women's basketball team for a total of 35 seasons (Nicolari 1962-1979 and Gura 1979-1985) compiling an overall record of 542 -157, including league and state championships.



Rebecca Lobo (College Player, 2004) was a member of the Class of 2017 inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame on September 8th in Springfield, Massachusetts. Lobo, all-star athlete at UConn, WNBA icon and ESPN Analyst, and the other inductees, were recognized for each having "uniquely impacted the basketball landscape as we know it today."

## IN MEMORY.....



The Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame created the **Brenda Reilly High School Basketball Award** and the **Brenda Reilly Youth Basketball Camp Scholarship** in honor of Dr. Brenda Reilly, the Associate Athletic Director of Central Connecticut State University and one of the organization's founders.

### The Brenda Reilly High School Basketball Award

is awarded annually to the most outstanding high school girls' basketball team in the State of Connecticut. The award is sponsored by Central Connecticut State University Women's Basketball in honor of Brenda Reilly and is given to a team based on the criteria of character and sportsmanship, the principles on which the hall of fame was founded. The coach and a representative of the selected team are invited as honored guests to the Hall of Fame's annual banquet.

The **New London High School, New London, CT** Girls' Basketball Team was awarded the 2017 Brenda Reilly High School Basketball Award.

The **Brenda Reilly Youth Basketball Camp Scholarship** provides the opportunity for a young girl to attend a summer basketball camp in Connecticut. The recipient and her parents or guardian are invited as honored guests to the Hall of Fame's annual banquet.

**Carly Raucci, Cheshire, CT** was the recipient of the 2017 Brenda Reilly Youth Basketball Camp Scholarship. She attended the Tricia Fabbri Girls' Basketball Camp at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, CT.



Linda Wooster was selected by the CIAC Boys' and Girls' Basketball Committees to receive the Basketball Special Service Merit Award which will be presented at a reception at Mohegan Sun on March 17<sup>th</sup>. The "Merit Award" honors individuals who have contributed to high school basketball over the years and who have supported CIAC athletics as coaches, officials, administrators and athletic directors.

### Announcements and Milestones

In 2017, Gail Strumpf-Cheney (College Player, 2012) was named head girls' basketball coach of Naugatuck High School.

With a 59-34 win at Shepaug, Fred Williams (High School Coach, 2017) became only the third girls' basketball coach (Northwestern Regional High School) in the state of Connecticut to achieve 600 career wins. He joins Dave Strong (704 - Masuk) and Nick Economopoulos (619 - Lyman Hall, East Catholic, Coginchaug) in achieving this amazing feat.

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

## The Landmark Award

Difficulty is the excuse history never accepts.

- Edward R. Murrow

Do you think making a living, paying your bills is difficult? How about earning the respect and acceptance of those with whom you work? And how difficult do you think it is to fight for women's equality of opportunity, treatment and working conditions while putting your career and livelihood on the line and risking professional approval and future opportunities? Difficult? Indeed. But does that mean they shouldn't be pursued or can't be accomplished?

Passed in 1972, Title IX, was a "comprehensive federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any federally funded education program or activity." Although a law, it proved, in many



cases, to be nothing more than an idea on a page, words in a document. The real work, the true fight, would be in turning the words into action and making the

guarantee of equality, a reality. In other words, fulfilling the promise that all individuals, male or female, would receive equal opportunities and equal treatment.

Enter two Connecticut women, Lea Dickson and Barbara Hall, newly hired by the Stratford school system, who faced blatant

discrimination in their pay, jobs and sports programs. Believing in the promise of Title IX, they took on the seemingly impossible challenge (fully aware of the risk and backlash this fight could cost them) of seeing to it that this discrimination stopped. They tried through discussions, meetings, and research studies to amicably resolve the issue. However, it became clear that the fight would need to be fought in the courts. In 1974, they filed a lawsuit against the Stratford school system claiming an unequal system of remuneration and opportunity - a.k.a. gender discrimination.

Finally, in 1978, their hard work, perseverance and courage paid off when the courts decided in their favor, in the favor of every girl and woman in Connecticut. Six years after the passage of Title IX, "United States District Court Civil Action No. B-77-41" mandated, by law, "equal terms and conditions of employment for coaches of girls' and boys' sports, including but not limited to provision of uniforms, use of facilities, scheduling, use of equipment, allocation of monies and support services."

We all know change is difficult but never underestimate the power, fearlessness, strength and resolve of those who fight for what is fair and what is right. The two words, "thank you", seem inadequate compared to what was accomplished but they are expressed with heartfelt sincerity. Thank You, Lea Dickson and Barbara Hall, Thank You.

## More than just a Ball in a Box

We will be auctioning off this Spalding women's basketball autographed by the 1995-96 USA Basketball National Team at the CWBHOF ceremony on April 18th. The ball is enclosed in a clear plastic case with a wooden base framed on one side by a picture of the national team. All the proceeds will go to support the CWBHOF.



## **CT WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PIONEER AWARD**

**"Remembering the Pioneers of Connecticut Women's Basketball"**

The Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame honors those individuals who have played a role in blazing the trail for women's basketball in Connecticut; preparing the way for others to follow. The CWBHOF, which first awarded this honor in 2013, has recognized three such individuals, Stacia A. "Skeets" Gayeski (2013), Helen "Jean" Cruickshank (2014), and Edith Olson Buckley (2015).

If you know of an individual who you think is deserving of this honor, we would be interested in hearing from you. Please forward all relevant information (i.e. name, contact information, history of involvement in the game, etc.) to Lee Franzman at [franzmanlee@sbcglobal.net](mailto:franzmanlee@sbcglobal.net)

**Don't forget to visit us on the Web.....**

**[www.ctwomensbasketballhalloffame.com](http://www.ctwomensbasketballhalloffame.com)**



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**  
**2018 Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame Ceremony**

**Inductees:**

Ann Kirwin Anderson	Sarah Royals
Cindi Birdsey	Melissa Teel
Heather Buck	Barbara H. Thaxton
Anthony Floyd	

When: April 18, 2018  
 Where: CASCADE (Hamden, CT)  
 Reception: 6:00 p.m.  
 Dinner: 7:00 p.m.

**Contribution to the Cause.....**The CWBHOF Committee is determined to provide maximum service to/for Connecticut Women's Basketball. To give you the best we have to give and to keep pace with the increasing demands of our operating initiatives, we would welcome any financial contributions to defray our operating costs. CWBHOF is a Section 501C (3) TAX ORGANIZATION FOR FEDERAL INCOME TAX PURPOSES. Certain Contributions to CWBHOF MAY BE deductible to the person making the contribution. The CWBHOF recommends that a person consult with his/her legal advisors as to the deductibility of the donation. If interested in donating, please contact Louise Albrecht at 203-256-0930.



Pictured from left to right, Tracey Finer, Sue Crisafi, William Dixon, and Heather Conway Smith

**Updated Postal Addresses**



Please help us in our efforts to keep our list of members and inductee postal addresses current and up to date. If you are aware of address changes, please notify Lou Albrecht at [labbz323@yahoo.com](mailto:labbz323@yahoo.com) or Tracey Finer at [george.finer@snet.net](mailto:george.finer@snet.net).

**Guess Who?**

*Which of our 2018 inductees.....*

1. Coached Wilbur Cross to a 53-game win streak and three straight Class L State Championships.
2. Was the first-ever WCSU player to record more than 1000 points and 1000 rebounds.
3. Earned a Fulbright scholarship, is a Phi Beta Kappa, and earned a dual degree in international relations and Spanish while becoming Bucknell's first female 1,000-point scorer.
4. Coached Bristol Eastern to four state championships.
5. Broke the Western CT State Univ. single game scoring record two nights in a row.
6. Played guard for SCSC coach Louise O'Neal while also playing field hockey and track and field for the Owls.
7. Became ninth girls' basketball coach to win 500 games.
8. Named two-time Gatorade CT Girls' Basketball Player of the Year at Stonington High School.
9. Scored what is still a Torrington H.S. program record 1,606 points as a point guard.
10. Played 17 seasons in Haddam-Killingworth's men's rec league [ages 30-47].
11. Graduated from high school with 2,205 points and 1,406 rebounds.
12. Three time CHSCA all-state basketball pick; also an all-state soccer player and school track record holder in 800 meters, 300 hurdles, and heptathlon.
13. Inducted into the CT ASA Hall of Fame for her slow-pitch softball career.
14. Taught high school math and ended her high school career with a 117-38 record.

Answer Key: 1. Thaxton 2. Teel 3. Anderson 4. Floyd 5. Teel 6. Birdsey 7. Floyd 8. Buck 9. Royals 10. Anderson 11. Buck 12. Royals 13. Birdsey 14. Thaxton

***THE BEAUTY OF A CHARITABLE BEQUEST***



Charitable bequests to the Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame help to ensure that we may continue our goal of honoring individuals who have contributed to the enhancement of Connecticut women's basketball through their participation, service, support, or achievement.

Please consider the Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame when making future plans.