

Hancock Public Schools proudly announces the newest class of inductees into its revered Sports Hall of Fame, celebrating the exceptional achievements of several championship and highly successful teams, alongside a distinguished individual whose impact spans generations. This year's honorees represent a rich legacy of athletic excellence, teamwork, coaching prowess, and community dedication within the Hancock community. The 2025 Hall of Fame class includes powerhouse teams from football, hockey, and girls' basketball, as well as an individual who left an indelible mark on Hancock High School's athletic history and beyond.

A Legacy of Gridiron Dominance

Hancock's football program boasts an impressive tradition of undefeated seasons and championships, with six teams being inducted for their remarkable performances:



Fourth row: John Dunn, Leilan Laitala, Arnold Lehto, Robert Seaton, Jay Tillman, James Johnson, Charles Croteau, Clifton Rautiola.

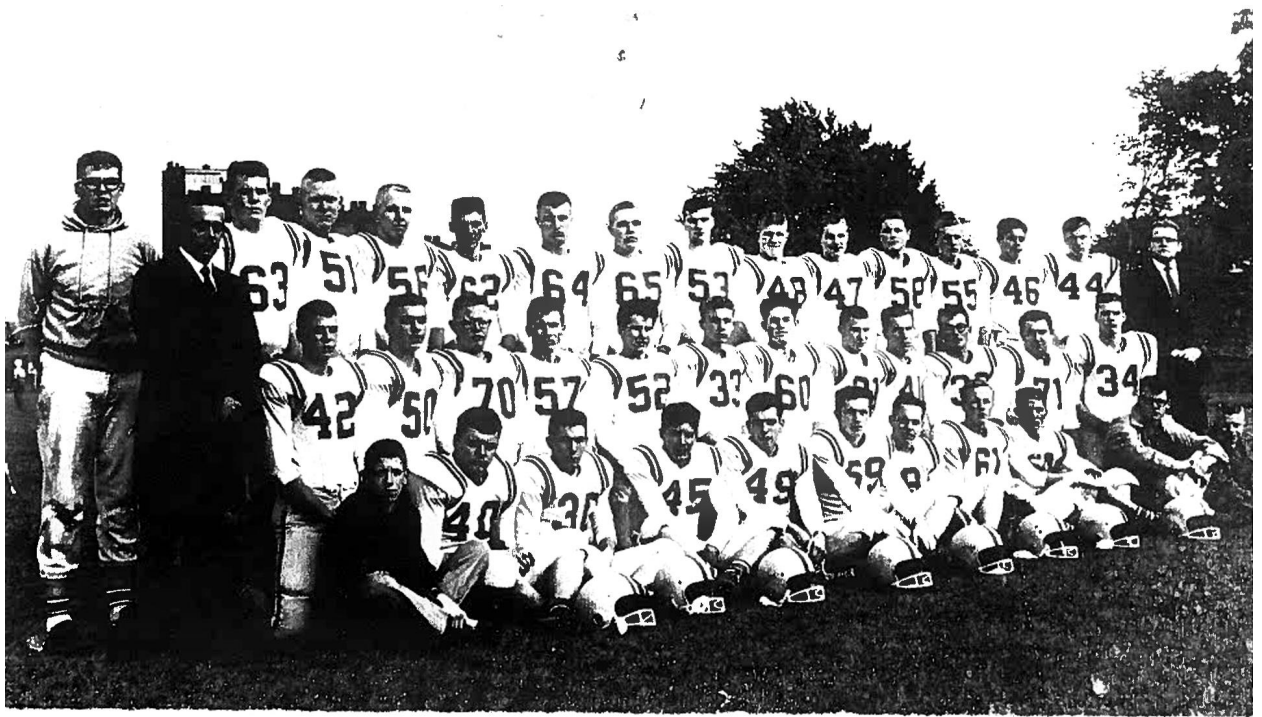
Third row: Richard Kesti, Garvin Mitchell, Francis Ross, Donald Recchy, John Olson, Earl Manuelson, Robert Salani, Kenneth Seaton.

Second row: Ernest Wiedenhoefer, Herbert Bissinger, Gordon Carlson, Jack Brown, Theodore Jaasko, Glenn Bettens, Leo Lindquist, Coach Martin Tretheway.

First row: Henry Nisonen, William Hodges, Joe Ricci, Robert Ziegler (Capt.), William Eilola, Earl Malmstrom, James Mickelsen.

Seated: Fred Sundquist (Mgr.), Norman Rautiola (Mascot), Henry Lohela (Mgr.)

- 1944 Team:** This legendary squad achieved an undefeated 7-0 season, contributing to an astounding 17-game undefeated streak (with one tie) and securing the U.P. Championship in both the 1943 and 1944 seasons under Head Coach Martin Tretheway.



C.C. Conference Champs 1961
8-0

Front Row: Phil Verville, Manager; Donald Spear, John Gedda, Gerry Federighe, Kelly Pinten, Harvey Schuier, Bill Jervi, Justus Watia, Bill Polkinghorne, Manager; David Zwyghuizen, Manager. Second Row: Mr. Mennisto, Assistant Coach; Mike Janis, John Plutt, Ken Savels, Gary Houle, Dave Simonson, Bill Heinonen, John Martin, Paul Kuzdrall, Dave Hermanson, Ronny Bowen, Gerald Toutant, Bill Sayen, Mr. Salani, Head Coach. Third Row: Gerry Parker, Assistant Coach; John Podnar, John Haspala, Roger Laitinen, Bob Gazetti, Charles Lucchesi, Jim Piiperinen, Roger Condon, Charles Klingbeil, Gary Hauswirth, Ray Wargelin, Edwin Carlson, Bob Grasseschi, Bruce Riutta

1961 Team: An undefeated 8-0 record marked this team as Copper Country Conference Champions. They demonstrated an overwhelming offensive and defensive presence, averaging 29 points per game and outscoring opponents 204-46. Head Coach Robert Salani led the team, assisted by Gerry Parker.



1st row: Steve Salani, Glenn Kilpela, Mark Johnson, James Letto, James Condratovich, Bill Anderson, Churk Goodman, Roger Maki, Richard Kangas, George Jarvis, James Barnhart - mgr. 2nd row: Peter Guidotti, Don Zwyghuizen, John Laitinen, Tim Halkola, George Siler, Robert Peltier, Jack Reiss, Paul Bianucci, Mike Bonini, Ross Nomelline, Charles Suvanto, Jim LaBeske - mgr. 3rd row: William Mannisto - athletic director, Gerald Parker - ass't coach, Joseph Poisson - ass't. coach, Charles Johnson, Robert Hodges, James Jacobson, Robert Niileksela, Stephen Noble, Richard Salani, William Tarbox, Dexter Stevens, Anthony Salani, Douglas Palmer, Thomas Houle - mgr., Robert Salani - head coach.

1967 Team: Also achieving a perfect 7-0 season, this team clinched the Copper Country Conference Championship. Head Coach Robert Salani was recognized as the U.P. Sportswriters Association "Coach of the Year" for his leadership, with assistance from Gerry Parker and Joe Poisson.

1969 C.C. Con. Champs

Class 'C' U.P. Champs



First row

left to right- Richard Pelto, Mark Kilpela, David Kuopus, Stanley Vitton, Joe Gasperetti, Jim Vitton, Joe Sayen, Manager: Bill Rousseau.

Second row

left to right- Eero Watia, Dennis Sorviato, David Nordstrom, Tim Seaton, Steve Klinkhammer, Bob Brey, Paul Aho, Jeff Kangas, Bob O'Neill.

Third row

left to right- Asst. Coaches: Jim Parker, Bob Salani, Head Coach: Gerry Parker, George Jarvis, Gary Pyykkonen, Bob Foco, Sterling Shrock, Glenn Kilpela, Dennis Lukkari, Bill Anderson, Tom Houle, Mgr. Joe Feira.

● **1969 Team:** With an impressive 7-0-1 record, this team secured both the Copper Country Conference Championship and the Class C U.P. Championship. Their defense was historically dominant, allowing only 6 points against them throughout the entire season. Head Coach Gerry Parker, assisted by Bob Salani and Jim Parker, guided this team.



1983-84
CLASS C FOOTBALL CHAMPS
U.P. TEAM OF THE YEAR

TOP ROW: Brent Johnson, Walt Reini, John Rodeheffer, Chad Rowe, Todd Curtis, Paul Mickelsen, Robbie Ojala, Gary Kilpela
MIDDLE ROW: Assistant Coach Rick Miller, Dan Barker, Dan Norkol, Mike Carlson, Ramon Sague, Chris Givens, Joe Reini, Tony Monticello, Kurt Hakala, Joe Geborkoff, Coach Richard Salani
BOTTOM ROW: Ron Kahn, Tom Healy, Jim Noetzel, David Fredianelli, Tom Pintar, Joe Hobmeier, Jeff Wiitala, Scott Stordahl, David Wolff, Brian Gedda
FRONT CENTER: Jason Salani, Scott Aldrich

1983 Team: This undefeated 8-0 team earned the title of U.P. Class C Team of the Year and were Copper Country Conference Champions, led by Head Coach Richard Salani and Assistant Coach Rick Miller.



COPPER COUNTRY CONFERENCE CHAMPS - 1984 9-0

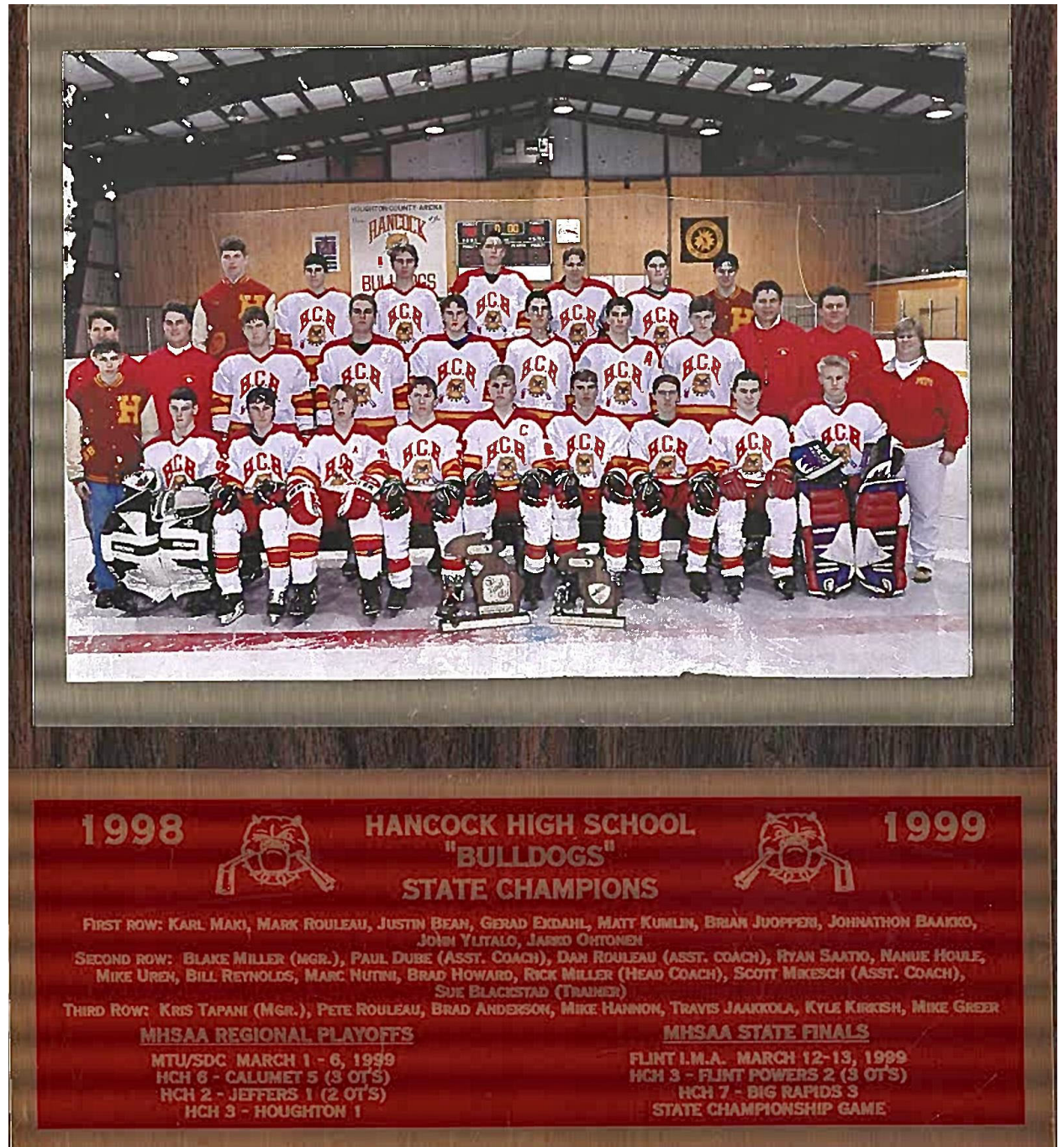
4th Row: Joe Hobmeier, Mike Carlson, Tony Monticello, Paul Mickelsen, Joe Reini, John Rodeheffer, Chris Givens, Ramon Sague, Brent Johnson, Gary Kilpela, and Jim Noetzel
3rd Row: Asst. Coach Rick Miller, Jeff Wiitala, Brian Gedda, Dave Wolff, Joe Geborkoff, Scott Stordahl, Rob Treveethan, Craig O'Neil, Ron Racine, Dan Norkol, Ted McCormick, Dave Fredianelli, Tom Healy, and Coach Richard Salani
2nd Row: Bill Lepisto, Gene Wiitanen Gary Scholie, Chris Danis, Mike Coon, Bob Brunet, Don Weijola, Jim Coon, Alan Silvola, Alan Gaffney, Jared Peltier, and Doug Sintkowski
1st Row: Managers Scott Aldrich and Jason Tuisku

1984 Team: Continuing the success, the 1984 team went undefeated at 9-0. Together, the 1983 and 1984 teams achieved a perfect 17-0 record over two seasons, marking

them as the only back-to-back teams in school history to win all season games. They also secured the Copper Country Conference Championship. Head Coach Richard Salani and Assistant Coach Rick Miller again led the charge.

Championships on Ice

Hancock's rich hockey tradition is celebrated with the induction of two state championship teams:



1999 Team: This formidable team claimed the MHSAA Class B-C-D State Championship with an impressive 21-7-1 record. Head Coach Richard Miller, along with Assistant Coaches Dan Rouleau, Paul Dube, and Scott Mikesch, guided them to victory.



2016 Team: The 2016 team brought home the MHSAA Division 3 State Championship, finishing with a 16-13-1 record. They were led by Head Coach Dan Rouleau and Assistant Coaches Dan Joupperi, Pete Rouleau, and Zach Hill.

Girls' Basketball Achieves State Recognition

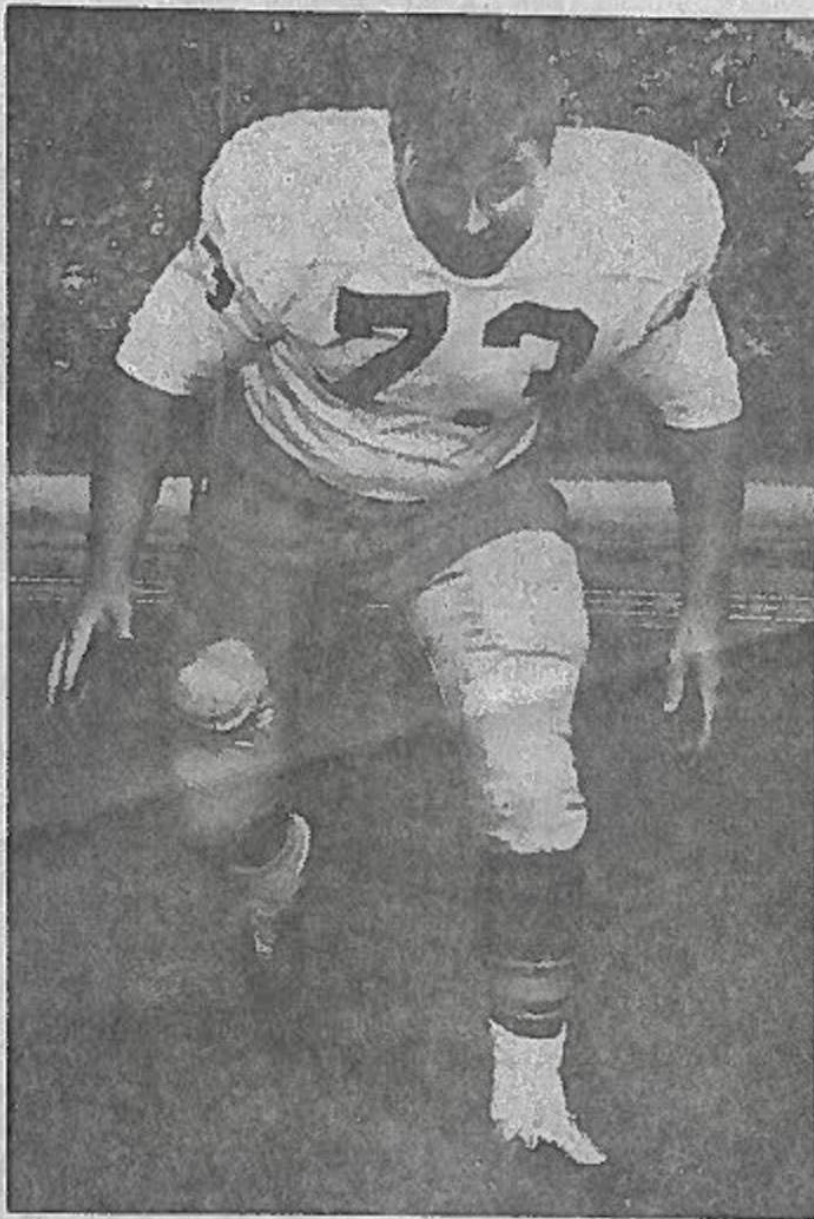
The Hall of Fame also recognizes an outstanding girls' basketball team for their memorable season:



• **1999 Team:** This exceptional team made a historic run to become the MHSAA Class C State Runner-Up, concluding their season with an impressive 24-3 record. They were coached by Head Coach Mike Williams.

Individual Inductee: A Lifetime of Athletic Excellence and Community Support

Signs With Oilers



CHARLES LUCCHESI, senior tackle on the Michigan Tech 1965 championship football team has signed with the Houston Oilers of the American Football League.

Lucchesi signed a standard AFL contract as a free agent. Terms were not announced, but it is believed Lucchesi received a substantial bonus for inking the pact. Lucchesi earned four varsity letters at MTU and was twice receiver of the Baird Defensive Award by a vote of his teammates. No other MTU footballer has ever earned the

Baird Award twice.

Rated as one of the best linemen to ever don a Tech uniform Lucchesi also earned Little All-America and Michigan College

...to mention this

This year, the Hancock Public Schools Sports Hall of Fame is proud to induct **Chuck Lucchesi**, a distinguished alumnus from the Class of 1962, whose athletic prowess spanned multiple sports and continued at the collegiate and professional levels, complemented by a lifetime of dedication to the Hancock community.

Chuck was a standout athlete for Hancock High School, notably excelling in football where he played tackle on both offense and defense. He earned All-Conference honors in his junior and senior years and was the leading tackler for the undefeated 1961 Bulldogs. Beyond football, Chuck lettered for three years on the track team. His youth hockey career also saw remarkable success, including playing for the Lauren Grove Pee Wee and Juvenile teams that won three consecutive Michigan state championships, earning him all-tournament team recognition as a defenseman. He was also a member of the Dollar Bay VFW hockey team that clinched the U.S. Pee Wee Championship tournament in 1959.

Following his exceptional high school career, Chuck continued his football journey at Michigan Tech University, playing both ways and helping the Huskies win two Northern Intercollegiate championships. He was a two-time All-Conference selection and named Most Valuable Defensive Player two years in a row, ultimately earning a spot on the All-America Division II football team. His collegiate achievements led to his induction into the MTU Hall of Fame in 1996. In 1966, Chuck made history as the only known Bulldog football player to sign a professional contract with the Houston Oilers. He also continued his football career with Ladish in Wisconsin, where he made the league's All-Star Team.

Chuck's dedication to all sports at HCH—whether playing, supporting, or cheering them on—makes him an outstanding candidate deserving of this honor. He often shares that his coaches and teachers at HCH pushed and inspired him to achieve both athletic and business success, and he has been happy to reciprocate by supporting all of Hancock sports' success throughout his lifetime.

Mark your calendars and join us for a historic night! The **Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony & Recognition** will take place during the highly anticipated HCH All Class Reunion Mixer on **Friday, July 25th**. Don't miss this incredible opportunity to celebrate our newest inductees and reconnect with fellow alumni!