



## Saugerties Sports Hall Of Fame History

The Saugerties Sports Hall of Fame was initiated by the South Side Men's Club in 1963. The Club was founded by James "Jimsy" Freligh, Earl Martin Sr., Harold Legg, Jack Legg, Frank "Fink" Whitaker, and Christy Hubert's in 1961.

The original Club was started for the purpose of creating a softball team and other sports teams, such as dart ball ect. The Club became much more as it reached out to recognized Saugerties Sports athletes of the past, Thus creating the Saugerties Sports Hall of Fame.

The Hall of Fame was described as an "Endeavor to honor outstanding athletes of years past". The first banquet was held at the Saugerties V.F.W. on February 29, 1964. Don Mc Caig was the first Chairman of this event, and from 1965 thru 2006 Jim Gage was the Saugerties Sports Hall of Fame Chairman.

In the year 1965, recognition was extended to not only include the many deserving athletes of our fine town, but to pay tribute to those who through their

efforts helped promote sports and pave the way for our town's current sports eminence.

The South Side Men's Club staged the first six banquets, and then when the club went out of existence, it was continued for the next four years by a group of dedicated former members spearheaded by Jim Gage.

The reins were passed to the Saugerties Athletic Association in 1974 until 1987. During this time, Jim Gage was President and Jack Keeley was Sec-Treas. They sponsored this popular event for the next 13 years, (1987) until the Saugerties Sports Hall of Fame Club was formed by Jim Gage and Jack Keeley. The Club consisted of all elected members of the Saugerties Sports Hall Of Fame.

Voting is now cast by members attending an annual meeting, or by sending in an absentee ballot, whereas in the past a select committee used to select the honorees.

As of 2009, there are 276 individuals, including 5 women who have been inducted into the Saugerties Sports Hall of Fame.

An ongoing process for over four decades with honorees dating back to the nineteenth century, the Saugerties Sports Hall of Fame Club is proud to continue the glowing tradition, which begun in 1964, to give long overdue credit and honor those who have helped to write Saugerties sports history.