

Dennis M. Sheehan

Saugerties Sports Hall of Fame Inductee

2008



Dennis



Dennis with wife Kathy, daughter Lizabeth and son Joe

Dennis Sheehan was born March 16, 1952 in Kingston, NY to Danny and Marie Sheehan. He and his sister Diane grew up in Saugerties. He graduated from Saugerties High School and went on to earn an AS degree, in Recreation, from Ulster County Community College. He married his wife Katherine on June 15, 1974 at St. Mary's Church in Kingston, NY. They had two children Joseph and Lizabeth. Joe has blessed them with two grandchildren Rachel and Brendan, while Lizabeth also blessed them with two grandchildren Andrew and Lila.

Dennis began his sports career in the Saugerties Little League playing for the Giants. He went on and played in the Saugerties Babe Ruth League on a team sponsored by the American Legion. That team won an astounding 59 straight games. He also played at SHS for two years. As an adult he played SAA softball for the Pepperidge Farm team that won back-to-back championships. He also served one year as commissioner of the SAA Softball League.

At SHS, Dennis also played football for four years. He was an end for the freshmen team and JV team and went on to play two years on the Varsity squad. He played for Hall of Fame coach Fred Siether and with Hall of Famers Bill and Chuck Schirmer.

In the winter Dennis kept busy playing basketball. He played three seasons at SHS. He continued his basketball career in the SAA Half Court basketball league for the West Saugerties Wizards team which won a championship.



Dennis with his Legion Club



Dennis with the 1989 Ulster County and District 3 Legion Champs

Dennis also coached the Ulster County Community College baseball team. He recalls memorable moments with his 1990 and 1996 teams. His 1996 team advanced all the way to the NJCAA World Series. During his Ulster career, Dennis had two players selected as All-Americans and six players sign professional contracts. He also had many players continue their baseball careers at many different levels of college baseball. In 1996 he was named Freeman Sportsman of the Year and he received the Pride of Ulster County Award from the County Legislature. He was also named College Coach of the Year six times by the NJCAA.

Dennis has had great success managing at all levels of baseball. Between UCCC, the Legion and the Dutchmen, Dennis has amassed more than 400 victories.

As a side note, not only was he a coach he was also an umpire. He was a member of the Ulster County Baseball Umpires Association for two years. Quite ironic considering the combative relationship he had with the men in blue during his coaching career.

Dennis also enjoyed bowling. And played in the Thursday Nite Mixed League for the Sam's Sand Baggers team which won a league championship. He played and was President of the Sunday Nite Mix league in Kingston, NY. His highlight in bowling was competing for the Ulster County Community College bowling team that won a NYS Region championship. He averaged a 193 during the tournament.

After his playing days Dennis began coaching. He has coached at many different levels. He coached the Yankees in the Glasco-East Kingston Little League. He has also coached the John A Coleman High School baseball team. He led them to a Class D Section 9 championship in 1985. His team advanced to the NYS Semi-final game in which his team lost a 3-2 heartbreaker.

Dennis coached several Saugerties Post 72 American Legion baseball teams. He won back-to-back County Championships in 1989 and 1990. His team also captured the District 3 Championship in 1989. He also piloted the Saugerties Dutchmen in three separate stints, 1980-1981, 1986 and 1993-1995. During his time as manager of the Dutchmen he enjoyed many memorable moments. In 1980, the Dutchmen's first year in the Hudson Valley Rookie League he guided his team to the league championship. For his efforts, Dennis was named the HVRL Coach of the Year. In 1995, he led the Dutchmen to the Ulster County championship. His record as manager of the Dutchmen was an outstanding 122-55-1 record. One of his highlights was when his son Joe drove in the winning run, which gave Dennis his 100th career victory as Dutchmen skipper.

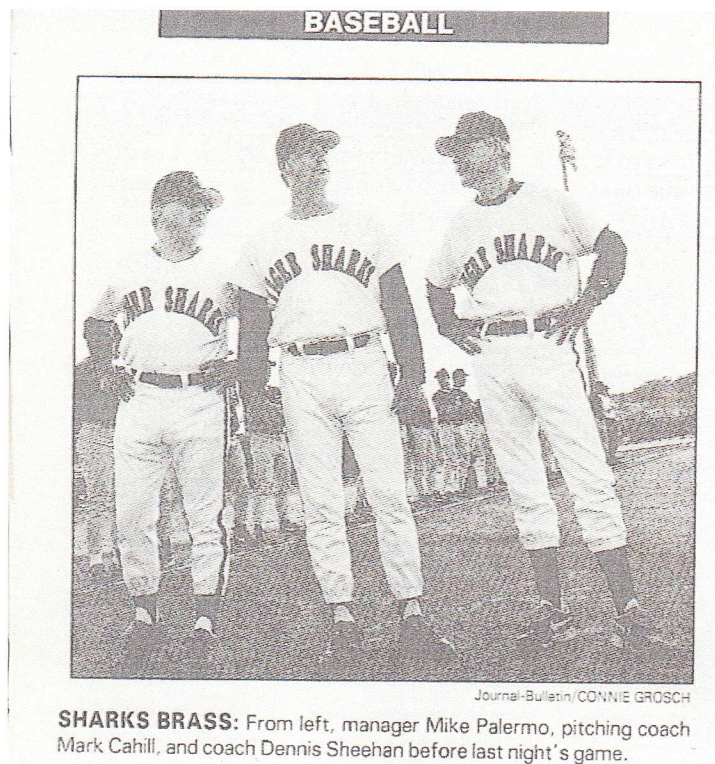


Dennis as Dutchmen skipper



Dennis celebrate with the Dutchmen

Currently, Dennis is an area scout for the Kansas City Royals organization. In the past he has served similar posts with the Florida Marlins and Detroit Tigers. Prior to becoming a scout Dennis spent a year as coach and manager of a professional team, the Rhode Island Tiger Sharks. He is a member of the New York Pro Baseball Scouts Association, Pro Baseball Alumni and the Screen Actors Guild.



SHARKS BRASS: From left, manager Mike Palermo, pitching coach Mark Cahill, and coach Dennis Sheehan before last night's game.

Dennis with the Rhode Island Tiger Sharks

Dennis credits Hall of Famers Fred Siether and Hank Smith as his inspirations in sports. He followed in their footsteps and enjoyed a distinguished career as a football coach. For fifteen years he served as a football coach at SHS in many different capacities. During his time at SHS he held the offensive and defensive line coaching position as well as defensive coordinator. After his time at SHS, Dennis continued coaching football at UCCC (1991-1992). When Ulster discontinued its football program, Dennis moved on to Hudson High School for the 1994 and 1995 seasons. In the 1995 campaign, Dennis had the opportunity to coach Hudson in the NYS Class D Championship game held at the Carrier Dome in Syracuse. During his football coaching career Dennis coached two players who went on to sign NFL contracts.

To have the career Dennis has had, he needed to have a supportive wife and family, Dennis noted that he would not have been able to accomplish all that he accomplished without the support of Kathy, Joe and Lizabeth. He realizes how many sacrifices they made so he could do what he loved to do.

The Saugerties Sports Hall of Fame Club congratulates Dennis for his 2008 induction to the Hall of Fame. Your remarkable achievements and the people you have helped and influenced make this a very deserving honor. You have made your family and sports community very proud.