

2011 Saugerties Sports Hall of Fame



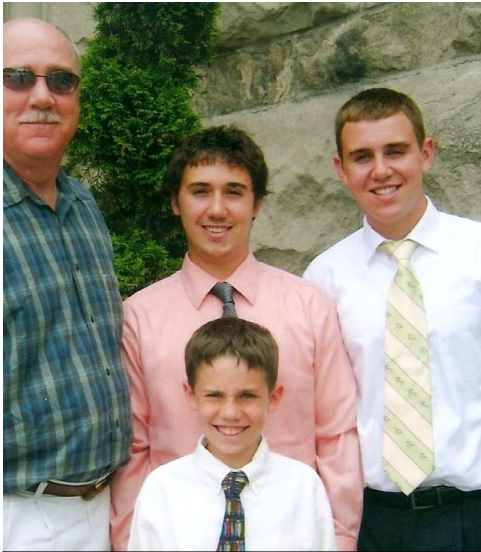
John Carnright III

After considering all of John Carnright's athletic accomplishments, there is no doubt why he is a perfect candidate for the Saugerties Sports Hall of Fame. Following in the footsteps of his father, John Carnright II (1979 Hall of Fame), John III boasts a solid resume as an all around Saugerties High School athlete participating as a standout in basketball, football, baseball, and track. In addition to his high school career, John Carnright's achievements in the local sports scene have resonated with nothing short of excellence, treating Saugertesians to many memorable highlights over the years.

John Carnright was born in Saugerties, NY on January 11, 1951 to John and Betty Carnright. He has one sister, Betsy, a brother-in-law in fellow Hall of Famer Tom Hallion, three nephews; Corey, Kyle and Jake, and in June, Danielle Merkle will be joining the family as the new bride of nephew Corey. At the root of John's athletic success, he is quick to credit the strong encouragement he received from his very proud and loving mom and dad, John and Betty. John's induction into the Saugerties Sports Hall of Fame would have been an honor for which they both would have cherished and beamed with pride.

In his youth, John Carnright participated in the Saugerties Little League with the Yankees. He was chosen for the Saugerties All Star LL squad in 1963 which was coached by Ernie Schimrer (1971 Hall of Fame) and Hugo Knauert (1972 Hall of Fame). In that 1963 All Star season, John's All Star performance was highlighted by a 3 for 4 effort which included a homerun in beating Athens Little League 10-1.

John's baseball career then moved onto the Saugerties Babe Ruth League where he was a member of the Marquette Cement team for 3 years and proved a solid contributor.

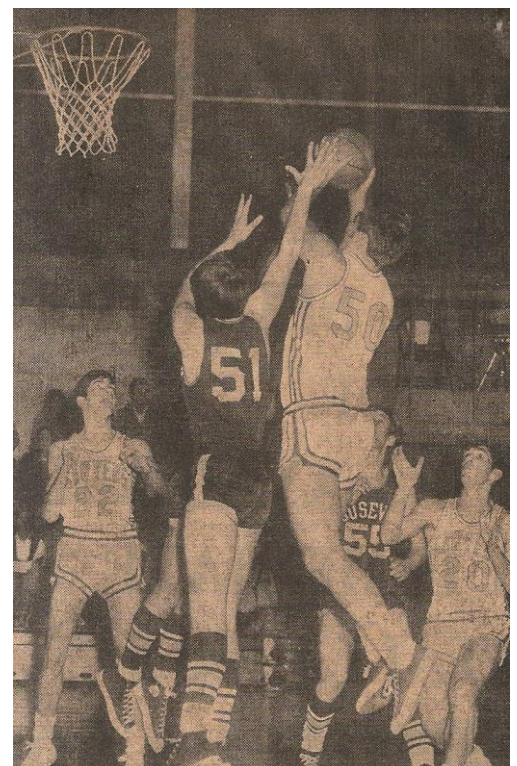


John with nephews (l-r) Corey, Kyle, & Jake (front)

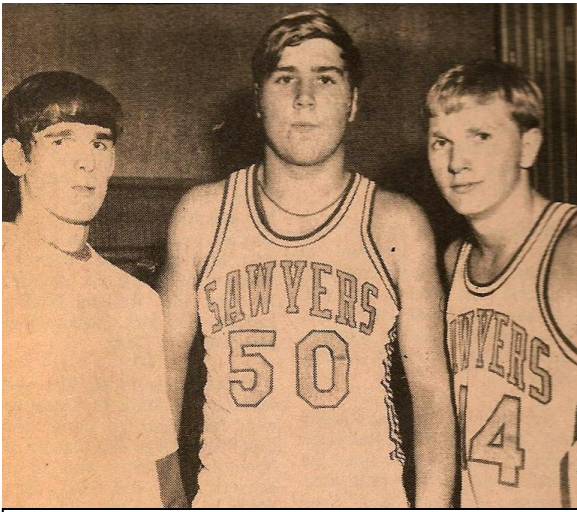
John Carnright started what would turn out to be a very successful career in basketball, playing in the Saugerties Bidy League. Blessed with size and strength, John Carnright soon became a force in the Bidy League circuit and in 1964 John's Saugerties team became Bidy League Basketball Tournament Champs by beating Athens to get into the final where the young Sawyer hoopsters claimed the title with a win against rival Kingston. John's shooting abilities and strength on the boards at the Bidy level gave the Saugerties community high hope of what were to come from this talented young player in the future.

As a member of the Saugerties High School football program, John Carnright firmly made his mark on Saugerties sports history. As an 8th grader on the freshman team, along with his cousin Holley Carnright and Hall of Fame great Roger Praetorius (2008), the freshman team went 8-0 that year. As a freshman, John returned to that strong freshman team helping them continue their success with a 6-1-1 record that next season. John Carnright soon became recognized as an up and coming talent at the end position and by his senior year in high school was the area's best at the receiving position. Subsequently in 1969, the coaches of the DCSL selected John Carnright to the first team offense of the Dutchess County Scholastic League (DCSL) at the end position. John was joined that year by fellow Sawyers Richie Lack, Mark Ishkanian and Holley Carnright, with the latter trio receiving 'honorable mention' recognition.

From 1967-1970, John Carnright and his fellow Sawyers played varsity basketball in a very competitive DCSL. At 6'4", John Carnright was a force inside and routinely led the Sawyers in both rebounding and scoring as a varsity player his sophomore, junior and senior years. Joined by Bill Benham and fellow Hall of Famers, Rich Koegel (2009) and Jerry Malgieri (2010), John Carnright anchored a talented Sawyer team. Hall of Famer and Sawyer hoop teammate Jerry Malgieri recalls, "John Carnright, although a big man, handled the ball well and had a great shooting touch". "He could score inside or outside and coupling that with his size and rebounding skills made him a great player". Career SHS basketball highlights for John Carnright include a scoring high of 39 points vs. a win against Beacon, and 28 points and 25 rebounds vs. Roosevelt in a triple overtime loss.



John goes up against a Roosevelt defender



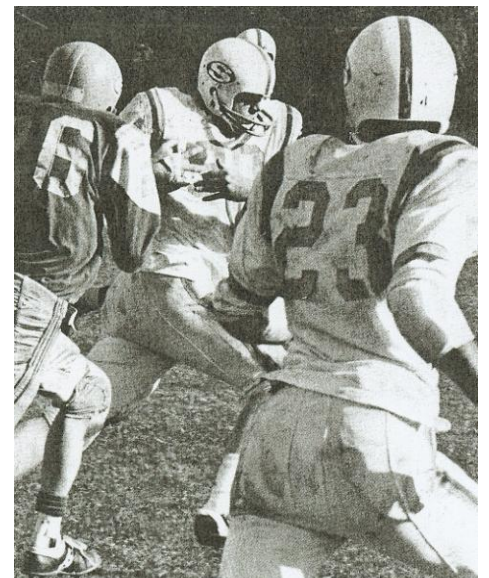
John with teammates Rich Lack (l) and Holley Carnright (r). Rich and Holly were named honorable mention while John Carnright was selected to 1st team All DCSL football team.

Perhaps John Carnright's most overlooked sports accomplishment was his role in securing the 1970 DSCL Track Championship for the Saugerties Sawyers. Having played baseball as a freshman and sophomore, John was persuaded in his junior year by track coach and Hall of Famer Bud Smith to make the switch to the Sawyer track team. Gifted with strength, speed, and athleticism, Carnright was able to make the transition easily and put his skills to use, making an immediate impact. John's events included the discus, 880 relay (1st place), and the shot put. John muscled the shot 51'6" that year and held the Saugerties High School record for 35 years.

Needless to say, athletics didn't end in high school for John Carnright. In 1970 John chose to continue his football career and education at the prestigious Manlius Prep School competing against

football teams from Boston College, Syracuse, Army, Colgate, Cornell, Buffalo, and Cortland. While at Manlius, Carnright made the transition to defensive tackle and in a game against the Army plebe squad, John sacked Army QB Kingsley Fink 5 times while notching a total of 18 tackles. It was at that time that not only West Point Cadets, but also Syracuse University Orangemen became interested in Carnright and began their recruiting efforts of the former SHS star.

Locally, from 1969 to 1979 John Carnright played on Boo's Tavern in the SAA Premier Basketball league and led the Taverners to a team best 17-1 record in 1975. During that timeframe, John was a participant in the SAA Premier Basketball League for the league's entire existence and played alongside many Sawyer greats such as Hall of Famers Tom Whitaker, Rich Koegel, Jack Naccarato, Tim Murphy, John Spiers, Al Hrdlicka, and close friend and Hall of Famer, the late great Larry Panella, to name a few. John also played in the SAA Softball league during the same years for Boo's Tavern and the Glasco Fire Company. In 1981, while playing for the Glasco Fire Company, John led the league in home runs, RBI, and was just 2 points short of the batting title. John was also a fixture in the SAA half court basketball and SAA men's volleyball leagues where perennially his teams dominated and produced many league championships. With his knees still holding up but father time nipping on his heels, John participated in the Kingston over 30 basketball league for 5 seasons playing with the legendary Shamrock Inn. In those 5 years with the versatile Carnright, the



John running for TD in 1969. Mark Ishkanian (#23) looks to throw a block.

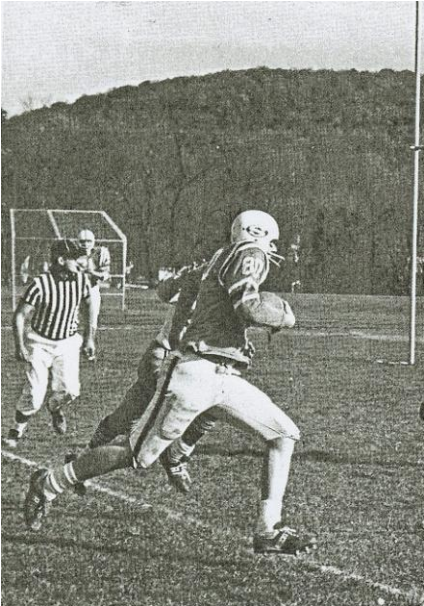
Shamrock Inn chalked up 4 championships in the elite Kingston basketball league. Adding to the list of leagues that John Carnright participated in was the SAA Touch Football League where John along with other ex-Saugerties High School football stars participated in the talent laden but short lived football league. Former Kingston High football great and fellow Hall of Famer Ralph Longendyke recalls, "I played for Pier 7 and we had a great team, but I can remember playing the Saugerties team for the Championship and knew we had to go through John Carnright to win it". "John was a great player and he gave us all we could handle". "We were fortunate to win, but Carnright was something to watch".

Like many others, John Carnright soon found out that there is life after competitive athletics. In 1986, John obtained his certification as a high school softball umpire and worked the girls high school circuit in the Ulster County area from 1986-2004. Memorable accomplishments over this timeframe include John's working both Class B and C semi-finals as well as a MHAL League Championship. Not stopping at softball, John Carnright was also certified as a high school football official and has continued to work high school games since 1981. Moving from New York to Kentucky, John has had the honor to work games for Kentucky football powerhouses Trinity High School and St. Xavier High School. In 2010, he worked a KHSAA Class A State semi-final game in Hazard Kentucky.

With his 2005 relocation to Louisville, Kentucky, John Carnright made the decision to be closer to his

family (as well as be in better range for home cooked meals at sister Betsy's house). In doing so, John has enjoyed the pleasure of watching and supporting his nephews as they competed in high school football, lacrosse, tennis, soccer, and cross country. An avid golfer and past member of Rip Van Winkle Country Club, John now enjoys leisurely golf with his family. With the 2008 Ryder Cup being hosted at the Valhalla Country Club in Louisville Kentucky, John worked as a course marshal and got to enjoy several days of the event. He is looking forward to working the 2011 Senior PGA tournament as a marshal this May.

From a sports standpoint, there isn't much that John Carnright hasn't done. As a big man, his athletic accomplishments are that much more noteworthy considering the athleticism and versatility that John displayed throughout his sports career. As truly 'one of the nice guys in Saugerties



Another reception and TD run for the All-DCSL end.

sports', John Carnright is not only respected for his talents and his achievements, but also his good sportsmanship and amiable qualities. An honor such as this is well deserved and it is with great pleasure and congratulations that the Saugerties Sports Hall of Fame and the great sports town of Saugerties welcome John Carnright III as a 2011 Saugerties Sports Hall of Fame inductee.