

# Roger Praetorius

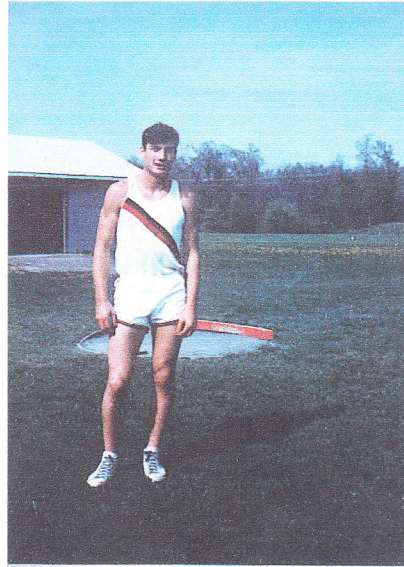
## Saugerties Sports Hall of Fame Inductee

### 2008



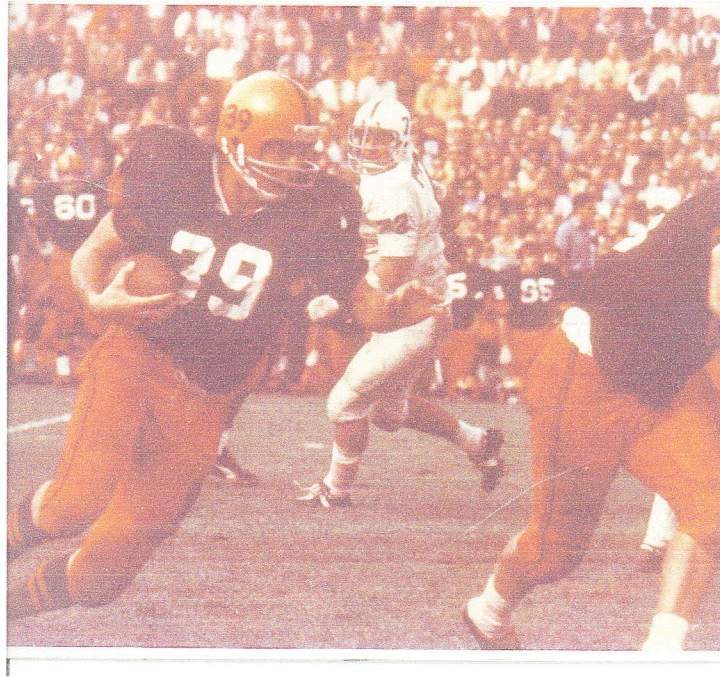
Roger Praetorius was born on May 29, 1951 in Jersey City, NJ to his parents Red and Rose Praetorius. As a youngster he and his brothers and sister (Robert, Richard and Liz) along with his parents moved to Saugerties. Roger graduated from Saugerties High School in 1969 after which he went on to receive his BS degree from Syracuse University 1973. He also earned his MS degree from Syracuse in 1975. He married his high school sweetheart, Jane Moser, at St Mary's Church on November 17, 1973. They have been blessed with two children Eric and Nicole.

Roger began his sports involvement playing youth basketball at the Donolan Auditorium in the seventh grade on a team coached by Hall of Famer Joe Benjamin. He continued with basketball during high school. He played for Sawyers JV squad as a freshmen and sophomore. He then went on to compete for the Varsity squad as a junior and senior. In the spring Roger played JV baseball as a freshmen and sophomore. As a junior and senior he competed for the Varsity track squad in the high hurdles and relay events.

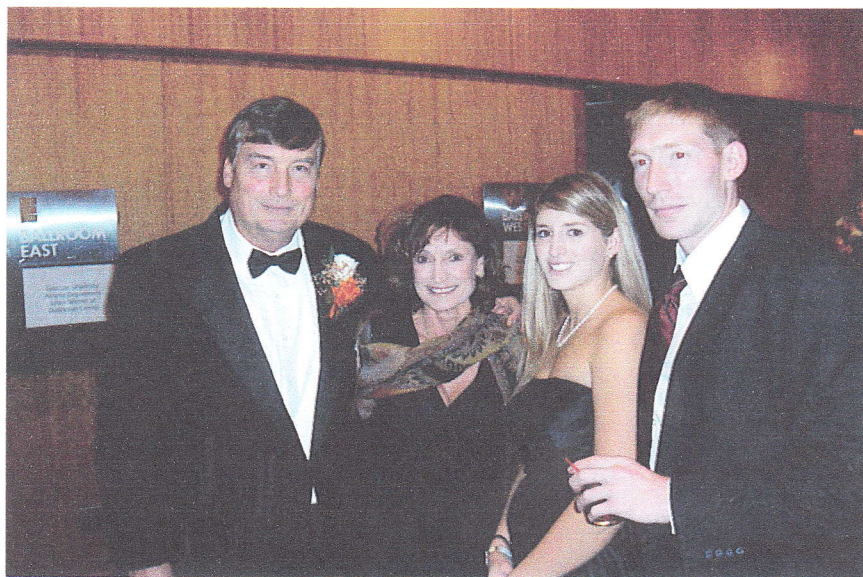


On the gridiron is where Roger made his mark. He played for the freshmen and JV squad during his freshmen year. As a sophomore he was promoted to the Varsity squad. During his Varsity years Roger was acknowledged as one of the best players in the area. He was a sensational runner who at one time had held numerous rushing records. His stellar performance during his career took him to Syracuse University to continue his football career. At Syracuse, Roger played for the freshmen team in the fall of 1969 because NCAA rules prohibited freshmen from competing at the Varsity level. In the 1969 season Roger was the Orangemen's leading rusher.. He then went on and competed for the Varsity team. Earning letters in 1970, 1971, and 1972. In 1971 he had his best season. He had 169 rushing attempts for a team leading 705 yards (a 4.2 yards per carry average) with 11 touchdowns. When he left Syracuse he was sixth on the all time rushing list. His 11 TD's in 1971 still rank tenth on the most TD's in a season list. In the spring of 1973, Roger was drafted in the ninth round, 226<sup>th</sup> overall, by the San Francisco 49ers. Things didn't work out for him in San Francisco and he signed as a free agent with the Chicago Bears in 1974. He also signed as a free agent with the New York Jets and New England Patriots in 1975. While never appearing in a regular season game Roger did compete in NFL pre-season games with all four clubs.





After his playing days ended Roger went on to a distinguished career as a stock trader and financial planner for Merrill Lynch in Syracuse, NY. He currently serves as a Vice-President at Merrill Lynch. During his time at Merrill Lynch he was a five-year member of the Chairmen's Club. Even with the rigorous demands of a successful career, Roger remained active in athletics. He coached girl's softball, youth football and little league baseball in the Syracuse area. In addition to coaching, Roger is a member of the Syracuse Football Lettermen's Club and Varsity Club. He has been a past President of the Football Lettermen's Club and currently serves on its Board of Directors. In 2007 Roger received the prestigious Lettermen of Distinction award from SU's Varsity Club. The award recognizes past letter winners who have gone on to have distinguished professional careers and have served their community in a significant way. He has joined a very special club some past honorees include Louis Orr, Roosevelt Bouie, Dave Bing, Jim Boehiem, Jim Brown, Larry Csonka and Ernie Davis.



With such a distinguished athletic career one would have many memories and inspirations. Roger's sports inspirations were SHS coaches and Hall of Famers, Fred Siether and Pete Kramer. When reflecting on his

career Roger had two games stand out as memorable. The first was beating Arlington in 1968. It was a special game to him because the Sawyers hadn't beat Arlington in five or six years. The second was beating Penn State, at Penn State, 24-7 in 1970. The victory was Orangemen's first against the Nittany Lions in three years. As great as those memories are, his favorites involve his children's athletic achievements. He really enjoyed watching his son Eric score the game winning touchdown in a state playoff game at the Carrier Dome. He also had the thrill of seeing his daughter Nicole perform as a cheerleader at the Orange Bowl as a high school senior for the Miami/Florida State contest in 2004.

The Saugerties Sports Hall of Fame Club extends its congratulations to Roger and his family for his induction to the Hall of Fame. Your outstanding career and community service has made your family and your community proud.