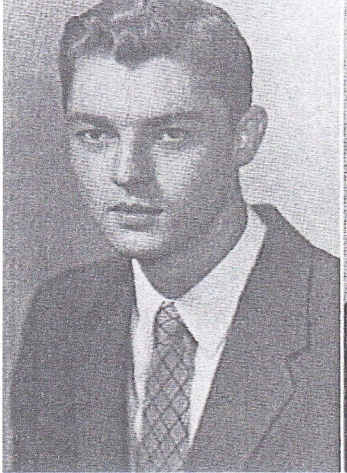


Robert Hanson Sr.

Saugerties Sports Hall Of Fame Inductee 2008



1956



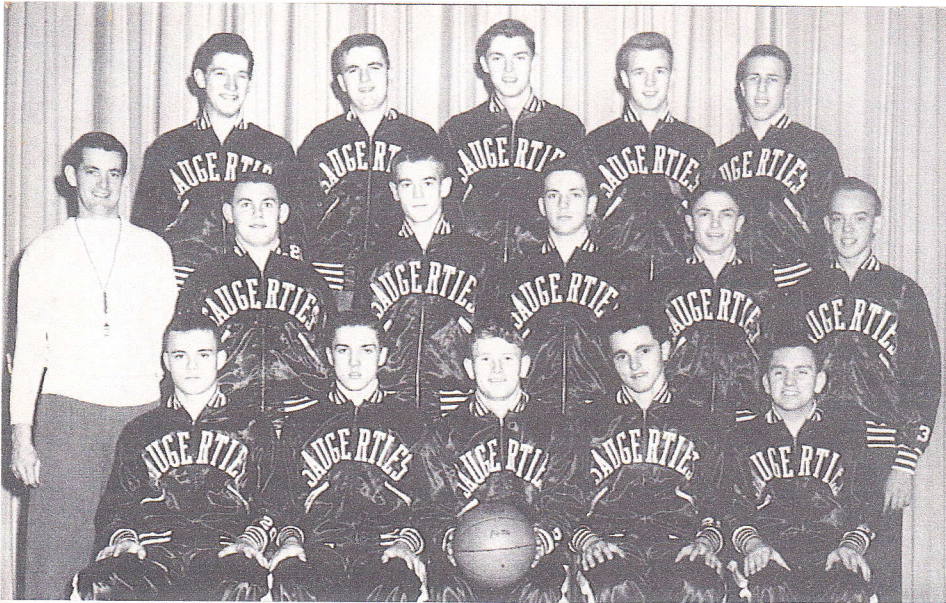
2008

Robert Hanson Sr. was born in Kingston, NY on March 17, 1938. He and his sister Carole were raised in Saugerties by their parents Laura and Erling Hanson. He graduated from SHS in 1956 and went on to earn a BS degree in Commerce from Rider College. He served six years in the United States Army (six months active and five and a half years reserves). Bob married and his marriage produced three children Robert Jr., Susan Whitaker and Chris. He has seven grandchildren Jenna, Michael, Chris, Marc, Nicole, Drew and Abbey.

Bob began his sports involvement by playing for the Lions Club baseball team since there was no Little League at the time. A lack of organized involvement did not prevent Bob from playing baseball at SHS. He played on both the JV and Varsity squads. He remembers being around a .300 hitter while manning first base for the Sawyers. He enjoyed all aspects of the game until he was hit in the head by a Coach Straub grounder after which Bob joked, "I wasn't very fond of grounders". He and his teammates (Bob Mignano, Wayne Pleugh, Tom Martin and Hall of Famers Bill Hanna, Jim Farrell, Murray Craft, Joe Martin) were led by Hall of Fame coach Bill Straub and turned a dismal club into UCAL champions. Compiling a 16 and 2 record during that championship season.



During his high school years Bob also played football and basketball. In the fall he competed for the six-man football team. He was an iron man playing both offensive and defensive end. On the hardwood Bob excelled. As a freshman he was the starting center for the JV squad. He went on to Varsity as a junior and he recalled his scoring average as being somewhere in the high teens. He also held the record for most rebounds in a game with 25. That record was broken the following season by fellow Hall of Famer Bill Zeilman. He again teamed with Hall of Famers Bill Hanna and Joe Martin leading the Sawyers to some successful seasons. Bob continued his basketball career by playing at Rider College as a freshman. He then decided to give up basketball to focus on his academics.



Front Row, left to right: M. Craft, J. Ervog, J. V. Martin, W. Hanna, B. Ledwith. Second Row: Coach Smith, E. Lang (Manager), E. Roeser, J. Sandner, W. Zeilman, J. Armstrong, (Manager), Third Row: W. Pleugh, F. Kugelman, R. Hanson, J. Kerin, D. Whitaker.



After high school Bob stayed involved in sports. In the winter he played in the SAA Men's Half Court basketball league. In the summer he played many years in the SAA Men's softball league. He played for the Video II Gunners. A team his business sponsored. Bob had a great desire to win but he also enjoyed the games for what they were, recreation. He felt it was important to play hard but fair and within the rules. In 1990 he was

honored by the SAA with the James Howe Memorial Sportsmanship Award for the Men's Softball League in recognition of the way he conducted himself on the field during competition.

In addition to playing, he also coached in the SAA Junior League for six seasons. As a coach he stressed what he believed sports were about to his players. He taught them that sports are a recreational activity. He tried to teach them skills, teamwork and respect for the opponent and officials. He was not willing to win at all costs he stressed playing by the rules and enjoying the game. He wanted to win but felt it was more important to try not to embarrass the opponent, officials or anyone else involved in the event. He wanted each kid to do the best they could and play to the best of their ability. He also served on the SAA Board of Directors for four and a half years.

As much as he contributed to the Saugerties sports scene, Bob was humble when recalling his individual talents and contributions. He preferred to discuss team accomplishments and his philosophy of sport. Bob has noted that Hall of Fame SHS coach Bill Straub was his inspiration in sports. When asked to recall his favorite sports moments and highlights he referenced the championship baseball season and being the top rebounder and scorer for the basketball team for the first twelve games of his senior season. His biggest thrill is watching his grandchildren participating in sports and other life events.

Congratulations Bob for your induction into the Saugerties Sports Hall of Fame. Your contributions and commitment to Saugerties sports make this a well-earned honor. You are a true sportsman and a fine representative of our community. You have made your family and community proud.