

Greg Chorvas

Saugerties Sports Hall of Fame Inductee

2009



Greg 2009

The Saugerties Sports Hall of Fame Club has selected Greg Chorvas as a 2009 inductee. Many people in Saugerties know Greg as the Superintendent of Parks and Buildings or the guy who is in charge of the Cantine Complex in the Town of Saugerties. His contributions and accomplishments in the Saugerties sports scene are unique and after reading this article you will see why he is deserving of this honor.

Greg began his involvement in sports playing baseball in the Saugerties Little League (Tigers). His baseball/softball lasted many years and included the Saugerties Babe Ruth League (VFW). After he completed Babe Ruth baseball, Greg moved to the SAA Softball League. He played for several teams including C&L, Lee Electric, Blue Mountain Market and the Saugerties Fire Department. Over many years as a player he played on several league championship teams and twice led his division in runs batted in.

Greg also played basketball, starting in the SAA Bidy League (Warriors) and the SAA Junior League with the Jaycees. He continued playing for several seasons in the SAA Half Court League.

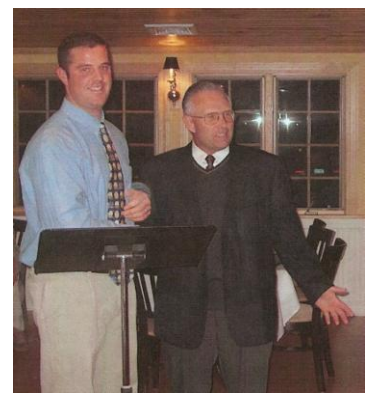
As a player Greg established himself as a Saugerties Sports Hall of Famer with his achievements in dartball as well as golf. He was a star player for many years in the Saugerties Dartball League. He played for the Golden Eagles, the Malden-West Camp Fire Department and Katsbaan Tavern teams. During his dartball career, Greg played on several championship teams. He twice led the league in home runs and he also led the league in runs batted in. His individual performances earned a place on several All Star teams.

Greg's greatest individual accomplishments have been in the game of golf. To say that he is an avid golfer would be an understatement. Greg has been playing for 33 years and still going. He was a member of the Sawyerkill and Sawyercrest Golf Clubs from 1976-1982. Presently he is a member of the Rip Van Winkle Country Club which he joined in 1984. During his twenty five years at Rip Van

Winkle, Greg has won eight Club Championships (1989, 1991, 1993, 1994, 1999, 2004, 2007 and 2008). These championships are match play with no handicap against strong competition. Over the years in the finals, he faced the likes of George Greene, Larry Marcus, James Daugherty, Brian Kotsol, Mike Sanders, Kevin Corrighan, Gary Schoepflin and Bill Peetom. Furthermore Greg has made it to the final round on four other occasions. In 1994 he became the first and only golfer to win the President's Cup (stroke play tournament) and Club Championship in the same year. These along with his first Club Championship in 1989 which he won on the 4th hole of sudden death were just two of his most memorable moments in sports. In 2006, Greg won the New York State Agriculture & Markets Commissioner's (Nathan Rodgers) Golf Invitational (Low Gross) at Cooperstown, NY. Greg then won the Deliso Memorial Golf Tournament at Woodstock Golf Club in 2007. In addition he participated in many other golf tournaments through the years including the SAA Golf Tournament, the Boiceville Open, The Frost Bite Open and American Legion Golf Tournament, just to mention a few. Greg at this time maintains a handicap of 8.



Greg receives the Club Championship & President's Cup Award Jacket from Bob McCaig, Director of Tournaments, Club Owner Ray Smith looks on. (1994)



Greg with Owner John Smith receiving his 6th Club Title after the completion of the large Renovation of the club. (2004)

Greg has dedicated his life to the Saugerties sports community through his dedication and volunteerism. He has served on the SAA Board of Directors for 31 years. He currently serves on the Executive Board as Treasurer. He is presently the Chairman of the SAA Golf Tournament at Rip Van Winkle Country Club and has served as Chairman or Co-Chairman for 17 years. He established the SAA Labor Day Softball Tournament and served as the tournament Chairman for 21 years. He is also the Chairman of the Annual Clambake Golf Tournament at Rip Van Winkle Country Club and has held this post for 17 years. These activities have raised a substantial amount of money which is used to improve facilities and programs offered to Saugerties residents and purchase materials for field improvements at Cantine Complex at no taxpayer expense. In addition to his tournament leadership, Greg also serves as President of the SAA Golf League and has done so for 19 years. In 2008, Greg was the Co-Chairman and emcee of the Gladys and John Hutton Day held in June. He has also served as Co-Commissioner of the SAA Men's and Women's Softball Leagues, Head of the Umpires for the SAA and Saugerties Babe Ruth League, Umpire/Scorekeeper for the SAA, Babe Ruth and Little League, Commissioner of the SAA Biddy, Junior and Senior basketball leagues and President of the Saugerties Dartball League. He also has ongoing sponsorships in the Saugerties Little League, Babe Ruth League, American Youth Soccer Organization, Saugerties Youth Hockey and the SAA. He has contributed to these organizations for years, some since their inception.

As a public servant in his role as Superintendent of the Town of Saugerties Parks and Building

Department, he has served his community well. He has interacted with various people and organizations to improve the facilities that are used by Saugerties residents. Examples include in 1991 and 1992 worked closely with Oscar Benzenhofer, Sue Miller, Mark Herb, Dave Holmquist and the late Glenn Brown in the development and construction of the soccer fields at Cantine Complex. These fields make it possible for over 1000 children to participate in the game of soccer. In 1997 and 1998, Greg was also instrumental in the planning and construction of the Kiwanis Ice Arena. He, Jack Wilsey, all of the Kiwanis Club members and Saugerties Town officials worked together to build a first class facility for Saugerties residents to enjoy. The ice arena offers public ice skating, figure skating, ice dancing and skating instruction. They also serve JV and Varsity High School Hockey teams and also Men's and Youth Hockey Leagues. Just a small example of what the ice arena has meant for the Town of Saugerties. His efforts as liaison between the Town and the community was instrumental in getting these projects approved and completed.



Greg with Jack Wilsey of the Kiwanis Club

Just a few other things you should know about Greg. In 2003 he received the Quality Life Award from the Mid Hudson Pattern for Progress organization. This award recognizes contributions to the field of human services. He is a life member of the Malden West Camp Fire District. He currently serves on the Executive Board of the New York State Turfgrass Association as Vice President. He also sits on their State Education Committee.

Greg states he would not have been able to achieve his life's accomplishments without the late Jack Keeley's inspiration and guidance. He also credits the government officials and the many volunteers which have made it possible for him to achieve his life's work. He feels strongly that the Saugerties sports programs and facilities are second to none in New York State and he believes that **the secret to our success lies in the unique relationship between town government and sports volunteers working together to provide our residents with its first class sports programs.**

The Saugerties Sports Hall of Fame Club extends its congratulations to Greg for his induction into the Saugerties Sports Hall of Fame. Your professionalism, hard work, dedication and accomplishments have made your family and community proud.