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## **Press Release**

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### **Calumet High School Athletic Hall of Fame**

Calumet High School is excited to announce that it will induct the Class of 2014 into the Calumet High School Athletic Hall of Fame on Saturday, September 6, 2014. The event will start at 11:00am with a coffee social in the CLK Schools Commons. The hall of fame induction ceremony is free of charge and open to the public.

This year's induction class consists of:

Gene Arntsen  
Carl "Scuppy" Backstrom  
Larry Danbom  
Gordie Frantti  
Joe Galetto  
Paul Lehto  
George Oikarinen  
Jackie Rowe  
Percy Wilcox

Biographies are listed on the following pages.

## **Gene Arntsen**

### **Calumet High School Athletic Hall of Fame**

Earned 10 letters while at Calumet High School with three in football, three in basketball and four in track (1953-1957).

A fine athlete, who started both ways in football, was a mainstay as a forward on the basketball team and excelled in running the hurdles in track.

Received the George Gipp All-American Award which is presented each year to the outstanding CHS senior male athlete (1957).

Graduated from Michigan Technological University with a BS in Forestry in 1964 and a BS in Engineering Administration in 1965.

As an entrepreneur, he started multiple forestry related companies, including A & M Forestry Marketing Corporation in 1992 and Bird's-Eye Creations in 1993.

Received MTU School of Forestry "Outstanding Alumnus Award" in 2006.

Was named a 2007 Honor Academy Inductee by the Michigan Tech School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science

Longtime financial supporter of both Calumet High School and the Calumet All Sports Booster Club.

Inducted September 6, 2014

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## **Carl "Scuppy" Backstrom**

### **Calumet High School Athletic Hall of Fame**

Graduated from Calumet High School in 1952 where he lettered in football, basketball and track while serving as team captain in both football and basketball.

Received Copper Country Conference and All-Upper Peninsula honors in both football and basketball along with being selected the conference MVP in basketball.

Won the Funke Award as the Copper Country Conference player who contributed the most to his school's basketball team.

Received the George Gipp All-American Award which is presented each year to the outstanding CHS senior male athlete (1952).

Excelled in American Legion baseball as a left-handed pitcher while attending CHS.

Played one year of varsity football as a starting offensive end for both Michigan Tech (1952) and Northern Michigan University (1953).

Signed by the Boston Red Sox to a professional baseball contract in 1953 and attended spring training with the team.

Pitched several years of semi-pro baseball in New York Mills, Minnesota and one year with Moorhead (Minnesota) State College (1956).

Recruited to play baseball at Michigan State (1955) but the NCAA ruled his pro contract with Boston made him ineligible to play at the DI level.

Played one year of basketball while attending Suomi College (1957) and led the Lions in scoring by averaging 24 points per game.

Was an outstanding baseball pitcher and fast pitch softball player with local teams while finishing his education at NMU, which resulted in a teaching degree in 1962.

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## **Larry Danbom**

### **Calumet High School Athletic Hall of Fame**

Lettered in football, basketball and track at Calumet High School, while also demonstrating his athletic abilities on local baseball and hockey teams (1929-1933).

Served as captain of both the basketball and football teams while at CHS (1932-33).

In 1932, was selected as a running back on both the All-UP and Michigan High School All-State Football Teams.

Recruited to play football at Notre Dame by head coach, Hunk Anderson, a former CHS, Notre Dame and Chicago Bears football star (1933).

Made the Notre Dame varsity team his sophomore year and scored the winning touchdown against the USC Trojans in Los Angeles (1934).

Played a key role in the Irish win over Ohio State in a contest named by the press as "The Game of the Century" (1935).

Was the starting fullback and middle linebacker his senior year in helping Notre Dame to a 6-2-1 record, which included major wins over Wisconsin, Northwestern, Ohio State, Army and a tie with USC (1936).

Scored the only touchdown in a 6-6 tie against Army at Yankee Stadium with President Franklin D. Roosevelt in attendance.

Voted by the All-American Board of Football as a fullback on the 1936 College Football All-American Team.

Selected to play in the College All-Star Game and helped the collegians defeat the defending NFL champion, Green Bay Packers, 6-0 (1937).

Served as a lieutenant in the US Navy during World War II (1941-1945) and later as a Special Agent for the FBI (1951-1971). After leaving the FBI, he served as Special Investigator for Nelson Rockefeller, the Governor of New York.

One of the finest athletes to graduate from CHS, who distinguished himself on the football field and with a long career in service to his country.

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## **Gordie Frantti**

### **Calumet High School Athletic Hall of Fame**

Lettered and received all-conference honors in football, hockey and track while attending Calumet High School (1984-1988).

Named to the All-State High School hockey team and selected to play for Team Michigan in the National High School Hockey Showcase in Chicago (1988).

Finished his hockey career at CHS as the all-time leader in goals scored with 92 and third in overall scoring with 176 points.

Selected by the Philadelphia Flyers in the 6<sup>th</sup> round of the 1988 NHL Entry Draft.

Played one year (1988-1989) of Junior A hockey with Kalamazoo of the North American Hockey League before signing to play college hockey with Western Michigan University (1989-1990).

After one year with WMU, signed to play Tier I Junior A hockey with the Tri-City Americans of the Western Hockey League (1990-1991).

Signed a professional contract with the San Jose Sharks organization and was assigned to play with their Kansas City franchise in the International Hockey League (1991-1993).

Continued his professional career with Huntington and Nashville of the East Coast Hockey League (1993-1995) and Monroe of the Western Professional Hockey League (1997-1998).

During his professional career scored a total of 72 goals and assisted on 84 others for a total of 156 points in 208 games.

Began his coaching career in the American Frontier Hockey League as the head coach of the Central Wyoming Outlaws (1996-97).

Coached for two years as an assistant with the Tri-City Americans of the Western Hockey League (2005-2007).

Continues to stay involved in hockey as the owner and general manager of the Salt Lake City Tier 3 Junior A franchise in the Western States Hockey League and as a scout for the Fairbanks Ice Dogs of the North American Hockey League.

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## **Joe Galetto**

### **Calumet High School Athletic Hall of Fame**

A solid all-around athlete at Calumet High School (1959-1963) who lettered in football and track while participating in basketball and starring on local hockey and baseball teams.

Was selected MVP of the 1962 CHS football team, along with All-Conference and All-Upper Peninsula honors the same year.

Graduated from CHS in 1963 and went on to obtain his degree from Michigan Tech in 1967.

Lettered in hockey at Michigan Tech (1964-1967) and was a member of the 1964-65 NCAA National Championship team led by legendary coach, John MacInnes.

Was a coach and referee for the CLK Hockey Association for a number of years.

Served on the Public Schools of Calumet-Laurium-Keweenaw Board of Education for 10 years (1987-1997).

Was one of the key individuals in the establishment of the Calumet All-Sports Booster Club in 1982. To this day, the Booster Club plays an important financial role in supporting the CHS athletic program.

Served on the board of the CLK Foundation (1996-2006) and continues to serve on the CHS Scholarship Committee.

Inducted into the Michigan Tech Sports Hall of Fame in 2014 as a member of the MTU 1964-65 NCAA National Championship Hockey Team.

Has been a devoted volunteer and supporter of the Public Schools of Calumet-Laurium-Keweenaw and the CHS athletic program.

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## **Paul Lehto**

### **Calumet High School Athletic Hall of Fame**

A 1957 graduate of Calumet High School who developed his leadership abilities as a young man. At the age of 14 was elected president of the Wolverine Athletic Club and at 16 was playing and coaching in the Calumet Hockey Association.

In 1954, began a 30 year career as player and manager with Wolverine in the Copper Country Twilight Baseball League. Was responsible for leading a group of volunteers to build a new baseball field in Wolverine (1969).

Played for and coached Wolverine in the Copper Country Intermediate Hockey League and the CLK Wolverines in the Northern Michigan-Wisconsin Hockey League (1962-1972).

Lead a group of supporters that secured the Copper Country Chiefs franchise in the United States Hockey League and served the team as general manager and a member of the board (1972-1975).

Coached and managed the reorganized Wolverine senior hockey team (1976-1984). Overall, his teams won four Gibson Cups, seven league titles and hosted the United States National Intermediate Tournament in 1971.

For eighteen years (1984-2002) was an assistant coach for Jim Crawford and the CHS hockey team. During that time, the team won four state championships and finished as runners-up on two other occasions.

Served on the Calumet Hockey Association board of directors in various capacities, including president, for the better part of five decades.

Was a major force during his time on the hockey board, and later as Calumet Township supervisor, in maintaining and improving the Calumet Armory/Colosseum as an ice facility and community center. Became a leading figure, along with the Village of Laurium, in the construction of the Bi-Centennial/George Gipp Arena in (1976) and the installation of artificial ice two years later.

During his involvement with the Armory/Colosseum, he led a large group of volunteers to install artificial ice, purchase three Zambonis, install new side boards, rink glass, locker rooms, score clocks and the renovation of the lobby and concession stand areas.

Made the arrangements for Calumet Township to take control of the Armory when the State of Michigan evacuated the building in 2004 to move into a new facility.

As Calumet Township supervisor, has worked continually to provide recreational areas such as parks, ski trails, fishing ponds, soccer and ball fields for the people of this community.

For seven decades has devoted his life to coaching, managing, building and promoting athletics and recreational activities in Calumet and the surrounding areas.

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## **George Oikarinen**

### **Calumet High School Athletic Hall of Fame**

Lettered in football, basketball and track while attending Calumet High School (1963-1967).

Was selected to the Upper Peninsula Class A-B First Team as a running back in both 1965 and 1966.

Honored as the Upper Peninsula Back of the Year (1966).

In 1966, set a then CHS season record for most carries (184) and yards gained (1454).

Set, at the time (1966), CHS career records for most carries (347), yards gained (2211) and yards per carry (6.4).

Continues to hold the CHS record for carries in a game with 37 against Crystal Falls (1966).

Continues to hold the CHS record for yards gained per carry in a season with 7.9 (1966).

Recorded the second fastest 100 yard dash time (10.06 sec.) in CHS track history while also competing in other sprints, relays and the high jump.

Recruited to play football at Northern Michigan University (1967), but a serious injury in his freshman year contributed to ending his career prematurely.

Was an excellent baseball player on local youth teams and later on the Calumet entry in the Copper Country Twi-Light League.

Is considered to be one of the finest running backs in CHS and Upper Peninsula high school history.

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## **Jackie Rowe**

### **Calumet High School Athletic Hall of Fame**

Was a 1972 graduate of Calumet High School during the era just prior to the start of girls interscholastic athletics.

Competed in speed skating, skiing, hockey, softball and professional football.

While at CHS she lettered in downhill skiing, the only varsity sport for girls at the time.

In 1966, was selected as the best overall skier from 200 entrants in the regional winter games.

As a teenager, consistently placed high in numerous United States Cross-Country Ski Association Regional Championships.

Regarded as one of the most dominant female hockey players in Copper Country history.

Helped lead the Horner Hornets to the 1972 Michigan Class D State Softball Championship with a .417 batting average.

Was annually selected to be on league and tournament all-star teams throughout her softball career.

In 1977, signed to play with the Detroit Demons of the National Women's Football League.

Played both offensive and defensive tackle, led the league in punting average (34.8 yds.) and handled all the place kicking duties.

Considered to be one of the finest female athletes ever to attend CHS.

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## **Percy Wilcox**

### **Calumet High School Athletic Hall of Fame**

Played football, basketball, hockey and baseball while attending Calumet High School (1913-1917).

Recruited by George Gipp to attend Notre Dame in the fall of 1918.

Lettered in football, basketball and hockey while attending Notre Dame (1918-1922).

Served as captain of the Notre Dame hockey team during the 1920-21 and 1921-22 seasons.

Became a starting guard on the Irish basketball teams of 1920-21 and 1921-22.

Was a reserve running back on the Notre Dame football team for three years (1919-1921).

An outstanding CHS athlete who had an excellent three-sport career at Notre Dame.

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