

Abby Spector



Abby Spector began one of the greatest “Maine Female Golf Stories” at Waterville Senior High School in the late 1990’s. During her four years at Waterville Senior High School, she was the Maine Principals’ Association’s State Schoolgirl Champion each year, leading her team to a state championship in 1997. While playing in the number one position on the boys’ team at her school, she was selected to the “All-State Boys’ Team” and as “Most Valuable Player for the Boys’ All-State Team” in both 1997 and 1998. It was her performances in high school golf that initiated many of the changes in boys and girls high school golf that are in place today: Girls Individual Qualifier and Team Golf. From her earlier matches where only a handful of girls’ golfers played, the MPA tournament has over 40 girls playing in the individual tournament and many young ladies now playing on school teams. She was the equivalent of Tiger Woods and his impact on the growth of youth interest in golf to high school golf in Maine.

After leaving Waterville Senior High School, she was awarded a full golf scholarship to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. While at UNC she earned team awards as the top freshman in 2000, a sportsmanship award in 2001 and the best overall in 2003. In 2002, she was the Pine Needles NCAA Division 1 Intercollegiate Champion.

The Maine State Golf Association hosts the Maine Women’s Amateur Golf Championships every summer and Abby has been a seven-time champion! During that run, she was also the 2001 New England Women’s Amateur Champion. Abby has been inducted into both the Maine Golf Hall of Fame (2007) and the Maine Sports Hall of Fame (2014). The Women’s Maine State Golf Association now presents an “Abby Spector Award” annually in recognition of the Maine female golfer who best exemplifies the spirit of the game through a unique combination of their ability and sportsmanship, their perseverance and courage, and their passion for and commitment to promoting the growth and enjoyment of the game of golf. She was recently presented with the Thomas TK Kimball Award, given to a person who “demonstrates their love of the game and the promotion of the sport and its values to junior golfers and others who may benefit from golf’s life lessons.” Abby became a Professional Golf Association Member in 2013 and is currently the Director of Instruction at Riverside Golf Course in Portland, Maine.

The MPA is honored to recognize one of Maine’s great female athletes, Ms. Abby Spector.



*Maine Principals’ Association in partnership with
Lifetouch School Portraits Recognizes the 2017*

**Maine Principals’ Association
Hall of Excellence
Inductees**

~ May 25, 2017 ~

Walt Abbott, Contributor

Duke Albanese, Administrator

Al Card, Official

Donald Dow, Administrator

Gerry Durgin, Administrator

Diane Fournier, Coach

Norm Gagne, Coach

Michael Haley, Administrator

Matthew Rossignol, Athlete

Abby Spector, Athlete

Program

6:00 p.m.

Reception

6:45 p.m.

Welcome and Meal

7:30 p.m.

Recognition of Inductees

8:30 p.m.

Closing and Photos

Matthew “Matt” Rossignol



Matthew Rossignol is a 1985 graduate of Van Buren District Secondary School. He was a three-time All-State basketball selection and was named a Converse All-American his senior year. He still holds several Class B tournament scoring records. He finished his high school basketball career with a total of 2,257 points, a school record which stood for close to 30 years, until it was surpassed by his daughter Parise. Matt was also an All-State soccer player and All-County baseball player during his years at Van Buren. After his high school career, Matthew accepted a full scholarship to study political science and play basketball at the University of Maine at Orono. At UMaine, he was a 4-year starter for legendary coach Thomas “Skip” Chappelle, including a streak of 106 consecutive starts. He was a two-time captain of the Black Bears, where he finished his career as the 7th leading scorer in school history with 1,297 points, 4th in assists, most total games played, as well as holding

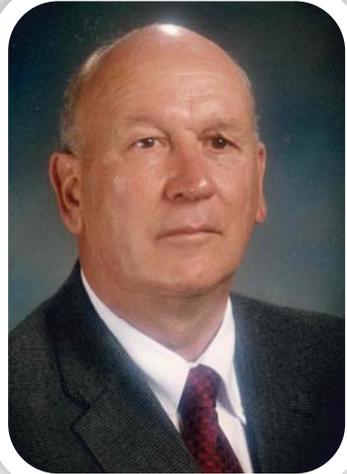
all the school’s 3-point records. During his time at Maine, Matthew was selected to the North Atlantic Conference All-Rookie Team, as well as to the conference’s All-Academic Team. He led the conference in free shooting once, and in three-point shooting twice. In 1986, he led the Black Bears to an 84-81 upset of national power Michigan State by scoring a game-high 23 points. He graduated with distinction from the University of Maine with a degree in political science, as well as a concentration in history.

He has been a public-school teacher for 28 years, having taught social studies and English in Houlton, Van Buren, and currently in Madawaska, where he has taught since 1998. Matthew has also been extremely active in athletics, having coached varsity basketball, both girls’ and boys’ for 25 years, amassing close to 300 victories. He has also coached varsity softball for 21 years, and has served as a soccer official for 21 years. He was inducted into the New England Basketball Hall of Fame in 2013 and the Maine Basketball Hall of Fame in 2016.

Matthew has many passions, including writing. He is a published author, having written the book *My Maine Summer*, published in 1996. He also enjoys writing poetry, is an avid baseball and basketball historian and a collector of baseball and basketball cards. He is extremely proud to be from Van Buren, the St. John Valley, Aroostook County, and the State of Maine. He currently resides in Van Buren with his wife of 28 years, Monique Rossignol. They are the proud parents of five children - Dominique, Derrick, Parise, Andre, and Annie Rose.

*The MPA is honored to recognize one of Maine’s great male athletes,
Mr. Matthew “Matt” Rossignol.*

Michael Haley



Mike Haley has had an illustrious career spanning over five decades of contributions to Maine Interscholastic Activities. He was an outstanding high school athlete at So. Paris High School, graduating in 1961. As a high school athlete, he earned 15 varsity letters while playing four sports: football, basketball, baseball, and track. After high school, he moved on to the University of Maine, Orono where he lettered in both football and baseball. At UMaine he served as the Co-Captain for the football team and received such honors as All-Maine for three years and All Yankee Conference for one year. He led the team and state in scoring and yards per carry. His athletic stature earned him tryouts in baseball with the Phillies, Pirates, and Twins, and in football with the Alouettes.

After college, he began a career as a respected educator, first at Maine Maritime Academy as a football coach and later as a teacher of biology, math, and physical education and a coach of football, baseball, softball, track, gymnastics, and golf at many schools throughout Maine. He served as the Athletic Director and Dean of Admissions and Post Graduates at Maine Central Institute, the Athletic Director at both Waterville Senior High School and Lewiston High School, the Assistant Principal/Athletic Director at Dexter Regional High School and later became the Assistant Principal at Winslow High School and Leavitt Area High School. He officiated basketball for 30 years and umpired baseball for 25 years. In the early 1990's he spent five summers working at the Pine Tree Camp for Crippled Children.

He has dedicated himself to Maine education and athletics and his contributions have been recognized by receiving such honors as: Maine Football Coach of the Year, MPA Larry LaBrie Award, National Football Foundation College Hall of Fame – Contribution to Interscholastic Athletics Award, the Maine Athletic Director's Association "Special Achievement" Award. He has served as the Executive Secretary for the Maine Football Coaches' Association for 27 years and that group has named the "Coach of the Year Award" in his honor.

Mr. Haley has served on many local, league, and state committees over the years, including the MPA Football, Ice Hockey, Executive, Basketball, and Outdoor Track Committees. He has served as the MPA Ice Hockey Director for the past 24 years as well as assisting the MPA in many other regional and state events.

It is an honor to be able to recognize Mr. Mike Haley this evening.

Walt Abbott



Walter Abbott is a native of Rumford, Maine, where he was an outstanding high school football player that would later go on to star at the University of Maine, gaining a reputation as strong offensive guard and defensive linebacker. He graduated from UMaine in 1958 with a degree in Resource Economics and a master's degree in Education. He started his career at his *alma mater* in 1960 as an instructor in physical education and assistant football coach. In 1967, at the age of 30, he became the Black Bears' head coach, one of the youngest collegiate gridiron coaches in the nation, and led the team through the 1975 season, when he relinquished the post to devote full time to teaching and to building a campus-wide physical fitness program.

His experience, leadership and statewide respect twice – in 1991 and 1994 – prompted UMaine presidents to call on Abbott to serve as acting athletic director with full authority and responsibility of the position. Firm in his belief that quality athletic and recreation programs at all levels, are a vital part of the total educational experience, Abbott, throughout his 50 years at UMaine, has continued to be actively and passionately involved in improving high school athletics statewide, establishing strong partnerships and bringing needed information and training to coaches, athletic directors, and their students. He led the development of an online coaching education course of the Maine Center for Sport and Coaching, and as part of a statewide select panel helped craft the *Sports Done Right* Report, a national model for shaping and sustaining the best possible learning environment for interscholastic and youth sports programs. Abbott's teaching, fieldwork, mentoring and rugged wilderness adventures informed and inspired students, many of whom became coaches and athletic directors, but most importantly leaders.

His commitment and service has been recognized with awards such as the UMaine Alumni Association Block M Award, the Maine Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Highest Praise Award, the National Football Foundation State of Maine Chapter Contribution to Amateur Football Award, the Distinguished Service Award of the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association, Outstanding Teaching Award for the College of Education and Human Development, the University of Maine Sports Hall of Fame and the State of Maine Sports Hall of Fame. He has earned the rank of Associate Professor Emeritus.

It is an honor to be able to recognize Mr. Walt Abbott this evening.

Duke Albanese



J. Duke Albanese is an education advisor to schools, state education agencies, and national organizations. His educational career spans 46 years and includes long tenures as a superintendent of schools and commissioner of education. For the past decade, he has been a sought-after advisor on policy and practice in the following areas: assisting schools, school districts, and departments of education with the design and implementation of academic reforms intended to improve educational opportunities and prepare all students to access and complete a collegiate education; assisting school districts in strategic planning; defining and implementing healthy youth and interscholastic athletic programs at the middle and high school levels; and advising on the policy and imple-

mentation of 1:1 computing technology for teachers and students in schools, districts, and states.

From 1996–2003, Albanese served as the Commissioner of Education for the State of Maine. He helped lead the development and adoption of Maine’s Learning Results, as well as the Maine Learning Technology Initiative, the nation’s landmark effort aimed at providing all middle and high school students with laptops and 1:1 access to technology. He is currently Senior Policy Advisor for the Great Schools Partnership in Portland, Maine. As a nationally recognized leader in high school redesign and the school change process, the Great Schools Partnership works to raise educational aspirations and achievement by creating equitable, rigorous, and personalized academic programs that prepare all students for college, work, and citizenship in the 21st century.

Albanese is a founding director of the *Sports Done Right* initiative, which has been one of America’s leading efforts to strengthen youth and interscholastic sports programs. Initially funded by the United States Congress and based at the University of Maine, *Sports Done Right* has been featured in national news media and in numerous professional publications.

Originally hailing from East Providence, Rhode Island, Albanese attended public schools before earning his bachelor’s degree from Bowdoin College and completing graduate studies at the University of Maine. Albanese has served on numerous boards and commissions and was, for six years, Chair of the Maine Children’s Cabinet, comprised of the commissioners of Health and Human Services, Labor, Corrections, Public Safety, and Education.

Duke and his wife, Nancy, reside in the college town of Brunswick on the coast of Maine. They have two grown children, Derek and Kelsey, of Scarborough and Brunswick, respectively, and two grandchildren, A.J. and Ava.

It is an honor to be able to recognize Mr. Duke Albanese this evening.

Norm Gagne



Norm Gagne graduated from Edward Little High School in Auburn in 1963 where he lettered in football, hockey, and baseball. He attended Bliss College in Lewiston for two years, earning his Associates Degree in Business in 1971. He then went on to the University of Maine Presque Isle where he received his B.S. Degree in Education. While at UMPI, he played baseball and was named to the NAIA first team in 1972 and 1973. He later received his Master’s Degree in Education at University of Maine at Orono.

Norm began his teaching and coaching career at Gardiner Area High School where he taught math, history, and physical education and also started the hockey program. During his 13 years in Gardiner he won state titles in Class B in 1981, 1983, and 1985. In 1986, he moved on to Waterville

Senior High School where he taught science and coached hockey. Norm spent 18 years at Waterville and won state titles in 1991, 1996, and 2001. While at Waterville he was named “Northern New England Coach of the Year” and in 2004 was nominated for the “John Mariucci Award” given yearly to the secondary school coach who best exemplifies the spirit dedication and enthusiasm of the former University of Michigan Coach referred to as the “Godfather of USA Hockey.”

In 2004, Norm moved to Gorham High School a year before moving on to Lewiston High School to coach the Blue Devils. During the three years he coached in Lewiston his teams won regional championships each year. In 2008, Norm went to Scarborough High School to coach hockey, capturing a state title in 2015. He recently accepted the head coaching position at his *alma mata*, Edward Little High School. In 42 years of coaching, Norm has captured 18 regional championships and seven state championships.

Norm was inducted into the “Lewiston/Auburn Sports Hall of Fame” in 2013 and the “Maine Sports Hall of Fame” in 2017. He is currently ranked second in the nation for the number of all-time wins in high school hockey.

Norm has spent 26 years of service on the MPA’s Ice Hockey Committee as a liaison for the coaches. He also served as President of both the Class A and Class B hockey leagues and is currently President of the Maine Class A Coaches’ Association.

He and his wife Ronda live in Westbrook and are parents of three adult children, Leah, Jessa, and Ross. They also have four grandchildren Hannah, Colby, Liam, and Lily.

It is an honor to be able to recognize Mr. Norm Gagne this evening.

Diane Fournier



Diane Fournier was born and raised in Rumford, Maine where she became an avid skier in nordic, alpine, and ski jumping. At the time, she was nationally one of only two females that ski jumped. She graduated from Stevens High School and after graduation she attended Wester State College in Gunnison, Colorado where she continued to compete in skiing. She would later attend Springfield College, to obtain her Master's Degree, where she met and trained with Mike Gallagher, at that time the United States best male Nordic skier. Mike took her under his wing, talked her into doing long runs, and convinced her to run the Boston Marathon in 1970, when it was still illegal for women to run. Olympian Joan Benoit-Samuels was quoted as saying "Pioneers like Robin Emery and Diane Fournier have helped pave the way in this evolution, working their way into an all-male sport while overcoming frustration and social barriers".

After completing her schooling Diane began teaching physical education in 1974 at Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham, Maine, where she became a part of the school's original faculty. Along with teaching at Mt. Ararat she also coached field hockey, j.v. basketball, and girls' track. She would later take on coaching responsibilities in cross country and indoor track. Over the years her teams have captured numerous regional and state championships. In 1984, she was asked to serve as the meet director for the KVAC Outdoor Track Championships and a couple of years later became the meet director for the Class A Outdoor Track Championships. She continues to serve as the meet director for both of those championships today. Diane has been a certified track official at the collegiate level, the USA Olympic Trials and the Paralympics. She has also served as a member of the National High School Cross Country Committee. She was instrumental in the development of the Outdoor Track Wheelchair Division that is a part of Maine high school outdoor track today. As a former colleague stated, "Coach Fournier can transfer her passion for running and track to our students, she has the ability to motivate as well as any coach I have ever seen and Mt. Ararat and the State of Maine are blessed to have her working with our young people."

In 2014, after 40 years of teaching Diane retired as a classroom teacher but continues to serve as the head coach in cross country, indoor track and outdoor track. Diane states that "after 43 + years of coaching, I find working with athletes and other coaches to be the best part of my day. I've met so many great people through coaching, that it still makes me want to go to "practice" every day".

It is an honor to be able to recognize Diane Fournier this evening.

Al Card



Al Card, a native of South Paris, has had a distinguished 48 year career in school athletics.

During his four years at Paris High School, Al lettered in football, baseball, and basketball. This was followed by a post-grad year at Maine Central Institute, where he also lettered in all three sports. His four years at the University of Maine, Orono, saw him achieve letters in football and baseball, where as a catcher, he captained the team to the co-championship of the Yankee Conference. During this time, Al was recruited by several major-league teams; among them the Red Sox, the Yankees, the Pirates, the Braves, the Detroit Tigers, and New York Giants.

After a two-year stint as an officer in the U.S. Army, Al began a 35-year career as a physical education teacher, including positions at Lawrence High School, Maine Central Institute, and Cony High School, serving at each as head football coach. His teaching career was interrupted only by a year at Springfield College in Massachusetts, where he

obtained a Master's degree in Education.

His officiating career in both basketball and baseball began in 1960 and continued for 32 years. As an umpire, he worked over 2,000 games, from high school level to AAA pro ball. He officiated 22 American Legion Tournaments, three Northeast Regional Tournaments, three Babe Ruth World Series, three NAIA District 5 Tournaments, and was Umpire in Chief at the 1987 New England All Star Game at Fenway Park.

Al has received multiple honors over the years, including the Ray Bicknell "Man of the Year" award from the Maine Basketball Coaches and Writers Association and the Distinguished Service Award from the New England Intercollegiate Baseball Association. He is a member of the Maine Baseball Hall of Fame, the MCI Hall of Fame, and the Maine Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame.

Al, now 87, resides at Granite Hill Estates in Hallowell, having lost his beloved wife of 61 years, Irene, in 2014. He has a daughter Linda (soon to be Reverend Card) of Cape Elizabeth, and a son Ryan, a neurosurgical P.A., of Woolwich; as well as five athletically-gifted grandchildren.

Al remains an avid follower of high school and college sports.

It is an honor to be able to recognize Mr. Al Card this evening.

Donald Dow



Donald “Don” Dow was born in Fort Fairfield in 1942. He graduated from Fort Fairfield High School in 1960 and from St. Anselm College in 1964. He has been married for 53 years to his wife, Joyce, and they have three children: Stephanie, Donald III, and Damian Dow along with seven grandchildren.

Don started his teaching career at Harmony High School where he taught English and Latin and coached three sports: baseball, girls’ basketball, and cross country. In 1967, Don moved to Millinocket starting a cross country team at Stearns High School. In 1978,

he became the Athletic Director at Stearns and over the years also taught English, Latin, Civics, Algebra, Drivers Education, and Motorcycle Education. He was active with the Maine Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association serving on their board of directors for many years as well as a term as president in 1990. He would later go on to serve as an assistant director with that association. While at Stearns, he also served in various capacities with the Maine Principals’ Association. This included working with the gymnastics, indoor, and outdoor track committees, as well as a liaison to the MPA Interscholastic Management Committee.

Under his tutelage many new programs were instituted at Stearns High School. Eastern Maine had many large schools in his earlier days and he was instrumental in the “Big East Conference” and later the Penobscot Valley Conference and the Little Ten Conference. Don became the voice and the gentleman that his peers held in high respect—he was the face of Maine Athletic Directors—everyone knew Don Dow and he literally knew everyone.

Don served in various capacities in the Penquis League and was Secretary/Treasurer of the Little Ten Conference for 23 years. In 1990, he was recognized as “Athletic Director of the Year”. In 2003, he was awarded an MTCCA Achievement Award. He was entered into the “Maine Sports Legends Hall of Fame” in 2010 and received the “Marty Ryan Award of Excellence” in 2015. Don has received a “Lifetime Achievement Award” for Track and Cross Country, a “Big East Service Award” and currently the MIAAAA awards two student scholarships annually in his honor. He is a past Exalter Ruler of Lodge 1521 and a past State President of the Maine Elks Association. He has served as chairman of the local Lodge’s Elks Scholarship Committee for 47 years.

In 2003, Don retired as Assistant Principal/Athletic Administrator of Stearns High School.

It is an honor to be able to recognize Mr. Donald “Don” Dow this evening.

Gerry Durgin



It is hard to imagine another person that has had a greater impact on interscholastic activities in Maine than Gerry Durgin. He was a three-sport athlete at Fryeburg Academy who later went on to an outstanding career at the University of Maine at Farmington. In 1972, he began his teaching and coaching career at Telstar High School in Bethel, Maine where he would also serve as the school’s athletic administrator. In 1985, he returned to his *alma mater*, Fryeburg Academy, where he served as the school’s dean of students, athletic administrator, teacher, and coach. In 1993, he moved to Gorham High School, serving as that school’s athletic administrator until 2011. In the fall of 2011, he became an assistant executive director at the Maine Principals’ Association.

Throughout his career, Gerry has been involved with the MIAAAA, serving on their board of directors for 15 years and as an assistant director from 1997-2005. He was the chair of the MIAAAA State Conference for 10 years, as well as the editor of their newsletter for many years. At the national level his involvement with the NIAAAA has included being a member of the NIAAAA Publications Committee, serving a four-year term on the Board of Directors as well as serving as the organization’s president in 2007. He chaired the NIAAAA Third Strategic Plan, and served as the chair of the first NIAAAA Accreditation Committee. At the state level, he has hosted numerous regional and state championships, has presented at many state and national conferences, and developed “Citizenship Recognition Programs” in two different athletic conferences. He currently serves as the state tournament director in golf, football, and basketball. He has been an adjunct professor at the USM and Saint Joseph’s College. While at the MPA, he has developed a statewide sportsmanship program for all interscholastic activities and also started the MPA Golf Tournament, which provides financial assistance for those students that attend the New England Student Leadership Conference, as well as five scholarships to Maine high school students.

Gerry has been recognized with numerous honors throughout his storied career. He was chosen as the MIAAAA Athletic Director of the Year in 1993, received a State Award of Merit in 1999, and in 2010 the MIAAAA established the Gerry Durgin Leadership Award. At the national level, he received the NIAAAA State Award of Merit in 1999, the NIAAAA Distinguished Service Award in 2000, and received a NFHS Citation in 2002. In 2010, he received the NIAAAA Award of Merit, the nation’s highest honor presented to an athletic administrator, and remains the only person from all of New England to receive the award. He has been inducted into the Fryeburg Academy Hall of Fame (in their inaugural class), the Gorham High School Hall of Fame, and in 2012, into the NIAAAA Hall of Fame.

Gerry and his wife, Ellen, reside in Gorham and have two grown daughters Alicia and Jennifer, and six grandchildren, Jackson, Joey, Jamie, Elizabeth, Brecken, and Kinsley.

It is an honor to be able to recognize Mr. Gerry Durgin this evening.