

## James M. Gauriloff

After an absence of the sport of football for many years, history was made in 1947, when Coach James "Big Jim" Gauriloff arrived in Beacon to coach the Bulldogs. Coach Gauriloff took a small, inexperienced group of boys, and, through hard work, long hours, patience and strict discipline, molded them into a team.

For over thirty years, in addition to his duties as a teacher of physical education, he coached football, basketball and baseball. Jim eventually went on to be the Athletic Director for the School district.

Hundreds of athletes and students have him to thank for his many years of professionalism and dedication to their development.

## Melio Bettina

Melio Bettina was the Light Heavyweight Boxing Champion of the World on February 3, 1939 when he knocked out "Tiger" Jack Fox in the ninth round at Madison Square Garden. Melio fought for eighteen years as an amateur and a professional. He won the Golden Gloves Title in Chicago, knocking out future Light-heavy Weight Champion Tony Zale. He had a total of 175 fights, winning 157. For more than eight years he was a world class light-heavy weight boxer. He retired in December 1948.

A lifelong resident of Beacon, he brought pride to the city in a time of economic despair. He put Beacon on the map with a phrase that was coined by the New York City newspapers, "Bring the Bacon Back to Beacon". Melio was a real gentleman, a gentle giant and a bonafide local hero. Melio died December 20, 1996.

## Richard "Digger" Phelps

Class of 1959

"Digger" is an honorary inductee to the Hall of Fame for his accomplishments as a basketball coach for Beacon High School, Fordham University and the University of Notre Dame. "Digger" became Notre Dame's 14th head basketball coach at the age of 29. After coaching at Notre Dame for more than 20 years, "Digger" became a basketball analyst for ESPN.

## Joe Mordas

Class of 1944

Joe lettered in basketball, baseball and cross country. Joe held the basketball individual scoring record in 1944. Joe coached junior varsity basketball (1952-61), varsity basketball (1961-62) and cross country (1958-60). As a junior varsity basketball coach, his teams won 34 straight games, including undefeated seasons in 1960 and 1961 and had a career coaching record of 112-52. In 1962, Joe led the varsity basketball team to its first winning season in 17 years with a 10 and 8 record. Joe also coached the 1960 cross country team to an undefeated record and a Section One Class C Championship. Joe was a math teacher and guidance counselor in the Beacon School District for 29 years.

## Thomas "Tucker" Blanchfield

Class of 1952

Thomas "Tucker" Blanchfield excelled in football and baseball. "Tucker" was named Football Player of the Year for the DUSO League in 1952.. The amazing thing about "Tucker" was that Beacon did not play in the DUSO League! However, his play against four DUSO League powerhouses, Newburgh Free Academy, Poughkeepsie, Wappingers and Arlington earned him that honor. "Tucker" was a "triple threat" adept at running, passing and punting. He lead the undefeated 1952 football team with his pinpoint passing and explosive running style, "Tucker" was feared by opponents for his ability to run the halfback option pass. "Tucker" graduated Alfred University where he attended on a football scholarship and distinguished himself by throwing a touchdown pass in his first varsity game. "Tucker" was a modest two sport hero at Beacon High School. He brought notoriety to the school and respect to a fledgling football program. "Tucker" was truly "Saturday's Hero".

## Anthony Komisar

Class of 1955

"Tony" excelled in both basketball and baseball. In 1954, Tony compiled a 7-1 pitching record and struck out 106 batters including strike out 16 in one game. After graduation from BHS, Tony signed a contract to play professional baseball with the Milwaukee Braves. Tony played 6 seasons in the Milwaukee Braves minor league organization.

## Murray Milligan

Class of 1964

Murray excelled in football, basketball and cross country. He was All Conference DCSL in football and basketball. Murray played football at Marist College for 4 years and was named the Most Valuable Player and a second team All American. He played semi-pro football for the Dutchess County Checkmates. For the Checkmates he earned the Best Running Back Award. Murray coached girls' basketball at Beacon High School.

## Nate Milligan

Class of 1968

Nate excelled in football and basketball. His outstanding career was highlighted in 1967 and 1968 with All League and All Section honors in basketball. During his senior year he set a school record with 1,177 career points and was selected as an All American. His basketball talent carried him to the college level where he excelled in basketball at the California State Teachers college.

## George Hughes

Class of 1976

George played football and basketball. His accomplishments as a basketball player earned him a place in the Hall of Fame. In 1976 George broke the Beacon High School season scoring record and the career scoring record. That same year he was named to the All State basketball team and was the Dutchess County Player of the Year. George went on to play basketball at St. Lawrence University where he was the most prolific scorer and one of the most outstanding players in the history of the school. He scored 2,321 career points, averaging 23.2 points per game and holds the SLU career record for field goal percentage, field goals scored and free throws scored plus season records for free throw percentage, points and field goals. In 1996 George was inducted into the St. Lawrence University Hall of Fame.

## Harry Carson

Class of 1944

"The Voice of the Bulldogs"

Harry Carson is an honorary inductee to the Hall of Fame. Harry has served as the announcer for Beacon High School football games 50 years. His legacy as an announcer started in 1947 and lasted until 1997.

## Raymond Humphrey

Class of 1983

Ray was Section One's best long and triple jumper. His honors include being selected to All League, All Section and All State teams in Track and Field. In 1983, Ray was a State Champion in the triple jump. He was an All American in 1983. He attended Georgetown University on full track scholarship. While at Georgetown, Ray was a 12 time Big East Champion, 5 time Division I All American. Before graduating with a law degree Ray became an assistant track coach at Georgetown. Ray was a member of the coaching staff for the 1996 United States Olympic track team.

## Dorothy Vereen

Class of 1984

In 1983 and 1984 Dorothy Vereen dominated Section One in the 100 meters, 200 meters, long jump and the sprint relay. Her honors include being selected to the All League, All Section and All State teams. Dorothy was a State Champion in the 100 meter and 55 meter dash. Dorothy was selected Honorable Mention All American in Track and Field and became Beacon's first female All American.

## The 1952 Football Team

Record 5 - 0 - 1

Points Scored 181 Points

Points Against 66 Points

The 1952 Beacon High School Football team was the first only undefeated athletic team in the school's history. The Bulldogs beat the much bigger and perennial powerhouses Newburgh, Poughkeepsie and Wappingers Falls, humbled Highland Falls and Cardinal Farley Military Academy and tied a very good Arlington team. The high point of the season was a stunning defeat of their cross-river rival Newburgh, ranked in the top five high school teams in New York state the year previous year.