



INTERNATIONAL JEWISH SPORTS HALL OF FAME

Yad Le'ish Hasport Hayehudi

"The Deeds of the Past Shall Inspire the Achievements of the Future"

Summer 2012

HALL ELECTS EIGHT FOR 2012

Seven athletes and a media icon make up the International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame's class of 2012. All will be formally inducted next summer, July 17th, 2013, at ceremonies at the IJSHOF Museum in Netanya, Israel



SADA JACOBSON: USA sabre fencing champion Sada Jacobson, ranked World's #1 in 2004, and winner of multiple gold, silver and bronze medals at World Championships from 2000 to 2006, and silvers and bronzes at the 2004 and 2008 Olympic Games.

LOUIS BENDER: Columbia University 1930 and 1932 All-America basketball star, he was All Ivy League 1930-32, and the League's top scorer 1930 and 1931. One of the most celebrated basketball stars of his era, he played professionally 1934-41 with the Boston Celtics, Union City Reds, Boston Trojans and New York Whirlwinds.



BEN JEBY: Won the World Middleweight boxing championship with a 12-round TKO over Frankie Battaglia in January, 1933. New York-born Jeby registered 22 KOs in 54 victories over 73 pro fights.

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BELGIAN MICHEL GRUN ~ 2012 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT RECIPIENT

Michel Grun, chairman of the European Maccabi Confederation from 1984 to 1999, and co-chair of the 1987 (Copenhagen), 1991 (Marseilles)

and 1995 (Amsterdam) European Maccabi Games, is recipient of the IJSHOF's 2012 Lifetime Achievement Award. Presentation of the award is scheduled for July 2013 ceremonies at the Hall of Fame Museum in Netanya.

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MEMO

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2013:

Hall of Fame inductions are on the calendar for Wednesday, July 17th, at the HOF museum, Wingate Institute, in Netanya. And you're invited!

What a time to go to Israel! There's the quadrennial World Maccabiah Games that begin on July 18th, the Hall of Fame inductions a day earlier, and all sorts of special events that occur only once every four years.

And, of course, there's the Holy Land, which occurs 24/7 every day of every year!

For more information about the Hall of Fame event, see the insert on the next page, or contact:

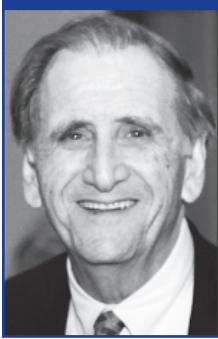
jsportslegends@aol.com

1979 - THE FIRST INDUCTIONS



In May, 1979, sports royalty made a command appearance at the very first Jewish Sports Hall of Fame inductions, held at the Beverly Hills (CA) Hilton Hotel. Veteran observers called it the greatest collection of American Jewish sports superstars ever assembled at a single event. Two years later, 'International' was added to the name, and the IJSHOF Museum was introduced on the Wingate College campus in Netanya, Israel.

Among those on hand that spring of '79 evening: (l-r) Nat Holman, Red Auerbach, Dolph Schayes, Sylvia Wene Martin, Hank Greenberg, Warren Abrams (Maccabiah Games chairman), Dick Savitt, Jackie Fields, Jimmy Jacobs, Irving Jaffee.



FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Plans are being formulated for an exciting *MISSION TO ISRAEL*, and elsewhere in this newsletter you can

see more details.

Our goal has been and always will be to show the world what great Jewish sportsmen and sportswomen have accomplished. To this end, in addition to a wonderful but limited museum, we have established an excellent website: www.jewishsports.net, published four *Jewish Sports Legends* books, and provide worldwide media, museums, documentarians and historians with research information and photographs.

We need to expand our horizons. To accomplish this we need to raise substantial funds. We have our *Dedicate an Honoree Display Case* program, as well as our *Trustee* program. For more information on these programs please call or e-mail me.

With warmest wishes for a pleasant summer,

Alan Sherman

310.602.9953

ashermco@verizon.net

... Who Knew?

• **That Hank Greenberg was the first Major League player** to enlist in U.S. military service after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor (Dec. 7, 1941). He volunteered for the U.S. Army Air Force and served 45 months, the longest of any MLB player. Two days *before* Pearl Harbor, Hank had been honorably discharged from his original military service!

• **That two Jews, Eddie Gottlieb and Harry Simmons,** made up

the NBA and MLB regular season schedules for a combined 47 years.

• **That Kenny Bernstein was the first NHRA driver** to break the 300 mph barrier (301.70 mph in March 1992).

• **That Bill Davidson's Detroit Pistons** were valued upwards of \$430 million when he passed away in 2009. He bought the NBA franchise 35 years earlier for \$6 million.

• **That Shaul Ladany** was the lone member of the 1972 Israeli men's Olympic track team who survived the Arab terrorist attack that murdered 11 teammates.

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• **That when she wasn't winning Olympic medals and setting world records,** American track and field phenom Lillian Copeland was a Los Angeles County Sheriff.

• **That trainers Ray Arcel and Whitey Bimstein,** partners for 10 years and independent for 40-plus more, trained 45 World boxing champions.

• **That three-time Indy '500 champion Maury Rose's** day job was engineer at General Motors,

where he invented the original device that allowed amputees to drive an automobile.

• **That Hungarian tennis star Suzy Kormoczy,** at the 1958 French Open, was the first (and still only) Jewish woman to win a Grand Slam Singles championship.

• **That NFL Film's founder Ed Sabol,** a mid-1930s Ohio State University swimming All-American, was named to the 1936 U.S. Olympic team but declined to participate in Hitler's games.

BOB LEVY RECEIVES LIFETIME HONORS IN PHILADELPHIA



Philadelphia's Bob Levy received the IJSHOF's 2011 Lifetime Achievement Award at a reception in his honor at the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia. Friends, past Hall of Fame honorees, and members of the Levy family were on hand.

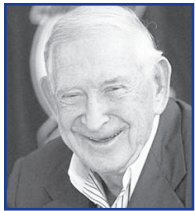
Principal speakers: (l-r) Joe Siegman (IJSHOF founder & past chairman), David Montgomery (Philadelphia Phillies president), Michael Rosenzweig (president and CEO of the NMAJH), Bob Levy, and Alan Sherman (IJSHOF chairman).

NEW HONOREES *(continued from Page 1)*

MURRAY CHASS: *New York Times* icon baseball sportswriter 1969 to 2008 was recipient of the 2003 G. Taylor Spink Award, media's election to the MLB Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. He was the *Times'* New York Yankees "beat" writer 1970-86, then appointed *Times* national baseball writer.



BILL DAVIDSON: Storied owner of the NBA's Detroit Pistons 1974-2009. Elected to the Naismith Hall of Fame in 2008, he also owned the WNBA's Detroit Shock, NHL's Tampa Bay Lightning and several other pro franchises. A modern sports pioneer, his Pistons, Lightning and Shock all won World championships in 2004. Pistons also won NBA titles in 1989 and 1990. The Shock repeated 2006 and 2008.



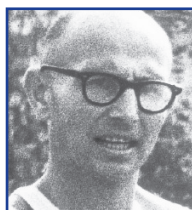
PETRA BURKA: Canadian Petra Burka was the 1965 World Figure Skating Champion. A year earlier, she took the bronze medal at the Winter Olympics, and earned bronzes at the 1964 and 1966 Worlds. The Netherlands-born champion was the first woman to land a Triple Salchow in competition. She is the daughter of Ellen Burka, the IJSHOF's 2010 figure skating honoree.



ERWIN KOHN: Austrian Erwin Kohn won the 1936 World Table Tennis Doubles Championship (w/R. Bergmann), and a gold medal with the Austrian team at the '36 Swathling Cup (World Championships). He also captured either silver or bronze medals in Singles, Doubles and/or Team competitions at the 1932 thru 1935 Worlds. Fleeing to Argentina at the outset of WWII, he dominated South American table tennis from 1940-52.



SHAUL LADANY: One of the top race-walkers of the 1960s-1970s. The Israeli's 50-mile event record (7:44:47.2) in 1972 is still the world mark. He was also the '72 gold medalist in the World 100k event. Ladany won national titles in Belgium, Switzerland, South Africa, Israel, and U.S. between 1973 and 1981.



*Read more about each
of these honorees at:
www.JewishSports.net*

JEW DOs & DON'Ts

Jews *do* this, Jews *don't* do that.



A prominent Los Angeles rabbi remarked three-plus decades ago when declining to deliver the invocation at the first Jewish Sports Hall of Fame inductions: "What do Jews have to do with sports?"

More often than not, Jewish accomplishments in sports are perceived to be a revelation, pure amazement that there is or has been a significant Jewish presence on a playing field, arena or court (without the word Supreme, Superior or Municipal preceding it).

The IJSHOF's mandate is to establish and call attention to the contributions to sports by exceptional Jewish athletes and sportsmen. It's not about the Talmud. It's about the successful Jewish role in contemporary culture via physical and competitive talents.

We've been doing this for nearly 35 years; at the same time encouraging, inspiring and often assisting other regional groups to establish their own community Jewish sports hall of fame. There are currently 20 such regional JSHOFS in the U.S., as well as others in Great Britain, Europe, and South Africa.

It's no bulletin that financial times are difficult, certainly no more so than in the State of Israel. To continue our work, we can use your financial help NOW! Donations are tax deductible.

We need YOU on our team!

Joe Siegman
IJSHOF Past Chairman

CRITERIA FOR ELECTION

In addition to a potential candidate having at least one Jewish parent AND considers him/herself Jewish, the candidate must have accomplished at least one of the following:

- An Olympic gold medal
- A World Championship gold medal
- Multiple-Olympic or World Championship medals
- A World record; an amateur or professional World Championship
- Been elected to the hall of fame of the athlete's/contributor's sport
- Recorded a unique achievement(s)
- Was a sports pioneer; innovator or key participant in commemorative circumstances



**INTERNATIONAL
JEWISH
SPORTS
HALL OF
FAME**

Israel:

Wingate Institute ■ Netanya 42902

phone: 09.8639521

Eastern United States:

7922 Turncrest Dr. ■ Potomac, MD 20854

301.602.9953 ■ fax: 301.765.9865

Western United States:

1371 S. Beverly Glen Blvd., #303

Los Angeles, CA 90024

310.475.4370 ■ fax: 310.474.0960

website: www.JewishSports.net

email: JSportsLegends@aol.com

HALL OF FAME'S ORIGINAL 18

This unique illustration of the original 18 athletes elected to the International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame, by Rick Tulka, appeared in the February, 1980 issue of *Moment Magazine*. Copies of the superstar grouping are available for donations of \$100 or more to the IJSHOF. (See IJSHOF contact locations above.)



Top row: (l-r) Dolph Schayes, Abe Saperstein, Jimmy Jacobs, Nat Holman. 2nd row: Mark Spitz, Hank Greenberg, Red Auerbach, Benny Leonard. 3rd row: Jackie Fields, Sandy Koufax, Benny Friedman, Dick Savitt, Henry Wittenberg. Bottom row: Sid Luckman, Hirsch Jacobs, Sylvia Wene Martin, Irving Jaffee, Barney Ross.

LIFETIME AWARD *(continued from page 1)*

When the Belgium-born executive board member of Antwerp's Diamant Kring ('Circle') and Diamond High Council accepted the leadership role in EMC, the Confederation had 17 territorial organizations. When he retired from the top position 15 years later, EMC membership stood at 32, including the reappearance of Maccabiah delegations from Hungary, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Turkey, Czechoslovakia, Spain, and Russia (CIS).

Michel joined the Maccabi World Union Executive and International Maccabiah Committee in 1977, serving as MWU's vice-president 1998 – 2006.

WHO'S NOT IN THE IJSHOF?

The IJSHOF is occasionally asked why the name of a prominent athlete, coach or sportsman is absent from our roster of honorees. The answer can be any one of several possibilities:

- The prospect does not meet IJSHOF criteria for election. (see page 3)
- The prospect has Jewish parents, but chooses not to be publicly recognized as a Jew.
- The prospect was born Jewish, but converted to another faith; or converted to Judaism after his/her athletic career.
- The prospect thought to be Jewish, isn't.

Care to add your two shekels to this discussion? Let us hear from you.

**INTERNATIONAL
JEWISH SPORTS
HALL OF FAME**

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CHAIRMAN
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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Sharon Talmor
Wingate Institute
pr@wingate.org.il

PAST CHAIRMAN
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SPORTS HALL OF FAME**

7922 Turncrest Dr.
Potomac, MD 20854