

First Eight Inductees to the Cobourg and District Sports Hall of Fame

3 March 2019

(in alphabetical order except for #1)

Layton Dodge

Layton Dodge was born in Cobourg on March 14, 1937 to parents William and Kathleen. After high school Layton joined the staff of the Cobourg Sentinel Star as a Sportswriter and published his first column on September 5, 1957.

Layton's final column was on October 8, 1996. In between, Layton covered most sports in the Cobourg and surrounding communities with Love, Diligence, Integrity and Honesty.

Over the years, Layton was the statistician for many, many leagues and organizations.

Perhaps his greatest gift was his recognition that sports were as important to the house league player as they were to the rep team player and he gave equal coverage to each in his weekly articles.

Layton Dodge - One of a Kind - Simply the Best!

Paul Currelly

Paul Currelly was born in Port Hope, Ontario on September 3, 1926. He moved to Cobourg in 1951 and resided there until his death in 2004. Paul was an all-round athlete playing basketball, baseball, hockey and football. He was also a cross country runner.

Paul Currelly was a respected backfielder for Cobourg's famous Galloping Ghosts Football team from 1947 till 1952.

The Galloping Ghost program described him as a "Good Steady football player that can always be counted on for an all-out effort - A good team player all the way" - A philosophy and attitude he was to instill in many players and teams that he went on to coach after his playing days were over.

Paul became a founding member of the Cobourg Girl's Softball League in 1963 - that same year, he became the coach of the Coverdale Aces - this team was the prelude to the Cobourg Angels Softball Organization whose teams went on to win 5 Ontario Championships along with numerous league and tournament titles.

Paul Currelly was an Athlete but he became the major influence in Women's Softball in Cobourg for 40 years

Fred Dufton

Fred Dufton was born in Stratford, Ontario in 1886.

In 1926, he, along with his wife, 3 sons and 3 daughters moved to Cobourg to join the Edwards and Edwards Tanneries.

Fred became interested in football when his sons started playing in high school.

He got involved and then became the manager of the Collegiate teams.

When the boys left high school, Fred decided to start up an intermediate football team. The year was 1935 and the team was known as the "Red Raiders". In 1937 that name was changed to the "Cobourg Galloping Ghosts".

Over the years he earned the name of "Ferocious Fred" because of his tremendous desire to surmount all obstacles and bring home a winner. The Galloping Ghosts were, and still are the most famous of all teams in Cobourg's Sports History.

In Fred Dufton, the Ghosts had a leader who proved that there is no supplement for hard work and determination. With a record of 8 Ontario Titles and 3 Canadian Titles in 13 years speaks for itself. Fred Dufton was one of the most illustrious and most successful sportsmen the community has ever known. He strove to excel in any endeavour and believed in making the most of each opportunity and ability.

"That Was His Legacy"

Don Ito

Don Ito was born August 16, 1937 in Ocean Falls, British Columbia. He and his family moved to Cobourg in 1941.

Don was an outstanding athlete - he played for two seasons with the Peterborough Pete's Junior B hockey team in the mid 1950's.

He was also involved in drag car racing during the early 1960's and won many trophies in this sport with his 1962 Chevy 409 Impala at the Shannonville Racetrack. His true calling happened in 1960 with the formation of the Rice Lake Waterski Club. Starting in 1966, Don would win the Canadian Nationals and place second in the U.S. Nationals. In 1967 he was first place in the U.S. Nationals. In 1968, Don again won the U.S. Nationals and accumulated a perfect score of 4000 points that same year at the North American Championships, he broke the World Record for tricks and was overall Champion.

In 1969, he again won the U.S. Nationals and in the North American Championship in Montreal, he again led the field in winning the Open Division.

In 1970, Don Ito won the Tricks Division Championship, once again at the U.S. Nationals.

In 1971 at the U.S. National Kite Flying Championship, Don took the Senior Men's Honours with a Slalom Run of 48 Buoys including 6 on a 40' line - A feat they said couldn't be done.

Don Ito, A Great Canadian Athlete

Marty Kernaghan

Marty Kernaghan was born August 9, 1958 in Grafton, Ontario to proud parents, Patricia and Jack.

From very early on, Marty showed exceptional skills in his chosen sports of hockey and fastball and from 1969 to 1977 he won 3 Ontario Amateur Softball Championships.

In Baseball he won an OBA Ontario Championship in 1970.

Marty's fastball career took him to the local Coldspings Cats then onto the Oshawa Tony's to Camrose Alberta and then to Calgary.

Marty's next stop was the Pencorp team in Sioux City Iowa.

Over his career, he played in 11 International Softball Conference World Tournaments.

Marty Kernaghan was voted an I.S.C. All World All-Star 8 times - First Team - 4 times and batted .361- getting 60 hits in 166 at bats while scoring 31 times with 36 RBI's.

In 2002 he was elected to the International Softball Conference Fastball Hall of Fame.

Another Great Local Athlete

Bill O'Neil

William J. (Bill) O'Neil was born in Oldcastle, Ontario on December 28, 1924.

Bill started his working career with General Foods at the age of 18, in Windsor, Ontario and moved with them to Cobourg in 1963.

As they say, "the rest is history". He coached the local General Foods Softball Team in the Cobourg Town League from 1963 - 1970. He coached Juvenile and Junior O.A.S.A teams that also played in the town league from 1971- 1990.

He was the Coach of 4 Championship Juvenile "B" OASA teams during the 1970's.

Bill O'Neil was recognized for his dedication as treasurer and a volunteer for the Cobourg Town League for 40 years.

On November 7, 2007, Bill was recognized by the Ontario Amateur Softball Association as Ontario's "Mr. Softball".

Bill Respected the Game, and was a Great Role Model

Frank Mazza

Frank Mazza was born with cerebral palsy on April 7, 1958.

The disease affected his body movement - muscle control - posture and balance. It also impacted his fine motor skills and oral motor functioning. Frank had to use a wheelchair for his mobility.

In the early 1980's Frank Mazza started wheelchair racing and much to his surprise won many competitions at both local and Provincial meets.

Next came a racing wheelchair and a 2 year training program with Team Canada.

In the 1984 Provincial Games, Frank won the 60 metre sprint - and the 100 and 400 metre sprints. That same year at the International Games for the Disabled, he was a gold medal winner for Canada in the 4 x 100 metre relay.

In the 1986 C.P. Games in Belgium, he won gold in the 4 x 100 metre relay - Silver in the 400 metre race and Bronze in the 100 metres.

Frank's career was cut short by a cancer diagnosis in 1986.

In 1990, Frank Mazza was inducted into the Ontario Cerebral Palsy Sports Hall of Fame.

Steve Smith

Steve Smith was born in Glasgow, Scotland and moved to Cobourg at an early age. Success in hockey never came easy to Steve.

He was never drafted by a Junior team. However, Steve stuck with the game and by age 17, he grew to 6'3" and 180 lbs and caught the attention of the Junior "A" London Knights.

He went on to become a mid round draft pick of the Edmonton Oilers.

Steve played in 804 NHL games, scoring 72 goals and 303 assists for 375 points.

He won 3 Stanley Cups and a Canada Cup.

Steve also played for the Chicago Blackhawks and Calgary Flames till back injuries ended his career.

After Steve Smith's playing career, he accepted positions as assistant coach with Calgary, Edmonton and Carolina.

Steve is presently an assistant coach with the Buffalo Sabres.

"A Local Boy that Made Good"