

**NYSPPHSAA ANNOUNCES 2010 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES;  
INCOMING CLASS TO BE INDUCTED AT ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL SUMMER BANQUET**

**LATHAM, NY** – The New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPPHSAA) has announced the inductees for its Class of 2010 Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame, launched in 2002, is sponsored by Pupil Benefits Plan, Inc. and Jostens.

**Nicholas DeCillis** (Administrator, Section XI), **Sally Kus** (Coach, Section VI-Sweet Home), **Stanley B. Moore** (Coach, Section X-Massena), **Martha Slack** (Administrator, Section X-Massena), and **Dr. James Tolle** (Administrator, Section VIII) were chosen through a two-level selection process involving a screening committee and a selection committee.

Nominations were endorsed by each inductee's member Section of the Association—a preliminary requirement in the nomination process—before going on to the NYSPPHSAA screening committee for consideration.

**Nicholas DeCillis** was an exceptional athletic administrator in Suffolk County (Section XI) for more than 50 years and has spent more than two decades serving NYSPPHSAA as a member of its Executive Committee (1986-present). He spent 38 years as the Middle Country School District athletic director where he helped Middle Country grow from just one basketball and baseball team to 150 teams during his tenure. DeCillis, who started his career as a physical education teacher at Middle Country in Centereach in 1956, was a critical part of helping plan the construction of new gyms, fields, and weight rooms while also juggling the equity and integrity of his athletic programs during a time of aggressive growth for the district. Following his service to Middle Country, Nick was hired as a part-time athletic director at Sag Harbor for 12 years. Again he was part of another significant growth spurt assisting Sag Harbor in adding intramural and interscholastic teams while he was there.

From 1980-82, DeCillis was President of Section XI. He was also Section XI's chief officials' negotiator for the last 25 years and also served on the Board of the Suffolk County Athletic Association for more than 30 years.

Nick received a bachelor's and master's from New York University and was elected into the Suffolk County Hall of Fame in 2006. He is a NYS Physical Education Director of the Year

and Section XI Chapter Athletic Director of the Year recipient, and has the honor of the Middle Country School (Newfield HS) athletic facility being named after him.

**Sally Kus** is an icon in interscholastic volleyball in Western New York. Kus was the girls head volleyball coach at Sweet Home High School (Section VI) from 1974 to 1996. During her tenure at Sweet Home she compiled an impressive 794-29 record which included 21 consecutive ECIC League Championship titles (76-96), 20 consecutive Section VI Championships (77-96), 15 consecutive Far West Regional Championships (81-96) and six consecutive NYSPHSAA Championships from 1990 to 1995. In 1985, Kus broke the National High School Federation Record for most consecutive victories at 219 then re-set her own record by reaching 292 straight wins in 1987—a year in which she was named National Federation Volleyball Coach of the Year and saw her program ranked as the best volleyball program in the country by *Volleyball Monthly*. Just four years later, her program was ranked #1 in the country by *USA Today* and *Volleyball Monthly*.

Numerous Halls of Fame have recognized Sally for her tremendous success as a volleyball coach including induction into the Sweet Home High School Hall of Fame in 1993 as well as the National Volleyball Hall of Fame and the Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame both in 1996. Continuing her honors, in 1994 Kus received the National Woman's Sports Foundation Coaches award. In 2004, Kus published a book with Human Kinetics titled "Coaching Volleyball Successfully". Kus now coaches at Cuba-Rushford High School in Section V where she has a present record of 57-7. In addition to her accomplishments, Kus is a member of the American Volleyball Coaches Association and a Member of USA Volleyball, and has coached more than 150 Division 1 Volleyball scholarship recipients.

Prior to a decorated coaching career, Kus was an athlete at Sweet Home High School, then went on to earn a bachelor's degree from the University of Akron (where she lettered in basketball) and her master's degree from the University at Buffalo.

**Stanley B. Moore** was arguably one of the greatest high school ice hockey coaches in New York State before passing away in 2009. Moore served as the head coach at Massena Central High School for 33 years. Over three decades he recorded 522 wins (second in NYS), won 18 league championships, 17 Section X championships, 2 NYSPHSAA State championships and was a NYSPHSAA state tournament qualifier seven times. Coach Moore

also served as the Section X ice hockey chairperson for eight years and was the Northern NY Hockey League President for five years.

Following hockey season, Stan spent 23 seasons as an outstanding golf coach at Massena where he led his teams to several league and sectional titles.

Prior to coaching, he played college hockey at Clarkson University where he earned a bachelor's degree after graduating from Walpole High School (MA). Moore's career as a successful coach was celebrated when he was inducted into the NYS Hockey Association Hall of Fame and the Massena Central Athletic Hall of Fame following two honors by the American Hockey Coaches Association in 1974 and 1985.

**Martha Slack** was a highly respected athletic administrator in Section X. She has served on the NYSPHSAA Central committee, Championship Advisory Committee, Sportsmanship committee, and Life of an Athlete chemical health program committee.

Martha's career began as a physical education teacher at Massena Central High School in 1973. Five years later, she became the Director of Physical Education and Athletics and, in 1997, she accepted an additional position at Massena—assistant principal—and continued until retirement in 2005. At Massena, Slack coached soccer, swimming and softball.

A graduate of Holy Family located in Massena, Slack helped create the Massena High School Athletic Hall of Fame where she was inducted in 1995. She was additionally recognized as the recipient of the Physical Education COA Zone Award in 1998 and named the Athletic Director of the Year in 2000.

Described as a leader with great integrity, Slack served Section X as secretary and treasurer of the Section for 31 years while also chairing numerous sports committees including ice hockey, girls swimming, rifle and boy's lacrosse for over ten years, and girls golf for four years.

Martha is a graduate of Hudson Valley Community College and Northeastern University. She received her administrative degree from St. Lawrence University following graduate school at SUNY Brockport.

**Dr. James Tolle** was a well respected administrator in Nassau County of Section VIII. Before becoming NYSPHSAA President from 1994-96 and President of the New York State Federation of Secondary School Athletic Associations from 1997-1999, Jim had a successful career at Uniondale UFSD and Malverne UFSD, both in Nassau County. Jim began his career

as a high school science teacher and a swimming and rifle coach at Uniondale in 1959. He quickly ascended to Assistant Principal, Principal and ultimately Assistant Superintendent at Uniondale all by 1974 before moving on to Malverne where he became the Superintendent of Schools in 1979 until his retirement in 1992. Furthermore, he served from 1987-88 as President of the Nassau County Council of Superintendents.

A graduate of St. John's University where he received his bachelor's and doctorate, Jim also earned a master's at Hofstra. His career was recognized with a number of honors including Educator of the Year from Phi Delta Kappa (St. John's Chapter) in 1984, Distinguished Service Award from NYS Athletic Administrators Association in 1989, and Leaders in Education Award from St. John's in 2006. Dr. Tolle is still active as a consultant to Section VIII athletics and has been a member of the NYSPHSAA Championship Advisory Committee (CAC) since 1988. In 2009, he was appointed the chair of the CAC.

The five inductees will be honored this summer at the NYSPHSAA's Annual Hall of Fame Banquet on Wednesday, August 4<sup>th</sup> at the Inn at Holiday Valley in Ellicottville, NY (Section VI). The Hall of Fame, sponsored by Pupil Benefits Plan, Inc. and Jostens, is mirrored after the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) program which recognizes individuals in the categories of athlete, coach, official, administrator and related contributor.