



# Dinner will see 11 new members inducted

The Delco Athletes Hall of Fame will honor its latest group of inductees at its annual fall awards dinner at The Concordville Inn tonight.

The newest members of the Hall of Fame include:

## Baseball

**Steve Ryan:** A product of the Chester Teener League and Chester High, he helped Widener's 1974 team to an undefeated Middle Atlantic Conference championship, finishing second in the country with a .534 batting average and leading the national in RBIs per game. He played in the San Francisco Giants' farm system then helped Tinicum A.C. teams win five consecutive Delco Baseball League titles. During his playing career he was a member of 14 championship teams, threw five no-hitters and had one perfect game.

**Ron Towson:** He was a member of three championship teams in the Chester East Little League then helped a Chester Teener League all-star team to second place in the state tournament. He also was a member of the Baxter American Legion team that was state runnerup. He played for the 1961 Chester High team that won the Section One championship. During his playing days he was catcher for 18 of Lew Krausse Jr.'s no-hitters. He was stolen base leader in the Delco League in 1961.

## Basketball

**John Simpson:** A three-year starter at Radnor High as a point guard, he helped the Red Raiders to a 70-7 record, including a 26-2 mark in 1960, when Radnor won 26 straight games before losing to Nanticoke in the Eastern final. He was named to the All-Delco team and the all-state fourth team. He later played at West Chester for an undefeated league championship team.

## Football

**Bill Clark:** He was named to the 1965 All-Delco team as a Chichester High senior, when he scored 19 touchdowns in nine games and broke the school record for most carries in one game (32). He had more than 100 yards rushing in each game as a junior and senior, setting Chi records with 260 yards rushing against Swarthmore and five touchdowns against Garnet Valley. He played at Edinboro State before injuries ended his playing career.

**Delbert "Butch" Delozier:** He was a two-way starter for three seasons at Ridley Township High, scoring 27 touchdowns and nine extra points as a senior (1958) to become the leading scorer in the state. He earned All-Delco, All-Scholastic and All-American honors, was honored by the Maxwell Club and was named to play in

the Big 33 All-Star Game. He later played at Valley Forge Military Academy and the University of Arizona, then played for semipro teams at Tinicum A.C. and Ridley Township A.A., earning All-Eastern Professional League honors.

**Larry McGuire:** An All-Delco defensive lineman at Chichester High, he was an All-American at Trinidad Junior College before enrolling at Widener. He was an All-Middle Atlantic Conference defensive end for two seasons and was drafted by the Buffalo Bills, but did not make the team because of injuries. He played for the Philadelphia Bell of the World Football League then helped the Marcus Hook Oilers win the Delaware Valley Semipro Conference title as a player/coach.

## Coaching

**Nick Cirilli:** After playing soccer at Sun Valley High and Penn State (NCAA quarterfinalist), he began coaching at the urging of Bob Urban at Nether Providence A.A. He has coached teams in the Philadelphia Area girls leagues, conducted clinics and was named Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer Coach of the Year. An engineer, he was instrumental in the construction of the Nether Providence "Field of Dreams."

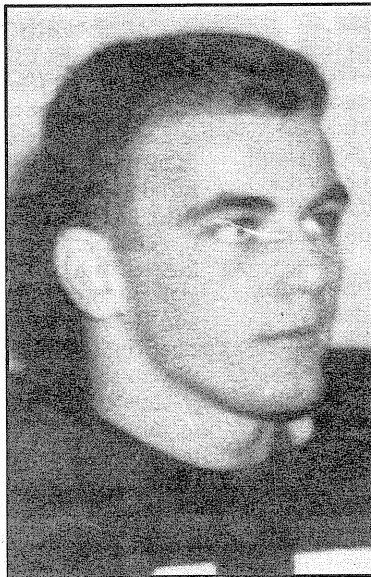
**Bill Kaufman:** A Media High and West Chester graduate as well as an Army veteran, he began teaching in the Rose-Tree Media School District in 1956 and coached at Indian Lane Junior High and Penncrest High. He was head baseball and basketball coach at both schools as well as Indian Lane's head football coach. A Penncrest High scholarship is awarded each year in his name and the new gymnasium constructed at the school several years ago was named after him.

## Bowling

**Dick Jones:** An Upper Darby High graduate, he was Suburban League singles champion in 1959. A former proprietor at Gehris Lanes, he has been active in bowling for more than 50 years. He won singles, doubles and team championships several times in New Jersey and won team, all events and seniors scratch and handicap titles as well as doubles titles in Pennsylvania. He earned a title at the National Tournament in Oklahoma City and has participated in more than 45 ABC National tournaments, rolling a 300 game in 1993. He has more than 100 sanctioned 700 series, one 800 series and three perfect games.

## Auto Racing

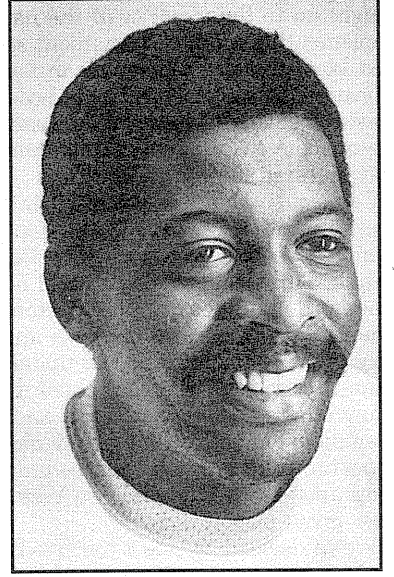
**Gene "Sonny" Carter:** A Chester High graduate, he was an NHRA B/Stock Class competitor



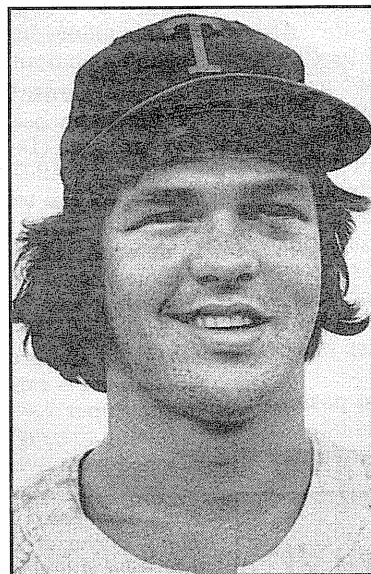
**DELBERT 'BUTCH' DELOZIER**  
Starred in football at Ridley Township



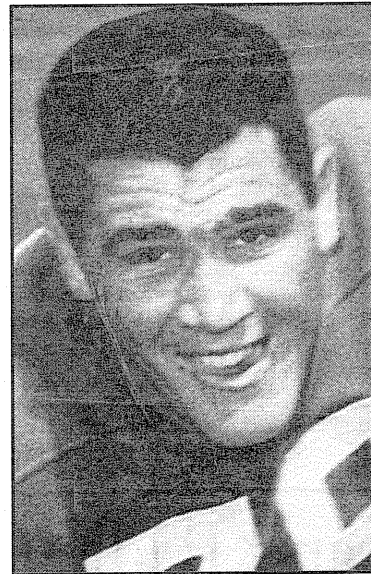
**NICK CIRILLI**  
Standout soccer player, youth coach



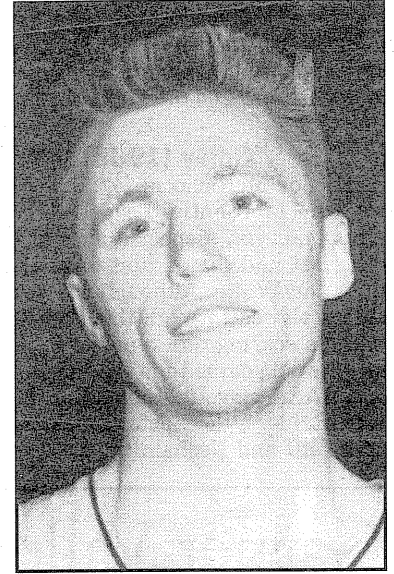
**LARRY MCGUIRE**  
All-Delco football player at Chichester



**STEVE RYAN**  
Led Tinicum to five straight Delco League titles



**DONALD SHEA**  
Football standout at St. James, Georgia



**JOHN SIMPSON**  
Went 70-7 as Radnor basketball player

## Delco Athletes Hall of Fame

in the early 1960s. He faced the best competition in the country at Cecil County (Md.) Drag Way, Atco (N.J.) Speedway and the York U.S. 30 Drag Way. In 1964, he finished first at the U.S. Nationals in Indianapolis.

## Humanitarian

**Donald Shea:** An All-Scholastic football player at St.

James High (Class of 1949), he played college football at the University of Georgia under coach John Rauch. He played for the NFL's Washington Redskins then officiated basketball on the college and professional level. After spending more than 15 years as sports director at Channel 11 in Durham, N.C., he

began working at North Carolina State University as director of the JTV (James Thomas Valvano) Enterprise. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Hall of Fame and the NFL/College Hall of Fame. He serves on an advisory board with the March of Dimes and Make A Wish Foundation, is co-chairman of the Jim Valvano Kids Klassic and is a member of the board of directors of the Duke Children's Classic.





## HARRY CHAYKUN CHAYKUN'S CORNER

# Clark grew into one Hall of a player

Bill Clark's football career didn't get off to a successful start.

"My father (William Clark) and Lou Renzi were among the men who founded the Chichester Crusaders," Clark said. "The weight limit was 120 pounds, and the first time I stepped on the scale I weighed 135. I was too heavy to play."

There were other things that held him back, but by the time he was a senior at Chichester High, Clark was one of the best backs in the state, gaining more than 100 yards in each game that season. Thursday night, Clark was one of 10 individuals who were inducted into the Delco Athletes Hall of Fame at the association's annual awards dinner at The Concordville Inn.

Others joining the Hall included baseball players Steve Ryan and Ron Towson, basketball player John Simpson, football players Butch Delozier and Larry McGuire, coaches Nick Cirilli and Bill Kaufman, bowler Dick Jones and auto racing's Gene "Sonny" Carter. Donald Shea was winner of the Humanitarian Award.

Clark played quarterback as a freshman at St. James High. "Then they stopped the bus to Ogden, which was where we lived so my dad told me I was going to Chichester," Clark said. "I had to sit out my sophomore year because of some transfer rule, then I got hurt in preseason my junior year and missed the first four games."

When he was able to play, Chichester coach Tony Apichella made sure he carried the football.

"We used to talk about how none of us got hurt in games because it wasn't as tough as at our practices every day," Clark said. "Our offensive line was the biggest in the county. They were the ones who made whatever we did possible."

"I went to college at Edinboro and can remember the days when we played games in the snow. In my junior year, I went out for a pass, the quarterback threw the ball over the wrong shoulder and I wound up with the back injury that ended my playing career."

In recent years, Clark has devoted much of his time to a charity golf tournament in memory of his father.

"We've raised more than \$20,000 for Crozer-Chester Hospital," he said.

McGuire was just getting to Chichester when Clark was leaving. He played on the offensive and defensive lines and was one of the players responsible for Chichester's 12-2 upset of Ridley in 1967, one of the biggest wins in the Chi football program's history. "They came down there saying how they were going to run all over us," McGuire said. "Our defense was so strong that day there was no way they were going to beat us. We didn't have that good a record, but everyone always talked about what we did that day."

After playing at Trinidad Junior College and spending two years in the Army, McGuire became an all-conference defensive lineman at Widener.

"Billy 'White Shoes' (Johnson) helped me get in there," McGuire said. "That was before they had playoffs, so we were 9-1 each year. The big game for us was playing indoors at Atlantic City against Fordham."

McGuire got the biggest ovation for an acceptance speech when he said, "don't go around talking about what you did. Just do it and then let other people talk about you."

Cirilli learned soccer as a middle school student in Aston under coach Norm Frank. He played at Sun Valley High and among his teammates was goalie Joe Owsley, who coached the Vanguards for a couple of decades.

"We were the ones who broke Ridley's winning streak, which I think was 14 games," Cirilli said.

"That's when I started playing for club teams. We'd go out to Church Farm School and play all day."

After a successful playing career at Penn State, Cirilli got into coaching.

"Bob Urban was the one who got to me and you couldn't say no to Bob Urban," Cirilli said of the late Nether Providence A.A. director of soccer. "We had a program that started with 100 players that grew into a program with 1,500 players. That's when we knew we had to build our 'Field of Dreams' out there."

Last spring, Cirilli, who has coached for 34 seasons, led a travel team in tournament play for the last time.

"We were up in Lancaster," Cirilli said.

"The funny thing was that one of the teams playing on the field before my last game happened to be Penn State."

Simpson played varsity basketball for three seasons under coach Ellis Dwyer at Radnor High.

"He was one person no one ever called Coach," Simpson said. "He was always Mr. Dwyer to us. Our junior and senior years we had a 52-3 record and I don't know if there are many schools in Delaware County that have had back-to-back seasons like that."

Simpson played in a summer league with Chester High stars Emerson Baynard, Granny Lash and Chubby Foster.

"They were such great players and all they kept talking about was having a rematch (in the state final) against Farrell," Simpson said. "Then the PIAA suspended Chester for a year and they couldn't play (against PIAA teams)."

"I remember standing on the court at Harrisburg when we played up there in the state tournament thinking about Baynard, Lash and Foster."

Carter grew up and Chester and got together with master mechanic Bill McClay to build cars that won drag racing championships all over the country, including the U.S. Nationals in Indianapolis.

"We did a lot of financial things ourselves," he said. "It got to the point where we realized we'd have to get a sponsor or get out of racing. I had a job and a family and made up my mind that I'd spend more time on them."

"It's unbelievable to think about all the things we did. And it's more unbelievable to think that it happened 45 years ago."

Kaufman was a Media High and West Chester State College athlete who played for the great Media teams in the Delco Valley Baseball League.



Times staff / ERIC HARTLINE

The Delco Athletes Hall of Fame class of 2008 includes inductees, front row from left, Nick Cirilli, Donald Shea, Butch Delozier, Bill Clark and Bill Kaufman; back row, Gene "Sonny" Carter, John Simpson, Larry McGuire, Steve Ryan and Ron Towson. The 10 were inducted in a ceremony at The Concordville Inn Thursday night.

"I grew up with sports in this county and have always loved following the athletes we've had around here," said Kaufman, who coached football, basketball and baseball at Indian Lane Junior High and Penncrest High School. "I was blessed to play for baseball teams in the Valley League with the Malseed brothers, Ken Michael, Spud Murray, Charlie Powell, Eddie McHale and so many other great ball players."

Shea played football at St. James High and the University of Georgia.

"I had the opportunity to play for some great coaches," Shea said. "Bean Brennan and Dim Montero were our coaches at St. James, and at Georgia I played for Wally Butts and John Rauch, who was from Yeadon and is a member of this Hall of Fame."

Delozier played for an undefeated football team as a Ridley Township High senior then at Arizona State University.

"Phil Marion was my high school coach and I played for Frank Kush at Arizona State," Delozier said. "Those two men were both out of the same mold."

Ryan joined his late father, John "Snapper" Ryan, and his late uncle, Steve "Teedy" Ryan, as members of the Delco Athletes Hall of Fame.

"I'll forever be grateful that we'll be teammates now as baseball players," Ryan said. "Growing up I heard I couldn't run like Snapper or hit like Teedy. I'll still admit that I couldn't run like Snapper, but after one of my games at Widener my Uncle Teedy told me I could hit like him. You don't know what an honor that was because I really looked up to those two gentlemen."

Towson joined his late father, Frank "Pop" Towson and his brother, Ron

Towson, as members of the Hall of Fame.

"I understand it might not be a record for one family," he said. "It's still something our family is very proud of."

The Ridley Township Old Timers Hall of Fame held its annual awards dinner at Barnaby's recently.

Among those joining the Hall were former Ridley High wrestlers Mike and Dan Tobin. Mike, who was a freestyle state champion, won two sectional championships for coach Carl Schnellenbach. At Massachusetts Maritime Academy, he was an NCAA Division III All-American at 118 pounds.

Dan began his career as a 55-pound champion in the Ridley Elementary School Tournament. He was a section champ, finished third at districts and was fifth in regionals as a Ridley High senior after helping the Green Raiders to a 16-0 regular-season record. He has won more than 100 matches as Interboro High's head coach.

Steve Naumowich was honored for his career as a lacrosse player at Ridley. He made the All-Central team as a junior and senior. He began coaching lacrosse at Ridley in 1996. He also was a two-way starter for Ridley's 1990 football team, that was the Class AAAA Eastern champion.

Brian Bowden was inducted in track and field. As a junior he was a district qualifier in the discus, then as a senior he made districts in the shot put and discus. He teaches health and physical education and is an assistant football coach at Ridley.

John Dougherty was a three-year basketball starter at Ridley. As a senior, he averaged more than 10 rebounds per game and was most valuable player of the holiday tournament. After playing at

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