



NOMINATION FOR INDUCTION

NEW HAMPSHIRE LEGENDS OF HOCKEY

HALL OF FAME

PO Box 777 • Manchester, NH 03105-0777

"It is important that any nominee be of high moral character and the Induction Committee and Board of Directors shall consider such matters when considering candidates for induction."

Important Note:

All nominations for this year's consideration must be received by **March 1**

Submissions are preferred electronically. When you have completed your nomination, check 'Submit by Email' button.

Please print a copy for your records. This form will be sent to Jim Hayes at Hayes743@comcast.net.

Use mailing address at the top of this page if you are unable to email.

Please note there are five Categories for men and women: Please check the single box you would like your nominee to be considered for. However, submit information pertinent to each category for your nominee.

Please select the appropriate box

☐ PLAYER

☐ COACH

☐ OFFICIAL

☒ BUILDER

☐ MEDIA

Date of Submission

1/11/2012

NOMINATOR

Name:

Jane Kalinski

Number, street and room or Suite No.

City, State and Postal code

Cell phone with area code

Home phone with area code

Email address

Best time/days to receive phone calls

Early evenings

INDUCTEE

Inductee Name:

Sanford "Sandy" Sistare

Number, street and room or Suite no.

City, State and Postal code

Cell phone with area code

Home phone with area code

Email address

Inductee's Date of Birth, City, State

May 22, 1928 - Springfield, MA

Best time and day for Nominee to receive phone calls

(If appropriate)

Inductee's Date of Death

Dec. 22, 2008

Name with phone of closet kin willing to be interviewed

Page two for additional information

On this page, please draft a comprehensive statement explaining the Nominee's background: ie, experience, awards, achievements and contributions. Details individually and cumulative - such as years, statistics, etc. -- are all important.

So, too, are your memories and recollections. Descriptions that recall such things as: "I began skating at age 5," or "We skated together on the frozen river," or "Back then, we used hockey sticks that cost only \$1.50," or "His stories appeared in Sports Illustrated," or "Our rink never would have been built without him," will help us establish a good written picture of the nominee.

Thank you for making this nominee.

Please include information for your inductee from any category they participated in, even though you have selected the most appropriate category for them to be considered in.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The boxes below will expand automatically, when complete, click on another area other than the box your typing in to automatically expand the page.

PLAYER

Include all Youth / High School / Prep / Junior / College / Senior / Professional experience

COACH

Include all Youth / High School / Prep / Junior / College / Senior / Professional experience

Sandy was the first coach of the St. Paul's School girls hockey team. In his eight seasons as girls hockey coach (1980-1987), his record was 59-29-3 for a win percentage of .648%. The team won the Independent School League championship in his last season of coaching and the league's first girls hockey championship, 1986-87. Bill Matthews noted that Sandy "produced many college players and captains who went on to play for many years after college as well." Many of his players went on to play in the colleges that had formed womens hockey teams at the time: Bowdoin, Brown, Harvard, Middlebury, Princeton and Yale, and many went on to captain their teams.

Of particular interest were two unusually similar games, played two years apart. In the last game of each of the 1984 and 1986 seasons, the St. Paul's girls hockey teams faced undefeated Nobles and Greenough School squads. The 1984 and 1986 Nobles teams were each a game away from a perfect season. In preparation for their impending victories, they each ordered a cake to celebrate, decorated with the following lettering on top: "Congratulations on a Perfect Season 15-0!" During the games, great back and forth scoring produced tightly-contested, down to the wire, nail biters and some of the most exciting girls hockey games in their respective seasons. Last minute goals produced shocking winners: St. Paul's both times. The St. Paul's girls and coach celebrated those victories and particularly appreciated the gracious editing of the cakes by the Nobles parents immediately after the game: "Congratulations on a Great Season 14-1!"

OFFICIAL

Include all Youth / High School / Prep / Junior / College / Senior / Professional experience

BUILDER

Include all affiliations and achievements related to the growth of hockey in the state and elsewhere

We are honored to nominate Sanford ("Sandy") Sistare for inclusion into the New Hampshire Legends of Hockey in the builder category. Bill Matthews, current rector at St. Paul's School and 2006 inductee into NH Legends of Hockey describes him as "the driving force for starting girls hockey at St. Paul's School." He put girls hockey on the map in Concord, NH at a time when girls hockey was unheard of, or worse, mocked.

As the first coach of SPS Girls Hockey, Sandy gave his heart to the program and its players, and he was instrumental in its early success. From its infancy as a club team in 1979, he took a group of girls - former figure skaters who had never held a hockey stick, girls who had played with older brothers, and some just looking for something fun to do- and transformed them into a team of hockey players who worked together, passing, shooting and scoring, to form a successful program that thrives today.

In 1979, two students went to the then-Athletic Director, Bud Blake, asking to form a girls-only hockey team. Supportive from the beginning, Bud managed the administrative aspect and asked Sandy to coach the team. Sandy had been coaching boys club teams, and Bud thought he would be "a super coach for the girls, right temperament, great personality, [and a] go getter." It was a successful match. The girls played on their own club team for a year as Sandy and Bud spoke to other programs and researched options. "Sandy and I worked closely together on this to make sure we did it right – what was best for the girls. As we can see, it was the sensible way to go...we just kept growing every year to a fine program," described Bud.

The following year, the first as an official girls team, a few games were scheduled against other similarly-situated schools. The girls gained confidence and the program had success, not in the win column, but in the fact that the girls got ice time at the rink, same as the boys (instead of exclusively on the pond where they'd been the past year), and a coach who was committed to guide the players and help grow the program. The team was 0-4 that first year but undeterred. Girls had joined the great tradition of hockey at St. Paul's School.

One of the team's founding players, Cynthia Ferris, recalls that "it was exciting to be part of the first wave" of girls hockey. She was impressed with Sandy's way of applying gentle, consistent pressure to see that the team got the necessary equipment and ice time, games scheduled and goalie coaching. He "created change, not by huge waves, but in a way that worked within the institution." And he had the help and support of Bud Blake, the Athletic Director, and Bill Oates, the Rector, in that endeavor.

Suzanne Walker played for Sandy in 1985 and 1986 and remembers fondly Sandy's method for building his teams in an era where the players often had no previous experience. "I was playing [club] pond hockey that winter and one day Coach came and told me to "suit up." I believe I practiced with the team one day before riding the bus to my first girls ice hockey game ever. It was an away game at the outdoor rink at Oyster River. It was cold and I kept getting whistled for off sides. Coach was apoplectic. "Don't you understand off sides?" I didn't have the nerve to tell him that I didn't. I got an assist that game. It was to be my only goal contribution in what became 12+ years of hockey. The next practice, Coach put me in goalie pads." Suzanne became the most successful goalie in Sandy's coaching career and went on to play in net for the Bowdoin Polar Bears after she graduated.

In his time as coach, Sandy organized two trips to Scandinavia for his teams to experience the European style of hockey (which included checking on the first trip – to the shock of the players and coach!) and the benefit of seeing other cultures. He also helped in starting the St. Paul's/Taft Tournament, a tournament for high school girls that takes place in December annually, and that is still being played almost 30 years later as the Patsy K. Odden Hockey Tournament.

Sandy coached about 80 girls in his St. Paul's career. Of those, many went on to play in college in some of the early womens Division I and Division III programs – Bowdoin, Brown, Harvard, Middlebury, Princeton, Yale – pioneer programs like at St. Paul's. And many of these St. Paul's skaters went on to become captains of their teams. Particularly notable were three captains in four years in the late eighties at Princeton, the college of another renowned hockey player out of St. Paul's, Hobey Baker.

Bill Matthews spoke of Sandy "as a figure respected and beloved by the young women he coached." In 1986, a prize in his name was endowed. The Sanford R. Sistare Memorial Award is given annually to the player who distinguishes herself in individual and team play. Additionally, after Sandy died in 2008, as a testament to his memory, a number of his former players created two memorials in his name. First, they endowed a scholarship in Sandy's name to be given to a deserving girls ice hockey player to defray the annual cost of tuition. And they also commissioned a portrait of him that hangs in the Captains' Room at Gordon Rink at St. Paul's, across the room from the first boys hockey coach, and reminds all who enter of the girls hockey team's founding coach.

Sandy was a perfect fit for the first girls hockey coach at St. Paul's, teaching the players the basics of the game and strategy behind the plays, while at the same time imbuing his players with a love of the game, which served them well for years beyond their playing time. Many of these women still play, coach their children's teams or hold positions on their children's youth hockey boards; sometimes all three things at once. His kind, gentle influence was felt far and wide and still spreads like ripples on a pond. In a recent tribute game for Coach Bill Matthews at St. Paul's, two lines of women skated along with the returning men's players (including one retired NHL player). All but one of the women played for Sandy Sistare and many are still playing twenty five or more years later.

Another of the first players, Julie Perry, writes, "I always think about how I have coached over 300 girls in hockey over the past 30 years since my SPS graduation, and it is all because of the passion for the sport that he instilled in me...an amazing ripple affect...and several of those girls going on to captain their Division 1 teams, including 2 at Princeton! In fact, one is now coaching girls hockey at Fay....his legacy lives on two generations later."

Sandy, a proud alumnus of the Bowdoin College Class of 1950, returned to Brunswick, Maine after his retirement from St. Paul's in 1990. There, among the other volunteer positions he took up in his retirement, he was a volunteer assistant coach with the Bowdoin Womens Ice Hockey team, and after that, an avid fan, enjoying all the home games and hosting visiting team players annually. In the new Watson rink, a plaque was dedicated to Sandy which reads, "In honor and memory of Sanford "Sandy" R. Sistare of the Class of 1950. His devotion to hockey, at St. Paul's School and Bowdoin, was unparalleled."

Except for a five year stint with the Boston Symphony Orchestra in public relations, Sandy spent most of his professional life of 37 years

as an educator. Twenty two of those years were spent at St. Paul's School in Concord, NH, teaching, working as an administrator, and coaching. His obituary noted that, "among the many accomplishments in his long career as an educator, he was most proud of starting the SPS Girls Hockey Team and serving as head coach for many years."

We hope you will find him deserving of inclusion in the NH Legends of Hockey.

MEDIA Include Radio / TV / Newspaper / Publishing / Photographic / Sports Information experience / Author