2010 Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees

Kenneth A. Bliss '01 starred as a point guard who could also produce offensively for the Anchormen from 1994-98. He closed out his career having played in 96 games and scored 1,311 points, which is currently 10th all-time in school history. Bliss also compiled 336 career assists, which is currently the seventh-highest tally in school history. He averaged 13.7 points, 2.6 rebounds, 3.5 assists and 1.8 steals per game over his four-year career.

The East Providence, Rhode Island native capped off his collegiate career with an outstanding senior campaign in 1997-98 where was named First Team All-Little East Conference. Bliss was an Honorable Mention to the All-Little East Team as a junior in 1996-97. He is currently a special education teacher in Pawtucket and is entering his seventh season as an assistant coach with the Johnson & Wales University men’s basketball program.

Thomas J. Grzych '79 is one of the college’s all-time greatest outfielders who starred on the diamond for the RIC baseball team from 1975-78. Over the course of his stellar career, Grzych was an integral part of four consecutive NESCAC championship teams, while compiling some impressive career numbers. He played in 115 career games, batting .306 with 402 at-bats, 72 runs scored, 123 hits, 18 doubles, 11 triples, nine home runs, 63 RBI and 36 walks. At the time of his graduation, Grzych was second on the all-time RIC career hit list. He was an Honorable Mention to the NESCAC’s All-Star Team as a sophomore in 1976.

The conclusion of his collegiate career didn’t spell the end for the Pascoag native’s love for baseball. He continued playing in the Ocean State Baseball League (1979-87), the Rhode Island Amateur League as a player/manager (1988-90) and has seen action in the Rhode Island Men’s Senior Baseball League (RIMSBL) since 1991. Grzych currently operates a family-owned health care facility in Cranston.

Toby L. Lindsay '97 was a dominant men’s tennis player from 1993-95. He was 29-5 in singles and 18-10 in doubles for 38 points in his career. Despite playing in far fewer matches than some of today’s Anchormen, Lindsay is tied for eighth in points, is 10th in singles wins and third in singles winning percentage (.853).

In 2005, he was one of six former student-athletes named to the Rhode Island College All-75th Anniversary Men’s Tennis Team.

After transferring into RIC from the Community College of Rhode Island, Lindsay went on to win three Little East Conference singles titles and one doubles championship. The Anchormen won the Little East Championship in each of his seasons on the court and he was named the LEC Player of the Year as a senior in 1995.

Lindsay is an adaptive physical education teacher for the district of Woonsocket and is a tennis pro at ForeCourt tennis club.

George Webster '77 was one of the first great wrestlers in Rhode Island College history. He competed two and a half seasons for the Anchormen, and amazingly, did not lose a match until his senior year in 1975-76.

Webster was 31-1-1 during his career on the mat and held the RIC record for career pins (16) at the time of his graduation. In 2005, he was one of 14 former student-athletes named to the Rhode Island College All-75th Anniversary Wrestling Team.

Perhaps his most impressive season came in 1974-75 as a sophomore. Webster went undefeated at 126 lbs, with a 12-0 record. He led RIC with 67 points, nine pins and 11 takedowns, while receiving the team award for All-75th Anniversary Wrestling Team.

Rhode Island College Athletic Hall of Fame Members

Name followed by year of induction

James Adams (’09)    Timothy Clouse ('91)
Anthony E. Agatiello (’90)    Mark Fullam (’01)
Joe Aguilar (’00)    Sharon (Hall) Galloway (’86)
Linda Atkin (’99)    Larry Gibson (’99)
Brian Allen (’02)    Ronald C. Gillisoby (’93)
Abraham Asmerely (’04)    Claude Gladu (’90)
Jo-Ann Avedisian (’92)    Annmarie Gower Marino (’02)
William Baird (’99)    Kristine (Nicholas) Greene (’09)
James Barbera (’04)    Pierre “Pete” Esmoind (’99)
Robert Bayha (’08)    Robert Haigh (’97)
Arthur Bentley (’90)    Douglas Hartley (’97)
Robert Berlam (’99)    Gail Henderson (’08)
Jesus Berrio (’99)    Donald Hickey (’99)
Roland Blais (’92)    Cynthia DiSano Hill (’89)
Edward Bogda (’99)    Raymond Huelbig (’99)
Paul Bourget (’09)    Jacqueline M. Hultquist (’93)
Marc Dubois (’05)    Thomas Kenwood (’00)
Robert “Bob” Brown (’92)    Dorothy Kieniewski (’91)
Billie Ann Burrill (’00)    Cathy Lanni (’99)
Michael Butler (’05)    Kathy Laquale (’02)
Alex Butler (’94)    Thomas Lavory (’90)
Russell Cardston (’90)    Richard Lawrence (’04)
Scott Cardston (’04)    Bradley Levett (’08)
Mike Chapman (’04)    Jeanne Berthasavage Lucyr (’04)

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He retired after a 29-year career as a teacher in the Portsmouth public school system. Webster is also proud of his 28-year career in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserves in which he retired with a rank of Lt. Cmdr.
The Wrestling Program’s Five Consecutive New England Championships from 1988-92

The Rhode Island College wrestling team captured the New England College Conference Wrestling Association Championship in five consecutive seasons from 1988-92, an unprecedented feat. The 1992 squad also established the RIC record for the most wins in a season with 18.

Some of the greatest wrestlers in New England history competed for the Anchormen in Walsh Gymnasium during that time frame. Currently, six wrestlers from those teams, along with Head Coach Rusty Carlsten and Assistant Coach Tim Clouse, have been enshrined in RIC’s Athletic Hall of Fame. Five have been inducted into the N.E. Wrestling Hall of Fame.

The Softball Program’s Four Straight Little East Championships and NCAA Appearances from 2006-09

From 2006-09, the Rhode Island College softball team won both the Little East Conference Regular Season and Tournament titles and advanced to the NCAA Tournament. The Anchorwomen won the NCAA New England Region in back-to-back seasons in 2007 and 2008 and moved on to the National Championships.

Head Coach Maria Morin’s teams won an astounding 154 games, including nine in the NCAA Tournament, during this stretch, and established a new school record for wins with 42 in 2009, which broke the 2007 record set by many of the same players.

Rhode Island College student-athletes earned 29 selections on the Little East All-Star squads in this period. First baseman Christie Lotti ’08 was a three-time LEC Player of the Year award recipient, while Nicole Riley ’01 won Pitcher of the Year accolades in 2006 and 2007. Current Anchorwomen hurler Amanda Berard was recognized as the league’s best pitcher in 2009.

The Men’s Basketball Program’s Current Little East Championship and NCAA Appearance Streak

The men’s basketball program is in the midst of arguably the most successful period in its long history. Since 2007, Rhode Island College has won three Little East Conference Regular Season Championships, three Little East Tournament titles and advanced to the NCAA Div. III Tournament. The success started during the 2006-07 season, which saw RIC establish a new school record with 27 victories and reach the Elite 8, an unprecedented feat for the program. The Anchormen earned conference crowns over the next three seasons and reached the NCAA Sweet 16 this past winter. Head Coach Bob Walsh’s squads have piled up 95 wins during this time span—the most of any four-year stretch in RIC basketball history.

Billy Cotter’s ’96 and Mike Bonora’s ’08 NCAA Wrestling National Championships

There have only been three wrestlers in the history of the New England Wrestling Association who have ever gone on to the NCAA National Championships and won an individual title. What is even more impressive is that two of them are from Rhode Island College.

Billy Cotter ’96 (left) was already an accomplished wrestler heading into his senior season in 1993-94. He was a two-time New England Champion who had been to the NCAAs before, but everything fell into place that senior season. The North Reading, Mass. native finished with a 31-1 record, claimed his third consecutive N.E. title and went unbeaten at the Nationals to win the 134 lbs. crown.

RIC had several wrestlers go back to the NCAA Tournament in the years that followed Cotter’s win, but it took 12 years for the next National Championship. Enter Mike Bonora ’08 (right). Like Cotter, he had won New England Championships as a junior, but elevated to the next level as a senior. He went 44-2, won the New Englands for the second straight time and did not lose a match to a Div. III opponent—the first grappler in RIC history to accomplish that feat.

Nicole Riley’s NCAA Softball Record 43-Game Win Streak

Few collegiate athletes ever reach a peak level of consistent domination for a prolonged period of time. But for some 395 days, Rhode Island College’s own Nicole Riley ’09 literally held the collegiate softball world in the palm of her hand.

From March 23, 2006 to April 22, 2007, Riley was unstoppable. The right-hander racked up 43 consecutive victories, an NCAA record that stands to this day in Div. III and globally remains second only to the legendary Jennie Finch who won 60 straight from April 29, 2000 - April 6, 2002.

As a senior in 2007, Riley was named a Second Team All-American by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA). The North Providence, R.I. native was also named the Cox Sports Television Rhode Island Female Athlete of the Year, First Team All-New England, the Little East Conference’s Co-Pitcher of the Year and garnered First Team All-Little East honors.

Riley’s streak set the Anchorwomen on the road to an NCAA New England Regional title in 2007, which sent them to the National Championship Round for the first time in school history. Much of Riley’s work during that remarkable streak contributed to her 2007 single season records in starts (36), wins (29), innings pitched (219.1), strikeouts (233) and shutouts (12).