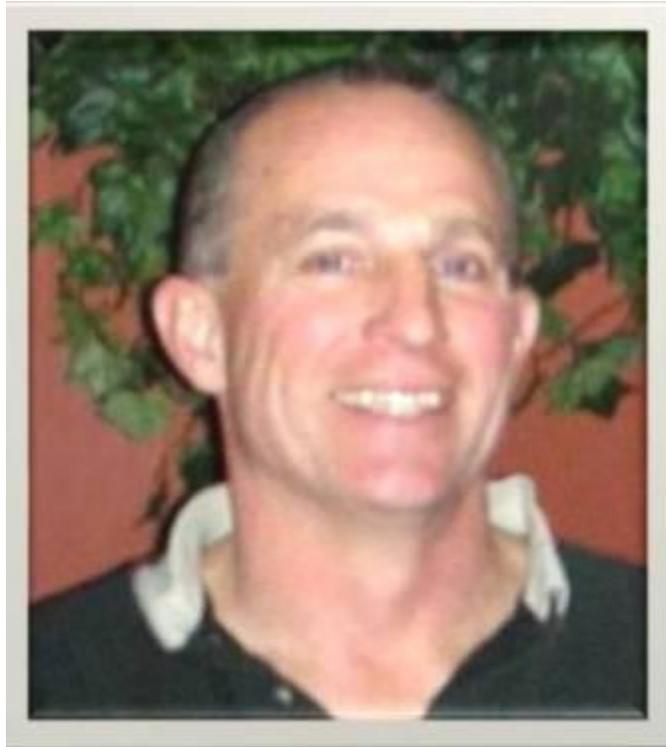


# 2011 Saugerties Sports Hall of Fame



## Dave Fuller

The Saugerties Sports Hall of Fame is proud to welcome former three-sport Saugerties High School star and lifelong Saugerties resident Dave Fuller as one of its newest members and one of five 2011 Hall of Fame enshrinees. Dave has enjoyed a lifetime of diverse athletic accomplishments, from his favorite sport of football, to basketball, baseball, skiing, bowling, and volleyball. He now joins many former teammates and best friends as one of our town's finest athletes, having had a career worthy of celebration culminating on May 14, 2011 as a Hall of Famer, at the annual enshrinement dinner at the Glasco Fire Hall.

Dave Fuller was born to Ray and Amy Fuller on February 17, 1955 in Kingston, New York. He has a sister Linda, residing in Texas, and a brother Cliff, who is deceased. Dave and high school sweetheart, the former Cathy Hackett, recently celebrated their 36<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, having married on January 18, 1975 at St. Mary of the Snow Church. They have been blessed with two lovely daughters, Kellie and Stacey, and their life's journey has been driven by the love of family, immediate and extended, and it is evident in everything this close knit couple does. Dave has been employed at UPS as a driver for some 22 years now and looks forward to



I-r: Dave, wife Cathy, son-in law Will, and daughters Stacey and Kellie.

retirement in the not-too-distant future. As you will see, he is a man of commitment, strong family values, and straight-forward honesty, and these qualities, while so enviable in his duties as a husband and father, also defines his long and successful athletic career on the fields and courts of Saugerties. When you talk about players you would want as teammates, the name Dave Fuller immediately comes to mind not only because of his fierce competitive drive, but also because of the way that he has always carried himself as a true gentleman, in and out of sports.

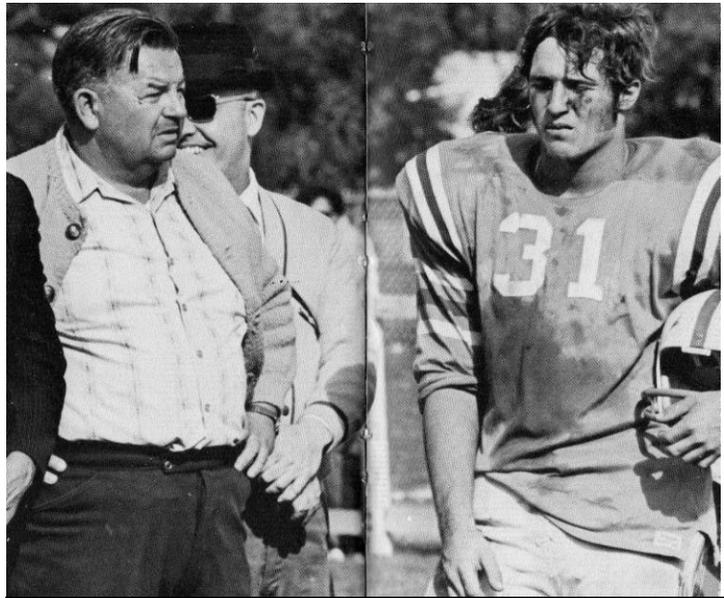
Dave's biggest sports inspiration was his dad, Ray. While idolizing the Mickey Mantles and

Roger Marises of the sports world, it was Ray who shaped Dave's early love of sports, from baseball and basketball to bowling and eventually, football. Dave's other early inspiration came when he was chosen to play for coach Charlie Mullaney's Tigers in the Saugerties Little League. Mullaney employed a style of aggressive, running, pressure baseball that nicely suited Dave's competitive nature and allowed Dave to flourish during his years while playing for him. Dave made SLL All-Stars and also completed a successful tryout for the Hudson Moose Lodge All-Star Team which made it to the semi-finals of the New York State Moose Tournament, beating a tough Kingston team along the way. At this level Dave was like a man among boys, having already grown to almost six-foot tall by the age of 12. He was an intimidating mound presence, being the league's hardest thrower, as well as an outstanding catcher and feared hitter, routinely homering or throwing out would-be base-stealers.

Dave Fuller also played in the Bidly Basketball League, making All-Stars and again playing for the Hudson Moose Lodge All Star Team where Dave and his Moose teammates placed second at the Niagara, NY State Tournament. It was during this time that Dave was introduced to the sport that he still enjoys today, bowling. He entered junior bowling and has continued to bowl in leagues and regional tournaments too numerous to mention. Suffice it to say that a high triple of 814 rolled in 1994, three sanctioned 300 games, and an average for decades well above 200, have resulted in Dave's induction into the Saugerties Bowling Hall of Fame in 2009, joining the elite bowlers in the history of the sport in Saugerties. Dave also has served as an instructor for the junior bowling program, giving his expertise not only to his daughters, but to the youth of our community as well.

From Little League it was on to the Babe Ruth League where Dave played for the Masons, as well as the SBRL All-Stars. His best sport began around this time when Dave Fuller began

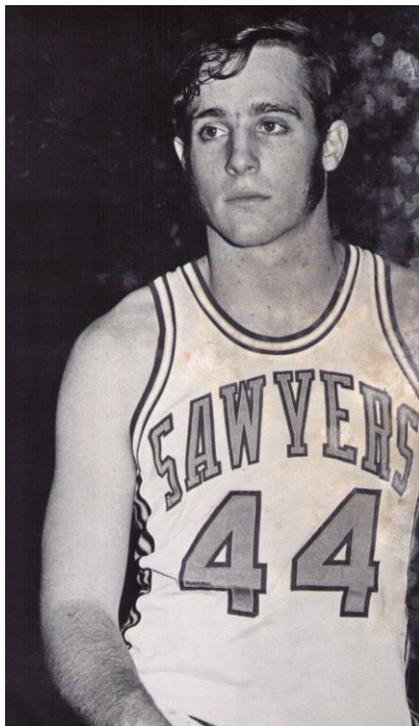
playing football and accomplishing a rare feat at the high school level. As a freshmen, Dave was a starter for the SHS Varsity grid iron team under football coach Fred Seither, beginning his four-year standout varsity career as a Sawyer linebacker. During his ensuing three years, Dave became a two-way player, moving in as fullback while also kicking off and returning kicks. His running style was heavily north and south, not flashy, but punishing to the opposition. At the linebacker position Dave was always around the football, filling the gaps and delivering crunching hits on enemy running backs. Dave's mom went to every game in every sport except football,



Dave and his father Ray after a 1972 Sawyer football game

fearing Dave would get hurt, when in reality, it was Dave who inflicted the pain on opponents from both sides of the ball. His determination to win for his teammates was justly rewarded

when the Sawyers finished as DCSL Champions in his junior year, followed by a solid 6-2 record in his senior season. Dave won post-season accolades on offense and defense as a senior, being selected First Team All-DCSL at fullback and Second Team All-DCSL at linebacker. He recalls the best moments in his football career were the first-ever Saugerties-Kingston game in which the Sawyers prevailed 20-6, and a 28-0 win over a previously unbeaten Roy C. Ketcham squad. Not surprising are these favorite memories of this team-oriented star who routinely put team goals ahead of individual accomplishment.



Dave Fuller: 1972 Sawyer Basketball

In basketball, Dave Fuller played one year of freshman, one year on the J.V., and two years on the Varsity. His football skills carried over to the hardwood, where he became an active, rugged rebounder and defender who could also hit the mid-range jumper or go hard to the basket when needed. His most vivid memory was during his sophomore year when the Sawyers pulled out a game against Poughkeepsie after Coach Jerry Hawkins refused to coach the second half and teammates Jerry Malgieri and Rich Koegel took over the reins and guided the team to the win.

Dave's baseball career at SHS began as a freshman on the J.V. team, followed by three successful years on the Varsity, playing for new coach Tony Vizzie. Dave counts his sophomore season as a special memory, for the Sawyers finished 17-1 during the season, winning the DCSL, and advancing to the Sectionals. The only disappointment after the Class B Championship was losing to Poughkeepsie in the open-class game because the team had twice beaten the Pioneers during the regular season. Dave pitched, caught, and was a solid all-around player for the Sawyers. Dave says his friendships made during his stellar three-sport high school career, many of which included fellow Hall-of-Famers, are treasured memories that will always be with him. But before his high school career was over, Dave Fuller received the highest honor a SHS athlete can attain. He was named the Outstanding Athlete of the Year for 1972-1973, a fitting tribute to a truly deserving player.

Work and marriage came soon after graduation, for it was only 18 months later when Dave and the former Cathy Hackett were married. Dave's daughters, Kellie and Stacey, both came up playing softball in the Saugerties Little League and Dave became a proud coach for both of them. He says watching them play is right up there with anything he personally did in sports as a fond memory and family highlight. All along, Dave continued to play SAA sports. He started what is now a 40-year career in softball with Sperl's Pakkers at the age of 16 and today he plays for Ace Oil/Clinical Prosthetics in the B division. He has also played SAA volleyball, basketball, and flag football. Dave also competed in the archery league, at the same time taking up skiing and golf. Dave was an SHS Ski Club chaperone for 20 years and enjoys playing golf with family and friends.

Dave Fuller was also a member of the now-legendary 1980 Saugerties Dutchmen baseball club, the original team which won the Hudson Valley Rookie League Championship, routinely playing before upwards of a 1,000 fans at Cantine Field. After two seasons he retired from baseball, citing family obligations, which is a recurring theme when talking about Dave Fuller. He also competed for many years in Saugerties Health Club basketball, a diverse group of Hall-of-Famers and friends who played pick-up basketball simply for the love of the game.

All of Dave's many friends will tell you that Dave Fuller was not only a terrific multi-sport athlete on the local scene, but also that he is one of the finest gentlemen that they have had the



1973 Sawyer Baseball Team



Dave and his brother-in-law Todd Hackett at the 2007 US Bowling Championships in Reno, Nevada.

athletes, and a man that is well-deserving of this honor, Dave Fuller. Ray and Amy would surely be proud of their son on this occasion, as is the rest of the extended Fuller family and Saugerties community. Congratulations Dave, on a job well done!

pleasure of knowing. In addition to being a great athlete, Dave was a great teammate who made everyone around him better, leading by example with his solid values, pleasant personality, and strong character.

His work ethic in sports and in life is an inspiration to all who know him and his selfless, family-oriented approach is one admired by his family and friends. The Saugerties Sports Hall of Fame Club is elated to bestow the title of Hall-of-Famer upon one of the community's most respected individuals, best all time



The multi-faceted Dave Fuller on the slopes at Sugar Bush.