

## Semi-Pro Football Hall of Fame: The First 100 (or so) Members, 1981-1989

by Mark L. Ford

There are lots of Halls of Fame to honor people who have made great accomplishments in their field of choice. Since 1981, the American Football Association, an organization composed of individuals and teams associated with semi-professional football, and had provided for an annual nationwide tournament to crown a minor league or semi-pro champion, among other things. It also has maintained a Semi-Pro Football Hall of Fame, whose number of inductees will certainly exceed 700 by the end of 2015; there were 691 at the end of last year, and in recent years, the number of additions seems to be no more than 20 at a time. For decades, however, it's been a list of names, their year of induction, and whether they were a player, a coach or a contributor, without any other distinguishing information. Imagine if the *only* information available that Canton disseminated was "Mel Hein- '63" or "Tim Brown- '15" and you can appreciate the frustrations of reading about the AFA Hall.

This isn't to say anything negative about the persons honored. Semi-pro football players are there for love of the game, risking injury without expectation of financial gain. Some have made it into the big leagues, defensive tackle Eric Swann being the most recent. For those who don't know his legend, Swann never went to college, but drew notice when he played for the Bay State Titans, and was picked in the first round of the 1991 draft by the Cardinals. Years later, he negotiated a \$25,000,000 contract, more than the Cards had ever offered any player before. Other semi-pros find spots on rosters in the Arena league or in Canada. Everyone who has been selected for the semi-pro Hall has been exceptional in his (and in more recent years, her) association with the sport. However, most people would not recognize more than a few of the 700 names of inductees. It would be a difficult task to research and summarize the accomplishments of 700 or more people, , but it's worthwhile to look at the original 107 who were picked. Arguably, these were the ones who were considered the best of the first eight decades of the 20th Century. By 1988, the number had risen to 97, and another group of ten were added the next year. Here, then are those first 107 folks and what made them memorable.

Of the six charter members, picked in 1981, Arthur S. Arkush was the first, both alphabetically and in importance. The former *Chicago Sun-Times* editor had created *Pro Football Weekly* (PFW) in 1967 and his coverage included minor league and semi-pro football, including the selection of PFW's annual pick for a national champion. In 1971, Arkush launched the first spring football league, when the Texas Football League was rebranded as the Trans-American Football League. Sadly, he didn't live to see the AFA launch, though he worked towards its creation; on March 22, 1979, he collapsed while jogging. He was only 53. The AFA's national championship trophy is named for him. Tom Averell was an offensive lineman for 23 seasons, from 1955 to 1977, retiring at 45. He started out with the Pittsburgh Cubs, and concluded with the Washington (PA) Generals, then served as Commissioner of the Mid-Atlantic Football League and then the Minor Pro Football League System. Cliff Boyd was a running back for the Delavan (WI) Red Devils, and ran for 84 touchdowns in a ten year career from 1972 to 1981. Joe Swetish was the general manager of the successful Racine Raiders and Racine Gladiators, who won multiple championships in the Central States Football League (CSFL). Ron Waller coached the Pottstown (PA) Firebirds of the Atlantic Coast Football League (ACFL) and several other ACFL teams (the Wilmington Clippers, the Harrisburg Capitols and the Norfolk Neptunes), before finishing out his career coaching the San Diego Chargers in 1973, and the World Football League (WFL) Philadelphia Bell in 1974. Last, but not least of those first six was Claude Watts, who began his rushing career in 1962 with the United League (UFL) Cleveland and Canton Bulldogs, then the Continental League (CoFL)'s Philadelphia Bulldogs, Akron Vulcans, Montreal Beavers and Charleston Rockets, the ACFL's Pottstown Firebirds and Norfolk Neptunes and the Seaboard League (SFL) Chambersburg (PA) Cardinals, before closing his career with two seasons for the WFL Bell team. In his career, Watts had 9,109 yards rushing and 111 touchdowns.

Two more former Pottstown Firebirds would be inducted in 1982. Jim "King" Corcoran, had played for Waller at the Wilmington Clippers and at Pottstown, and was on other ACFL teams (the Waterbury Orbits, the Lowell Giants, the Norfolk Neptunes). Three times he was the ACFL's passing leader, and got profiled in the book *The Forgettables* while with the Firebirds. He also had two games with the AFL Patriots in 1968. Like Waller and Watts, he rang in with the WFL Bell in 1974. Tight end Bob Tucker played in 1968 for the Lowell Giants and in '69 for the Firebirds, then graduated to an 11 year NFL career as a starting tight end for the Giants and the Vikings.

In 1982, the Racine Raiders' coach, Harry Gilbert, would be honored; a lot of the inductees over the years have played in Racine, Wisconsin. Gilbert started out playing as a linebacker, then became an assistant coach, then, in 1964, the head coach of the Raiders, turning a 2-8-0 club into a 10-0-0 league champion in his first year; in five seasons with Racine, he posted a record of 44-9-2. Jim Foster was brought in four years before he invented Arena Football, because of his work in promoting his Newton (IA) Nite Hawks, whom he took on tour in Europe in 1977. Perry Moss, who had coached the Montreal Alouettes in the early 1960s and the WFL's San Antonio Wings in 1975, was a journeyman whom the *Los Angeles Times* once described as the "Nomad of Coaching", the head coach or assistant coach for many teams, winning three Continental Football League championships while guiding the Charleston (WV) Rockets and the Orlando Panthers. Ronald J. Real was the founder of the American Football Association. Peter Savin was owner of the ACFL's Hartford Knights from 1968 until the league's demise in 1973. Otis Sistrunk started his pro career as a defensive tackle for the ACFL's Norfolk Neptunes, then went on to become a six year NFL career as a starter for the Oakland Raiders.

Robert "Bob" Brown, part of the class of '83, was another minor league player who had a long NFL career. After spending 1965 at defensive tackle for the CoFL's Wheeling Ironmen, he had eight seasons with the Packers (getting two Super Bowl rings in the process) and three seasons after that starting for the Chargers and Bengals. Kicker Tom Dempsey, known for his 63 yard field goal, got his pro start in 1967 with the ACFL's Lowell (MA) Giants before starting 11 seasons in the NFL. Ed Gruber was admitted for his role in funding and building the Firebirds. Four other football leagues had representatives admitted for the first time in 1983. Coach Al Darby guided the Twin Cities Cougars to the last four titles of the California Football League (CaFL), from 1979 to 1982. Don Heiges had coached the Chambersburg (Pa.) Cardinals to five consecutive championships in the Interstate Football League (IFL) and had a 70-14 record with them. PFW named his Cards the national co-champions in 1980 after the team's 16-0-0 season. Joe Rosentover operated the American Association minor league in the 1930s and 1940s and then served as commissioner of the ACFL in the 1960s. Ray Stanton had 44 touchdowns in one season as quarterback and coach of the Binghamton Triple City Jets of the Empire Football League (EmFL). By the time the Binghamton Jets joined the SFL for 1973, Stanton was the team's "president, general manager, assistant coach and quarterback" and the league's best passer. Finally, Don Jonas, arguably the greatest player ever for the Continental Football League when he played quarterback for the Newark Bears and the Orlando Panthers, was admitted in the third year.

In 1984, the Hall admitted its first woman member, Martha "Marty" O'Connor, who had been general manager of the CoFL Chicago Owls. Other Continental League personnel admitted that year were Bob Brodhead and Dick Pesonen (who had coached the Philadelphia Bulldogs and Orlando Panthers, respectively, to championships); Mexico Golden Aztecs coach Duncan McCauley; Dallas sports entrepreneur George Schepps (the last Commissioner of the league); kicker Joe Hightower, who made 248 extra points in seven years for the Norfolk Neptunes and the ACFL's Springfield Rifles; and center Jeff Van Note, who began his career with the Alabama Hawks and then spent 17 NFL seasons with the Atlanta Falcons. Cornerback Bob Bryant began his pro career with the Des Moines Warriors of the Professional Football League of America (PFLA) in 1967, a year before it merged into the CoFL, and then had 13 seasons in the NFL with the Minnesota Vikings.

Two more PFLA people were voted in for 1985. Bryant's Des Moines teammate, Tony Baker, had a returning eight punts for touchdowns in the 1967 season, then played eight years in the NFL with the Saints, Eagles, Rams and Chargers, and Bob Adwers was the owner of the Omaha Mustangs. Jim Dunn, formerly the Norfolk GM, had become the Continental League Commissioner in 1969, overseeing a truly continental operation that had 22 teams after incorporating the TFL. Coaches inducted that year were George Pasterchick, who took the San Antonio Toros to four straight TFL championships, and Fred Wallner (who guided the Hartford Knights to three consecutive ACFL title games and the 1968 crown). Defensive end Jim Toon had started with the UFL Louisville Raiders, then starred in the ACFL from 1963 to 1970 for the Jersey Giants, the Jersey City Jets, and the Westchester and Long Island Bulls. Players who had gone on to bigger things were Rhome Nixon of the CoFL Orange County Ramblers, who became a star in the CFL for the Ottawa Rough Riders; and receiver Jack Dolbin, who had played for Pottstown, the SFL Schuylkill Coal Crackers, and the WFL Chicago Fire before becoming a starter for the Denver Broncos during their "Orange Crush" years.

During its first five years (1981 to 1985) the Semi-Pro Hall had enshrined 39 players. In 1986, the electors brought in 19 more, starting with four men who had gone from the minors to NFL careers. Of them, guard Bob Kuechenberg had been with the CoFL's Chicago Owls before starting a 15 year, 196 game career with the Miami Dolphins, and played in six Pro Bowls and three Super Bowls. Coy Bacon had spent four years as a defensive end in three minor leagues (ACFL, CoFL and PFLA) for the Charleston Rockets, the Orlando Panthers, and the Oklahoma City Plainsmen, then became part of the Los Angeles Rams's Fearsome Foursome, then was with the Chargers, Bengals and Redskins. A three-time NFL All-Pro, he wrapped up a 19 year career with a fifth league, the USFL, where he played for the Washington Federals.

Two receivers who had gone from semi-pro ball to the New York Jets came in; Lou Piccone was with the Midwest League (MFL) Youngstown Hardhats and the ACFL's Bridgeport Jets before starting a nine year career with New York and Buffalo. Bobby Jones, never played college football, but after a stint with the Shenango Valley Blasters of Sharon, Pennsylvania, had a six year career. Joe Gilliam was a rare case of fame being accorded to a player who went from the NFL to semi-pro ball; he had been the first black starting quarterback in the NFL, with Terry Bradshaw as his backup in the first six games of the Steelers' 1974 championship season. After substance abuse problems ended his NFL career, Gilliam recovered and played in 1978 for the Pittsburgh Wolf Pak of the Atlantic Football Conference (AtFC), and made national news for his comeback when he completed 10 of 12 passes in a 77-0 win in a game. In 1979 with the Baltimore Eagles of the AtFC and the New Orleans Blue Knights of the Dixie League in 1981, then wrapped up as Bacon's teammate with the USFL Federals. Jim Hollingsworth had been a teammate with Bacon on the Rockets, and led the Continental League in punting three times (1965, 1966 and 1968). Marv Pettaway holds two minor records, with 3,706 yards on 140 kickoff returns, and led the ACFL and the SFL in returns (in 1971 with the Orlando Panthers, and 1972 with the Hartford Knights), then finished out with the WFL for the Bell and the Sun. The other two players inducted in '86 were from Wisconsin's CSFL: linebacker Dan Celoni, and defensive end Prince Hearn; both were all-stars between 1965 and 1973. Celoni, of the West Allis Spartans near Milwaukee, was the CSFL's defensive MVP in '65 and '72, and Hearn starred for Delavan's Red Devils.

Two coaches brought in were Ken Carpenter and Steve Harshman. Carpenter, a halfback for the Browns, the Saskatchewan Roughriders and the Broncos, had had winning teams for the Indianapolis Warriors in the UFL, the Fort Wayne Warriors, Charleston Rockets and Hartford Charter Oaks in the CoFL, and won the final Continental League title game in 1969 guiding the Indianapolis Capitols in their first year. He was briefly an assistant with the NFL Redskins, and closed out with the ACFL's Jersey Tigers the next year. Harshman was the player-coach of the Pierce County (Washington) Bengals of the Northwest International league (NIFL), taking them to six titles. In 1979, his Bengals were named by PFW as the national champions. He later coached the Auburn

(Washington) Panthers to two Northwest league (NWFL) titles.

There were four "pioneers" who came in: Elmo Huggens was honored as the NIFL founder and Jim Lott as the creator of the High Desert League (HDFL) in California. Al Savil founded the CoFL's Indianapolis Capitols, and George Kulton put together the CSFL's Elmhurst (IL) Travelers. The rest were owners or executives. Roger Gill of Texas had been a receiver for the NFL Eagles, then made his mark in minor ball with various San Antonio teams, starting as general manager of the TFL Toros, then personnel manager for the WFL Wings, then owner of the Charros of the American Football Association (which we'll call AmFA to avoid confusion with the current AFA that runs the semi-pro hall). After the Charros were renamed the Bulls, Gill became the AmFA Commissioner. He ended up as GM for the USFL Gunslingers. ; Wixie Robinson owned the CaFL's Los Angeles Mustangs (CaFL), Jim Sears bankrolled the AtFC's Baltimore Eagles, and Ron Waisman operated the CSFL's Racine Gladiators.

The class of 1987 numbered 17, bringing the total to 75 inductees. In its seventh year, the Hall honored the best example of a semi-pro player who became an NFL star. Quarterback Johnny Unitas had been drafted by the Steelers' bench, stayed on the bench without even getting put into a preseason game, then cut by Coach Kiesling. Rather than giving up, the Pittsburgh native played his 1955 season with the Bloomfield Rams of the Greater Pittsburgh League (GPFL), beat the Arnold Athletic Club in the championship game, and ended up getting noticed by the Baltimore Colts. Now that the AFA Hall has been around for 35 years, they have a rule that "current membership in another hall of fame automatically disqualifies a potential AFA nominee".

Though he didn't go on to an NFL career, Fred Zangaro was the Bloomfield receiver who persuaded his former college teammate that playing "sandlot ball" for six dollars a game was still better than staying out of football for a year, and he deserves to be remembered for that alone. Linebacker Dan Rains had played in 1982 for the West Virginia Rockets in the AmFa before signing with the NFL's Bears later in the year. He started five games in 1983, played 42 altogether. Fred Besana had played a few games for the Bills and Giants before being released, then found new life in the CaFL with the (Maryville and Yuba City, CA) Twin Cities Cougars, and became the starting quarterback for the USFL Oakland Invaders. Rick Buffington handled kick returns for ten different teams from 1964 to 1973, starting with the Quincy (MA) 49ers of the Eastern Football League (EaFL), then with the ACFL's New Bedford Sweepers, Hartford Knights, and Bridgeport Jets, finally wrapping up by buying, managing, coaching and playing for the EAFL's North Attleboro (MA) Kings. As a coach, he was even more successful, winning an EaFL title, then becoming a scout and an assistant coach for the NFL Patriots, and a recruiter for the USFL Pittsburgh Maulers. He went on to 16 years with the Arena Football League with ten different teams, serving as head coach of the Albany (NY) Firebirds, the Connecticut Coyotes, the Charlotte Rage, the Florida Bobcats and the AF2's New Haven Ninjas. Tony Piekos was a star defensive tackle in the Chicagoland Football League (ChFL) for the Chicago Lions and then for the Woodfield (IL) Lions in the CSFL.

Four coaches were inducted. Pudgie Walsh was merely in his 30th season running the Brooklyn Mariners when he made it in; he completed his 58th season in 2014, and got his 600th career win that year (Walsh also coached the FDNY football team, whose 23 players were among the 343 firefighters killed in the 9/11 attack); the Mariners were originally in the Long Island League, and Walsh guided them to his first title in the Bronx/Manhattan League, four in the Tri-County Football League, two in the New York league, six consecutive titles in the MEFC (including the AFA national championship in 1991), and five titles in a row in the Garden State League. Bob Milkie was twice named Semi-Pro Coach of Year (in '81 and '88) for guiding the CSFL's Racine Gladiators and Racine Raiders to multiple titles, and had been the Raiders' center for many years. After retiring from an 11-year career as a guard for the NFL's Bears, Jim Cadile returned home to become the coach of the CaFL's San Jose Tigers for seven years. Bob Windish had been the New York University head coach and, briefly, the ACFL Westchester (NY) Crusaders, as well as the semi-pro New York Crusaders, but had his greatest success

as the scout for the CFL Montreal Alouettes.

As for the executives enshrined that year, Cosmo Iacavazzi (not the AFL player, but his uncle) was the Commissioner of the Atlantic Coast Football League from 1967 to 1971. Billy Kilmer is better known as an NFL quarterback for the 49ers, Saints and Redskins, but he also served as Commissioner of the AmFA (as well as coaching its post-WFL version of the Shreveport Steamer to the 1978 AmFa championship). Bill Souders and Bob Flowers were the owners of the Chambersburg Cardinals and the CaFL's Orange County Rhinos, respectively, and Ron Potocnik had gone from being general manager of the AmFA's post-WFL Chicago Fire (actually, a team from Joliet) to being GM of the USFL's Chicago Blitz. Two new categories were started in 1987; Dick Dolack was the first to be enshrined for his work in officiating, and had been a longtime NFL field judge when he came in. Nothing seems to be online about his officiating in semi-professional football, but he was a pharmacist in Muskegon, Michigan, and likely worked some games in the 1960s Midwest Football League. Additionally, Steve Brainerd was the first person to come in as an author, and has researched for the AFA (maintaining its list of superlatives, invaluable in identifying which players are recordholders), as well as being the co-author of *Minor League Football 1960-1985* and its update, *Outsiders II: Minor League and Independent Football 1951-1985*.

Now with 75 inductees, the semi-pro Hall set a new record by bringing in 22 more in 1988, putting their number three short of 100. NFL players who made it in from smaller leagues were quarterback Sam Wyche, kicker Garo Yepremian, and linebacker John Olenchak. Wyche and Yepremian had played in the CoFL for the Wheeling Ironmen and the Michigan Arrows, respectively, while Olenchak had made the Kansas City Chiefs squad after a start with the CaFL Antioch Hornets. Vince Lombardi, enshrined at Canton for his stellar coaching ability, was voted in as a player because he had been with the Wilmington Clippers in the old American Association. Other players came in for their semi-pro success. Averill Harris set a career record of 567 catches for 11,368 yards, including 2,112 in 1982 for the Pittsburgh Colts of the Ohio Football League (OFL); later, the team played in the Mid-Atlantic Conference (MAFC), and Harris followed that with the Greater Pittsburgh League (GPFL). Mike Herr was an all-star offensive lineman for the CSFL's Lake County (Illinois) Rifles and played for the Racine Raiders later. Also on the Raiders (and the Gladiators) was defensive tackle Kurt Kampendahl, brought in while he was still playing; he would later serve two years as Racine's coach and have a 29-4-0 record. Joe Mason was a defensive tackle in the IFL, originally for the Hanover Rhinos, then the Hagerstown (MD) Bears of the SFL, back to the IFL, where he was the IFL's defensive MVP in 1973, and finally wrapped up his career with Chambersburg.

Terry Judkins led the NSFL in interceptions in three consecutive years, from 1980 to 1982, while playing for the Gary (IN) Golden Bears. Bob Oates, Jr., threw touchdown passes in 51 consecutive games for the New Jersey Rams from 1969 to 1974. He did it while while writing books (including *The Winners Edge* with Joe Namath in 1972). Barry Walters was the owner, general manager, coach and a tight end for the Toledo Patriots of the OFL, when he created the team in the 1970s; he retired in 1980 to become the OFL Commissioner. Finally, there's John Smith, whose legend currently lives forever with the information "John Smith - '88". It's a fairly widespread name, with "John" and "Smith" being the most common first and last name in America, respectively. When last we checked, a site called howmanyofme.com claimed that there were 46,265 John Smiths in the United States alone, though an article on slate.com put the number at a mere 25,255, behind the top three (James, Michael, and Robert Smith), as well as the most common woman's name, "Maria Garcia". This particular John Smith, however, appears to be John Henry Smith, a running back at the University of Wisconsin who later joined some of his Badger teammates on the Madison (WI) Mustangs, and was the CSFL's leading rusher (and the first in league history to have a 1,000 yard season) in 1972.

Five coaches were part of the class of '88. Bill Walsh, who guided the 49ers to three Super Bowl wins, came in because he had been head coach of the San Jose Apaches of the CoFL. Bob Herstine coached Chambersburg to two consecutive IFL championships and had a record of 26 and 3

during his tenure with the Cards. Bob Engle had been a mystery, in that a lot of sportsmen have that name, but a survey of PFRA's experts revealed that he had been the coach of the Brooklyn Kings, winning the 1982 championship of the Mid-East Football Conference (MEFC) in 1982. Jim Nugent won multiple ChFL titles for the DuPage Eagles, and would take them to the minor league AFA title game four times after his induction, winning championships in 1992 and 1993. Ed O'Reilly had won multiple MEFC titles as head coach of the New Jersey Rams, then became Nugent's defensive coordinator at DuPage and, later, offensive coordinator for the Racine Raiders, for whom he had developed "a complex, pass-intensive system". Stu McLean was inducted as a coach; little can be found about his coaching accomplishments, but as an executive, he was the AFA's Director of Player Personnel and oversaw AFA's assembly of Team USA, which played internationally in 1989. A resident of Tinley Park, Illinois, he may have been associated with the Tinley Park Pride, a team in the Chicagoland Football League during the 1980s.

Cal Lepore was well known as an NFL referee, and credited with developing the rules and procedures for instant replay review. During his career, Lepore also worked semi-pro games in Chicago's leagues. Three executives rounded out the 39 admitted that year. Sol Rosen, who had also managed the CoFL's Newark Bears, was the third of the four CoFL Commissioners to be voted in (after Dunn and Schepps); for whatever reason, the league's first boss, former Baseball Commissioner Happy Chandler, isn't among the 691 folks who have been recognized. Frank Bonk was the owner of the Manitowoc (WI) Chiefs founder of their league, the CSFL, while Dick Seuss had been an executive with the CoFL Long Beach Admirals, the publisher of the *Minor League Football News*, and, ten years after his induction, the founder of the Professional Indoor Football League.

Were it not for the fact that the class of 1989 was limited to ten players (compare that to 38 in the year 2005!), this article probably would have been about the first 97 folks to make it in. However, since the idea is say a little bit more about some outstanding people besides their name, it's okay to err at slightly above 100. The member of the Class of '89 who made the NFL was Woody Peoples, who was a guard for the Richmond (VA) Rebels in the CoFL, then went on to 13 NFL seasons as a starter for the 49ers (1968-77) and the Eagles (1978-80); he was in two Pro Bowls. Frank Yanik rushed for more yards in his career than any semi-pro player, racking up 15,301 in the Empire League with the Binghamton Jets ('79-'81) and the Scranton Eagles ('82-'92). Yanik was still an active player when he was voted in; in later years, the AFA would require that players be retired for five years before they could be considered. Rudy Nebel once had a record of 267 rushing yards on 33 carries in a single game in 1952 for the Aurora (IL) Clippers, an independent team that played against CSFL competition. Rod Lung MacKenzie was a star running back for the CaFL Sacramento Buffalos, as well as being the team's owner. He wasn't voted in as an executive; after he fired his coach in midseason despite a 5-1 record, the subsequent lawsuit led to the team withdrawing from the league at season's end. Greg Johnson was a running back for the Racine Raiders, and won the 1973 CSFL rushing title as the second league player to have a 1,000 yard season.

Two coaches who had guided their teams to a national championship were recognized. Leroy F. "Lee" Albrecht was a professor at Prairie State College, and co-founded the Chicago Heights Broncos after PSC discontinued its football program in 1975. The Broncos started in the Chicagoland League (ChFL) and played in seven other leagues, including the NSFL and MWFL. Albrecht's team went undefeated in 1983, and won the Metro League title and a #1 ranking as a national champion. In his first year as head coach of the Empire League's Syracuse GP Express, Tom Anthony guided his team to victory in the 1985 AFA championship game. Pearce Johnson was inducted as a pioneer. After the NFL's Providence Steam Roller team folded in 1931, this *Providence Journal* sports editor revived the team as an independent during the Depression era, eventually joining the old American Association; he was also a longtime PFRA member and football historian. Lou Policastro, Jr., owner of a shipping company, owned the MEFL's New Jersey Rams from 1976 onward, and though the *New York Daily*

*News* noted that the team "has been taking a regular bath in red ink", Policastro said that he kept operating the team "for several reasons, all of them intangible. Mainly, it's because I love the game." Finally, Joe Cronin rescued old media guides that might otherwise have been lost forever, reproduced them, and made the replicas available to researchers for a nominal price. He was the second person to be voted in as a historian.

So, at the close of 1989, the AFA Semi-Pro Football Hall of Fame had its first 100 members, and then some. Another 600 people have been voted in since then, and categories have been added for women's football, international football, youth football, equipment managers and trainers, and for supporters who get the label "super fan". A list of their names and respective years of induction is available on the AFA website, though most viewers wouldn't be able to identify more than a few names. The details of their achievements -- and, as noted at the beginning, these are all people who have worked hard at what they did for love of the game, with no expectation of financial gain -- will have to be written by another author. It would take an entire book to hold even a small paragraph about each of 700 people, but one hopes that the AFA merchandise will someday include such a book and a mention of why each one is in a Hall of Fame.

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