



National Polish-American SPORTS HALL OF FAME

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**CHRISTIAN LAETTNER, ALETA RZEPECKI-SILL, TOM NOWATZKE, JIM KONSTANTY
TO BE INDUCTED INTO THE NATIONAL POLISH-AMERICAN SPORTS HALL OF FAME.**

36TH CLASS INDUCTION BANQUET SET FOR THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2008, TROY, MI

Former college basketball great and NBA all-star Christian Laettner, Women's Champion Bowler Aleta Rzepecki-Sill, former NFL standout Tom Nowatzke and major league relief pitcher Jim Konstanty have been elected into the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame.

The election of Laettner, Rzepecki-Sill, Nowatzke and Konstanty brings the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame roster to 111. Laettner and Rzepecki-Sill were elected from the NPASHF national ballot. Nowatzke was selected by the Hall's Veterans Committee, and Konstanty enters as the Hall's "Greats of the Past" selection.

Christian Laettner played 13 seasons in the NBA and was a member of the 1992 Olympic Gold Medal winning "Dream Team." He starred at Duke University, leading the Blue Devils to consecutive NCAA National Championships in 1991 and 1992. Famous for his game winning, last-second jump shot in Duke's dramatic 104-103 victory over Kentucky in the 1992 NCAA Tournament Regional Final, Laettner was recently selected by ESPN as one of the 25 Greatest college basketball players of all time. In his final year at Duke, Laettner was chosen as the Naismith College Player of the Year, the AP and Sporting News Player of the Year and NCAA Tournament MVP. He was selected 3rd overall in the 1992 NBA Draft by the Minnesota Timberwolves and went on to play for six NBA teams.

Aleta Rzepecki-Sill competed on the Pro Bowlers tour from 1980-2001, winning a total of 31 tour events, including the U.S. Open in 1994 and 1998. Eight times she was named a WIBC All-American, and was the LPBT-PWBA money leader six times during this span. She is the first woman to surpass the \$1 million mark in career earnings, and was twice selected "Bowler of the Year" by the Bowling Writers Association of America. Rzepecki-Sill has rolled 29 perfect 300 games, and a high series of 815. Elected into the Professional Woman Bowlers Association Hall of Fame in 1998, she continues to compete successfully today, making her one of the few bowlers to win titles in three different decades.

Tom Nowatzke was a hard-hitting NFL running back who played for the Detroit Lions and Baltimore Colts. He starred at Indiana University and was the Big Ten's rushing leader and first team All-America in 1964. Selected by the Detroit Lions in the first round of the '65 NFL Draft, Nowatzke earned his reputation within the NFL as a bruising fullback, tenacious blocker, and excellent receiver coming out of the backfield. Nowatzke was the leading rusher in Super Bowl V, scoring the game tying touchdown that ultimately led to a 16-13 Colts victory over the Dallas Cowboys. Nowatzke is currently Vice President of the Detroit Lions Alumni Association.

Casimir (Jim) Konstanty pitched for five major league teams between 1944 and 1956, posting a 66-48 record with 74 saves and a 3.46 ERA in 433 games. In World Series play he threw 15 innings, with a 2.40 ERA. He was best known for his amazing 1950 season, when he was selected as The Sporting News Pitcher of the Year, AP Athlete of the Year and became the first relief pitcher to win the MVP Award. To date, only three other relievers (Rollie Fingers, Willie Hernandez and Dennis Eckersley) have ever won the award.

The Inductees will be honored at the 36th Annual Induction Banquet on Thursday, June 12th, at the American-Polish Cultural Center in Troy, MI. Tickets for the banquet, which begins at 6 p.m., are \$85, which includes an open bar and traditional Polish family-style dinner. Tickets can be ordered by calling (313) 407-3300. Information on the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame is available at: www.polishsportshof.com