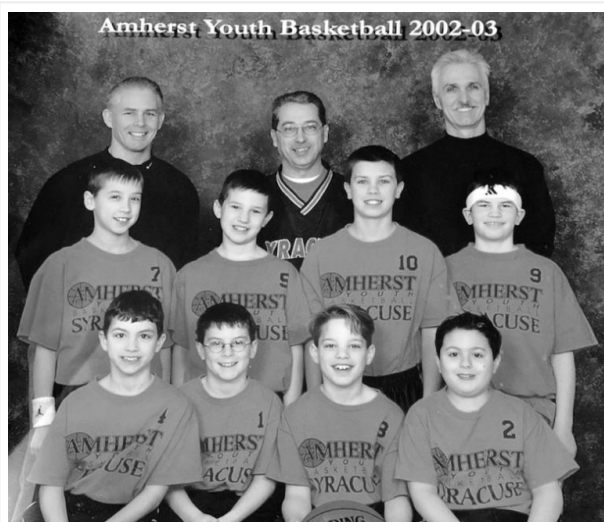


Tichenor, Casey inducted into AYB's Board Hall of Fame

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Brad Tichenor, back row, center, in the top photo, and Bill Casey, second from left in the top row in the bottom photo, were recently named to the board Hall of Fame for Amherst Youth Basketball. The inaugural plaque, which will be displayed at the Town of Amherst Clearfield Recreation Center, will list Tichenor, inducted during the 2017-18 season and Casey during the 2018-19 season.

The board of directors at Amherst Youth Basketball has recently commissioned a Board Hall of Fame to recognize those board members for their many years of service.

The inaugural plaque, which will be displayed at the Town of Amherst Clearfield Recreation Center, will list Brad Tichenor, inducted during the 2017-18 season, and Bill Casey, inducted during the 2018-19 season.

Tichenor and Casey are dedicated, community-minded people who spent countless volunteer hours giving back to the children of the Town of Amherst. Both continued to be active with AYB even when they no longer had children participating in the

program.

Bill Casey

Bill Casey was involved as a coach, board member and president of AYB for 15 to 20 years.

During his four-year tenure as president from the 1995-96 season through the 1998-99 season, Casey, who has a doctorate in psychology, led the move of AYB from a small, ad hoc league to a stable league targeted at serving the youth of the Town of Amherst.

During this time, the league increased its membership from a couple hundred players to one with 350 players.

Basketfest also debuted, an event in which every team in the league plays three other teams on a Saturday after practices have started but before official games have begun.

The league also went from a combination of volunteer officials and certified officials being brought in for playoffs to a system whereby predominantly certified officials were used for the entire season.

AYB also entered a team in the long-standing Blessed Sacrament Youth Basketball League.

The boys high school summer league was also introduced in order to provide opportunities for local JV and varsity boys high school teams to compete during the summer.

Casey, whose children Pat, Liz and Chris all played in AYB for many years, retired from the East Amherst Psychology Group in 2014 and has relocated to Syracuse.

He expressed how much he enjoyed and appreciated the numerous opportunities offered to him to be able to contribute to youth sports in Amherst.

Brad Tichenor

Brad Tichenor served as a coach, level coordinator, board member and president of AYB for 15 to 20 years.

Tichenor was elected president of AYB in 2005 and served in this capacity for eight seasons, the longest continuous tenure of any president in AYB history.



During his tenure, a partnership was developed between AYB and Dick's Sporting Goods, a company that still serves as a major sponsor, as well as with other local businesses.

The girls high school division was initiated, mirroring the boys high school division, which provides an opportunity for high school children to participate weekly in a fun and competitive basketball program.

The girls division continues to play on Saturday afternoons and is open to any high school girl who is not playing on her school's varsity team.

AYB also developed a mission statement during this time, updated its logo and began to use full uniforms, introducing reversible shorts to match the reversible jerseys.

Arguably the most important contribution made during Tichenor's tenure was the introduction of a third-grade boys division and a third-, fourth-grade girls division.

Tichenor has been married to his wife, Cindy, for 35 years and has three adult children, Aaron, Ben and Bridget, who all played AYB.

In 2008, Tichenor retired from Amherst High School as a teacher and coach after 35 years of service but has taught part-time for 11 years. Besides his love of teaching and coaching, he is actively involved in his church as head usher and as a church council member.

Registration is open for the 2019-2020 AYB season.

AYB, which completed its 41st season, has approximately 1,000 participants during the winter house league program in grades three through 12.

There are seven divisions for boys: third through eighth grade and high school, and four girls divisions: third/fourth grade, fifth/sixth grade, seventh/eighth grade and high school.

During the winter, AYB supports eight travel teams, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth-grade boys, as well as fourth/fifth, sixth/seventh and eighth/ninth-grade girls.

To play on a boys team, members must reside in the Town of Amherst or attend a Town of Amherst school. There is no residency requirement for the

girls divisions.

During the summer, AYB supports approximately 300 high school players: a boys high school program for JV and varsity teams is run on Monday evenings at Clearfield, and a girls high school program for JV and varsity teams is run Tuesday evenings at Clearfield. AYB also offers various clinics and programs throughout the year.

For more information, visit www.amherst-basketball.com or www.facebook.com/AmherstYouthBasketball.