

Sports

LHS Hall of Fame will induct five players and 1956 baseball champs

By **ROGER AMSDEN**
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LACONIA — The Laconia High School Athletic Department will be holding its 2017 Athletic Hall of Fame induction on Friday, Nov. 24. This class consists of five standout athletes and one dynamic championship team.

The ceremony will commence at the Huot Center on the LHS campus at the Meredith Village Savings Bank Culinary Arts Center on the first floor at 5 p.m. After a social hour, it will move to the LHS auditorium for the formal induction ceremony at 6 p.m. The legendary Voice of the Sachems, David Rea, will be the master of ceremonies. The event is free of charge and open to all. Inductees and their families would embrace the support of former teammates and players' attendance.

First inductee is LHS 1992 graduate **Aaron Jones**, who was a three-sport star in football, basketball and baseball. He as a two-year All-State middle infielder on two state championship Sachem baseball teams in 1991 and 1992. In basketball, Jones was a three-year varsity player. In the fall, he was a two-year all-state quarterback/defensive back as he captained the football team. In all three of his varsity years in football he competed in state championships. Former coaches refer to him as a "cool customer" who always produced in pressure situations.

Next inductee is **Mike Grover** from the class of 1984. Another three-sport star in football, baseball and track, Grover was a member of the baseball team as a sophomore where he batted .300, and went on to participate in track and became the school record holder in javelin. The Sachems went on to win two track state championships during his tenure. He excelled in football, where he was a first team all-state player when he rushed for over 1900 yards in his final two seasons. He went on to be selected and start for team New Hampshire in the NH-VT Maple Sugar Shrine game.

James Dunlap from the class of 1969 is the next honoree. He also was a three-sport star. His prowess was proven on the football, basketball, and baseball teams. In his senior year, he captained all three sports. In football, he was awarded the Most Outstanding Lineman award and was selected to play for New Hampshire in the NH-VT Maple Sugar Shrine Bowl game. In the winter he lettered in basketball for three seasons. In the spring, he received the Jay O'Connor award for the Most Outstanding Baseball Player. Most importantly, Dunlap is remembered as the consummate teammate who would always help another person when needed.

Class of 1976 inductee is football, basketball, winter track and baseball standout **Gary Harbour**. Known as a legendary power hitter on the baseball diamond, he pounded 8 home runs in his senior campaign. He lettered in baseball three seasons. In the

fall, he earned All-State status as a linebacker and running back. He too played for Team NH in the NH-VT Shrine Bowl where he was named the defensive captain. In his senior campaign he received National recognition as All-American. In the winter, Harbour lettered both in basketball and Winter track. He earned 10 letters in all as a high school athlete.

Inducted from the Class of 1996 is track star **Molly DeMark**, who left her mark in both the Cross-Country and Spring Track teams. As a Class I champion she went on to place in state Meet of Champions and represented the Sachems in the Footlocker National High School Championships, where she finished 21st in the country. She won championships in the 3200 and is one of the most renowned track athlete ever to walk the halls of LHS. Former coaches not only rave about her accomplishments, but equally as much about her character, integrity and grit.

Also inducted is **the 1956 State Championship baseball team**. This team, led by legendary coach Soc Bobotas, win many games by one run and went on to upend Keene High School 5-4 at Holman Stadium. The '56 team was a very talented squad that competed among the largest schools in the state of New Hampshire. Team members were: Francis White, Jim Dansereau, Ron Laramie, Jim Fairchild, Roger Landry, Bob McQuarrie, Lance Chase, Jack Bishop, Dean Leighton, Bob Andrew, Dick McAvonia, Joe Arruda, Walt Ayre, and Matt Baker.

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