Columbia Establishes First-ever Athletics Hall of Fame

Twenty-seven former Columbia Lions and one former coach will be inducted as the inaugural class of the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame at a special ceremony in Low Library this coming February.

“This is a glorious moment in the history of Columbia athletics,” said M. Dianne Murphy, the director of inter-collegiate athletics and physical education at Columbia. “The history of the athletics program has included some of the best and brightest in the world. We are proud to honor the heritage of the Columbia athletics program.”

The inaugural class of the Hall of Fame includes baseball great Lou Gehrig (CC’23; 21), football star Sid Luckman (CC’39) and his head coach Lou Little (1940-1956); and Olympic gold medal-winning swimmer Cristina Teuscher (CC’39). Also to be honored will be one of Columbia’s Ivy League championship teams, 1967-1968 Men’s Basketball, and one individual, Connie Maniatty, for his special contributions to the Columbia athletics program.

The inaugural class comprises 22 men, eight women and one team. The sports represented (number of individual inductees) are football (9), basketball (4), fencing (5), baseball (5), swimming and diving (4), soccer (2), track & field/cross-country (2) and wrestling (2).

Nominees for the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame were submitted by the general public from July to September of this year. The inductees were then selected by a vote of a selection committee of the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame. For more information, go to www.gocolumbialions.com

Sid Luckman

Q&A with Columbia All-American Caroline Bierbaum

A three-time All-American and one of the premier student athletes in the Ivy League, Columbia cross country star Caroline Bierbaum took time out from her training for the NCAA Championships in Terre Haute, Indiana, to talk about her preferences for workout music and her belief in the importance of a steady routine.

Have you ever read Allen Sillitoe’s The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner? No. I haven’t read it, but I do know the feeling of loneliness. It really helps, though, to be a long distance runner in a team environment. When you’re surrounded by people who all run 70 miles or more per week, you feel as if you have some common understanding of what it means to be a competitive runner and why we all like to run.

Yes, we have different reasons for doing it, but we also have much in common, which is nice.

What got you into cross-country running? The summer before eighth grade. My mom started jogging—and I decided I would try to jog with her at first, she was way more fit than I was, but eventually I was just as fast. And faster. Once I reached ninth grade, I decided to quit soccer and do cross country.