



150 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet IL 60432

## Media Release

Contact: Communications Office 815.724.4462 [rbarker@jolietcity.org](mailto:rbarker@jolietcity.org)

---

July 27, 2010

### City of Joliet Honors Sixth Class of Sports Hall of Fame This Friday July 30 at Silver Cross Field

The Joliet Area Sports Hall of Fame Committee will welcome the class of 2010 this Friday July 30<sup>th</sup> at the Joliet Area Sports Hall of Fame within Silver Cross Field, Downtown Joliet.

The Hall of Fame Committee will honor four area athletic icons as part of the sixth class to be inducted at a private ceremony this Friday from 5pm – 6:30pm, followed by on field introduction to the public at the Joliet JackHammers 7pm game and celebration.

The 2010 Class includes Walter Downing, Joe Bennett, Mary Ann Grabavoy, and Doug Oram.

**Downing** is best known for winning Illinois' Mr. Basketball award and as a McDonald's All-American Sports Star. He led Providence to a third-place finish in Class A in 1978 and a state championship in 1979. In 10 state-tournament games, he scored 184 points and grabbed 80 rebounds. In a 1978 quarterfinal against Ottawa Marquette, Downing blocked a record 12 shots. Downing also played two years at DePaul and two at Marquette. He was later chosen by the Lakers in the sixth round of the 1986 NBA Draft.

**Bennett** was a United States Boxing champion and member of the Olympic team, although he was unable to go to the games due to an injury. Currently, Bennett continues to train young boxers at the Team Joliet facility on East Cass Street.

**Grabavoy**, a graduate of University of Notre Dame, is also a former Miss Teen America. Grabavoy was best known as a TV sports personality. She was a reporter and commentator for the World Figure Skating Championships, and later produced a piece for the 1991 Pan American Games. Grabavoy also acted as a courtside reporter for the NBA games in the 1990s and a reporter for the 1996 Summer Olympics.

**Oram** enjoyed the golden years of the Ingalls Park Pony League, assembling powerful all-star teams on the field that competed through the national level. A coach of many future major league players, Oram assisted Joliet youngsters into success.

The Joliet Area Sports Hall of Fame Committee welcomes another successful class to the City's Honorees and hopes to see fans out on Friday July 30<sup>th</sup> to honor these great sports heroes.

The City of Joliet is the fourth largest city in the state of Illinois, located just 45 miles southwest of Chicago's Loop. Home to over 152,000 residents, in addition to thriving businesses and attractions, the City of Joliet is easily accessible by rail, auto and bus transit. A perfect place to live, work and play, Joliet is constantly striving to promote growth and diversity. For more information on Joliet visit [www.visitjoliet.org](http://www.visitjoliet.org) or call 815.724.4000.

###