



2026 INDUCTION CEREMONY PROGRAM

SATURDAY, SEPT. 19, 2026
SENECA NIAGARA RESORT & CASINO
NIAGARA FALLS, NY



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

5:30PM

BEAR'S DEN LOBBY OPENS

6:30PM

DOORS OPEN

7:00PM

OPENING REMARKS

7:15PM

INDUCTION CEREMONY

MIKE ACCURSI

JAKE BERGEY

SANDY CHAPMAN

DAN DAWSON

SHAWN EVANS

JOHN GURTLE

GAVIN PROUT

MARK STEENHUIS

9:00PM

CEREMONY CONCLUSION

*All times are approximate

ABOUT THE NLL HALL OF FAME

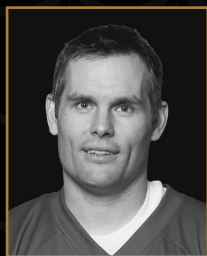
The National Lacrosse League Hall of Fame is the league's highest honor, recognizing those whose talent, achievements, and contributions have helped shape the sport of lacrosse and the league throughout its history, from the Eagle Pro Box Lacrosse League and Major Indoor Lacrosse League to today's National Lacrosse League.

The NLL Hall of Fame was established on June 16, 2005, with the announcement of five charter members who made immeasurable contributions to the league and the sport since its inception in 1986. The inaugural class included league founders Russ Cline and Chris Fritz, legendary players Gary and Paul Gait, and the late Les Bartley, who was the winningest coach in league history at the time.

The Hall of Fame recognizes players, coaches, referees, media members, and other individuals who have left a lasting mark on the sport and the history of the league. Inductees are honored in one of three categories: Player, Veteran, or Builder.

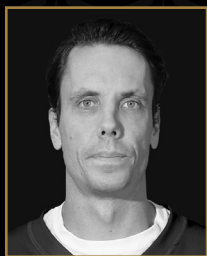
The NLL Hall of Fame currently includes 45 members.

MEET THE CLASS OF 2026



**SANDY
CHAPMAN**

DEFENSE



**DAN
DAWSON**

FORWARD



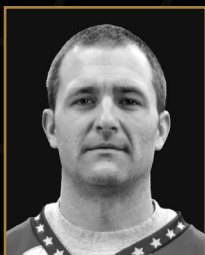
**SHAWN
EVANS**

FORWARD



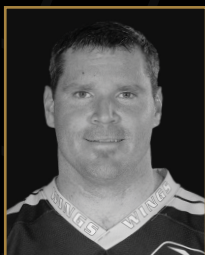
**MARK
STEENHUIS**

FORWARD



**MIKE
ACCURSI**

FORWARD



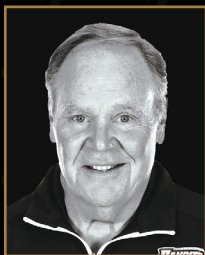
**JAKE
BERGEY**

FORWARD



**GAVIN
PROUT**

FORWARD



**JOHN
GURTLE**

BROADCASTER/MEDIA



NATIONAL LACROSSE LEAGUE
HALL OF FAME



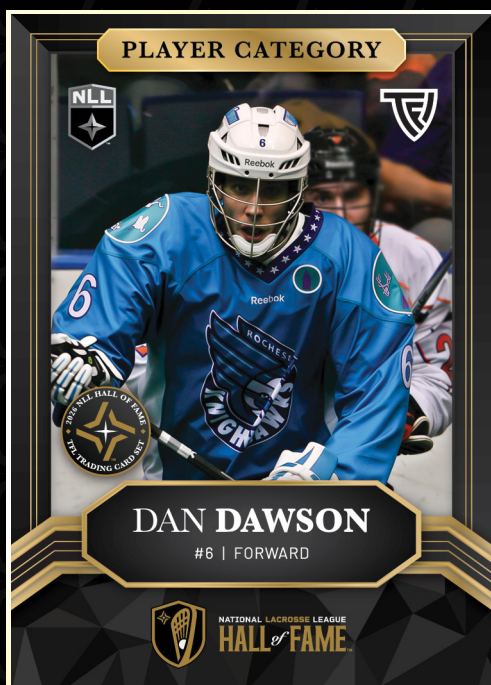
Mike Accursi played 17 seasons for Buffalo, Edmonton, Ontario, Rochester, and Syracuse. He is a four-time champion (2007, 2012, 2013 with Rochester, 2008 with Buffalo) and was named to the 2000 All-League Second Team. Upon retiring, Accursi ranked in the top 20 all-time in games played (237), goals (391), points (827), and loose ball recoveries (1,069). He also retired fourth all-time in playoff goals (58) and sixth in playoff points (99). His single-season highs include 35 goals (2003), 51 assists (2007), and 77 points (2007). Accursi also recorded a career-high 96 loose balls in 2002. A rarity for forwards, Accursi took a large percentage of faceoffs early in his career, amassing a 48.7% faceoff win percentage.



Drafted in the fifth round of the 1997 Entry Draft, Jake Bergey played 10 seasons with the Philadelphia Wings. A two-time champion (1998 and 2001), he was also named All-League First Team in 1999 and All-League Second Team in 2001. His 43 goals during the 2001 season still rank in the top 10 in franchise history. He retired in the top 20 all-time with 301 assists and 557 points. His single-season highs include 43 goals, 43 assists, and 86 points (2001). Through his career, Bergey averaged over four points per game (4.19) and recorded 60+ points in five seasons.



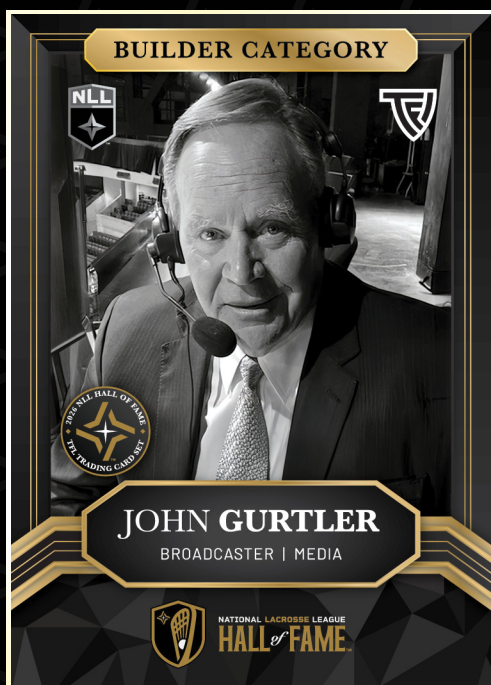
Sandy Chapman played 17 seasons with Rochester and Toronto after being drafted in the first round (12th overall) in the 2001 Entry Draft. At the time of his retirement, his 252 regular season and 31 playoff games ranked in the top 10 all-time. He is a five-time champion; four with Toronto (2002, 2003, 2005 & 2011) and one with Rochester (2007). He was named the 2010 Defensive Player of the Year and played 148 consecutive games from 2007-2016. Chapman recorded 10+ points in eight seasons, including a career-high 16 in 2008. He also averaged 43 seconds of penalty minutes per game and had fewer than 10 total penalty minutes in seven of his 17 seasons.



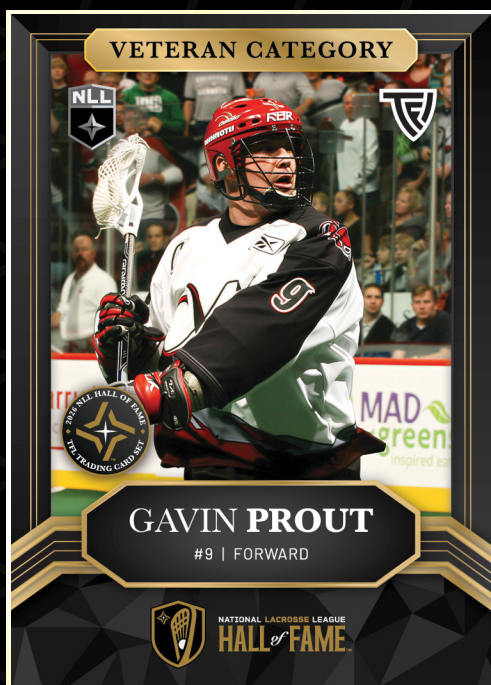
Dan Dawson played 21 seasons for Columbus, Arizona, Portland, Boston, Philadelphia, Rochester, Saskatchewan, San Diego, and Toronto. He is a three-time champion (2013-14 with Rochester and 2018 with Saskatchewan) and won the 2009 League MVP. He was named to the All-League First Team six times (2005, 2007, 2009-2012) and the All-League Second Team in 2006. He also was the recipient of the Teammate of the Year award in 2023. Dawson retired as the all-time leader in games played (322) and assists (954), while ranking second in points (1,505) and fourth in goals (551). He also retired second in playoff assists (106), tied for second in playoff points (165), fourth in playoff games played (34) and seventh in playoff goals (59). He eclipsed 100 points in three seasons, including a career-high 107 in 2007 with Arizona. He scored a career-high 48 goals in 2005 with Arizona.



Shawn Evans played 17 seasons for the original Rochester franchise, Calgary, New England, Buffalo, the new Rochester franchise, Halifax, and Vancouver. He was a member of the 2007 Rochester Knighthawks championship team. An All-League First Team selection from 2013-16, he won the MVP award in 2013 and 2015. He was also named to the All-Rookie Team in 2006 and the All-League Second Team in 2012. At the time of his retirement, he was second all-time in penalty minutes (667), fourth in assists (879), fifth in games played (270) and points (1,358), seventh in playoff assists (70) and playoff points (123), and ninth in goals (479). He recorded 100 points in five consecutive seasons, including 2016 where he scored a career-high 50 goals.



For decades, John Gurtler has been one of the defining voices of lacrosse, helping to shape how fans experience the game. His passion, knowledge, and unmistakable delivery brought the excitement of the National Lacrosse League into homes and arenas, elevating the sport's profile across North America. Gurtler's broadcasting career is marked by an ability to connect with audiences—whether longtime fans or newcomers—through storytelling, insight, and enthusiasm. His calls captured the intensity, speed, and emotion of the game, preserving some of the league's most memorable moments. More than just a broadcaster, Gurtler served as an ambassador for the sport, helping to grow the game and deepen its connection with fans. His influence extends beyond the microphone, contributing to the culture and visibility of professional lacrosse.



After being drafted first overall in 2001, Gavin Prout played 12 seasons for New York, Colorado, and Edmonton. He was named the MVP of the 2006 Championship game with Colorado, collecting four goals and three assists, and still holds the franchise record for assists (459) and ranks second in points (664). He is on the top 10 rookie list with 52 assists and 82 points with New York in 2002 and was named to the All-Rookie Team. He was also named to the All-League First Team in 2006 and to the All-League Second Team in 2002, 2004, 2007, and 2008. He scored 20+ goals in 10 seasons, including a career-high 34 goals in 2004. He also had 90 points three times in his career.



Mark Steenhuis played 17 seasons with Columbus and Buffalo after being selected seventh overall in the 2002 Entry Draft. His 266 games are tied for fifth all-time, while his 459 goals rank sixth. He is one of only 17 players to record 1,000 points during his career and was the 2008 Championship Game MVP, scoring five goals and adding an assist. Steenhuis was also named the 2008 Transition Player of the Year and selected to the 2009 All-League Second Team. He tied teammate, John Tavares, scoring 51 goals in 2009 and still holds single-game records for assists (13) and points (17). Upon retiring, he ranked fourth all-time in playoff loose ball recoveries (193), tied for sixth in playoff games played (29), tied for seventh in playoff goals (54) and tied for 11th in playoff points (99). Steenhuis averaged 3.8 points per game and 6.2 loose ball recoveries per game through his career. He broke the 100-point barrier in 2009 and recorded 10+ goals in every season except his final year. He also recorded 100+ loose balls in eight seasons.

HALL OF FAME BY INDUCTION YEAR

Player Name

Category

2006 (Charter Class)

Les Bartley	Builder
Russ Cline	Builder
Chris Fritz	Builder
Gary Gait	Player
Paul Gait	Player

2007

Tom Borrelli	Media
Mike French	Player
Darris Kilgour	Player
Tom Marechek	Player

2008

Sal LoCascio	Player
Johnny Mouradian	Builder
Tony Resch	Player
Neil Stevens	Media

2009

Dallas Eliuk	Player
Jim Veltman	Player

2010

Rich Kilgour	Player
Dan Stroup	Player
John Tucker	Player

2011

Bob Watson	Player
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2012

Steve Dietrich	Player
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2013

Pat O'Toole	Player
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Player Name

Category

2014

Pat Coyle	Player
Chris Hall	Builder

2015

Terry Sanderson	Builder
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2016

Tracey Kelusky	Player
Josh Sanderson	Player
John Tavares	Player

2021

Roy Condon	Official
Colin Doyle	Player
Kevin Finneran	Player
Bill Fox	Official
John Grant Jr.	Player
Pat McCready	Player
Casey Powell	Player
Regy Thorpe	Player
Steve Toll	Player
Shawn Williams	Player

2026

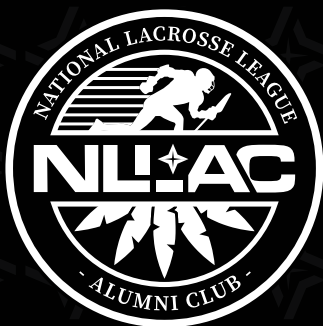
Mike Accursi	Player
Jake Bergey	Player
Sandy Chapman	Player
Dan Dawson	Player
Shawn Evans	Player
John Gurtler	Media
Gavin Prout	Player
Mark Steenhuis	Player

THANK YOU

TO OUR PARTNERS



GET INVOLVED



JOIN THE NLL ALUMNI CLUB

Your connection to the game doesn't end when the ceremony does. The Alumni Club keeps former players, coaches, and builders connected to each other and to the league — through reunions, alumni appearances, and nights just like this one.

NLLALUMNICLUB.COM

CONGRATULATIONS

The National Lacrosse League, its franchises, its partners and fans across the world congratulate the Class of 2026 NLL Hall of Fame inductees.