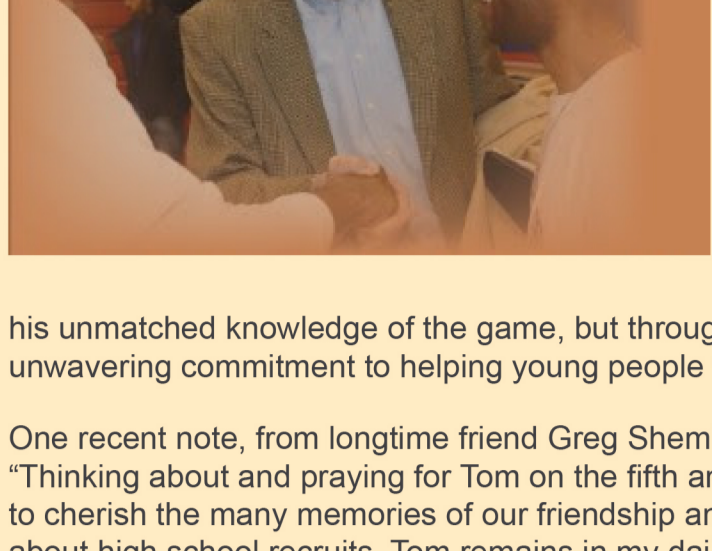




THOMAS C KONCHALSKI
FOUNDATION



Remembering Tom Five Years Later

Today marks the fifth anniversary of Tom Konchalski's passing, and while the years have moved forward, Tom's presence in the basketball world and in our lives has never faded.

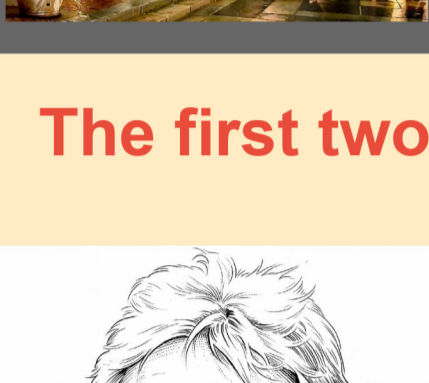
We continue to hear from friends, coaches, and colleagues who remind us just how deeply Tom touched people, not only through

his unmatched knowledge of the game, but through his kindness, honesty, and unwavering commitment to helping young people find the right path.

One recent note, from longtime friend Greg Shemitz, captures that feeling perfectly: "Thinking about and praying for Tom on the fifth anniversary of his passing, I continue to cherish the many memories of our friendship and often think of him when reading about high school recruits. Tom remains in my daily prayers as I remain grateful for his friendship and mentorship."

That sentiment echoes what so many feel — that Tom is still with us, still guiding, still reminding us that the game is about people first. Through the work of the Tom Konchalski Foundation, his values live on, continuing to open doors and shape lives exactly the way Tom would have wanted.

We remember him with gratitude, love, and faith.



Buy your Midtown Madness tickets below



Saturday, March 21, 2026

11:00 am to 2 pm

Bryant Park Grill - Manhattan

The first two honorees announced



Jere Quinn to Receive Inaugural Jack Curran Character Award

Midtown Madness will introduce a new and deeply meaningful honor this year: the **Jack Curran Character Award**, presented to a coach whose career reflects excellence, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to young people. It is fitting and profoundly symbolic that the inaugural recipient is **Jere Quinn**, the longtime head boys basketball coach at **St. Thomas More School** in Oakdale, Connecticut.

The award bears the name of **Jack Curran**, the legendary Archbishop Molloy High School coach whose influence on the game extended far

beyond championships. Curran believed basketball was a vehicle for teaching discipline, humility, and responsibility. His closest collaborator and confidant in that mission was **Tom Konchalski**, Molloy's iconic basketball historian and lifelong steward of the game. Together, Curran and Konchalski formed one of the most respected partnerships in high school basketball united by shared values, deep friendship, and an uncompromising belief in character above all else.

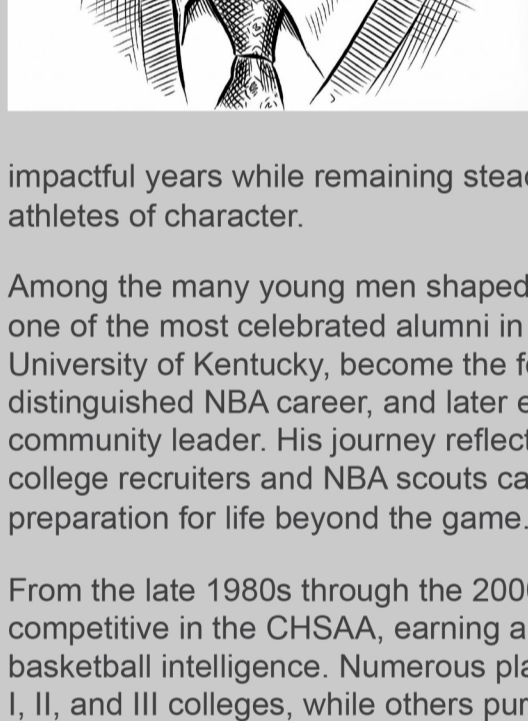
Jere Quinn stands firmly in that tradition.

A Molloy alumnus, Quinn absorbed Curran's lessons firsthand and carried them forward throughout a remarkable coaching career. Under his leadership at St. Thomas More, Quinn's teams amassed more than 1,200 victories, placing him among the winningest coaches in basketball history. More important, over 500 young men earned college basketball scholarships, and a dozen or more went on to play in the NBA all while being held to the highest standards of conduct and accountability.

Quinn's lifelong friendship with **Tom Konchalski** further cements the significance of this honor. Like Curran and Konchalski before them, Quinn and Tom shared a belief that success in basketball must be measured by lives shaped, not games won. Their bond was built on trust, mutual respect, and a shared devotion to mentoring young people through the game they loved.

At St. Thomas More, Quinn built far more than a powerhouse program. He created a culture where players from across the country and around the world learned what it meant to be teammates, students, and men of character. His practices were demanding, his expectations clear, and his concern for his players genuine and enduring.

The **Jack Curran Character Award** exists to honor that exact legacy — the interconnected values passed from Curran to Konchalski to Quinn. In recognizing Jere Quinn at Midtown Madness, the Foundation celebrates not only an extraordinary coach, but a living extension of a tradition that continues to define the very best of the game.



Tom Murray to Receive Lifetime Achievement Award

Few figures in New York City high school basketball have left a deeper or more lasting imprint than Tom Murray, this year's recipient of the Tom Konchalski Foundations Lifetime Achievement Award.

In honoring Murray, the Foundation continues a tradition established by past recipients **Vito Montelli**, **Will Klein**, and **Jim Gatto**, educators and coaches whose careers reflect the same enduring values that defined Tom Konchalski's life: integrity, service, and an unwavering commitment to young people.

For decades, Murray served as the varsity boys basketball coach and athletic director at Cardinal Hayes High School in the Bronx, guiding the program through some of its most

impactful years while remaining steadfast in his commitment to developing student-athletes of character.

Among the many young men shaped under Murray's leadership was Jamal Mashburn, one of the most celebrated alumni in Hayes history. Mashburn went on to star at the University of Kentucky, become the fourth overall pick in the 1993 NBA Draft, enjoy a distinguished NBA career, and later establish himself as a successful entrepreneur and community leader. His journey reflects the foundation Murray emphasized long before college recruiters and NBA scouts came calling: discipline, accountability, and preparation for life beyond the game.

From the late 1980s through the 2000s, Murray's Hayes teams were consistently competitive in the CHSAA, earning a reputation for toughness, unselfish play, and basketball intelligence. Numerous players from that era went on to compete at Division I, II, and III colleges, while others pursued professional opportunities overseas or remained connected to the game as coaches, educators, and mentors.

As athletic director, Murray's influence extended well beyond the basketball court. He helped foster a culture across Hayes athletics rooted in academic responsibility, personal integrity, and mutual respect, ensuring that student-athletes were supported as young men first and competitors second.

Perhaps Murray's greatest legacy is the enduring bond he shares with former players across generations. Alumni from different eras remain connected by a common respect for a coach who demanded effort, honesty, and accountability.

The Tom Konchalski Foundation is proud to honor Tom Murray at Midtown Madness, recognizing a lifetime devoted to student-athletes and a legacy that mirrors Tom Konchalski's own values: impact over accolades, truth over hype, and lives changed over games won.

[Click here to view the video of last year's Midtown Madness](#)

Video credit: many thanks to Jason Curry

About half the tickets are already spoken for in the first week

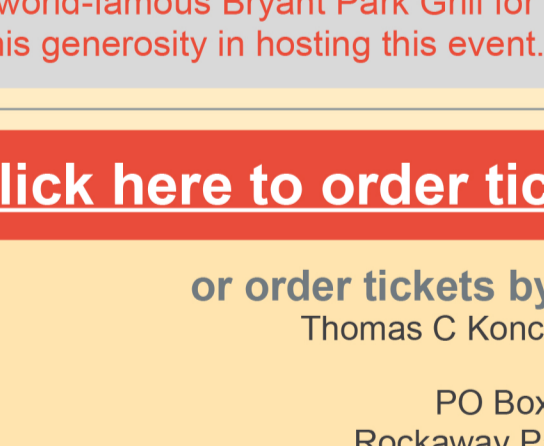
if you are putting together a table or have questions, please let us know
John Coman - voice / text 518-578-6509



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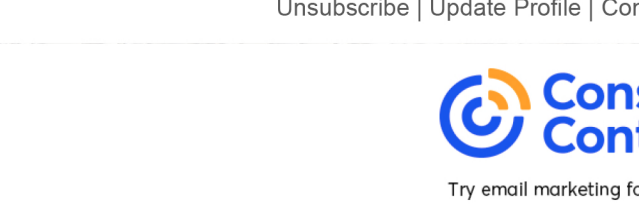
Suggestion: Take an ad to congratulate our honorees while supporting the TK Foundation email ad copy to jmullally@bb-is.com

Celebrate NYC basketball and the enduring legacy of Tom Konchalski alongside leading coaches, players, and friends of the game

Enjoy a classic brunch at Bryant Park Grill, one of Midtown Manhattan's most iconic venues

Mingle with this year's recipients of the Tom Konchalski Foundation Values of the Game Award, Spirit of the Game Award and Lifetime Achievement Award

Support a great cause, with proceeds funding scholarships and youth basketball programs across New York City



For Further Information

Please contact:

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