### WHY WE'RE HERE

In 1989 Bill Mudano ran the first Nutmeg State Games with just his friends and family. By bringing together athletes with wide range of social, religious, ethnic, and economic backgrounds Bill hoped to initiate the breaking down of socio-economic barriers and abate some long standing stereotypes by fostering the camaraderie that naturally develops through the common bond of athletics.

In his 24 year career as a successful coach, mentor, and athletic director, Bill Mudano understood that competitive sports played a large part in developing the qualities of leadership, hard work, self-confidence and mental & physical toughness. He believed that playing sports laid the foundation for lifelong habits that contributed to a healthy life style. And he saw his athletes consistently acquire and exhibit the character traits of teamwork, sportsmanship, and respect for others.

To truly include all athletes, Bill implemented the policy to "Scholarship – in" athletes with economic hardship. This policy has allowed over 3000 athletes to participate in the "Games" and we are proud that no athlete has <u>ever</u> been denied the opportunity to compete because they couldn't afford it. To further ensure affordability, Bill implemented fundraising events to help offset the high costs of running the "games". The two most essential items and highest costs incurred at the "Games" are certified officials, and athletic facilities. In 2022, certified officials cost \$60,000 and \$45,000 was spent in facilities needed above and beyond the schools and fields generously provided by our Host City of Middletown.

#### WHO WE'VE BECOME

**THE CONNECTICUT SPORTS MANAGEMENT GROUP INC.** (CSMG) is a 501 (c) 3 not for profit organization dedicated to managing the two largest amateur, multi-sport, Olympic-style sporting events in Connecticut: The Nutmeg State Games and the CT Masters' Games

190,000 athletes have participated in the Nutmeg State Games since our humble beginnings in 1989. We are recognized as the Official State Games of CT by the U.S Olympic Committee and the National Congress of State Games. In 2002 the CT Senior Olympics were taken over by CSMG. Now named the CT Masters' Games, 2023 marks 44 years of Celebrating Master and Senior Athletes.





# 29th ANNUAL DIRECTOR'S CLUB BANQUET

Dedicated to Bill Mudano

Thursday, March 30th Aqua Turf Club

Plantsville, CT 5:15 PM Reception ~ 6:00 PM Program FOR THE BENEFIT OF:



**Or Current Resident** 

SPORTS MANAGEMENT GROUP, INC.

975 Middle Street, Unit G

CONNECTICUT

Middletown, CT 06457

#### **THE 29th ANNUAL DIRECTOR'S CLUB BANQUET INFORMATION**

For The Benefit Of: THE NUTMEG STATE GAMES "Good Kids Making Good Choices" &

THE CONNECTICUT MASTERS' GAMES "Celebrating Masters & Senior Athletes"

Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Aqua Turf Club 556 Mulberry St., Plantsville, CT 5:15 PM Cocktail Reception | 6:00 PM Program Begins

> SPECIAL TRIBUTE William G. Mudano Founder, Nutmeg State Games, 1943-2023

ATHLETE OF THE YEAR: Nutmeg State Games: Tyler Brown, Track & Field CT Masters' Games: Michael Brown, Slow Pitch Softball

> KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Steve Emt

## MASTER OF CEREMONIES Jim Colliton, Comedian

BANQUET COMMITTEE Jay Malcynsky – Banquet Chair President, CSMG Board of Directors Steve Cassano – V.P. CSMG Board of Directors Mark Lauretti – Former President CSMG Board of Directors Don Drust – Executive Board Member Scott Smith – Executive Board Member John Dickson – Member, Board of Directors Michael McCarthy – Member, Board of Directors

A Special Thank You to our Banquet Sponsors! All Waste: Welcome Reception Sponsor Operating Engineers Local 478: Open Bar Sponsor PMA Companies: Dinner Sponsor Post University: Athlete of the Year Awards Sponsor

CSMG is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization. Attendees: \$175 per person is Tax deductible Non-attendees:100% of your donation is Tax Deductible



KEYNOTE: STEVE EMT Author, Paralympian "Adversity is an opportunity" From a small town in Connecticut to West Point, UCONN Basketball, a devastating automobile accident, and now a 2-time U.S. Paralympian. Steve has

been through more than most people - but he isn't like most people. Despite severe adversities, he's become a successful educator - empowering people all around the world, of all ages, to become the hero of their own life.

Steve has been an athlete his entire life. He feels fortunate that his parents got him involved in sports as early as he can remember, and he immediately loved everything that sports taught him. Through athletics, he learned that the qualities of teamwork, hard work and dedication were all lessons that were necessary in maintaining a healthy and productive lifestyle. In high school, he lettered in three different sports, finishing his high school career as an All-New England soccer goalkeeper and an All-State basketball player. He still holds the all-time leading scorer in boys' basketball at his high school. Steve's athletic abilities brought him to the University of Connecticut, where he earned a spot on the men's basketball team as a walk-on from 1992-1994.

Things changed in 1995 when he was involved in a car crash, which left him paralyzed. In the years following, Steve discovered how much he loved to mentor and coach young people, so he went back to school to earn his teaching certificate and coached high school boy's basketball for twenty years. In addition to coaching, he wanted to resume being an athlete himself. He sought a sport that would allow him to feed the competitive spirit that he had possessed throughout his life.

Currently, Steve is an 8-time US National Champion, having competed in 5 World Championships and 2 Paralympic Games. Currently, he balances his time between curling and traveling the world and sharing his story with people of all ages while inspiring them to make decisions in their life that will result in success moving forward. With the right mindset, and the right plan in place...anything can be overcome and all your life goals can be achieved. Adapted from https://SteveEmpt.com

#### **REGISTRATION FORM**

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Registration Deadline Monday, March 20th	

Tel: 860-788-7041