

The 1998 Joseph G. Rogers Award

For dedication, accomplishment,
and excellence in YMCA Competitive Swimming & Diving



The life of Charlie Butt truly is a YMCA success story. Having grown up at the Foreign YMCA in Shanghai, Charlie went through all the stages of every program participating in swimming, gymnastics, basketball, tumbling and all the junior leadership programs. From the age of 14, until he left China in 1951 at age 26, Charlie says he was at the Y just about every single day, "Running, jumping, swimming, leaping, dancing, boxing, throwing, laughing and having a great time!" International Y professionals Earl Buckley, Len Bright, and Shanghai born Eric Bojesen and Bob Kazimiroff were important role models for Charlie.

With all of the activities Charlie was involved with at the YMCA he was destined for great heights. Voted Sports Captain of his high school, he participated in soccer, cricket, tennis, track & field, swimming, water polo, handball, softball and basketball. For ten years, 1941-51, Charlie held records for 50, 100, and 220-yard freestyle, 150-yard individual medley and 100-yard breaststroke-butterfly in addition to playing on the YMCA championship basketball team.

Awarded an International YMCA Scholarship to Springfield College in 1941, Charlie's matriculation was delayed due to World War II. After a short period at St. John's University in Shanghai, Charlie entered Springfield College in 1951 went on to graduate with honors with a BS degree in YMCA Physical Education and later a masters in Physical Education and Administration.

While at Springfield, Charlie's athletic diversity enabled him to participate in several sports at the highest level. In addition to two All-American awards in soccer and a National Championship Volleyball Team title, Charlie's honors include: New England Championship Teams in both soccer and swimming, Tennis Team Captain, Swimming Team Captain and member of New England Championship relay team.

Upon his graduation, Charlie became the Springfield College Freshman Coach of soccer, swimming and tennis. While at Springfield, Charlie had the honor of working with Coach Red Silvia starting as an Instructor and ending up as an Associate Professor of Physical Education. Additionally, he "toured" with Silvia helping to introduce the then New YMCA lifesaving program via swimming and lifesaving clinics.

In 1961 Charlie arrived at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine where his tenure as an administrator, professor, and coach continues to bring him a great deal of success. Charlie has coached over 100 Division III All-American swimmers and divers; five national Champions and earned three national records including honors on the field as the New England Soccer Team Champions.

In addition to his coaching duties and volunteer work with the YMCA and NCAA, at age 73 Charlie is an avid squash player. Since 1964, Charlie has won ten individual U.S. National Titles, one world championship, one national doubles and one Canadian doubles championship.

In honor of his many and outstanding contributions to the education of Bowdoin students since 1961, on October 24, 1997 Bowdoin College made a profound statement regarding Charlie's legacy by officially naming the swimming office "The Charles Butt Room." Today, we honor Charlie for his accomplishments and service to the YMCA as well as for enriching the lives of countless student-athletes over the years.

This award was established in 1974 as recognition of long and exceptional leadership, insight, dedication and friendship by a man whose career touched and enriched the lives of countless young people. In his lifetime, Joe Rogers was the first recipient of the National Distinguished Service to Aquatics Award, was the organizer of the National Operating Council on Aquatics, represented the YMCA on the U.S. Olympic Men's Swimming Committee, and was the founder of the National YMCA Women's Swimming & Diving Championships established in 1966.

The Joseph G. Rogers Award statue is permanently located in the International Swimming Hall of Fame Museum in Fort Lauderdale, Florida with each honoree's name affixed in bronze to the base. A replica of the statue is presented to each honoree at the YMCA of the USA National Swimming & Diving Championships. The creator of the statue is Daniel Gluck, whose abstract religious and sports sculptures are on view in many public places around the United States. The beautifully sculpted award of bronze and marble stands over four feet in height, weighs nearly 1,000 pounds and has a mounted swimming figure that stretches nearly four feet in length.

Charlie Butt's many accomplishments include:

Past member of YMCA National Competitive Swimming & Diving Committee

Past YMCA Swimming & Diving Committee Treasurer and member of executive committee

YMCA National Championships - Referee

Qualified for Chinese Olympic Team for swimming & basketball. (1948)

Aquatic Instructor: McBurney YMCA New York City (1957-58)

Member of NCAA Swimming & Diving Rules Committee (1961-1998)

Former chairman NCAA Swimming & Diving Rules Committee– 4 years.

Head Referee NCAA Division I Championships – 6 years

Outstanding Coach – New England Intercollegiate Swimming & Diving Assoc. (1976-82-88-90)

Recipient of “Interscholastic & Intercollegiate Swimming Award” (1980)

Recipient of Dick Steadman Award (1993)

Nassau County “Coach of the Year” (1960)

New England Intercollegiate Soccer Association “Coach of the Year” (1976)

Maine soccer award Outstanding Coach of the Year is named “Charles Butt Trophy”

Manager to US Team to Bulgaria in 1978

Chairman of World University Games Committee – Romania & Mexico City

Member of Olympic Swim Committee – 2 years