



Leslie Lance

Year of Induction: **2021**
Year of Graduation: **1995**

Those who knew Leslie Lance during her high school years recognized a female athlete of quiet determination. It is this unrelenting drive which is apparent today and sets this female athlete apart from her peers. She embraced her mother's philosophy of "Quitters never win and winners never quit" throughout her athletic career in high school and college. A 1995 graduate from Johnson City High School, Lance was a three-sport athlete participating in soccer, basketball and softball. Her softball career was where she excelled throughout high school and college.

Well-rounded as a student-athlete, Lance played midfield for two years on JC soccer and forward for three years on JC basketball. In addition, she lettered in both basketball and softball. It was Lance's 1991-1995 years as player/pitcher for the Johnson City Wildcats' softball team that brought her the honor of being named All-Division II First Base in 1993, and All-Conference Girls' Softball Designated Player for STAC in 1995, garnering her an invitation to play in the Exceptional Senior Game for Softball that year.

Lance went on to play softball for SUNY Cortland from 1995 to 1999 and became one of the top softball players in Cortland history with 114 career wins with a single-season school record of 30 victories during her All-American junior year. She helped turn Cortland's program around from an 11-24 record the season prior to her arrival to an 18-13 record in 1996. This success continued in 1997 with a 30-14 record and a NCAA playoff berth. The 1998 season saw continued recognition for the Cortland program with a 37-13 record, a SUNYAC title, and a World Series appearance. In 1999, the Cortland Red Dragons finished with a 29-19 record and qualified for the NCAA tournament. During her four seasons, they finished with a combined record of 114-59.

Besides lifting the lady Red Dragon softball team to national recognition, it is Lance's personal career statistics and recognitions that gained her induction to her high school's athletic hall of fame as well as Cortland's C-Club Hall of Fame in 2017. In four seasons she had a career record of 72-34 with a 1.48 earned run average. She had 477 shutouts, 89 completed games, 28 shutouts in 691 innings pitched in over 127 appearances. She is still Cortland's first in complete games and second in wins, shutouts and innings. Lance was named to the 1st team All-American in 1998 with a record of 30-7 and a 1.09 ERA with 152 strikeouts and 12 shutouts. She set an all-school single-season record with 30 victories, 32 complete games, 12 shutouts, and 244 1/3 innings pitched that season.

More awards and titles honored Lance throughout her career. She was a four-time all-region selection being named first team All-SUNYAC three times, an All ECAC honoree three times as well as being chosen as ECAC Upstate New York Co-Player of the Year during her junior year. As a senior, she earned the Red Letter Award. In 1997 and 1998 she was named to the academic all-district first team and in 1998 was designated as the third team national GTE Academic All-American. In that same year she was named to the 1998 NCAA Division III Northeast Regional all-tournament team.

Willing to share her talent and skill with others who love the game of softball, Lance served as assistant coach of the JC Stealers (Summer 1997) and as their coach during the summers of 2000 and 2001.

Lance currently resides in Endwell, NY and is a reading specialist for the Susquehanna Valley School District in Conklin, NY. She also taught 5th grade remotely and in person during the 2020-2021 school year. However, she believes in service to others and has been a church school teacher at St. Michael's Greek

Catholic Church in Binghamton, has served community meals at her church and has helped many others in need over the years.

It is these attributes and achievements Leslie Lance has demonstrated throughout her life that have earned her the distinction of being part of the Johnson City Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Class of 2021.