Newspapers.com by Ancestry
https://www.newspapers.com/image/1114967125/

Downloaded on Aug 29, 2026

If recruiting's an indication, Wagner's best yet to come

The Season, the one in which Wagner College came of age as a Division I basketball team, is history now, along with the 21-7 record, the 16-game winning streak, the Metro playoff and the National Invitation Tournament bid. But what next? Beginning today in a two-part series, we take a look at where the Wagner program is going, and the people who will get it there.

Today: The people.

By JAY PRICE

Don't even ask about the hours, the miles, the heartburn or the heartache of recruiting. Like in big-game hunting, they don't give out awards for the meals you missed or the time you spent in the bush; they want to see the trophies on the wall.

"We thought, going into next season, our needs were three," Wagner coach P.J. Carlesimo said.

"One, we had to replace what we lost up front.

"Two, we had to find a point guard.

"And, finally, we were looking for the true big man who could step in and help us right away."

But, as another renowned big man has so emphatically reminded us, two out of three ain't bad.

The big one who got away was Roy Hinson, a 6-9 shot-blocker and slam-dunker from Franklin Township (N.J.) High School. Wagner courted Hinson the way Romeo did Juliet, and at one point the kid was discouraging recruiters from other schools by telling them he had decided on Wagner. It now appears, however, that Hinson is headed for Rutgers, though the school has made no formal announcement.

That's the bad news. The good news is 6-1 guard Arvie Powell, 6-5 forward Ray Amejko and 6-8 center-forward Tom Hogan.

Mark DiDonna

Henry Dillard

Hawks had to find replacements for them

All three have accepted athletic scholarships to Wagner, and it won't be much of a surprise if a couple of them start for the Hawks as freshmen.

Wagner lost only three players — starters Mark DiDonna and Henry Dillard and sub forward Earl Lewis — to graduation. But, in Carlesimo's eyes, that is not an accurate measurement.

"When you talk about Dio and Earl, you're talking about 2,500 points and 1,100 rebounds in college. And we lost three of our first six players.

"But it's been a good recruiting year. When you include Bobby Mahala (the Advance All Star from Farrell who transferred to Wagner last September and will be eligible this season), it's the best we've had.

That's high praise, considering that two years ago Carlesimo brought in Steve Johnson, Daymon Yizar, Scott Rodgers, Clarence Bishop and junior college transfer Lewis. All but Bishop had a hand in Wagner's success a year ago.

Amejko, a 6-5, 210-pound first team All-Stater from Torrington (Conn.) High School, may be able to step directly into DiDonna's spot in the Wagner lineup.

He is Torrington's all-time scoring leader, with 1,386 points, and the first 1,000-plus scorer and rebounder in the school's history. Amejko averaged 20 points and 16 rebounds a game this past season, while leading Torrington to the Region IV championship and the semifinals of the state tournament.

Amejko was second-team All State as a junior and this season, in addition to being named first-team All State, Player of the Year in Region IV and the Naugatuck Valley League, he has been MVP or all-league in every league and tournament in which he's played for the last two seasons.

"I may be overplaying it," Carlesimo said, "but there are a lot of similarities between Ray and Mark, in that they're more solid than flashy.

"Amejko is not a great leaper, but he's a good rebounder. He may not be quite as pure a shooter as Mark, but he handles the ball a little better. And he's very tough and aggressive. He's going to help."

Whether that means right away remains to be seen. Howard Thompkins, the third leading rebounder in the East a year ago, is the only sure starter up front. Amejko will be competing with 6-6 Enrique Aponte, 6-6 Ruben Jimenez and the 6-3 Yizar in pre-season. And with Hogan.

Hogan, the 6-8, 195-pounder may still be a year away. "He's the youngest of the new kids; he just turned 17 in November," Carlesimo said. "But he's going to improve the most."

And he came a long way in the last year. He averaged 20 points and 16 rebounds — identical figures to Amejko's — while leading little Miller Place (Long Island) High School, picked to finish last in its league, to the league championship.

He also played in several post-season all-star games, and was chosen for the AAU junior team that played the Russians. It was in those games that he made his biggest impression against the best high school talent in the area. "In my opinion," Miller Place coach Bill Brown said, "he's the biggest sleeper on Long Island."

But the key to this recruiting season, to the pre-season and to Wagner's immediate future could lie in the attempt to find a successor to Dillard, the point guard who ran the Seahawk attack with singular verve.

Steve Johnson, who was not the ideal point man but whose sheer talent made him the heir apparent, may not be back in school. If the season were to start tomorrow, junior Scott Rodgers, who showed he could do the job when pressed into the lineup last year, would be the logical candidate. But, in the end, Powell and Mahala could finds themselves fighting it out for the starting job.

Neither has ever played the point before. Like Rodgers, their natural position is that of the off-guard. But at Wagner, that job belongs to Jamie Ciampaglio for the next two years.

Mahala is a familiar face to Island fans who saw him as a 1,000-point scorer and Jaques Award winner at Farrell. "There's no question about his scoring ability, or about his intensity and aggressiveness," Carlesimo said. "And I know he's spending the summer working on his ballhandling.

"He's too good a player to keep on the bench."

So is Powell. He was first-team all-league and all-county at Ewing High School in Trenton, N.J., where he averaged 22 points a game, before attending The Hun School.

He took The Hun School to the New Jersey prep school championship, averaging 23 points, eight rebounds and five assists a game.

Physically, Powell reminds one of St. John's Bernard Rencher. As a talent, he is similar to Johnson. "But while Johnson was a scorer," one coach said, "this kid is a better pure shooter."

"He handles it well for a 'two' guard," Carlesimo said. "And he shoots well for a 'one.' He's an athlete."

They all are — Amejko and Hogan and Mahala and Powell. But how fast they come, how well they blend, and whether one of them can play the point will decide whether the celebration continues on the Hill ... or if Wagner spends next summer mourning the big one that got away.

Tomorrow: The program ... new prestige, new problems.

Greenberg blasts 220 at Sunset

Hillary Greenberg led the gals on the bowling beat yesterday as she ignited a 220 blazer at Sunset Lanes.

Greenberg led the way in the Tuesday Matinees League. Jackie Paner rolled 199, Deanne Pece hit 192, Chris Crisalli socked a good 210, Marge Zambardi rolled a fine 210, Julie Mattsson hit 192, Alice Zielechowski rolled 196 and Sheila Mandelstein rolled 198 in the same league.

Ethel Jozwiak stood out among the bowlers in the Ladies 7 p.m. League at Sunset as she ripped a 218 high game.

Millie Brown belted a top-notch 213 and Maria Bradshaw threw a 203. And Moran (193), Angie McCoy (191), Louise Cozzens (191) and Rose Walkerwicz (191) were other top performers.

Maureen Collins and her 210 captured the spotlight in the Bowling on the Green Owls League. Pam Piciocco threw 190.

Lil Gargano socked 204 and Pat Costello rolled 192 in the Sunset Summer A.M.

• • •

TENPIN NOTES — Bowling on the Green needs one team of four bowlers to fill its Tuesday 9:30 p.m. Mixed League.

The Green also needs one man for its Men's 7 p.m. league on Tuesdays.

And finally, the Green needs a three-man team for its Thursday 7:30 scratch league (540 maximum).

Dillard, DiDonna will still be around

One of the top priorities of the Wagner College basketball program this spring was to find replacements for them in the starting lineup, but Henry Dillard and Mark DiDonna will be back on Grymes Hill in September.

Both Dillard and DiDonna, Wagner's co-captains last season, will be studying toward their masters degree, and working as graduate assistants.

"It's the first time we've done it, and I don't know how much time they'll have for coaching," Wagner head coach P.J. Carlesimo said. "But I'd like them to get involved.

"The two of them were such a positive influence this year, it's going to help just having them around."

Dillard, the diminutive point guard who made the Seahawk offense go and is the school's all-time assist leader, is a business major and will be working in the school's business office.

DiDonna, the all-purpose forward who finished three points shy of 1,000 career points, will be going for his masters in education.

"Having them here, whether they're doing office work, coordinating recruiting or practice coaching, will allow us to do just that much more thorough a job," Carlesimo said.

"At practice, it will allow us to be on the kids a little more ... and we're going to need to get on the kids more, because those two won't be here. They were clearly the two hardest workers we had."

Neither Dillard nor DiDonna was much of a holler-guy as captain, but Carlesimo doesn't see that being a problem. "They could go a week without saying anything," the coach said. "But if one of them has something to say, the kids are going to respect it.

"If Henry has something to say about bringing the ball up the floor, they're going to know it's coming from a guy with 350 assists; or if Mark notices something about the four cut, it's coming from a guy who ran it for three years.

"Plus, the kids respect them, first as players ... and as individuals."

Walsh rolls 300 at new lanes

If you had dropped by the Country Lanes last night at around 11 o'clock, you would have noticed some rather unusual things going on.

For one, almost everyone in the Dongan Hills establishment was huddled around lanes 3 and 6. For another, there was an almost eerie silence hovering over the gathering.

"It was so quiet," Country Lanes proprietor Angelo Albanese said later, "that you could hear somebody whisper."

But then Torn Walsh completed his masterpiece ... and the place exploded in celebration.

Walsh became the first bowler to roll a 300 game at the year-old Country Lanes, turning the trick on the first night of the Tuesday Men's Summer League.

The last sanctioned perfect game on Staten Island was registered by Al Okeson on Oct. 18, 1976.

Walsh, who resides in Stapleton, worked up to his perfect game gradually. He started the night with a solid 186, then reeled off a fine 214 before achieving perfection. His three-game total was an even 700.

"He just rolled 12 beautiful balls," Albanese said. "Every one was in the pocket. After the first eight or nine strikes, word got around the place that he was getting close. And just about everyone gathered around him to wish him luck."

And Walsh didn't disappoint anyone.

Sanctioned 300 games on S.I.

Walter Wood	Jan. 2, 1931
Phil Richie	Jan. 27, 1932
John Davie	Jan. 17, 1936
James Richie	June 5, 1936
Edward Keeley	Nov. 4, 1936
Jules Mottel	Dec. 6, 1936
William Basulat	Feb. 28, 1937
William Wright	Nov. 21, 1937
Ray Finnin	Jan. 19, 1938
George Hoysted	Feb. 8, 1938
Paul Paruso	Feb. 23, 1938
William Moore	Nov. 1, 1938
William Parker	May 10, 1939
Herbert Wyatt	Feb. 15, 1940
Ben McNevich	March 16, 1941
Paul Paruso	Nov. 1, 1941
Paul Paruso	March 15, 1942
Stanley Mikos	Sept. 24, 1946
Edward Thurston	Jan. 7, 1947
Edward Ruch	Dec. 6, 1949
Leonard Bland	May 3, 1954
Michael Marotte	June 5, 1955
Joseph Segretto	March 3, 1956
Charles Ruch	Feb. 7, 1960
James Crowley	April 3, 1960
Fred Rotunno	March 20, 1962
Joe Alberti	Dec. 23, 1963
Ben Pappa	Jan. 14, 1965
Edward Wilkinson	Oct. 16, 1966
Angelo Mezzocappo	Dec. 12, 1966
Edward Koslowski	Feb. 6, 1969
Joe Catenia	May 9, 1974
Tony Savoia	Nov. 12, 1975
Mike Mass	May 11, 1976
Al Okeson	Oct. 18, 1976
Tommy Walsh	June 5, 1979

What's on schedule

WEDNESDAY

High School Baseball
Monsignor Farrell vs. Port Richmond
(At Berry Houses field, 3:30)
PSAL final
New Dorp vs. Cardozo
(At Yankee Stadium, 4:20)
High School Girls' Softball
CHSAA Playoffs
St. Joseph Hill vs. Holy Child
(At Mercy College, 5:30)
T-M Heavy Jr. Baseball
Royals vs. Bozo's
(At Berry Houses, 6:15)
Richmond County Twilight Baseball
Cadets vs. DePonte's
(At Clove Lakes 1, 6)
PGs vs. Stumble Inn
(At Clove Lakes 2, 6)
S.I. Major Softball
Pat Joey's vs. Gigales
(At Walker Park, 6:30)
S.I. Medium Pitch Softball
Solomon Bros. vs. Studio B
(At Schmul Park, 6:30)
Fred's HPT vs. JJ Pub
(At South Beach 2, 6:30)
Knights vs. Gotaway Corset
(At PS 48, 6:30)
Rogers of Cedar Grove, 6:30
On Our Own vs. Midland Beach
(At Miller Field 3, 6:30)
Twins Realty vs. Warner Bros.
(At South Beach Development Center, 6:30)
S.I. Slow Pitch Softball
Rangers vs. ICS
(At Willowbrook 2, 6:30)
Harvey's vs. Ivanhoe
(At Willowbrook 1, 6:30)
B&R Plumbing vs. SI Merchants
(At Miller Field 5, 6:30)
ASA Medium Pitch Softball
At ASA Field 1
Alfiotti Painting vs. Kalzin, 6:30
Murino Bros vs. Tapperary, 8
Musto's Deli vs. Cutchinello's
(At ASA 2, 6:30)
Cavanough Twilight Softball
Century Inn vs. Great Kills Sweet Tooth
(At South Beach 3, 6:30)
S.I. 30 Softball
At Berry Houses
Alibi Inn vs. Carmen's, 6:30
Cooper's vs. Lee's, 8
Misty Lane vs. Cooper's, 9:15

THURSDAY

High School Baseball
Farrell vs. Susan Wagner
(At Berry Houses field, 3:30)
St. Peter's at Tottenville, 3:30
Moore at New Dorp, 3:30

American Legion Baseball
Post X vs. Dolessio
(At Tottenville HS, 5:15)
Richmond County Twilight Baseball
At Berry Houses field
Pouchs vs. CCBB, 6
Tutonis's vs. Stumble Inn, 8
Bannies vs. CCAR
(At Clove Lakes 1, 6)
Tv Cabbs vs. 4 O'Clock
(At Clove Lakes 2, 6)
S.I. Major Softball
Mariello vs. Bergen
(At Walker Park, 6:30)
S.I. Medium Pitch Softball
Precision Printing vs. East Coast
(At Willowbrook 1, 6:30)
On the Rocks vs. Hair Bizarre
(At Schmul Park, 6:30)
Sunnyside vs. Ciccio's Place
(At South Beach 2, 6:30)
Paper Palace vs. Demyan's
(At Berry Houses, 7:40)
S.I. Slow Pitch Softball
Hugo's vs. Acme AC
(At Willowbrook 2, 6:30)
JJ Tavern vs. Shaten House
(At Egbert JHS, 6:30)
Magical Kahuana vs. SI Club of Deal
(At Berry Houses, 6:30)
Park Diner vs. Blaines
(At Berry Houses, 7:05)
ASA Major Softball
At ASA Field
DePempos vs. One-Stop Lunch, 6:30
DePempos vs. One-Stop Lunch, 8
ASA Medium Pitch Softball
Sonyerice Else vs. CSEA
(At ASA 2, 6:30)
Cavanough Twilight Softball
Commanches vs. Doherty's
(At South Beach 3, 6:30)
Smitty's Women's Softball
Mulligans vs. Parliament S.C.
(At Staleton 2, 6:30)
Cooper's vs. Triple L
(At Dugan 1, 6:30)
Numero Uno vs. Four E's
(At Manresa, 6:30)
Jays vs. Kelly's Pub
(At Miller Field 7, 6:30)
Colonial Lanes vs. PK Lounge
(At Miller Field 5, 6:30)
Pat Joey's vs. JJ Composite
(At Dugan 2, 6:30)
High School Girls' Softball
PSAL Playoffs
Springfield Gardens/Bronx HS of Science winner at Tottenville, 3:30
PSAL Girls' Softball Playoffs
Boys&Girls High vs. Port Richmond, 3:30

Baseball standings

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST	W	L	Pct.	GB
Boston	31	20	.608	—
Baltimore	32	21	.604	—
Milwaukee	31	25	.554	2½
New York	29	25	.537	3½
Detroit	25	23	.521	4½
Cleveland	23	27	.481	6½
Toronto	17	42	.236	20
WEST				
California	33	22	.600	—
Kansas City	31	23	.574	1½
Minnesota	29	22	.569	2
Texas	30	23	.566	2
Chicago	25	28	.472	7
Seattle	21	35	.375	12½
Oakland	18	37	.327	13

Tuesday's Games
Boston 9, Texas 3
Minnesota 3, Baltimore 1
Kansas City 3, New York 1
Milwaukee 5, Chicago 3
California 3, Toronto 0
Cleveland 12, Oakland 3
Detroit 3, Seattle 1

Wednesday's Games
Chicago (Barrios 4-3) at Boston (Stanley 5-3), 7:30 p.m.
Kansas City (Splittorff 8-4) at Baltimore (D. Martinez 7-2), 7:30 p.m.
Minnesota (Koosman 7-3) at New York (Guidry 5-4), 8 p.m.
Texas (Comer 5-4) at Milwaukee (Sorensen 7-3), 8:30 p.m.
Toronto (Jefferson 4-5) at California (Frost 3-3), 10:30 p.m.
Cleveland (Wise 5-5) at Oakland (McCathy 4-6), 10:30 p.m.
Detroit (Morris 3-1) at Seattle (Bannister 2-5), 10:35 p.m.

Thursday's Games
Minnesota at New York, 2 p.m.
Texas at Milwaukee, 2:30 p.m.
Chicago at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Kansas City at Baltimore, 7:30 p.m.
Only games scheduled

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST	W	L	Pct.	GB
Montreal	29	19	.604	—
St. Louis	28	19	.596	½
Philadelphia	29	24	.547	2½
Pittsburgh	26	23	.531	3½
Chicago	21	27	.438	8
New York	19	30	.388	10½
WEST				
Houston	33	24	.579	—
Cincinnati	30	24	.556	1½
Los Angeles	27	30	.474	6
San Francisco	26	29	.473	6
San Diego	26	31	.456	7
Atlanta	20	34	.370	11½

Tuesday's Games
San Diego 11, Chicago 3
Atlanta 4, Montreal 1
Pittsburgh 3, Los Angeles 1
Cincinnati 6, New York 1
Philadelphia 8, Houston 0
St. Louis 5, San Francisco 4

Wednesday's Games
New York (Orosco 1-2) at Cincinnati (Bonham 2-1), 12:30 p.m.
San Diego (R. Jones 5-3) at Chicago (Bahnsen 3-1), 2:20 p.m.
Montreal (Grimsley 4-4) at Atlanta (P. Niekro 4-6), 7:35 p.m.
Los Angeles (Reuss 2-4) at Pittsburgh (Whitson 1-2), 7:35 p.m.
Philadelphia (Lerch 2-4) at Houston (Richard 6-4), 8:35 p.m.
San Francisco (Nastu 2-4) at St. Louis (Sykes 4-2), 8:35 p.m.

Thursday's Games
San Diego at Chicago, 2:30 p.m.
San Francisco at St. Louis, 8:35 p.m.
Only gaames scheduled.

Sears SAVE $100

Sears 15x4-ft. Deep Family-Sized Pool

Sturdy 4-in. wide top rail is strong enough to sit on. Heavy vinyl liner.
Pool filter, wood pool deck and ladder not included in price shown.
Regular $399.99
299.99

SAVE $200

18 x 4 ft. Deep Pool

Sturdy 6 in. wide top seat. Red shingle design. Heavy gauge vinyl liner and galvanized steel.
Filter and ladder not included in price shown.
Regular $599.99
399.99

SAVE $20

Aluminum Pool Ladder
Regular $79.99
59.99
Deluxe aluminum ladder for 4-ft. pools features plastic steps; handrails.

SAVE $30

Sears ½-HP Pool Filter
Regular $139.99
109.99
Molded motor and tank base resists corrosion. Self-priming pump.

Sale Ends June 9th
Not All Items On Display At All Stores
On Sale At Most Sears Larger Stores

Sears
SEARS, ROEBUCK AND CO.

Copyright © 2026 Newspapers.com. All Rights Reserved.