

2005

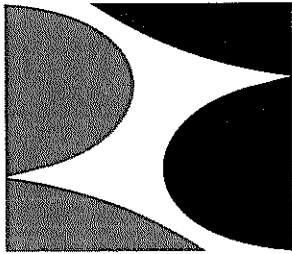
Ohio Valley Athletic Conference **HALL OF FAME**



2nd Annual Ceremony

Saturday August 20, 2005
WesBanco Arena, Wheeling, WV





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Purchase a Lube, Oil and Filter Change at Bob Robinson's and we will **Donate \$5** to the O.V.A.C. Must present this coupon at time of service.

For information on the OVAC Hall of Fame, or how to nominate a person into the Hall of Fame, contact the OVAC office at 64962 Breezy Point Lane, Bellaire, OH 43906 or call 740-671-3269.





Members of the OVAC Hall of Fame Committee include, front row left to right, Ron Mauck, Nick Bedway, Doug Huff and Robert "Bubba" Kapral. In back are Tom Rataczak, Dick Wolf, Jeff Harrison and Tom Tisher.



OVAC Hall of Fame Committee



- Nick Bedway**Retired Executive Sports Editor, News-Register/The Intelligencer, Wheeling
- Jeff Harrison**Associate Sports Editor, The Daily Jeffersonian, Cambridge
- Doug Huff**.....Retired Sports Editor, The Intelligencer, Wheeling
- Robert "Bubba" Kapral**Executive Sports Editor, The Times Leader, Martins Ferry
- Ron Mauck**OVAC Meet Director
- Tom Tisher**Athletic Director, River High School
- Thomas E. Rataczak**OVAC Executive Secretary
- Dick Wolf**Former East Liverpool City Schools Board Member, OVAC Supporter



2005-2006 OVAC Executive Board



The 2005-2006 OVAC Executive Board. Row 1: George Kohelis, Ohio Board Member; Dan Doyle, Ohio Board Member; Marty Hudek, Past President; Jerry Narclsi, President; Dianna Vargo, Vice-President; Tim Haight, West Virginia Board Member; Dave Takach, West Virginia Board Member. Row 2: Thomas E. Rataiczak, Executive Secretary; Bob Koch, Class A Representative; Ed Cihy, Class AA Representative; Kelly Rine, Class AAA Representative; Blair Closser, Class AAAA Representative; Nancy K. Mumley, Treasurer. Row 3: Don Zinni, Football Commissioner; John Howell, Basketball Commissioner; Tom Bechtel, Softball Commissioner; Steve Wojcik, Baseball Commissioner.



Congratulates

Chuck Howley
Mike Sherwood
Terry Snively
Dee Davis
Doug Huff

on their induction to the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Hall of Fame

Thank you for making us Mountaineer Proud



Paul Associates
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Congratulates
OVAC Hall Of Fame
Inductee



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**Congratulates
OVAC Hall Of Fame
Inductee**



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MAGNOLIA ATHLETIC BOOSTERS

Life Achievement Awards

Bob Burton

Doug Huff

John “Fuzzy” Filliez

Congratulations on another milestone

West Virginia Sports Writers Association

Congratulations to the WVSWA executive secretary

Doug Huff

for his induction into the OVAC Hall of Fame



CONGRATULATIONS



Doug Huff OVAC Hall of Fame



We are proud of you!
From Your Family



Paden City Wildcat Boosters

Words cannot describe what
you and Sharon have meant to
Paden City High School over the years.

Thanks Coach Burton

Congratulations and good luck!
From all the Wildcat fans and players — past and future.

You have touched the lives of so many.
You will always be remembered.
Green & White Wildcat Pride



Congratulations Coach Burton OVAC Hall of Fame

We would like to thank Bob and Sharon for their many years of commitment and dedication to athletics and academics at Paden City High School.

**Head Basketball Coach for 38 years - Record of 554-327
21 Sectional Titles - 8 Regional Titles - 2 State Championships
Assistant Football Coach 18 years - 2 State Championships
Head Track Coach for more than 30 years - many OVAC Champions
Also coached cross-country, golf, and baseball.
Spent more than a decade as PCHS Athletic Director.
1986 West Virginia Coach of the Year**



Enjoy those Grandchildren

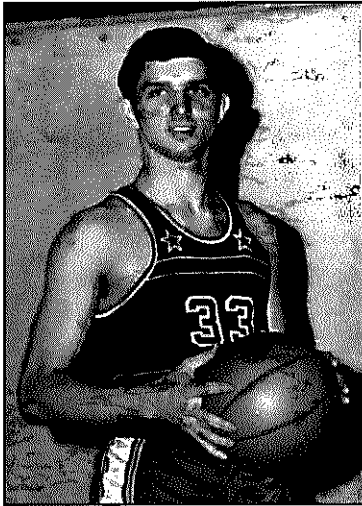


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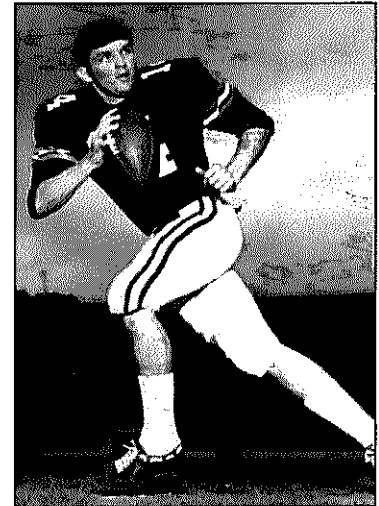
Congratulations

to all of the OVAC Hall of Fame inductees



**From your playing days
at Bellaire High School . . .**

**To your playing days at
West Virginia University . . .**



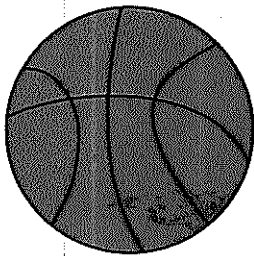
**To the principal of
Bellaire High School . . .**

**One thing has always remained the same . . .
your valued and trusted friendship.**

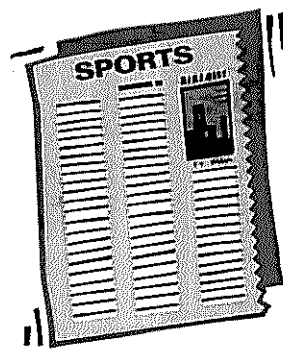
Congratulations from your greatest fans . . .

The Rataiczak Families

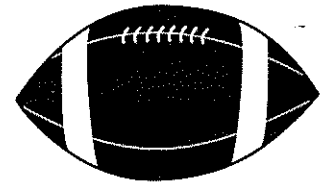
CONGRATULATIONS
TO
THREE OF MAGNOLIA'S BEST!



Bob Burton
Class of 1957



Doug Huff
Class of 1961



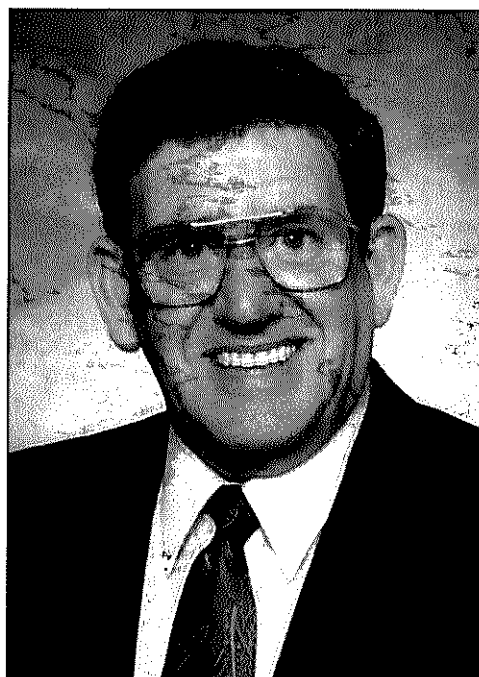
John Filliez
Class of 1973



Magnolia Athletic Boosters Assn.



Rudy Mumley

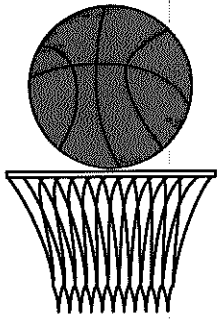


John Vrotsos

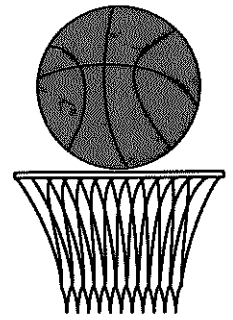
The Ohio Valley Wrestling Coaches' Association salutes and thanks Rudy Mumley and John Vrotsos for making the OVAC Wrestling Tournament what it is today. Fifty-two years of your dedication, work and support have created a tournament second to none.



CONGRATULATIONS



*Matt
Gaudio*



2005 OVAC Hall of Fame

**We are
proud
of you!**

*Love,
Colleen, Owen, Eli, Mom, Dad
Monica, Marca & Jeremy*

Toronto Booster Club

610 N. River Ave.
Toronto, Ohio 43964

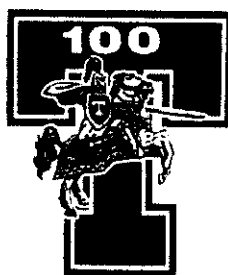
Is Proud to Honor

CLARKE HINKLE

Toronto High School '26
Bucknell College '32
Green Bay Packers '32-'41

- College Football Hall of Fame
- Bucknell College Hall of Fame
- Green Bay Packers Hall of Fame
 - Pro Football Hall of Fame

Toronto Football Field renamed
"Clarke Hinkle Field and Stadium"
on October 18, 1986



Congratulations



Proud of our Alumni!!

With Great Pride and
Gratitude for
George Strager
and
Dick Miller

Mike

We are so proud of you.

Congratulations!

Thanks for all the great memories.

**Love,
Russ & Cindy
Mary Lynn & Hank
Kelly & Denise**

We love you, Uncle Mike
You're the greatest!

**Love,
Your nieces & nephews,
Daun & Mike
Dana & Gene
Michael, Corey, Jason, Zachary,
Colby, Sarah & Nicholas**

Congratulations “Bevo”

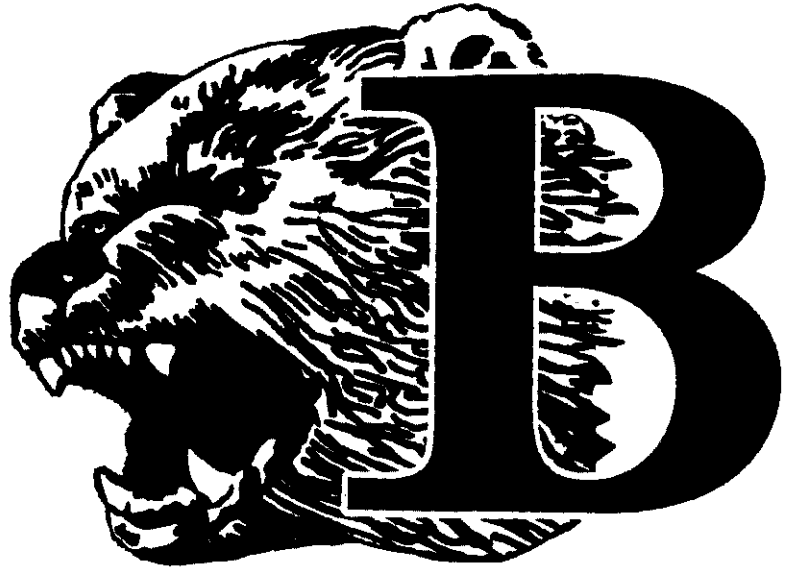
OVAC Hall of Fame ‘Legend’



Wellsville Boys' Basketball
Booster Club

Congratulations

**Matt
Gaudio**



**Thanks for all the memories both at Brooke
High School and Penn State University.**

**May you continue the success in life that
you enjoyed on the court.**

Brooke High Basketball Boosters

*To a great athlete and an all-around
great guy ---*

Congratulations, Mike!

From your in-law side of the family . . .

Mary Soland, Michael Soland

Vicki Soland, Gary and Grace, Paul, Jen,
and Ethan, Neva, Chase, Zachary,
Gage, and Emily

Brad and Tina Soland, Jed, Melissa, and
Jenna, Marty, and Dirk

Cristi and Steve Wojcik, Josh, Andy, and Ben

Wendy, Todd, and Emma Dooher

Mike - Congratulations on your most
recent, well-deserved award!

Lots of great memories watching all
those athletic accomplishments unfold!

With love and pride,
Pam



Children learn by example, and you have taught
us the importance of commitment, honesty,
integrity, and compassion. You've shown us not
only the need for self-discipline, but also the
need for a sense of humor and the ability to enjoy
and laugh at life when it becomes too serious.

Congratulations, Dad! We're so proud of you,
and we love you so much!

Love,
Kelli and Matt

(How's about it, babe?)



DAPPER DAN CLUB
of
THE UPPER OHIO VALLEY, INC.
610 N. River Avenue • Toronto, Ohio 43964

"Over 40 Years of People Helping People"

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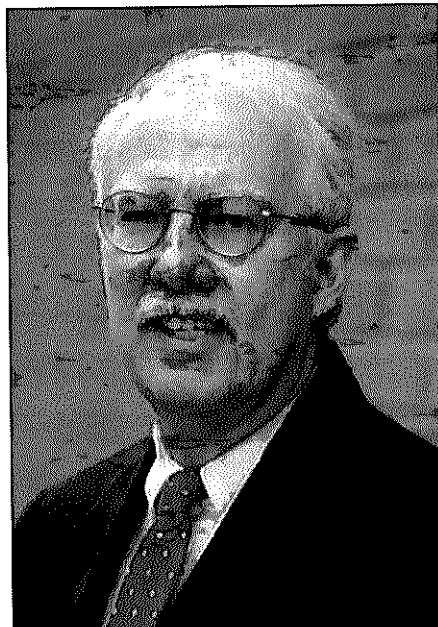
Robert A. Rossell

Richard C. Rosser



Rudy Mumley

1982 Robert McKelvey Award honoree
1992 Dapper Dan "Man of the Year"



Doug Huff

1994 Robert McKelvey Award honoree

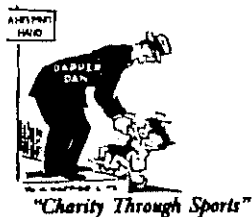
The Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Club congratulates the OVAC for naming two very deserving honorees, Rudy Mumley and Doug Huff, to the OVAC Hall of Fame.

We have appreciated Rudy Mumley and Doug Huff for their leadership skills, voluntary contributions and untiring efforts in assisting our club.

We always acknowledged and gave our heartfelt thanks to Rudy Mumley for being such a sincere and devoted member and friend to our club, as well as the Ohio Valley.

We continue to thank Doug Huff for not only lending us his expertise on journalism and vast knowledge of our Ohio Valley sports, but his enthusiastic support of our club and our various activities.

As we extend our efforts in helping needy charities and recognizing deserving athletic and academic accomplishments throughout our area.



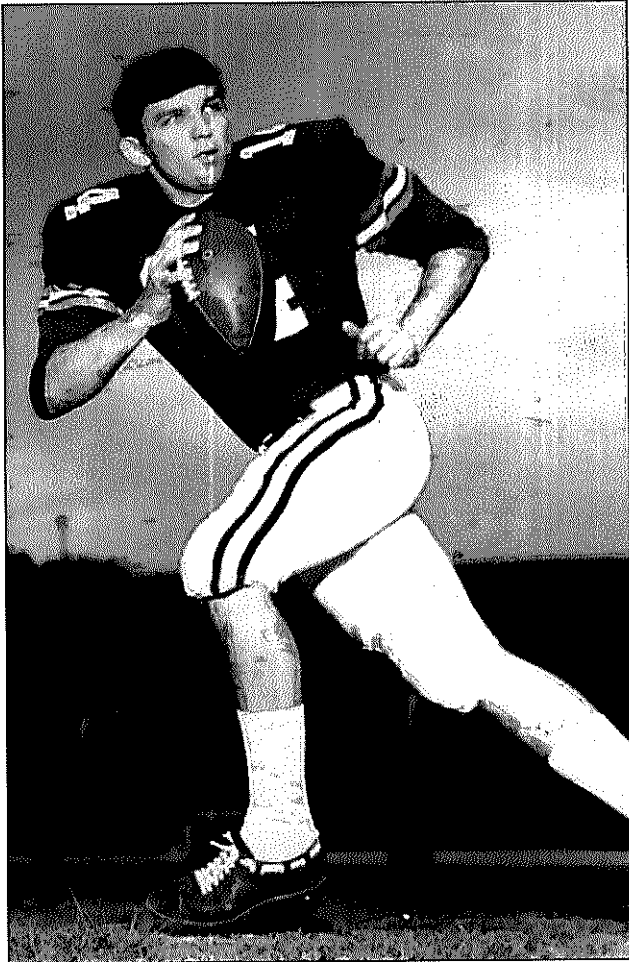
Agnes Timmons \ag'-nəs tim'-mənz\ *n* (1924) **1** : an extraordinary educator by any standard, tireless in her commitment to excellence **2** : a pioneer who introduced girls' competitive athletics in the Ohio Valley **3** : a winning coach who inspired generations of young women, demanding hard work, high morals, good grades, and uncompromising sportsmanship **4** : a loving and devoted wife of Kenny for nigh on 60 years **5** : an incredible mother of four and grandmother of ten **6** : a professional volunteer, community leader, and joy-filled Christian *syn*
TEACHER, PIONEER, COACH, WIFE, MOTHER, GRANDMOTHER, VOLUNTEER, DISCIPLE, PIANO PLAYER, SPORTS ANNOUNCER, SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER, SCOREKEEPER, TICKET SALESWOMAN, FRIEND, MENTOR, ENCOURAGER

THE DEFINITION OF A GREAT MOTHER!

(Are we lucky or what?!)

Love You, Mom!

Mike, Tom, Sue and Shelly



THE BELLAIRE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS FOUNDATION, INC.

**is proud to recognize
one of their own . . .**

**MIKE SHERWOOD
Class of '67
and one of our
founding fathers**

**The Bellaire High School Sports Foundation, Inc.
. . . 17 years young . . .**

***“Remembering our past,
while building for our future”***

**Contributing over \$290,000 to BHS,
including over \$80,000 in scholarships**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

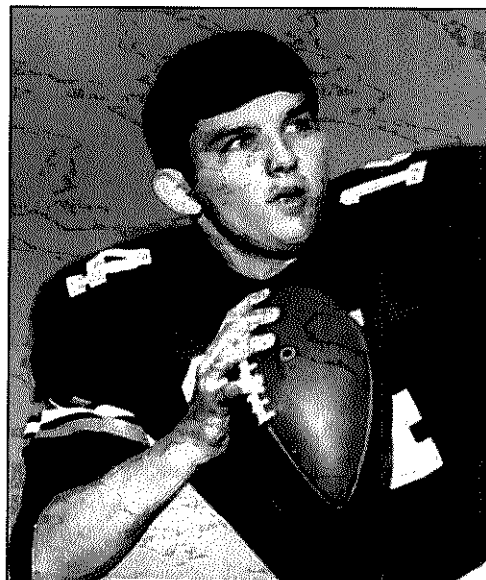
**Cathy Holloway Chirpas '73 Molly Perzanowski Feller '80
Tracie Balsei Hughes '90 Dave Ice '64 Billy Marinacci '92
John Mike Marinacci '65 Randy Marple '77 Ron McCulley '59
Tom Rataiczak '64 Brenna Vannelle Rocchio '81 Dick Sketel '79
Angelo Spigarelli '58 Erica Vavrek '99**

Bellaire High School Sports Foundation, Inc.

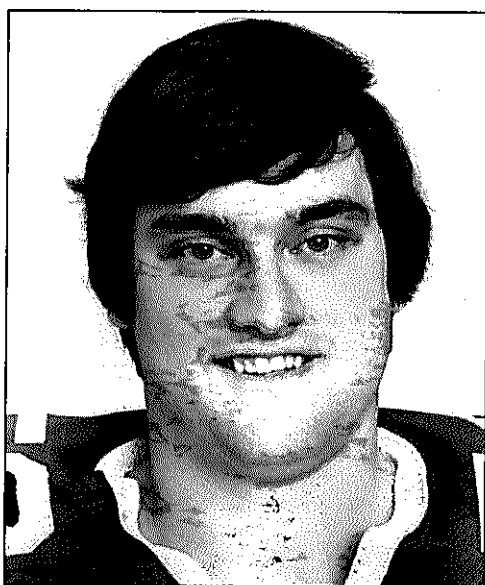
proudly salutes



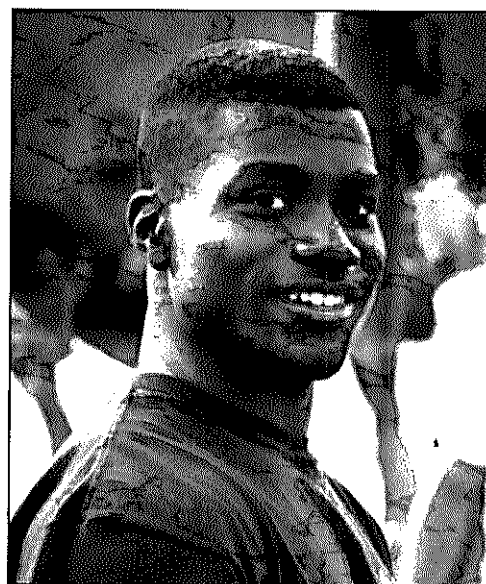
Walter Heil
Class of 1922



Mike Sherwood
Class of 1967



Lance Mehl
Class of 1976



Joey Galloway
Class of 1990

“Remembering the past, while building for the future”



OVAC HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2005



Rudy Mumley

Rudy Mumley (Wheeling High School, Class of 1936). If Rudy Mumley's heart was measured by the size of his love for his fellow men and women, it never could have fit inside his body.

Mumley, an educator, administrator, humanitarian, dynamic organizer and charity fund-raiser, served the OVAC and the rest of Ohio Valley in many different, but special ways. He was a two-time president, charter member of the conference's Foundation Board, served on the football and basketball committees and was the organizer and long-time game director of the Ohio-West Virginia Charity Football Classic. The mid-summer all-star football clash was renamed in his honor in 1986. He also served as OVAC president during the 1967-68 school year.

To help the game get off the ground, Mumley once mortgaged his home to achieve the financing needed for the inaugural OVAC-sponsored contest in 1972. He also was a great supporter of the OVAC wrestling tournament.

A graduate of old Wheeling High School and West Liberty State College with a master's degree from WVU, Mumley served in the Air Force during World War II and was recalled during the Korean conflict.

He taught at Powhatan, Shadyside and Smithfield High Schools before being appointed principal at Warren Consolidated High in Tiltonsville in 1964. Rudy later served as principal at Yorkville High. Later, when the Buckeye Local School District was formed, he became principal at Buckeye South and remained there until his retirement in 1979.

Mumley, who was born in 1918 and died in 1999, also provided great service to the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Club and his college alma mater, West Liberty State. Rudy was a member of the Dapper Dan Board of Directors for some 25 years and was banquet co-chairman six times.

At West Liberty, he earned a rare honor as a non-athlete when he was inducted into the school's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1985. In addition to his fund-raising activities for West Liberty, he was president of the Hilltoppers' Alumni Association and the Foundation.

Among the numerous honors he received include: the Robert McKelvey Award and Man of the Year honors from the Dapper Dan Club; WLSC Gold and Black Achievement Award and the College President's Award, along with the Warwood Lions Club's Citizen of the Year Award in 1981.



Rudy Mumley

Agnes Timmons



Agnes Timmons

Agnes Timmons (Scio High School, Class of 1942). This Octogenarian started coaching pickup girls' basketball teams at Barnesville High School in 1946 when there were no school-sanctioned girls' programs for member schools of the OVAC. She was a girls' physical education teacher at the time, after having graduated from Denison University in Granville, Ohio.

Timmons considered it part of her job as a phys ed teacher to organize whatever athletic teams she could because she wanted the girls to have some competition and experience the fun of playing organized sports. She would join with teachers from other schools in the area interested in doing the same thing to schedule games. They also had to hire their own officials and provide transportation to the game sites.

Married to Kenny Timmons, her husband of 57 years, Agnes left teaching after 1948 to begin raising a family. After bearing four children, she returned to her teaching and coaching career at Barnesville in 1962. Timmons coached volleyball and basketball even though it wasn't until June of 1972 that Title IX was enacted, demanding equal sports opportunities for girls.

She was asked by then OVAC executive secretary Sam Mumley to host and serve as director of the first conference volleyball championship tournament which was held at Barnesville High School.

Timmons coached basketball and track until well into the 1980's, but continued her duties with the volleyball team until her retirement from teaching in 1991. She also coached softball for one year when her daughter played because the talented youth also wanted to compete as a member of the track and field team. The school district would only permit that to happen if Timmons coached both sports, which she did.

Even today, Timmons remains close to the Barnesville athletic program. Through this past season, she served as the announcer for the Shamrocks' boys and girls basketball games, as well as for the home volleyball matches. She also has been the announcer and part of the committee for the OVAC volleyball tournament for over 30 years. Last winter, the then 80-year-old Timmons was called back into the coaching ranks when Barnesville needed someone to help out with the volleyball squad. Agnes coached the jayvees and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Timmons never kept track of the number of wins or championships she won as a coach, but her track teams were perennial contenders for OVAC pennants and several of her volleyball clubs were advanced to the district eliminations.

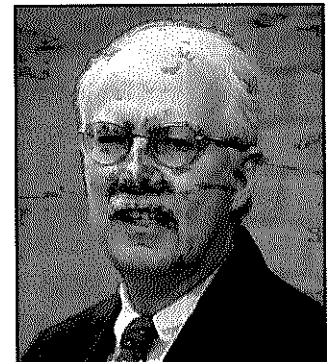
Doug Huff

Doug Huff (Magnolia High School, Class of 1961). This native of New Martinsville has been writing sports since the age of 12, his first "job" being with the *Wetzel Democrat*, a weekly paper in his home town. Huff joined *The Intelligencer* as associate sports editor in 1967, a position he held until 1978 when he was named as that paper's sports editor, remaining in that position until his retirement in 1999. He previously was sports editor of the *Fairmont Times* and worked on the sports staff of the *Dominion News* in Morgantown.

While the sports chief of *The Intelligencer*, Huff originated All-Valley Boys Basketball and Baseball selections in 1968, plus the OV All-Sports School and Athlete Awards and the All-OV Scholar-Athlete selections. He compiled Ohio Valley and West Virginia records for football, basketball and baseball, along with historical material on OVAC schools, coaches and athletes. Since 1979, he has been the Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the W.Va. Sports Writers Association after having previously served as the president and football all-state board chairman. Huff also is on the Board of Directors of the Football Writers Association of America and the National Sportscasters & Sports Writers Association.

Among the numerous honors he has achieved include: induction into the National High School Sports Hall of Fame (1999); state sports writer of the year nine times; West Virginia University School of Journalism P.I. Reed Life Achievement Award (1999); Magnolia High School Athletic Boosters Life Achievement Award (1990); W.Va. Sports Writers Association Gene Morehouse Award (1992); Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Club's Robert McKelvey Award (1994).

He is the author of *Sports in West Virginia, "A Pictorial History"* (1979) and also of the *National High School Football and Basketball Record Books* (2001-2002). Doug also co-authored "How to Watch Sports on TV...And Enjoy It." Since 1975, he has been a high school contributing editor of *Street and Smith* magazine and compiles their pre-season schoolboy All-America teams for football, boys' basketball and baseball. Although retired from *The Intell*, he continues to submit a much-read and enjoyed weekly column. Doug also serves as the national rankings and records editor for *Student Sports Inc.*, and coordinates football and boys basketball selections for *Parade* and *EA Sports*.



Doug Huff



OVAC HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2005



Bob Burton

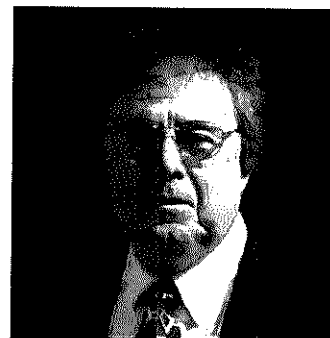
Robert W. (Bob) Burton (Magnolia High School, Class of 1957) coached several sports at Paden City High School, but is most remember for a sparkling 38-year career as head boys' basketball coach (1963-2001) where he amassed a record of 554-327.

During his tenure, the Wildcats won 21 sectional championships; eight regional titles; finished as state runner-up twice (1972 and '82) and captured the West Virginia Class A championship twice (1973 and '87). Paden City had 28 winning seasons under Burton, including nine 20-win campaigns, and won five OVAC Class A championships (1971, '75, '92, '93 and '94).

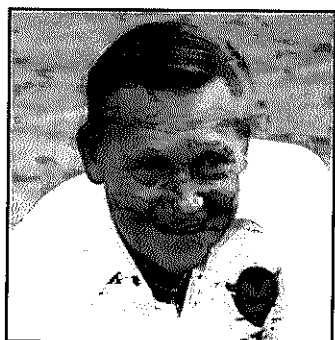
Burton received the West Virginia "Coach of the Year" honor in 1986 and was selected to coach in the OVAC All-Star Basketball Classic several times as well as the West Virginia North-South All-Star Game in 1987. He was a member of the West Virginia Basketball Coaches Association, the State Coaches Committee and the OVAC Basketball Committee.

Burton also served as an assistant coach in football at Paden City for 18 years, serving on the Wildcats' staff during two state championship seasons (1970 and '79); coached track for more than 30 years, winning several OVAC Class A and Intra-State League championships; coached cross country for two years and golf for one season; was assistant baseball coach for three years; and spent more than a decade as athletic director.

As an athlete, Burton was a three-sport athlete at Magnolia, earning all-West Virginia honors in football in 1955. At the college level, he was also a three-sport performer, playing football at Kent State University and then football, basketball and tennis after transferring to West Liberty State College where he graduated in 1961. He then received a master's degree in education from West Virginia University in 1968.



Bob Burton



George Strager

George Strager

George Strager (McKeesport, Pa. High School, Class of 1943) has often been called the "dean" of Ohio Valley high school football coaches thanks to a highly-successful career that spanned some 38 years (1950-87) at five different schools. He posted a career coaching record of 246 wins, 115 losses and 15 ties which stood as the all-time valley record until eclipsed in 2004 by Jay Circosta of Woodsfield/Monroe Central.

Strager's coaching career began in 1950 at tiny Sistersville High School, compiling a 42-22-3 record in seven seasons there and leading the Tigers to the West Virginia Class A state championship in 1953.

He moved on to Clarksburg Notre Dame High for four years as head football and basketball coach (1957-60), going 24-10 on the gridiron and leading the basketball team to the West Virginia Class A state semifinals.

Next came a three-year stint at Wheeling Central Catholic (1961-63) which featured two undefeated regular seasons and a mark of 21-9-1. The 1962 team lost to Charleston Catholic in the inaugural West Virginia Catholic State Championship game, but the next year Strager's team avenged that loss to win the crown.

Up next was a five-year stay at Cambridge High (1964-68), posting a 25-23-2 record.

He then began a legendary 19-year run at St. Clairsville High in 1969, turning his trademark "belly series" to a record of 134-51-9 there. His Red Devil teams posted three undefeated seasons (1969, '77 and '85) and the 1986

squad earned the school's first-ever trip to the OHSAA playoffs where they advanced to the state semifinals before losing a heart-breaker to Chagrin Falls Kenston.

Strager's top honors included induction into the Ohio High School Football Coaches Hall of Fame in 1998; Ohio Valley Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1991; selection as OVAC Coach of the Year in 1979 and '87; and recognition by the Dapper Dan Club of the Upper Ohio Valley in 1992. He also coached in the OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic twice (1972 and '87).

A graduate of Salem College, Strager passed away in 1990, but his memory lives on in the form of the George Strager Memorial Football Camp and Scholarship Program as well as the "George Strager Evening with the Stars" dinner held in conjunction with the OVAC Charity All-Star Football Classic.

John 'Corky' Vrotsos

John "Corky" Vrotsos (Martins Ferry High School, Class of 1946) not only initiated the sport of wrestling at his alma mater, he quickly established himself as one of the premier mat coaches in conference history.

Vrotsos guided the Purple Rider grapplers from 1957-68, leading his team to seven consecutive OVAC Tournament championships (1961-67) along with six straight Ohio District Tournament titles. His teams finished ranked in the top 10 in the state four times (1959, '60, '63 and '64) and the best finish at the state tournament was a fifth place effort in 1960.

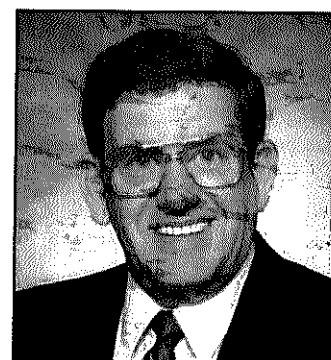
During his tenure, Vrotsos coached 41 OVAC champions and 41 Ohio State Tournament qualifiers, including 10 state place-winners and one state champion (175-pounder John Scordos in 1964). Ferry's dual meet record during the Vrotsos years was 85-20-1, including unbeaten seasons in 1964 and '67.

The initial inductee into the Martins Ferry High School Wrestling Hall of Fame in 1994 and the 1978 recipient of the OVAC Wrestling Tournament's "Mr. Mat. Award", he served as tournament director for the OVAC, sectional and district tournaments after yielding the coaching post.

In addition to serving as head wrestling coach, Vrotsos was also an assistant in football and track for the Purple Riders. He was on the football staff during Ferry's run of three consecutive undefeated seasons (1959-61) and four OVAC championships (also 1963).

As an athlete, he was a three-year letterman in football and basketball at Martins Ferry. In football, he was a center-linebacker under legendary coach Fred Thomas, playing center and linebacker on the 1944 and '45 OVAC championship squads, earning all-conference "AA" honors as a senior. He played guard in basketball under coaches Floyd Baker and Ralph Gartrell.

After serving in the army, Vrotsos then attended West Liberty State College, graduating in 1951. He was a three-year varsity football player for the Hill toppers and a member of two undefeated teams that played in bowl games. (Smokey Mountain Bowl and Pythian Bowl).



John 'Corky' Vrotsos



OVAC HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2005



Chester Grossi

Chester Grossi (Weir High School, Class of 1940) began officiating in 1942, claiming to be "drafted" into officiating by fellow honoree Walter Heil because many officials had been lost due to the military draft.

His love of sports saw him enter the world of officiating, not only in football, but also in basketball and baseball. He retired from officiating in 1987 after 45 years. During those year, he worked many district and regional tournament games as well as 14 state tournaments in basketball and 12 state finals in football. He also worked several West Virginia Catholic State basketball and football playoff games as well as games in the West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and the United Football League.

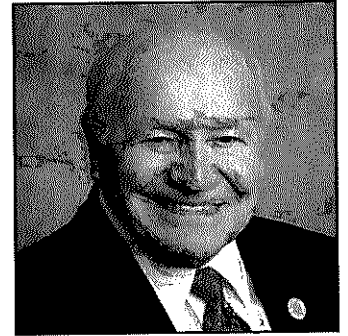
He is a life member of the Ohio Valley Board of Officials and the West Virginia Football and Basketball Officials' Association. He was the 1997 recipient of the OVAC's Robert Dawson Officials' Award and was honored by the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Club.

As an athlete at Weir, Grossi played football for coach Carl Hamill from 1936-39 and during that time, the Red riders won 27 straight games. He received a football scholarship to West Liberty State College where he played for Coach Joe Bartell in 1941 and after World War II.

He graduated from West Liberty with a bachelor's degree in political science, returning to Weir High School as a teacher and assistant coach. He left the education field to enter into the investment and insurance business in 1960.

He remains active in many civic, fraternal and service organizations. He is president of the Weirtonian Lodge of the Italian Sons and Daughters of America, serves on the Board of Directors of the Fraternal Association and is an honorary national president of ISDA; a member of the board of the Upper Ohio Valley Italian Heritage Festival; the Weirton Council 3734 Knights of Columbus and an officer of their Fourth Degree; a life member of Post 10 of the American Legion; board member of Camp Fire USA; the Weirton Elks; and is a member of the West Liberty State College Foundation's Finance Committee, Hall of Fame Committee, Hilltoppers Athletic Club and a life member of the Alumni Association.

He was inducted into the West Liberty State College Hall of Fame and was honored by the West Virginia Northern Community College's Weirton Regional Campus for his volunteer and community service.



Chester Grossi

Walter Heil



Walter Heil

Walter Heil (Bellaire High, Class of 1923) was regarded as one of the deans of Ohio Valley officiating thanks to a career that spanned some 38 years and involved three sports.

He began as a baseball umpire in 1926 then added football in 1928 and basketball in 1929, working countless games until finally hanging up his whistle at the age of 62.

Heil officiated football and basketball at the high school, collegiate and professional levels. He worked five West Virginia High School State Tournaments, five West Virginia Catholic High School State Tournaments and three West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Tournaments. He also officiated in the semi-pro Continental Football League, which featured the Wheeling Ironmen.

He was a member of the Ohio Valley Board of Officials, the West Virginia Officials Association and the International Association of Approved Basketball officials and was honored for length of service by each of these organizations.

After retiring as an active official, Heil assumed the role of commissioner of both basketball and football officials for the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference, a position he held from 1965-70.

He was a charter member of the Bellaire High Athletic Wall of Fame and the 1998 recipient of the OVAC's Robert Dawson Officials' Award.

Heil worked for Weirton Steel Corporation and was a resident of Yorkville until his death in 1970.

Alex Groza

Alex Groza (Martins Ferry High School, Class of 1944). This 6-foot-7, 220-pounder led the Purple Riders to two straight undefeated regular seasons in basketball and to the Ohio state tournament both years. Martins Ferry finished 24-1 in 1943 and 26-1 the following season.

The Purple Riders won the first OVAC Class AA basketball championship in 1944 as Groza scored a valley record 628 points (a mark later broken by 2004 OVAC Hall of Fame inductee Ken Alessi). Groza scored 41 vs. Tiltonsville. He was an all-conference and all-Ohio first-team selection.

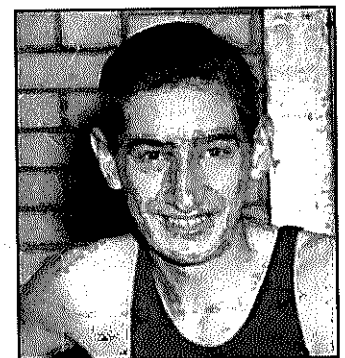
Alex was the top scorer and rebounder on the University of Kentucky's "Fabulous Five," which won back-to-back NCAA titles in 1948 and '49, with Groza being named the tournament MVP both years. He was a three-time all-Southeastern Conference choice and a two-time consensus All-American. He set 22 individual SEC records. Groza still ranks seventh on Kentucky's all-time scoring list with 1,744 points. Alex's jersey number (15) was retired by the school.

Groza and four of his UK teammates — Ralph Beard, Wallace Jones, Cliff Barker and Kenny Rollins — won a gold medal as U.S. Olympians at the London Games in 1948. Groza, in 1949, was named the Helms Foundation Basketball Player of the Year. In a 1950 Associated Press nationwide poll of sports writers selecting the leading athletes of the half-century, Alex was chosen as one of the five top-rated basketball players.

In the NBA, Groza averaged 22.5 points in 130 pro games with the Indianapolis Olympians in 1950 and '51. He coached Bellarmine (Ky.) College from 1959 through 1966. The school had never won a basketball championship before Groza's tenure. He led the Knights to the Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference regular season and tournament title in 1963, after which he was named the league coach of the year.

Groza later served as business manager and then assistant to the president of the ABA's Kentucky Colonels before becoming general manager of the San Diego Conquistadors until the franchise folded. He then served as GM of a professional volleyball team for one year before joining Reynolds Metals in 1977 as a regional sales manager.

Alex married a Martins Ferry hometown girl, Jean Watson, in 1953. Groza died of lung cancer at his home in San Diego on January 21, 1995.



Alex Groza



OVAC HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2005



Chuck Howley

Charles L. (Chuck) Howley (Warwood High School, Class of 1954) was a first team all-West Virginia and all-OVAC tackle in 1953. He lettered in football, basketball and baseball. As a teenager, he also competed for an independent All-America boys gymnastics group.

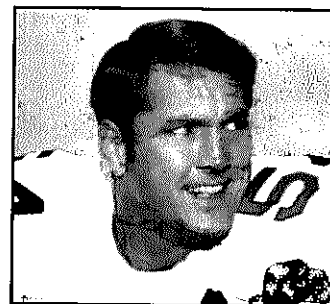
The West Virginia University graduate is still the only Mountaineer athlete to letter in five sports — football, gymnastics, wrestling, track and swimming. In football he played guard, center, and linebacker while earning All-Southern Conference laurels three straight years. Also the long snapper on special teams, Howley was selected as a third-team All-American his senior year.

Howley, at 6-2, 220 pounds, was considered to be one of the fastest linemen in WVU history. He started in three college all-star games — East-West Shrine Game, Senior Bowl and the College Football All-Star Game. He lettered for the Mountaineers on the trampoline in gymnastics, a heavyweight in wrestling, sprinter and weightman in track and a diver in swimming. In 1957, Howley was selected as the West Virginia Amateur Athlete of the Year.

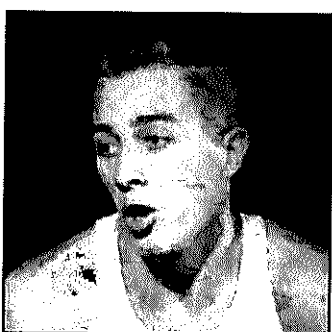
He was an NFL first-round draft choice (1958) of the Chicago Bears — only the third Mountaineer selected in the opening round. He played a year and a half in Chicago before being sidelined by a serious knee injury. Howley was back home in Wheeling working at a gas station in 1961 when the expansion Dallas Cowboys traded two draft picks for him.

The ex-Bear decided to give it one more try and wound up starting at outside linebacker 12 years for the Cowboys, earning all-pro laurels six times. He starred in two Super Bowls. The 1971 game saw Howley intercept two passes and recover a fumble to earn MVP honors in a 16-13 loss to the Baltimore Colts. He remains the only player on a losing team to be selected as the Super Bowl's most valuable player. In 1972, he helped the Cowboys win Super Bowl VI over the Miami Dolphins by intercepting a Bob Griese pass to set up a touchdown.

Howley is a member of the West Virginia Sports Writers Association, WVU, Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Club and City of Wheeling halls of fame.



Chuck Howley



Dick Miller

MVP his senior year.

Although drafted by the New York Knicks in 1956, Miller chose to play AAU basketball. He was voted to the AAU All-America team after participating in the National Tournament held in Denver, Colorado. At Denver, he led the Milwaukee Allen Bradley Team to a fourth place finish. Miller played two seasons with the Phillips Oilers in the National Industrial Basketball League and one season in the Tidewater Basketball Association where he averaged 22 points per game and was voted the league's MVP for the 1962-63 season.

Miller played baseball one year at Wisconsin, hitting .333 and playing second base. Because a shoulder injury in high school limited his throwing ability, he gave up baseball after one season to concentrate on basketball.

His athletic career then continued in a different sport as he took up handball (four-wall) and in his first year, he won the North and South Carolina Open Singles Championship. He went on to win numerous singles titles throughout the Southeast, including two national singles age group championships. He finally ended his competitive career in 1996 at the age of 62.

Dick Miller

Dick Miller (Wheeling Central Catholic High School, Class 1952) was a first-team all-state and all-OVAC performer in basketball three straight years while performing for the Maroon Knights. Miller led Central Catholic to the conference and West Virginia Catholic championships all three seasons, scoring 1,593 points during a stellar high school career. His three-year scoring average was 21.4 points per game.

His career point total stood for 51 years until it was bested by David Contraguero, a four-year letterman for the Maroon Knights. Contraguero's record was later topped by a Central girls' basketball great, Kayleen Fitzsimmons.

Miller also had a game high of 30 points in a West Virginia-Kentucky All-Star Game, leading the Mountaineer team to an 81-80 victory at Williamson. Twice, (1951 and '52), Miller was chosen as the state's basketball player of the year.

He also was a standout performer in football and baseball in high school. He was a "T" formation quarterback as a football performer and a shortstop/pitcher on the baseball team.

Recruited by the University of Wisconsin on a basketball scholarship, Miller was the Badgers' starting point guard for two years. Nicknamed "The Cat" because of his quickness, Dick averaged 19 points per game in Big Ten play, topping the 30-point mark three times during his career. In 1956, he set a conference record for the most consecutive free throws made, converting 29 in a row over two consecutive games. Miller also excelled as a floor leader and defensive player. He was voted as the team

Mike Sherwood

Mike Sherwood (Bellaire High School, Class of 1967). This soft-spoken athletic great rates with Bellaire High's all-time stalwarts in both football and basketball.

He quarterbacked the 1966 Big Reds to a 9-1 season as a senior for coach Don Ault. It remains arguably one of the best prep grid teams in Ohio Valley history. Sherwood led the OVAC with 20 TD passes that fall as he completed 73 of 110 passes for a 66.4 percentage and amassed more than 1,400 yards with only four interceptions.

He was just as impressive on the hardwood for legendary coach Claire Cribbs. The sweet-shooting 6-1 guard was a two-year starter for the Big Reds and surpassed the 1,000-point plateau while earning All-Ohio honors. He averaged 25.3 points a game in leading the Big Reds to a 17-4 record. As a junior, he averaged 25 points per game. Sherwood poured in a career-high, and school-record, 59 points against Guernsey Street rival St. John Central. He was also selected to play in the Ohio North-South Basketball Classic.

Following his illustrious prep career, Sherwood accepted a football scholarship to West Virginia University, where his father earlier played. After competing on the freshman team, he started at quarterback for three seasons.

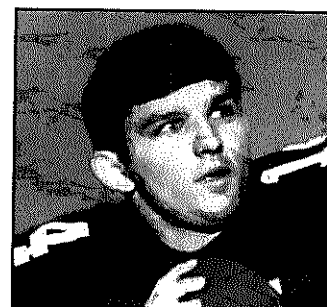
As a sophomore, he passed for some 2,000 yards while establishing a school record with 416 yards against rival Pitt, completing 27 of 37 passes. He finished the year ranked 11th in the nation, averaging 198 passing yards a game. The Mountaineers went 7-3 that fall.

Sherwood led the Mountaineers to a 25-7 record in his three years, including a 10-1 mark and a Peach Bowl win his senior season. He still ranks among WVU career leaders in total offense, passing yards, pass completions and attempts, TD passes, passing efficiency and completion percentage. He was selected to play in the 1970 Blue-Gray Game and won the Ira E. Rodgers Award the same year. Sherwood was also selected All-East by UPI in 1970.

A member of the All-Time WVU 1950-69 Era team, Sherwood was inducted into the WVU Sports Hall of Fame in 1997.

After graduation, he stayed on at WVU and was a graduate assistant for Bobby Bowden and Frank Cignetti. He went to Bethany College to serve as offensive coordinator from 1974-78 under his high school coach, Don Ault.

Sherwood returned to his prep alma mater, serving as the Big Reds' head coach from 1980-84, registering a 26-12-2 record. He was named Eastern District Coach of the Year in 1982. He became the school's athletic director in 1984 and is currently the high school principal.



Mike Sherwood



OVAC Hall of Fame

Saturday, August 20, 2005

- Social Hour**4:30 p.m.
- Welcome**Thomas E. Rataiczak, OVAC Executive Secretary
- Invocation**.....Woody Biggs, Stop Nine Church of Christ, Byesville
- Dinner**.....5:30 p.m.
- Introductions**.....Thomas E. Rataiczak, OVAC Executive Secretary
- Master of Ceremonies**John Sorrenti, Former Sports Director of WEIR Radio

Legends of the OVACV. Everett Brinkman (accepted by Bob Kupchak), Clarence 'Bevo' Francis, Lou 'The Toe' Groza (accepted by Jackie Groza), Clarke Hinkle (accepted by Ed Pope), Calvin Jones (accepted by Steubenville Big Red Booster Club)

2005 Hall of Fame Inductions

OVAC 'Family'

Rudy Mumleypresented by Jayme Mumley
(accepted by Matt Mumley)

Agnes Timmonspresented by Susan Busler

Media

Doug Huffpresented by Ryan Huff, Bethany Huff Schunn

Coaches

George Stragerpresented by Mike Young
(accepted by Duke Strager)

Bob Burtonpresented by Fred King

John 'Corky' Vrotsospresented by Keith Sommer

Induction Ceremony

WesBanco Arena, Wheeling, W.Va.



Officials

Chester Grossipresented by John T. Grossi
Walter Heilpresented by Pat Duffy
(accepted by Mary Kay Zitzelsberger)

Athletes

Alex Grozapresented by Nick Vrotsos
(accepted by Jackie Groza)
Chuck Howleypresented by Jack Schuetz
(accepted by June Paull)
Dick Millerpresented by Dom Camplese
Mike Sherwoodpresented by Kelly Sherwood
Terry Snivelypresented by John Snively
John 'Fuzzy' Filliezpresented by Britt Hayes
Lance Mehlpresented by Dave Liberati
Dee Davispresented by Libby Shepherd
Brian Swisherpresented by C.R. Howdysshell
Joey Gallowaypresented by John Magistro
(accepted by Carolyn Galloway)
Matt Gaudiopresented by George Kellas

BenedictionWoody Biggs, Stop Nine Church of Christ, Byesville

All of Fame inductees or their representatives will be available for autographs and photographs immediately following the conclusion of tonight's ceremonies. Additional programs are available prior to and immediately following tonight's induction at a cost of \$10 each.



OVAC HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2005



Terry Snively



Terry Snively

Terry Snively (Powhatan High School, 1966). This all-round athlete starred in four sports for the Indians. He established an Ohio Valley football modern single season record by amassing 222 points, including 35 touchdowns, his senior season. The quick-footed running back finished with 398 career points.

Snively was named Ohio's UPI Class A Back of the Year in 1965. He was an All-OVAC honoree as a junior and senior while garnering All-Eastern Ohio and All-Valley laurels.

Captain of the Indians' football, baseball and track teams. He also was a four-year letterman in basketball, starting his last three seasons.

Snively averaged better than 24 points a game in each of his final two seasons and finished his career with 1,146 points. He was third team All-Ohio as a senior and first team All-OVAC as a junior and senior.

Springtime at Powhatan saw Snively do double duty, starring in baseball and track.

He was a talented pitcher and outfielder in the diamond sport for four years. He helped the Indians to a pair of Ohio state tournament berths, including winning the state Class A crown in his freshman season when he batted .315 as leadoff hitter.

Powhatan High launched a track program in his sophomore season. He was the OVAC 100-yard, 200-yard and long jump champion as a junior and qualified for the state meet in the 100. He holds the school records in the 100 (10.2), 200 (23.4) and long jump (19-5).

After his storied four-sport prep career, he accepted a football scholarship to West Virginia University, where he was an impact player in the defensive backfield as a three-year starter. He was selected to the All-Time WVU 1950-69 Era team.

After earning his WVU diploma, he opted to remain in athletics in his native Ohio Valley.

Snively cut his coaching teeth at Bellaire High. During his six-year stint with the Big Reds, he was a football aide to Jake Olsavsky and served as head basketball and baseball coach for five years. He led Bellaire to a pair of sectional crowns in hoops while gaining a district title (1974) and OVAC championship (1976) in baseball.

Snively matriculated to Shadyside High as head basketball coach for two years. His 1976-77 team won a district title and OVAC crown. In that season, he was named district coach of the year.

Snively left Tigertown for River High, where he served as head football coach for 25 seasons. During that quarter of a century, his 1997 team went 10-0 and won an OVAC title while his teams made the Ohio playoffs in 1993 and 1997.

Snively coached in the OVAC All-Star Game twice while also coaching the Ohio North-South Game in 1994. In 2004, Snively received the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Carl Hamill Award.

John 'Fuzzy' Filliez



John 'Fuzzy' Filliez

John Filliez (Magnolia High School, 1973). The first OVAC athlete to earn All-W. Va. first team honors in football, basketball and baseball also set an NCAA pass receiving record at Marshall University.

Nicknamed "Fuzzy" because of his bushy red hair, the Blue Eagles' wide receiver-defensive back led the Ohio Valley in pass receiving yards his last two seasons and ended his career with 81 catches for 1,434 yards and 16 touchdowns in regular season play. In his senior season, Magnolia went 10-2 with a state Class AA runnerup finish to Ravenswood.

He teamed with Magnolia's all-state quarterback Brian Book to lead the W. Va. All-Stars to a victory over Ohio in the annual OVAC All-Star game at Wheeling Island.

In basketball, the guard averaged 19 points a game and earned all-state honors after the Blue Eagles were state "AA" runnerup to Gary.

In baseball, the outfielder batted .352 and completed his all-star trifecta with All-Valley, and all-state honors in three sports.

Recruited for football by Marshall, West Virginia, Virginia Tech, Pitt and Penn State, the 5-11, 175-pounder signed early with WVU, but opted for Marshall where he led the Thundering Herd in pass receiving for four straight years and set school records with 168 catches for 1,954 yards and 14 TDs.

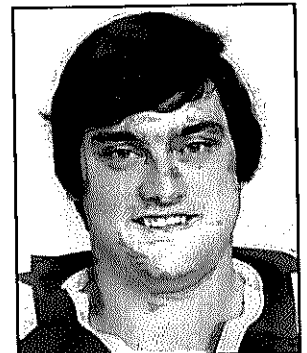
His reception total ranked, at the time, eighth among all-time NCAA Division I receivers.

Starting four years, he set a then-NCAA record by catching passes in 42 straight games. He broke the mark set by Heisman Trophy winner Johnny Rodgers from Nebraska.

Automobile bumper stickers supporting the police showed up at Herd games, where they had a different meaning. They read: "I Love the Fuzz."

The team co-captain was a two-time All-America honorable mention choice and a first team National Independent All-Star honoree. Filliez also was selected as the state Amateur Athlete of the Year in 1976. In 1985, he was inducted into the Marshall Athletic Hall of Fame. Filliez currently resides in Delaware, Ohio.

Lance Mehl



Lance Mehl

Lance Mehl (Bellaire High School, Class of 1976). A three-sport team captain for the Big Reds, Mehl was also an All-Valley football linebacker and baseball first baseman as well as a center in basketball.

He earned All-Ohio football honors for coach Jake Olsavsky while serving as co-captain of the 1975 team which went 9-1. He played in the Ohio North-South game in Columbus and turned in a sparkling defensive effort for the South all-stars.

Recruited by Penn State University for football, he was cited by coach Joe Paterno and defensive coordinator Jerry Sandusky as "one of the best inside linebackers" ever to play for 'Linebacker U'.

Mehl was the leading tackler for the unbeaten 1978 Nittany Lion team which bowed to Alabama, 14-7 in the Sugar Bowl and probably cost PSU from being declared national champion. In that game, he led Lion defenders with 17 stops, including 11 unassisted tackles.

After that junior season, he was named the "Man of the Year" by the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Club and is one of only three college athletes to receive that honor.

The PSU defensive co-captain also led the Lions in tackles as a senior and earned second team All-America honors by The Associated Press and United Press International.

Mehl was drafted in the NFL's third round by the New York Jets and played nine years before his career was cut short with a recurring knee injury.

He was the Jets' leading defender from 1982-86 before a knee injury. The Jets' defensive signal-caller recorded 172 total tackles (105 solos and 67 assists) in 1984. In 1983, he intercepted seven passes and picked off 15 career interceptions.

Mehl was selected to the Pro Bowl after the 1985 season when he recorded 115 tackles, 43 assists and three pass interceptions. After his NFL career ended, he returned to the Ohio Valley and resides in St. Clairsville.



OVAC HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2005



Dee Davis

Dee Davis (Wheeling Park High School, Class of 1981). The first OVAC girls' athlete to earn first team All-W. Va. honors three times set Ohio Valley and state scoring records which remain on the books after a quarter of a century. Overall, she set three OV and three W. Va. scoring standards.

A three-year Wheeling Park standout, she scored a school record 1,854 points including 716 for a 32.5 average as a senior. She was named state "Player of the Year" and captain of the Class AAA all-state team for the 1980 season.

She scored a school-record 55 points vs. Weirton Madonna and set a state tournament Class AAA scoring record which remains on the books after 27 years. She tallied 43 points vs. Greenbrier East as a sophomore in 1978. In two state tournament games that year, she scored 76 points including 13 of 14 free throws.

Davis led Park to a state Class AAA runner-up spot as a senior when she also charted 104 steals, 71 assists and 87 rebounds. After the season, she was MVP in the state North-South game where she scored 30 points. She earned All-America mention in Street & Smith's and Converse magazines.

At Park, Davis also starred as a pitcher-shortstop on the first varsity softball teams and earned all-state recognition from the W. Va. Coaches Association.

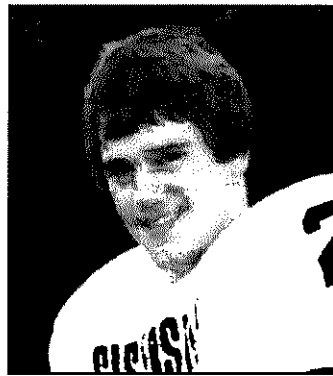
She signed a basketball scholarship to Tennessee Tech where she played for two seasons before finishing her college career at West Virginia University. In her two seasons with the Mountaineers, she served as team co-captain in 1986 with Georgeann Wells, the first woman to dunk in a college basketball game. In Davis' junior season, WVU recorded its second-ever 20-win season with a 20-10 mark.

She also played basketball with a U.S. All-Star team in England and scored 150 points for a 21.4 average.

Davis has completed her 13th year as head girls' basketball coach at her alma mater Park. She has guided the Patriots into six state tournaments and won back-to-back Class AAA championships in 1998-99 and became the first female to win the all-sports "OVAC Coach of the Year" award. The Wheeling resident also coaches softball.



Dee Davis



Brian Swisher

was a member of a first place 4x100 relay team. He tied a state meet AA 100-meter record with a 10.9-second mark in the 1981 trials.

He signed a football scholarship with Marshall University and played four seasons, including three years as a starting wide receiver. He landed 106 passes from 1982-85 for 1,617 yards and 14 touchdowns. He was Marshall's leading receiver in 1983 with 32 catches for 560 yards and three scores. He also was a Herd track sprinter.

Swisher currently resides in Lewis Center, Ohio.

Brian Swisher

Brian Swisher (Sistersville High School, Class of 1982). The 5-7, 145-pound dynamo became the first three-time first team All-W. Va. football honoree in Tyler County as he led Sistersville High to back-to-back state Class A championships in 1980 and '81.

Swisher led the Tigers to a 13-0 record in 1981 as he set an Ohio Valley and W. Va. record for scoring by a lineman with 26 touchdowns (receiving, rushing, returns) and 156 points. He was runner-up for the Kennedy Award as state player of the year and was accorded the Hunt Award as state Lineman of the Year.

He set season and career pass receiving marks in the Ohio Valley and averaged 39.2 yards on kickoff returns and 20.2 yards on punt returns. He also was productive on end-around rushing plays.

Swisher, who set an OV record by catching passes in 36 consecutive games — every game he started. His career regular season totals were 126 receptions for 2,174 yards and 23 TDs.

He led the OV in regular season pass receiving yards for 1980 (681 yards on 47 catches) and 1981 (906 yards and 14 TDs on 53 receptions). As a sophomore, he landed 26 passes for 582 yards.

Swisher was a three-time All-OVAC and All-Valley honoree as well as all-West Virginia three times.

In the spring, he competed in track as a 100 and 200-meter sprinter, long jumper and relay member. He won eight individual medals in three state Class AA meets — a first in the 100 as a sophomore, six seconds and a third, and

was a member of a first place 4x100 relay team. He tied a state meet AA 100-meter record with a 10.9-second mark in the 1981 trials.

Swisher currently resides in Lewis Center, Ohio.

Joey Galloway

Joey Galloway (Bellaire High School, Class of 1990). This Big Reds' four-sports performer has excelled on the prep, collegiate and professional levels.

The mercury-beeled wide receiver was an All-Ohio gridder for coach John Magistro before a sparkling career at Ohio State University. After his Scarlett & Gray days, Galloway was a first round draft pick by the Seattle Seahawks of the National Football League.

Galloway rewrote the Ohio Valley record books for pass receiving yards with 2,332 and touchdown receptions with 27. He ended with 108 career catches.

The 5-9 explosive gamebreaker helped lead the Big Reds to the OVAC 3-A football title his junior year, playing an integral role in the 9-1 campaign. He landed 43 passes for 973 yards and 13 TDs that fall.

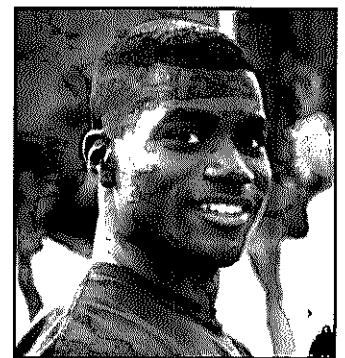
Galloway was a three-time All-OVAC and All-Valley honoree and was named All-Ohio second team in Division III as a senior. In basketball, he was just as dominating as a point guard. Galloway was a starter for three straight OVAC championship teams for coach Gene Ammirante. He earned All-OVAC, All-Valley and All-Ohio honors.

The springtime saw Galloway serve the Big Reds as an infielder on the baseball diamond, but it was on the oval where he made an even bigger impact. Galloway claimed the state Division II 100-meter and 200 state sprint titles as a senior.

The Bellaire Bullet then took his amazing athletic skills to Columbus, starring for John Cooper on the gridiron.

He was honored as an All-Big Ten wide receiver as a junior — a season in which he grabbed 47 passes for 946 yards. His career totals at Ohio State were 108 receptions for 1,894 yards and 19 TDs. Galloway finished with 2,754 all-purpose yards and was the team's co-captain in 1994. He was an All-Big Ten Academic honoree in 1991, 1993 and 1994 while earned the National Football Foundation Scholarship in 1994. He earned a degree in business/marketing.

Galloway was the eighth overall pick in the 1994 NFL Draft. He played five seasons with the Seahawks, catching 283 passes for 4,457 yards and 37 TDs. In his best season in Seattle, he collared 72 passes for 1,049 yards and 12 TDs. He left Seattle for the Dallas Cowboys and is now a member of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.



Joey Galloway



OVAC HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2005



Matt Gaudio

Matt Gaudio (Brooke High School, Class of 1991). This fluid athlete dominated the West Virginia prep hardwood as he was a four-year starter for the Bruins.

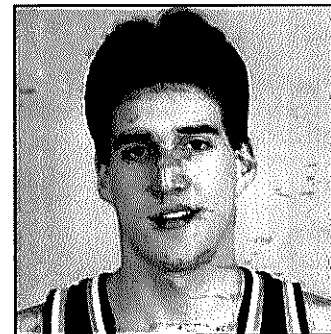
He concluded his sparkling Brooke career by being named the W. Va. "Player of the Year" as well as the Gatorade state "Player of the Year" in 1991. The 6-7 forward paced Brooke to records of 19-4, 22-4, 16-7 and 18-7 for a four-year career mark of 75-22.

Gaudio was a two-time all-state Class AAA honoree and twice named to the all-state tournament team. He averaged 17.9 points and 10.1 rebounds as a sophomore and followed that up with a state Class AAA-best 24.8 scoring norm as a junior while averaging 11 rebounds.

Gaudio capped his superb prep career with a brilliant senior campaign. He averaged 24.3 points and grabbed 13.4 rebounds to repeat as All-OVAC, All-Valley and All-W. Va. honors while being accorded honorable mention All-America. He was the first Bruin to earn first team all-state in boys' basketball. Gaudio surpassed the 1,000 mark in career points (1,874) and career rebounds (1,108), both Bruin records.

He opted to continue his academic and athletic career at Penn State University, where he was plagued by chronic back problems which required surgery. In spite of the medical woes, Gaudio endured to turn in a solid career. During his redshirt sophomore season, he averaged 9.4 points and 4.7 rebounds a game and was named recipient of the Lou Lamie Most Inspirational Player Award.

The following year, he served as student assistant coach while completing his liberal arts degree with an emphasis on architecture. He returned to play as a senior and was second on the team in scoring with a 13.1 averaged while collected 6.4 rebounds a game during a 21-7 record season.



Matt Gaudio

OVAC's Class of 2004

A look back at the OVAC Hall of Fame inductees (or their representatives) at last year's banquet



The inaugural class of the OVAC Hall of Fame included (front row, left to right), Nancy Mumley (accepting for the late Samuel A. Mumley), Evelyn Kovalick (accepting for the late George Kovalick), Gladys Van Horne (accepting for the late Bill Van Horne), Betty Pokas (accepting for the late Cal Pokas), Jim Foti, Linda Beisel (accepting for the late Richard L. Potts), and Martha Reese (accepting for the late Evan Reese). Second row, Jim Murray (accepting for the late A. Wilson Murray), Ken Alessi, John Havlicek, Bill Mazerowski, Dr. Al Blatnik (accepting for Bobby Douglas), Alan Hornyak and Rayna Williams (accepting for the late Ron "Fritz" Williams). Third row, Doug Donley, Gerald Spencer (accepting for Tim Spencer), Amy Gamble, Mitch Hannahs, Vicki Pullie-Stokes, Geno Ford and Stephanie Petho.



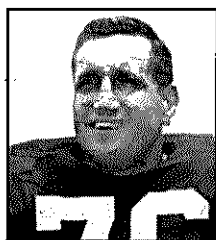
LEGENDS OF OVAC SCHOOLS - 2005



V. Everett Brinkman



Clarence 'Bevo' Francis



Lou 'The Toe' Groza



Clarke Hinkle



Calvin Jones

Legends of OVAC member schools honors those great athletes who played or coached in the Ohio Valley prior to the formation of the conference in 1943 or who played or coached after that date but before their school became a member of the conference.

V. Everett Brinkman (Wheeling High School, Class of 1923)

One of only three 13-letter winners in football, basketball, baseball and track at Wheeling High, he was an all-state football end and scored 54 points in a basketball game as a freshman. He became a three-sport, nine-letter standout at W. Va. Wesleyan College before returning to the Ohio Valley to earn his mark in coaching.

A pioneer of the jump shot and fast break, Brinkman coached Benwood Union from 1928-33 and Wheeling High from 1934-55 to a combined 405-193 record. At Wheeling, his teams were 356-138 with five state titles in seven trips to the finals. The 1938 and 1950 teams were unbeaten. Other state titles were won in 1936, 1940 and 1943. The '40 and '43 teams lost but once.

Brinkman also coached football for 14 years — six at Benwood Union and eight at Wheeling, with a combined record of 87-32-15 including 40-9-4 at Union. Four of his gridiron teams claimed state titles in the pre-official state playoff era: 1928 and 1931 Union, both unbeaten, and at Wheeling in 1934 and 1937. The '34 team was unbeaten but twice tied.

He also was a top-flight football official for several years and active in state coaches and officials' organizations.

Brinkman earlier was elected to four Halls of Fame — West Virginia Sports, Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan, City of Wheeling, and W. Va. Wesleyan Sports.

Clarence 'Bevo' Francis (Wellsville High School, Class of 1952)

A record-setting basketball scoring machine in high school and college who attracted national attention and was profiled in numerous books, national magazines and major newspapers. Two books were written on his career.

The 6-9, 190-pounder played only one season at Wellsville High after sitting out a year following transfer from Irondale. In 1952, he scored 776 points in 25 games with 31-point average, second best in Ohio. He outscored six opposing teams with highs of 57, 54 and 50 points. Wellsville lost only to 28-1 record state runner-up Steubenville and handed W. Va. Class B champion Newell two of its three losses.

He followed Wellsville coach Newt Oliver to Rio Grande College and played two seasons. In 1953, he scored 1,954 points in 39 games for national record 50.1 per game average. He scored 116 vs. Ashland Junior College. In 1954, he averaged 46.5 points and scored 113 vs. Hillsdale College. The schedule included wins over Wake Forest, Providence, Butler and Creighton and games in Madison Square Garden, Boston Garden and Miami Beach Auditorium.

The NAIA Hall of Famer left school to join the Boston Whirlwinds and tour with the Harlem Globetrotters. He also played in the Eastern and ABL pro leagues before retiring in 1962.

Lou 'The Toe' Groza (Martins Ferry High School, Class of 1942)

The Purple Rider luminary is best known as a record-setting professional football placekicker, but he was much more.

In high school, he was a three-sport standout and All-Ohio in football and basketball. He was center, and the state tournament's leading scorer, on the 27-2 record Rider team which won the 1941 state Class A title. He also was a tackle on the 10-0-1 record 1941 football team which claimed an Ohio co-championship after a 14-14 tie with Toledo Libbey in a post-season challenge game. Groza, by the way, kicked only one field goal in high school.

He played football as a freshman at Ohio State before joining the armed services which preceded his 21-year career with the Cleveland Browns which ended in 1967.

When he retired, he was pro football's all-time leading scorer with only one TD and 1,609 points. He booted 234 field goals, with a long of 53 yards. He had conversion streak of 134 and scored in 107 straight games. The Lou Groza Award is given annually to college football's top placekicker.

A nine-time Pro Bowl offensive tackle, as well as kicker, he played in nine NFL title games, with four titles, and played on four All-American Conference title teams.

The Pro Football and Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Hall of Famer had his jersey No. 76 retired by the Browns. A portion of Route 7 is named for him in Martins Ferry.

Clarke Hinkle (Toronto High School, Class of 1926)

This versatile early era football player left such an impression on his alma mater that the Toronto High School Football Stadium behind the school is named in his honor.

The 5-11, 195-pound athlete also left an enduring imprint at Bucknell University, where he was inducted into the first Hall of Fame class, and in the National Football League. He was inducted, in 1964, in the second class of the Pro Football Hall of Fame. He's also a member of the Halls of Fame for College Football and the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dans.

At Bucknell from 1929-31, he led the East in scoring with 128 points in 1929 and later his team to an unbeaten season in 1931. He then played in the East-West Game where he was selected the Most Outstanding Player.

From 1932-41, the Green Bay Packer star was one of the most versatile players in the National Football League. He was a fullback-linebacker-punter-placekicker, and was cited for his running, blocking, receiving, kicking and tackling.

Hinkle was first or second team all-league all 10 seasons and four-time All-Pro. He was on the NFL All-Time Two-Way team selected in 1994. One of the Packer practice fields is named in his honor.

When he retired, he was the leading rusher (3,860 yards on 1,171 carries) in NFL history and his totals now rank sixth in Packer history. He scored 379 career points and averaged 40.8 yards punting.

Calvin Jones (Steubenville High School, Class of 1952)

This two-sport Big Red standout was a high school basketball rival of fellow honoree Bevo Francis but is best known for football.

At Big Red, he helped the 1952 basketball team to a school-best 28-1 record and Ohio Class A runner-up finish. En route, Big Red handed the Francis-led Wellsville team its only two losses.

In football, the All-Ohio lineman selected the University of Iowa over Ohio State and went on to All-Big Ten Conference honors three times. He made 22 All-America teams at guard, including a record 15 in 1954. As team captain, he earned the Outland Trophy given to the nation's top interior lineman and became one of only two consensus All-America picks at Iowa, where he played both offense and defense.

A member of the College Football and Helms Athletic Foundation Halls of Fame, he was inducted into the first Iowa Hall of Fame class and is a member of the All-Time Hawkeye team. His jersey No. 62 was retired by Iowa, one of only two at the school.

He was the first African-American athlete pictured on the cover of Sports Illustrated.

Jones played one season in the Canadian Football League. He died as a result of an airplane crash in Canada on Dec. 9, 1956. The street in front of Steubenville's Harding Stadium is named in his honor.



Bellaire High School

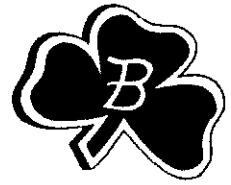
is proud of its
OVAC Hall of Fame inductees:

- **Walter Heil '22**
- **Mike Sherwood '67**
- **Lance Mehl '76**
- **Joey Galloway '90**

**Congratulations to former BHS football,
basketball and baseball Coach Terry Snively**



Aggie Timmons



**CONGRATULATIONS COACH
"T" ON YOUR INDUCTION
INTO THE OVAC HALL OF FAME**

Give me one big fight.....**FIGHT**

Give me two big fights.....**FIGHT, FIGHT**

Give me three big fights.....**FIGHT, FIGHT, FIGHT**

YEA TEAM FIGHT!

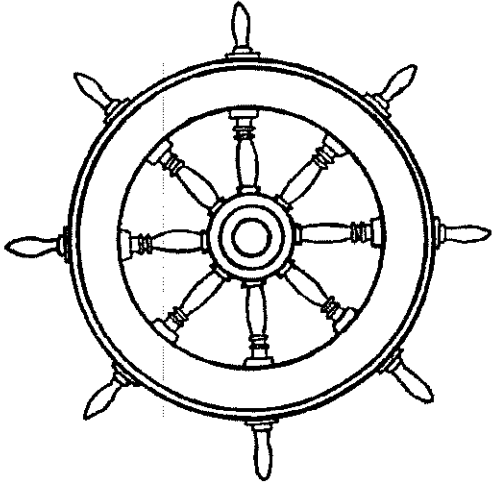
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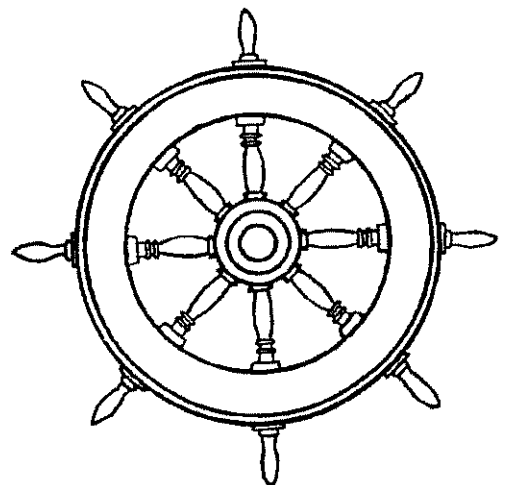


Congratulations

Terry Snively

**on your induction into the
Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Hall of Fame**

**River High School Athletic Department
Dr. Vince Monseau, Principal**





Rudy Mumley

The Mumley family is proud and honored to have Rudy Mumley inducted into the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference's Hall of Fame, and we wish to thank the OVAC for this honor.

Rudy, who donated much time and effort for the good of athletics in the Ohio Valley, is the second family member (Sam Mumley, Class of 2004) inducted into this prestigious group.

The Mumley family wishes success to all OVAC athletes, coaches, teachers and administrators.



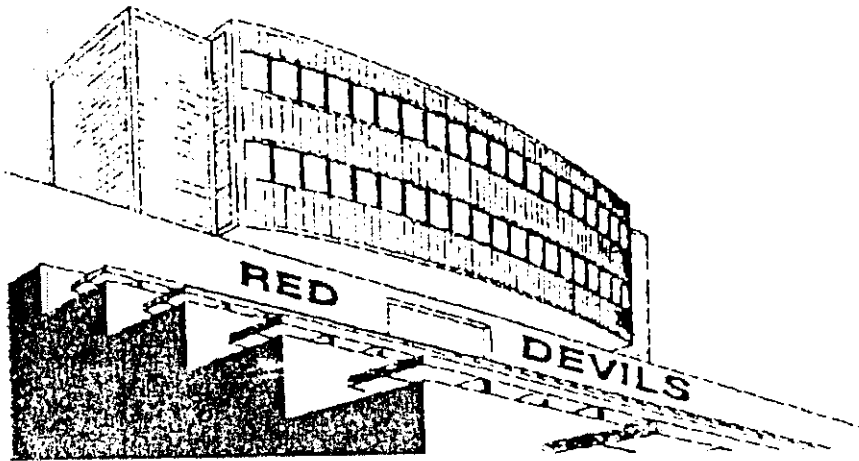


In Memory of George Strager

The Saints Club



St. Clairsville, Ohio



CALVIN JONES

The Big Red Athletic Department, along with the Big Red Booster Club, wish to congratulate

The Jones Family for yet another prestigious award earned by Calvin. May he rest in peace. . .

Men like you made Big Red
the Pride of the Valley.

- 1950-51 All-State honors
- 1951 Lineman-of-the-Year in Ohio
- 1951-52 Captain of the Big Red basketball team which finished state runner-up to Middletown
 - Three-time All-Big Ten
- Named to a record 22 All-American teams in '55
 - Named to 15 All-American teams in '54
 - 1955 Outland Trophy winner
 - Member of College Football Hall of Fame
- Named to University of Iowa's All-Time Team
 - One of two players in Iowa history to have his number (62) retired
 - Cover of *Sports Illustrated* in 1955
- Canadian League Defensive Player-of-the-Year in 1956

Steubenville High School

CALVIN JONES

The administration, teachers, students and all who call Big Red home wish to congratulate the Jones family for yet another outstanding honor awarded to their own Calvin

May he rest in peace as one of our great ones of all time...

CALVIN JONES

ALL-STATE • ALL-AMERICAN • ALL-BIG TEN

OUTLAND TROPHY • COLLEGE HALL OF FAME

You will always hold a special place in
the hearts of the Big Red family.

May you rest in peace with the great ones.

*The administration, Board of Education
and the entire Big Red family.*



The Burton Family
Congratulations "Pa"



We re So Proud!
The George Strager Children
Scott, Amy, Duke and Kym



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*from the Weir High School
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Congratulations, Chester Grossi!



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OVAC Hall of Fame Trivia



- (1) Alex Groza led Martins Ferry High to a three-year basketball record of 72-5 from 1942-44. The Purple Riders qualified for two Ohio state tournaments and won the first OVAC basketball title in 1944.
- (2) Chuck Howley lettered in seven different sports in high school and college. At Warwood High, the 1954 graduate competed in the Vikings' only three sports programs — football, basketball and baseball. At West Virginia University, he became the Mountaineers' only five-sport letterman. Besides football, he also lettered in wrestling, track, gymnastics and swimming as a diver.
- (3) Dick Miller helped Wheeling Central Catholic High to three straight W. Va. Catholic Tournament championships, and three OVAC crowns, from 1950-52. The Maroon Knights' three-year won-loss record during that period was 61-8.
- (4) Mike Sherwood quarterbacked the 1966 Bellaire High football team regarded as one of the best in Big Reds' history. The 9-1 record team outscored its opponents by 457-56.
- (5) Terry Snively set an OVAC regular season scoring record of 222 points for Powhatan High in 1965. Included was five touchdowns and 33 points in an 81-0 blanking of Cameron.
- (6) John (Fuzzy) Filliez helped the W. Va. All-Stars to an upset victory over Ohio in the 1973 OVAC All-Star Game. The Magnolia High athlete landed three TD passes plus a two-point conversion, passed for a two-point PAT, and intercepted two passes.
- (7) Lance Mehl is best known for his football feats on three levels — high school, college and professional, but the three-sport Bellaire High athlete led the Ohio Valley in home runs as an All-Valley first baseman in 1976.
- (8) Dee Davis, of Wheeling Park High, became the first OVAC athlete selected as a state girls' basketball "Player of the Year" when she earned the W. Va. honor for the 1980 fall season.
- (9) Brian Swisher set a W. Va. and OVAC record for football scoring by a lineman when the wide receiver tallied 156 points, including 26 TDs by receiving, returns and runs, in 1981.
- (10) Joey Galloway was not only a four-sport, three-year standout for Bellaire High but earned All-OVAC, All-Valley or All-Ohio honors in each of the sports during his career.
- (11) Matt Gaudio, the first OVAC boys' basketball player to be named W. Va. state Player of the Year (1991), set a Brooke High single game scoring record with 42 points against Steubenville during his senior season.
- (12) The only two OVAC athletes to be drafted by both the National Basketball Association and National Football League are both charter Hall of Fame inductees — John Havlicek of Bridgeport and Ron (Fritz) Williams of Weir High. Neither ever played a college football game at Ohio State (Havlicek) or West Virginia (Williams). Havlicek was drafted by the Cleveland Browns and Williams by the Dallas Cowboys but both opted for the NBA.
- (13) Charter inductee Tim Spencer, from Ohio State, was the No.2 selection in the first United States Football League draft in 1983. He was picked by the Chicago Blitz and became the first signee of the new league. The St. Clairsville High product was drafted ahead of other running backs Eric Dickerson, Craig James and Gary Anderson. The No.1 draft pick, by Los Angeles, was Pitt quarterback Dan Marino, who opted to sign with the Miami Dolphins, where he would set an all-time NFL passing yardage record.
- (14) Cambridge High School retired the football jersey No. 36 worn by charter inductee Doug Donley after his senior football season of 1976. It was only the second time in the long Bobcat athletic history for a jersey number to be retired.
- (15) If a three-point goal had been utilized in 1969, charter inductee Allan Hornyak may have reached the 100-point single game mark. Instead, the 6-foot-1 lefthanded guard for Bellaire St. John Central scored an all-time Ohio Valley record 86 points in a win over Warren Consolidated. In that game, Hornyak converted 40 of 65 goal attempts and six of 12 free throws for his record total. But observers estimated about half of his OV record 40 goals were from three-point range and, he also had two long-range goals at ends of periods ruled no good because time had elapsed.



OVAC Hall of Fame Trivia (continued)



(16) Charter inductee Ken Alessi scored 1,987 points in 62 games as a junior and senior at Yorkville High after starting his varsity career as a sophomore with 60 points in four games. His scoring antics received national media exposure in the syndicated "Ripley's Believe-It-Or-Not" feature.

(17) Bobby Douglas has earned national and international fame as a wrestling coach and competitor, but the charter inductee also was an honored Bridgeport High athlete in football and baseball. The 140-pound running back started in the Ohio-W. Va. All-Star football game and was a regular in baseball.

(18) Most fans know charter inductee Bill Mazerowski as a Baseball Hall of Fame second baseman who won the 1960 World Series for the Pittsburgh Pirates with a seventh game home run vs. the New York Yankees. But at Warren Consolidated High School, "Maz" also was an All-Ohio basketball player who led the OVAC with a 27.6 point per game average as a senior in 1954. Two years later, in 1956, "Maz" was playing with the Pirates.

(19) When charter inductee Mitch Hannahs helped tiny Skyvue High to the 1985 Ohio Class A baseball title, the Hawks became only the second OVAC baseball championship since the conference was founded in 1943-44. The first was Powhatan, which won the 1963 Class A crown.

(20) Geno Ford not only led the OVAC in scoring as a junior in 1992, but his 36.5 point per game norm was the highest for any Ohio first team all-stater. The 5-foot-8 Cambridge High guard, and charter inductee, scored 928 points as a junior and ended his four-year Bobcat career with an OVAC record 2,680 points.

(21) Bridgeport High had one of its lightest teams in school history in 1957 and the quarterback, charter inductee John Havlicek, was one of the Bulldogs' biggest players. The rangy Havlicek led Bridgeport to the school's first-ever football victory over neighboring rival Martins Ferry.

(22) Stephanie Pehto not only led the Ohio Valley in girls' basketball scoring in 1992 but was the leading scorer in Ohio Division IV ranks with a 37.1 per game norm. She earned Division IV state "Player of the Year honors" and was second, overall, in Ohio scoring to Marlene Stollings, who averaged 41.6 points for Beaver Eastern.

(23) Ohio's longest girls' basketball winning streak was ended in 1987 by a Wellsville team led by charter Hall of Fame inductee Vicki Pullie-Stokes. West Holmes of Millersburg had won a state record 108 straight games over four seasons, and three Ohio Class AA titles in a row, before bowing to an unbeaten Wellsville team. The Tigers went on to finish Ohio Class AA runner-up, bowing 58-55 to Lima Bath in the finals.

(24) Amy Gamble became the first OVAC girls' basketball player to earn Parade All-America honors when the John Marshall athlete was recognized in the 1981-82 season. The Monarch athlete also was only the second from W. Va. to be so recognized. The first was Mary Ostrowski from Parkersburg Catholic in 1978-79. Both Gamble and Ostrowski signed scholarships with the University of Tennessee.

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MINIMUM ENTRY LEVELS FOR OVAC HALL OF FAME



1. MINIMUM ENTRY LEVEL REQUIREMENTS FOR COACHES:

Cannot be inducted until you have been retired or are deceased
Only wins achieved at OVAC schools counts in totals

BOYS

Baseball: 250 wins
Basketball: 250 wins
Cross Country: 10 OVAC titles
Football: 125 wins
Golf: 10 OVAC titles
Soccer: 125 wins
Swimming: 10 OVAC titles
Tennis: 10 OVAC titles
Track: 10 OVAC titles
Wrestling: 5 OVAC Class Tournament Titles

GIRLS

Basketball: 250 wins
Cheering: 10 OVAC titles
Cross Country: 10 OVAC titles
Golf: 10 OVAC titles
Soccer: 125 wins
Softball: 250 wins
Swimming: 10 OVAC titles
Tennis: 10 OVAC titles
Track: 10 OVAC titles
Volleyball: 250 wins

2. MINIMUM ENTRY LEVEL REQUIREMENTS FOR OFFICIALS:

Cannot be inducted until you have been retired or are deceased
25 years of service

3. MINIMUM ENTRY LEVEL REQUIREMENTS FOR MEDIA:

Can be inducted anytime
25 years of service
Contributions to the OVAC

4. MINIMUM ENTRY LEVEL REQUIREMENTS FOR OVAC FAMILY:

Executive Board, officers, meet directors, etc.
Open-ended

5. MINIMUM ENTRY LEVEL REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTRIBUTORS:

Includes people who have financially backed Conference as well as people who have been successful in the college/pro ranks but don't meet the criteria in other categories
Open-ended

6. MINIMUM ENTRY LEVEL REQUIREMENTS FOR ATHLETES:

Must be out of school 10 years
Primary consideration focuses on accomplishments in the OVAC; however, college and professional accomplishments will enhance the athlete's resume

BASEBALL: Multiple First Team All-OVAC and/or All-State honors
BASKETBALL: Multiple First Team All-OVAC and/or All-State honors
CHEERING: Performance on multiple OVAC and/or State championships
CROSS COUNTRY: Multiple individual OVAC and/or State championships
FOOTBALL: Multiple First Team All-OVAC and/or All-State honors
GOLF: Multiple individual OVAC and/or State championships
SOCCER: Multiple First Team All-OVAC and/or All-State honors
SOFTBALL: Multiple First Team All-OVAC and/or All-State honors
SWIMMING: Multiple individual OVAC and/or State championships
TENNIS: Multiple individual OVAC and/or State championships
TRACK: Multiple individual OVAC and/or State championships
VOLLEYBALL: Multiple First Team All-OVAC and/or All-State honors
WRESTLING: Multiple individual OVAC and/or State championships



Next year's OVAC Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony — Saturday, Aug. 19, 2006

PREVIOUS OVAC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



Class of 2004

OVAC Hall of Fame

Sponsored by Bob Robinson Chevrolet-Cadillac, Inc

Samuel A. Mumley (OVAC 'Family')



Samuel A. Mumley (Benwood Union High School) served two terms — covering a total of 32 years — as executive secretary of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference. During the second term which lasted until his death in 1999, Mumley helped resurrect the bi-state league from the brink of bankruptcy to its current standing as one of the great high school conferences in the entire country.

Some of the many highlights from his stewardship included: Helping to establish the OVAC Foundation as a major fund-raising arm for the conference; Securing NCAA certification for the Rudy Mumley OVAC Charity All-Star Football Classic; Attracting major financial sponsors to support all of the OVAC programs, including the Banquet of Champions, an awards dinner that honors more than 1,000 athletes each spring and provides more than \$20,000 annually in scholarships; Establishing the all-star basketball game which was later renamed as the Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Classic.

Mumley's response to a call of duty went beyond the OVAC as he was one of the founders of the Wheeling Super Six Committee, which has hosted the West Virginia state championship football games at Wheeling Island Stadium since 1994. He also helped secure the West Virginia state soccer championships for the city. Five years after his death, the fruition of another one of his dreams occurred when an artificial grass playing surface was installed at Wheeling Island Stadium.

Although awards were never important to Mumley, he was the recipient of numerous honors. The major awards presented to him included: The National Federation of Officials Outstanding Service Award; Dapper Dan Man of the Year; OVAC Man of the Year; and Outstanding West Virginian.

He was a basketball official for 23 years, an assistant coach, athletic trainer and athletic director at several area schools, including Cameron, The Linsly School and St. Clairsville. He was also a trainer at his college alma mater, the University of Maryland, along with the Washington Redskins and Philadelphia Eagles. Mumley served on the state of Ohio Board of Equity, was a member of the St. Clairsville Board of Education and a special liaison for the Mental Retardation Board and School of Hope.

George Kovalick (OVAC 'Family')



George E. Kovalick (Bridgeport High School), recognized as the "father" of high school wrestling in the Ohio Valley, Kovalick previously has been honored with membership in numerous halls of fame, including those at Kent State University; the Ohio Valley Football Coaches Association; Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Club; West Liberty State College; Ohio Athletic Directors and the Ohio Wrestling Hall of Fame.

Kovalick was selected as the first recipient (1976) of the prestigious OVAC Wrestling Committee's prestigious "Mr. Mat Award," an honor given annually to an individual for outstanding contributions to the sport of wrestling.

Kovalick directed championship teams in football, baseball and wrestling at both the intercollegiate and interscholastic levels during an enormously-successful 28-year coaching career.

Among the athletes he tutored in high school or college were all-time Ohio Valley greats John Havlicek, Phil and Joe Niecko, and Bobby Douglas. In baseball, Kovalick coached the Hilltoppers to the 1964 NAIA baseball championship, the only national title ever captured by the school. He also had West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championship teams at West Liberty in football, wrestling and baseball.

Kovalick not only was one of the founders of the OVAC Wrestling Tournament, but his Bridgeport grapplers won the first seven conference championships. In 1959, Kovalick's Bulldogs made history by becoming the first school outside the Cleveland area since 1942 to win an Ohio state wrestling title since 1942 to win an Ohio state wrestling title since. He coached six individual state champions.

Kovalick's other OVAC coaching stops were at Mountsville, Bellaire and Weir high schools. His 1973 Weir High football team was a state runner-up, losing to East Bank in the Class AAA state final. He retired from coaching in 1978 but then served as athletic director at Bellaire until the time of his death in 1984. He was OVAC Baseball Director for many years and also directed the conference's mat championship event.

Along with his great coaching knowledge, Kovalick was also recognized as a marvelous competitor, meticulous organizer and a man with an enormous capacity for work.

Bill Van Horne (Media)



Bill Van Horne (Martins Ferry High School), was the dean of Ohio Valley sportswriters during a legendary newspaper career that spanned 53 years.

Van Horne was sports editor of *The Times Leader* for 25 years and the *Wheeling News-Register* for 28 years, during which time he was recognized by his peers as the most informational and influential writer in Ohio Valley history.

His work with the OVAC over the years was especially instrumental in the success of the wrestling, track and field and cross-country. Van Horne was the second recipient of wrestling's "Mr. Mat" Award in 1977 and he also received the Calvin Giffin Memorial Track Award.

His columns, "Van Horne on Sports," were masterpiece chronicles of the lives of others. A giant in his field and a role model for aspiring writers, Van Horne was admired and respected for his integrity, dedication, fairness, knowledge and compassion.

Van Horne's coverage and support for events like the Wheeling Distance Race (now The Ogden Newspapers 20K Classic), the West Virginia Tennis Open and the (now defunct) Wheeling LPGA Classic helped those events reach prominence in our area. His backing also was a factor in the popularity enjoyed by the Wheeling Ironmen, Wheeling Blues and Wheeling Thunderbirds (now the Wheeling Nailers), professional football, basketball and hockey teams.

Numerous awards and honors were bestowed on Van Horne. The Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Club named him Man of the Year in 1993; he was selected as the West Virginia Sportswriter of the Year three times; received the Gene Morehouse Memorial Award for contributions in sportswriting throughout the Mountain State; and he was inducted into numerous halls of fame. Among those were the Wheeling Hall of Fame; the Lou Holtz Upper Ohio Valley Hall of Fame; Ohio Baseball Hall of Fame, Minor League Pro Football Hall of Fame and the Wheeling-Ogden Tennis Club Hall of Fame. He served as president of the West Virginia Sports Writers Association and was a member of the Football Writers of America. Bill was the first sportswriter from West Virginia to be elected to the Football Writers Board of Directors. He also served as state chairman for the Heisman Trophy selection committee.

Cal Pokas (Media)



Cal Pokas (Bellaire High School) was another giant in the sports writing profession who cut his eye teeth under Bill Van Horne and developed into one of the area's true newspaper greats in his own right.

Pokas, who died in 2000, was employed for 40 years at *The Times Leader*, including 29 memorable years for Ohio Valley sports fans as the sports editor. He also was assistant sports editor, a courthouse and political reporter and Martins Ferry City Editor. Even after his retirement, Cal continued to contribute to his newspaper's sports pages with his weekly "Eye on the Bucks" column about Ohio State football. Pokas also personally saw to it that many of the so-called minor sports such as cross-country, track and volleyball, received their share of coverage in his newspaper.

Pokas was deeply interested in the OVAC throughout his career and he devoted much of his spare time to serving on committees for the Rudy Mumley Charity Football All-Star Classic, along with compiling standings for the football and basketball championship races. He also served on a media relations committee for the bi-state league.

Pokas had a term as president of the Ohio Prep Sports Writers Association, and was commissioner of the Ohio Valley Baseball League for 23 years. His interests in the community went beyond the world of sports as Pokas served on an advisory board for the Salvation Army; was Belmont County Chairman of the Multiple Sclerosis Association; and filled a seat on the Martins Ferry Civil Service Commission for 32 years until his death.

Pokas' honors were numerous. In 1960 he was presented a Community Service Award by United Press International. The Ohio Prep Sports Writers Association named him Sports Writer of the Year in 1976 and he was given a Distinguished Service Award from the Ohio Association of Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches.

Cal was selected to the Ohio Prep Sports Writers Hall of Fame and the UPI Sports Editors Association Hall of Fame. He also received service awards from the Ohio Valley Golf Coaches Association, the OVAC, Ohio Valley Football Coaches Association, Ohio Baseball Hall of Fame; and he was honored to be presented the first Sportsmanship Ethics and Integrity Award for the Eastern District from the OHSAA. Pokas was a "Mr. Mat" award honoree at the OVAC Wrestling Tournament, along with being selected for Bellaire High School's Wall of Fame. He was named as the Honorary Referee for the Wheeling Park Track Classic because of contributions to Ohio Valley youth.

Richard L. (Dick) Potts (Coaches)



Jim Foti was a basketball coach for 38 years and a head football mentor for 20 seasons. He already has been inducted into the City of Wheeling, West Virginia Sports Writers Association, Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Club and John Carroll University's Halls of Fame.

Foti, a native of Jamestown, N.Y., came to the area in 1942 after having coached at Erie (Pa.) Prep. He coached basketball at Warwood, Wheeling Central Catholic and Bellaire. Overall, Foti posted 466 varsity basketball victories, all but 26 coming at OVAC schools. He coached Warwood High to seven West Virginia regional championships and his 1967 Viking squad won the state title. In 1976, his final year as a head coach and the last season before the Ohio County consolidation, Foti's Vikings advanced to the state tournament semifinals before being eliminated. The 1975 team played in the state championship game. He had five W.Va. Catholic title-winning teams at Wheeling Central and guided his squads to OVAC championships in three divisions.

In 1943, Foti had a 24-3 record team at Central, which lost by a point while playing in the Eastern Catholic championships held at Newport, R.I.

Foti's football coaching career produced another 124 victories, including a 90-106-3 record at Warwood, where the Class AA school was saddled with playing one of the most competitive schedules in the area. His 1943 Wheeling Central football team went 9-1 and gained a Steel Bowl berth, where it lost a 20-19 thriller to Rochester, Pa., at Steubenville.

Foti also coached semi-professional basketball for two years as he directed the Wheeling Puritans in 1947 and '48.

Foti coached several outstanding athletes during his distinguished career. Among the Central standouts were James "Dubie" Dailer and Billy Gompers, both of whom went on to play at Notre Dame; Jack McConville, Alabama; Pete Schuetz, Duquesne, and Paul Schuetz, Northwestern. At Warwood he had a role in the development of Chuck Howley, former WVU and Dallas Cowboys' great; Bob Dunlevy (WVU), and basketball standouts Bob Ayers (VMI, Bill Kennedy (Arizona State) and Greg Church (Army).

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Evan Reese (Officials)



Evan Reese (Follansbee High School) served as an area high school and college arbiter for more than 50 years. He also officiated football in the Canadian League, the United Football League and the West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

Reese was OVAC Commissioner for both football and basketball officials and he was president of the West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WVIAC) officials in both sports. He worked numerous state and conference tournament championship events throughout his long and storied career.

Reese also was a member of the West Virginia Secondary Schools Activities Commission Advisory Board and he was secretary of the Eastern District Board of Football and Basketball Officials. For many years, he was on the basketball rules committee in the Eastern District.

Today's Ohio Valley officials remember Evan as someone who had a tremendous influence on up-and-coming referees.



PREVIOUS OVAC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

A. Wilson Murray (Official)

A. Wilson Murray (Wheeling High School) officiated high school basketball, football, baseball and track for 30 years, from 1946 through 1975. He actually began his officiating career in 1942, the year after he graduated from Wheeling High School. Murray entered the service in 1942 and did not return home until the after World War II had ended.

He worked numerous sectional, district, regional and finals in Ohio, West Virginia and Pennsylvania. He also officiated basketball for 12 years in the Mid-American Conference and the West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. Murray was a referee in the old United Football League in the days of the Wheeling Ironmen professional football team.

He served on the OVAC Executive Board and served for 10 years as the commissioner of the bi-state league's basketball officials. He later was appointed the OVAC's commissioner of football officials, a post he held from 1977 until retiring in 1985. In 1977, he was elected treasurer of the Ohio High School Athletic Association's Commissioners.

Murray officiated six West Virginia state tournaments and two WVAC tournaments. The former City of Wheeling Treasurer was a three-year football and basketball letterman at Wheeling High School. He played on the Wildcats' 1940 state championship basketball team.

Among the awards he was presented were: Ohio High School Athletic Association's Meritorious Award (1970); a West Virginia Secondary School's Activities Commission Award for his contributions to officiating in the Mountain State; Honorary Life Membership in the Ohio Valley Board of Approved Basketball Officials (1981); OVAC Exemplary Service Award (1981), and an Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Club Achievement Award (1982). In 1989, he was selected as the first recipient of the Bobby Dawson Basketball Officials' Award presented at the Samuel A. Mumley OVAC Charity Basketball Classic.



Ken Alessi (Athlete - 1940s)

Ken Alessi (Yorkville High School) was a 5-7, 155-pound basketball guard from 1947-49. He still holds two all-time OVAC scoring records — 1,142 points in 32 games as a senior and a career per-game point average of 31.0 for 66 games.

He was the first OVAC player to score 2,000 career points (2,047) after averaging a then-record 35.7 points a game and setting a mark of 70 points, including 31 goals, against Shady-side as a 1948-49 senior. That effort prompted the national exposure in "Ripley's Believe-It-Or-Not."

He also scored 65 points vs. Adena and 55 points vs. Dillonvale in back-to-back games. In one game, he converted 16 straight free throws. As a junior, Alessi scored 845 points in 30 games.

A two-time All-OVAC Class A and All-Ohio Class B honoree, he was the leading vote-getter in '49 when he was selected Ohio's Class B Player of the Year.

A three-sport prep standout, he was an All-Eastern Ohio football player as a two-way back and kicker, and he was a shortstop-pitcher in baseball.

Recruited by West Virginia University, he played three seasons (1950-52) and was the starting point guard two years. He led the team in assists as a sophomore while playing with 6-9 All-America Mark Workman.

In 1951, he scored 23 points in a home win over Wake Forest and tallied 18 in a 77-73 loss at Duke, which featured All-America guard Dick Groat, a future Pittsburgh Pirate infielder.

Alessi served as head basketball coach the final 12 seasons (1961-72) for alma mater Yorkville High before consolidation. His best team went 18-3 in 1962 and his 1970 team won an OVAC Class A crown. The '70 team featured Chuck Saus, who would surpass Alessi's career point total.



John Havlicek (Athlete - 1950s)

John Havlicek (Bridgeport High School, Class of 1958) was a three-sport high school honoree for the Bulldogs who later became one of Ohio State's basketball greats and was selected one of the 50 greatest NBA players.

In high school, the 6-5, 180-pounder was a two-time All-OVAC Class AA basketball performer as well as All-Ohio Class A. The Bulldogs won the OVAC AA crown in 1958.

An excellent rebounder and passer, he also scored 1,594 career points in 59 games and averaged more than 30 points per game the last two seasons. He led the OVAC in scoring as a junior with a 31.9-point norm, including a school record 53 in a 103-101 overtime win over Cadiz.

He played in the Ohio North-South All-Star game with Jerry Lucas. The two later led Ohio State to three straight NCAA championship games including a title their sophomore season of 1960.

He was an All-Eastern Ohio shortstop on two OVAC championship baseball teams and batted over .400. He also starred in American Legion baseball and later played first base for Ohio State.

In football, the All-OVAC quarterback was recruited by several colleges including Ohio State and West Virginia.

At Ohio State, the Buckeyes were 78-6 during his three varsity basketball seasons and he twice earned All-Big Ten Conference honors.

Havlicek was the No. 1 draft choice of the NBA Boston Celtics and was also selected by the NFL Cleveland Browns even though he never played in college. He played a few exhibition games as a wide receiver with the Browns before reporting to the Celtics, where he would become team captain and have his No. 17 jersey retired.

Nicknamed "Hondo", Havlicek retired in 1978 after 16 NBA seasons including eight Celtic championships. A 13-time All-Star, he is the Celtics' all-time leading scorer (26,395 points) and was the first NBA player to score 1,000 points in 16 consecutive seasons and, when he retired, Havlicek had played more regular season games than anyone in history. His career game averages were 20.8 points, 6.3 rebounds and 4.8 assists.

Besides the Basketball Hall of Fame and National High School Hall, he is a member of the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan and Ohio State Halls of Fame.



Bill Mazerowski (Athlete - 1950s)

Bill Mazerowski (Warren Consolidated High School, Class of 1954) is best known for his baseball feats, but the 5-11 basketball center also led the OVAC in scoring with a 27.6 per game average as a senior and was a two-time All-OVAC roundball selection and three-year basketball starter. He earned second team All-Ohio Class A recognition as a senior.

A four-year baseball standout as a shortstop-pitcher, Mazerowski led Warren Consolidated to the 1953 Ohio Class A (largest class) baseball finals before falling, 2-1 to Cincinnati Purcell. Mazerowski pitched a four-hitter in a losing cause.

The athlete, known as "Catfish" as a youth and "Maz" during his pro playing days, led Warren Consolidated to four straight OVAC Ohio-side baseball titles. The team was coached by Al Burazio.

Signed by the Pittsburgh Pirates out of high school and summer, sandlot baseball, the Rush Run native was in the major leagues in 1956 and became a 10-time All-Star second baseman from 1956-72 with the National League team. He won eight of the first 10 second base Gold Glove fielding awards.

He played in 2,163 games and collected 2,016 hits but his best known feat is hitting game seven 1960 World Series winning home run versus the New York Yankees. He still holds some major league fielding records for double plays and assists. The Pirates retired his jersey No. 9.

Mazerowski was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 2001 and also is enshrined in the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Hall, the Ohio Baseball Hall and the Pennsylvania Sports Hall.

Buckeye Local High School, a consolidation which includes Mazerowski's alma mater, named its high school field in his honor and a section of Route 7 near his Rush Run childhood home north of Tiltonsville is known as "Bill Mazerowski Highway."



Bobby Douglas (Athlete - 1960s)

Bobby Douglas (Bridgeport High School, Class of 1961) was a three-sport high school standout and the first wrestler to win four OVAC individual championships. He became the first black athlete to win an Ohio state mat crown (1959) when he emerged as the 112-pound titlist. He then finished third in the 1960 state tournament and won the 127-pound crown as a senior.

An All-OVAC football player and the conference Class AA captain as a 140-pound running back in 1960, Douglas was also a starter in baseball.

He wrestled two years at West Liberty State College, winning an NAIA championship and placing second in the NCAA. He then transferred to Oklahoma State, where he won the Big Eight Conference 147-pound title. The team never lost a dual meet with Douglas in the lineup and captured a pair of conference titles along with the 1964 NCAA team title.

Also as a competitor, he won five national championships and a pair of U.S. Olympic Trials titles. He had a fourth-place featherweight finish at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics and he captured the U.S. freestyle team at the 1968 games in Mexico City. Named the nation's outstanding wrestler in 1970 — the year he retired — Douglas compiled a career record of 37-17 (1958). He was runner-up at the World Championships that year.

Still recognized as one of the nation's outstanding wrestling coaches, Douglas has been at the Iowa State University helm for 14 years and became just the fourth Division I mentor to reach the 400-victory plateau in January of 2003. He coached the Cyclones to 10 top-10 at the national finals. He also had runner-up teams in 1996, 2000 and 2002. In 2000, he was selected the National Wrestling Coach of the Year. He has produced six national champions, 17 conference titlists and 25 All-Americans at Iowa State. Before taking over the Cyclones' program, Douglas built a dynasty at Arizona State. From 1975-92, he guided ASU to nine conference title and nine top-10 NCAA team finishes, including the school's first national championship in 1983. While with the Sun Devils, he had three national individual title winners, 37 conference champs and 58 All-Americans.

He was head coach of the 1992 U.S. Olympic freestyle team that competed in Barcelona, Spain. All 10 of his wrestlers placed among the top 10 in their respective weight classes. Douglas has been on the U.S. coaching staff for five other Olympics.

Douglas was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, the NAIA Wrestling Hall of Fame, the Ohio Hall of Fame and the Arizona State Hall of Fame.



Allan Hornyak (Athlete - 1960s)

Allan Hornyak (St. John Central High School, Class of 1969) was best known as a record-setting 40-point per game scorer his last two basketball seasons, but the lefthander also was a three-sport standout performer as a football quarterback and first baseman-pitcher in baseball.

A 6-1, 185-pound long-range shooting guard in the era prior to the three-pointer, Hornyak led the OVAC and the state of Ohio in scoring his last two seasons with an all-time OVAC record 42.7 average as a junior plus a 41.95 senior norm.

As a junior, he scored 812 points in 19 games, including 295 goals and 222-of-272 free throws.

In his senior year, he tallied 923 points in 22 games with 346 goals and 231-of-296 free throws.

The two-time All-OVAC and All-Ohio cager set the OVAC record of 86 points, including 40 goals, in a 1969 win over Tiltonsville and he scored 61 points the next night against rival Bellare.

He scored at least 50 points in a game 14 times and ended his 80-game career with a then OVAC record 2,385 points.

The Irish won back-to-back OVAC Class AA basketball titles including a 20-2 overall record in 1969.

His scoring efforts resulted in articles in *Sport* magazine, the *New York Times* and *Sports Illustrated* Faces in the Crowd; Hornyak earned *Scholastic Coach* All-America honors and his No. 20 home basketball jersey was retired by the school.

In football, St. John's also won an OVAC crown with a 9-1 record in 1968, with Hornyak as an All-OVAC quarterback. He passed for 14 touchdowns that season.

Recruited for basketball by numerous colleges, he opted for The Ohio State University where he led the Buckeyes in scoring three straight years and earned All-Big Ten Conference honors each year and All-America recognition as a senior.

He left OSU as the school's fourth all-time career scorer with 1,572 points in 69 games and is a member of The Ohio State University Sports Hall of Fame.

Hornyak was the second round pick, and 26th overall, of the NBA's Cleveland Cavaliers. He was also drafted by the ABA Indiana Pacers in the fifth round, but didn't compete in the pro ranks.



Ron (Fritz) Williams (Athlete - 1960s)

Ron (Fritz) Williams (Weir High, Class of 1964) was a four-year, three-sport standout for the Red Riders. He led Weir to three straight state Class AAA title games including an unbeaten 1962 regular season, two state runner-ups and a state title in 1963 (a three-year record of 62-8). The three-year All-OVAC and All-West Virginia Class AAA basketball player was also an All-OVAC and All-West Virginia football end in 1963 and the OVAC and West Virginia Region 1 sprint champion in the 100, 220 and 440-yard events in 1964.

The 6-3, 185-pound Williams was the first African-American to be named first team All-West Virginia in basketball and only the fourth person in history to be named first team all-state three times. He scored 2,203 career points — then an OVAC "big school" record — and averaged 30.9 as a senior and 30.1 as a junior. He scored a school-record 55 points against East Liverpool. He was named All-America by *Parade* and *Scholastic Coach* magazines.

Williams was a regular end on the 1961 Class AAA state championship football team and was all-state and *Scholastic Coach* All-America as a senior.

He played on two OVAC Class 3-A title basketball teams (1962 and '64) and the 1962 OVAC track championship squad. The first African-American recruited to play basketball at West Virginia University, he still holds season and career assist records while averaging 20.1 points for his career — sixth best in history and leading the team in scoring and assists three years. Only two WVU players — Jerry West and "Hot Rod" Hundley — combined for more points and assists than Williams, a three-time All-Southern Conference honoree and a second team All-American.

The two-time team captain is a member of the All-Time WVU team (1966-75 era) and has been inducted into the WVU Sports Hall of Fame as well as the West Virginia Sports "Hall" and the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan "Hall". He was the ninth overall NBA draft pick in 1968 by the San Francisco Warriors and was also drafted in the ABA fifth round by the New Orleans Buccaneers. Despite not playing college football, he is one of only two OVAC products to be drafted both by the NBA and NFL (Dallas Cowboys, 14th round).

Williams played eight NBA seasons — five with the Warriors, two with the Milwaukee Bucks and one with the Los Angeles Lakers. He scored 4,797 career points and had 1,818 career assists. He died, at age 59, on April 4, 2004 at his home in California. The road near his Weirton childhood home named "Ron (Fritz) Williams Boulevard."



Doug Donley (Athlete - 1970s)

Doug Donley (Cambridge High School, Class of 1977) was a three-sport standout, excelling in football, track and basketball and earning the nickname "White Lightning" for his blazing speed.

On the gridiron, Donley was a three-year letterman at running back for the Bobcats. Finishing with a career total of 2,572 rushing yards. He also had 226 yards receiving and 1,828 yards in kick returns for a career all-purpose yardage total of 3,826 yards to go with 31 TDs.

Donley's football accolades included first team All-Ohio Class AAA (1976) by both *The Associated Press* and *United Press International*; Eastern District Class AAA "Player of the Year" (1976); and first team All-OVAC Class 4-A (1976).

In track, Donley won the OVAC Class 4-A championship in the long jump as a junior (1976) with a leap of 21 ft. 2.5 in. and was a double-winner at the conference meet as a senior (1977) — winning the long jump (21-10.75) and the 220-yard dash (22.4 seconds), helping the Bobcats to the OVAC team title.

He earned All-Eastern District in the 100-yard dash and was recognized as a high school All-American in track.

Also a standout in basketball, Donley was hampered by a shoulder injury but still managed to score 10 points per contest and had a school-record 17-assist game.

Widely recruited for football, Donley attended The Ohio State University and earned first team All-Big Ten and honorable mention All-America accolades at wide receiver (1980). He ranks among the Buckeyes' all-time leading receivers in several categories, including career yards per catch (21.2, second), yardage (2,252, fourth); touchdowns (16, fifth); and receptions (106, tied for ninth). He led the team in receptions from 1978-80.

Donley was a second round draft choice of the Dallas Cowboys in 1981, playing four years in the NFL. He caught 55 passes for 898 yards and four TDs.

Inducted into the Cambridge High School Hall of Fame, Donley is president of Advantage Golf Tournament Services in Addison, Texas.



PREVIOUS OVAC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Tim Spencer (Athlete - 1970s)



Tim Spencer (St. Clairsville High School, Class of 1979) ranks with the greatest running backs ever to grace Ohio Valley high school gridirons. Spencer — who plied his trade for legendary coach George Strager — rushed for some 3,144 yards and 50 touchdowns. He scored 338 points during his Red Devil grid career.

As a senior, the *Parade* All-American gained 1,670 yards and scored 28 touchdowns while his junior numbers totaled 1,280 rushing yards and 18 touchdowns. Spencer's top prep game came as a senior when he rushed for 306 yards and scored six touchdowns against Martins Ferry. All told, he scored 40 points in that contest.

He was awarded All-OVAC and All-Ohio football honors following his junior and senior seasons.

Spencer also played basketball and ran track for the Red Devils, excelling in the 100- and 200-meters. After his prep days, Spencer matriculated to Columbus to play for Coach Earle Bruce's Ohio State Buckeyes.

The 6-1, 210-pounder was a three-year starter for the Buckeyes. He finished his career with 3,553 yards which still ranks third on Ohio State's all-time rushing charts.

Spencer led the Big Ten in rushing as a senior with 1,371 yards, eighth best in the nation. He was accorded All-Big Ten honors twice and was a second-team UPI All-American selection as a senior.

He served as the Buckeyes' co-captain as a senior and was voted the team MVP that year. He was also named MVP of the Holiday Bowl as he rushed for 167 yards and two TDs in OSU's 47-17 win.

Spencer was the second player selected in the United States Football League (USFL) draft by the Chicago Blitz. After a three-year USFL stint, he signed with the San Diego Chargers where he started for four years at fullback.

He gained more than 5,000 rushing yards and scored 45 touchdowns as a professional.

Spencer served as Ohio State's running backs coach from 1994 through the 2003 season. He left the Buckeyes for an assistant's role with the Chicago Bears.

Amy Gamble (Athlete - 1980s)



Amy Gamble (John Marshall High School, Class of 1982) is one of the Ohio Valley's greatest female athletes of all time. Gamble excelled in three sports — basketball, track and women's handball.

She became Marshall County's first Olympian when she competed with the U.S. Women's Handball Team in the 1988 Games held in Seoul, Korea. Earlier, the U.S. Women were crowned as champions of the Pan American Games.

Gamble was selected as the West Virginia Women's Basketball Player of the Year in 1982 after leading John Marshall to the state Class AAA championship. She averaged 23 points and 18 rebounds on a 22-1 record team which avenged its only loss by defeating Elkins in the state finals. Captain of the All-State Team, Gamble was a two-time Class AAA first-team honoree. She was chosen All-OVAC and All-Valley three straight years.

She was the first JMHS girls' basketball performer to score more than 1,000 points and the initial Monarch athlete to have her jersey retired. She scored 1,498 career points. Gamble was ranked as the No. 4 girls' basketball player in the country her senior season when was named to the *Parade*, *Sweet & Smith* and *USA Today* All-American teams.

Recruited by Tennessee, she played as a backup on the 1983 Lady Vols' squad that finished as the NCAA tournament runners-up, losing to the Cheryl Miller-led Southern Cal powerhouse. She left Tennessee at the end of that season and transferred to West Virginia University but played just one season before deciding to try team handball.

After her appearance in the Olympics, Gamble returned to basketball and enrolled at the University of Arizona. Despite having just one season of eligibility remaining, Gamble was the team's leading scorer and she earned Pacific-10 Conference player of the week laurels.

Her high school track career was also brilliant, as Gamble set numerous invitational meet and OVAC records in the shot put and the discus. She established all-time OVAC standards in both events and was a West Virginia state champion in both events. She was a three-time All-Valley honoree.

Mitch Hannahs (Athlete - 1980s)



Mitch Hannahs (Skyvue High School, Class of 1985) was the epitome of a winner in high school as the two-sport, four-year letterman sparked the tiny Golden Hawks to the state tournament in both basketball and baseball.

In basketball, Skyvue made the OHSAA state tournament in Hannahs' junior and senior seasons, finishing as the Class A runner-up in 1984-85. He was selected first team All-Ohio as a senior and second team as a junior and was a two-time first team All-Eastern District, All-OVAC and All-Pioneer Valley Conference honoree. He also participated in the Ohio North-South All-Star classic following a senior season where the 5-10 guard averaged more than 22 points per game.

In baseball, the consistent-hitting and sure-handed shortstop helped the Hawks to the Ohio Class A state championship as a senior (1985) as well as the OVAC and PVC titles. He earned first team All-Ohio, All-Eastern District, All-OVAC and All-PVC honors and was selected for the Ohio Baseball All-Star Series.

He also received All-Eastern District, All-OVAC and All-PVC accolades following his sophomore (1983) and junior (1984) seasons.

After graduation Hannahs pulled off a rare "double" when his college team - Indiana State University - advanced to the NCAA Division I College World Series in 1986 and that same season, he played for the Maynard Post 666 team which advanced to the American Legion World Series. Hannahs was voted MVP of the regional tournament that season and won the Louisville Slugger Award for the highest batting average in tournament play.

At Indiana State, Hannahs was a three-time All-Missouri Valley Conference performer (1987-89) and was an NCAA Division I All-American following his senior year (1989).

He was a 16th round draft pick of the Milwaukee Brewers, playing in their farm system from 1989-93. Hannahs is currently athletic director and head baseball coach at Lincoln Trail College in Robinson, Illinois. He previously coached for seven years at his alma mater - Indiana State University.

Vicki Pullie-Stokes (Athlete - 1980s)



Vicki Pullie-Stokes (Wellsville High School, Class of 1987) is believed by many Wellsville residents to be one of the greatest athletes in the school's history, attested to by her induction as a member of Wellsville High School's Athletic of Fame inaugural Class of 2004.

During her high school career, Pullie-Stokes collected 15 first-place finishes at the annual Cal Giffin OVAC Track Championships and she was selected as the area "Track Athlete of the Year" three times. She also earned both All-Valley and All-Eastern District laurels four times each. She was a two-time long jump champion at the Ohio high school state meet and was a runner-up in the 200 meters.

In volleyball, she was twice selected as the team MVP and earned All-Area (three times), All-Eastern District (twice), and All-OVAC (twice). Three times she was named to the All-Columbiana County team.

In basketball, she led the 1987 Lady Tigers to the state finals. Her 27-1 record Wellsville team ended one of the nation's longest basketball streaks at 108 when the Tigers defeated West Holmes in tournament play. She scored more than 1,400 points and collected more than 800 rebounds while helping the Tigers to a three-year record of 66-8. Pullie-Stokes was chosen OVAC "Player of the Year" that season and was a two-time All-Ohio honoree. She also earned All-Valley and All-Area recognition three times each on the hardwood.

All told, she won 11 varsity letters and was selected as the American Legion 1987 Ohio State "Athlete of the Year". She went on to play collegiate basketball at Ohio State and was a member of the 1989 Buckeyes' squad that won the Big Ten Conference championship. She gained personal honors when in 1990 she was selected as Ohio State's best defensive player, team MVP and Big Ten honorable mention. Twice, she was designated as the conference's player of the week.

Additionally, Pullie earned a gold medal with the North Team in the 1989 U.S. Olympic Festival, held in Norman, Okla.

Geno Ford (Athlete - 1990s)



Geno Ford (Cambridge High School, Class of 1993) achieved the ultimate honor of a high school basketball player in the state of Ohio when he was selected "Mr. Basketball" following his senior season.

The 5-8 sharpshooter finished a stellar four-year career with the Bobcats as Ohio's second all-time leading scorer with 2,680 points which also stands as the OVAC's all-time high-water mark.

Ford's name also appears in the OHSAA record book in the following categories: 288 free throws made in a season (1991-92), first all-time; 697 free throws made in a career (1989-93), first all-time; and 928 points in a season (1991-92), seventh all-time.

Playing for his father, highly-successful Cambridge coach Gene Ford, Geno earned All-Ohio Division II first team accolades following both his junior and senior seasons. He was also a two-time All-Eastern District Division II "Player of the Year" and two-time All-OVAC Class 4-A first team pick.

Ford went on to become a four-year letterman at Ohio University, earning All-Mid American Conference second team honors as a junior (1996) and first team plaudits as a senior (1997). He is the fifth all-time leading scorer at OU with 1,752 points. One of the most popular players at OU, Ford helped the Bobcats to one NCAA and one NIT appearance during his career.

Following graduation, he served as a graduate assistant (1998-99) and assistant coach (1999-2001) at Ohio University; was head coach for one season at Division II Shawnee State University (2001-02), leading his team to a 22-10 record and earning American Midwest Conference "Coach of the Year" honors; and served as an assistant coach at Kent State University since the 2002-03 season.

Stephanie Petho (Athlete - 1990s)



Stephanie Petho (St. John Central, Class of 1992) remains the measuring stick for female basketball greatness in the OVAC.

The Fighting Irish three-sports luminary re-wrote the St. John Central and OVAC scoring books during her career on Guernsey Street. The 5-7 sharpshooter finished her four-year career with 2,667 points which is first in conference annals and still ranks sixth in the state of Ohio.

Petho was accorded first-team All-OVAC all four years. The Bellaire native earned All-Ohio honors three years, culminating by being named the state's Division IV "Player of the Year" following a season in which she averaged a staggering 37.1 points a game.

As a junior, she tallied 35.9 points per game in leading her Lady Irish teammates to a 22-3 record as berth in the OHSAA regional tournament. She was named first team All-Ohio after scoring 910 points that winter alone. Petho twice cracked the 50-point plateau in a game, scoring 57 against Shadyside and 56 against Toronto.

The two-year starter at the University of Pittsburgh carried St. John Central to four OVAC championships in basketball and an overall 75-16 record. Petho was no one-sport wonder, also starring in volleyball and track during her prep career. She earned All-OVAC in volleyball her junior and senior years.

In track, Petho is one of the valley's all-time great throwers, earning five OVAC gold medals in the weight events — three in the discus and two in the shot put. Petho tossed the platter a school-record 121-7 en route to a regional championship and a third-place showing in the state meet as a junior.

She capped her high school career by being named co-valedictorian of her senior class and she went on to become an Academic All-American at Pitt. While there, she led the team in scoring in the 1994-95 season, became the career free throw percentage leader (81.4) and is 14th on the all-time scoring list.

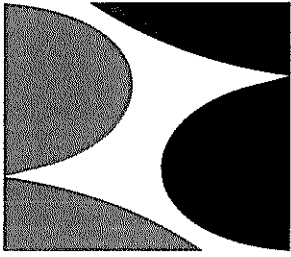
OVAC Hall of Fame

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The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Hall of Fame Committee would like to thank Denny Magruder, Doug Campbell and the entire staff of WesBanco Arena for so graciously offering to be the permanent home of the OVAC Hall of Fame and for making this evening's festivities possible.





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For information on the OVAC Hall of Fame, or how to nominate a person into the Hall of Fame, contact the OVAC office at 64962 Breezy Point Lane, Bellaire, OH 43906 or call 740-671-3269.

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