

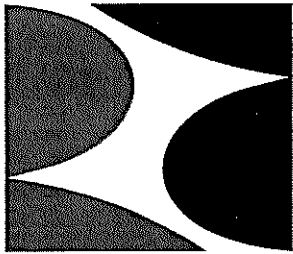
2006

Ohio Valley Athletic Conference **HALL OF FAME**



3rd Annual Ceremony

Saturday August 19, 2006
WesBanco Arena, Wheeling, WV



BOB ROBINSON

CHEVROLET / CADILLAC

16th Street • Downtown Wheeling • 233-8000



*Saluting Excellence in the
Ohio Valley Athletic Conference*



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\$100 Donation

Purchase your next vehicle from Bob Robinson's and we will **donate \$100 back** to the O.V.A.C. Must present this coupon at time of purchase.



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\$5 Donation

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 Rataiczak, Dick Wolf, Jeff Harrison and Tom Tisher. Not pictured, Kelly Rine and Jay Kiger.



OVAC Hall of Fame Committee



- Nick Bedway**Retired 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**Managing Editor, The Times Leader, Martins Ferry
- Jay Kiger**Athletic Director, East Liverpool High School
- Ron Mauck**.....Ron Mauck/OVAC Wrestling Championship Director
- Tom Tisher**Athletic Director, River High School
- Thomas E. Rataiczak**OVAC Executive Secretary
- Kelly Rine**.....Athletic Director, St. Clairsville High School
- Dick Wolf**Former East Liverpool City Schools Board Member, OVAC Supporter



2006-2007 OVAC Executive Board



The 2006-2007 OVAC Executive Board. Row 1: George Kohells, Ohio Board Member; Dan Doyle, Ohio Board Member; Marty Hudek, Past President; Jerry Narcisi, President; Dianna Vargo, Vice-President; Tim Haught, 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. Not pictured, Jeff Crosier, Ohio Board Member.



Bridgeport High School

Congratulates

Ron Mauck

Class of 1958

Past president of The Bridgeport
High School Alumni Association

Past director of the Rudy Mumley
OVAC Charity All-Star
Football Classic

Mr. Mat Award winner in 1985

OVAC Wrestling Tournament
named in his honor

West Virginia Coaches 'Man of the
Year' in 1987

Phil Niekro

Class of 1957

Three-sport high school star
for the Bulldogs

24-year MLB record of 318-274;
3,342 strikeouts, 3.35 ERA

Five-time MLB All-Star;
five-time Gold Glove winner

Inducted into Baseball
Hall of Fame in 1997

Winner of Brian Piccolo Award,
Lou Gehrig Award and
Roberto Clemente Award





Dennis Swearingen

**Congratulations on
your induction into the
OVAC Hall of Fame
From your friends and
co-workers at
Professional Staff
Management**



William R. Thomas
*Executive Vice President
Sales & Marketing*
bthomas@psmin.com
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Fax: (765) 962-6732

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Suite 850
Indianapolis, IN 46240
(317) 816-7007
1-888-716-7007
Fax: (317) 816-7005



Congratulations
Paul “Bud” Billiard
Russell “Russ” Craft

OVAC Hall of Fame Inductees

Members of the Brooke County Board of Education

Gary L. Griffith, President
Laura Beckelhimer
William C. Harvey
Richard Pannett
Michael E. Rodgers

Congratulations

Carl A. Hamill

OVAC ‘Legend’ honoree

Coached at Weir High from 1929-51

Football coaching record 166-35-13; won state titles in 1935, '42 and '49

Basketball coaching record 370-127

Won state baseball title in 1949

Bob Gain

OVAC Hall of Fame honoree

All-W.Va., All-OVAC in 1946

Three-time All-SEC, two-time All-American at the University of Kentucky

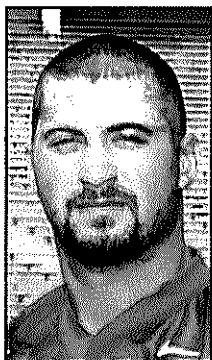
Outland Trophy winner in 1950

College Football Hall of Famer

Weir High Basketball Boosters

Congratulations

Jeff Snedegar



*on your induction into the
OVAC Hall of Fame*



*from the
Buckeye Trail
Athletic Boosters*

Congratulations

Lee Patrone

from the

**Indian Creek
Athletic Department**

Boyd Nelson

A true Hall of Famer

The Times Leader would like to express its heartfelt thanks to the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference for its recognition of Boyd Nelson, who spent four decades photographing sports of the Ohio Valley for this newspaper, as a member of the OVAC Hall of Fame Class of 2006. Boyd covered everything from Little League baseball to presidential visits and served as a tremendous goodwill ambassador for the newspaper.



Boyd Nelson

 **The
Times Leader**

The Times Leader salutes all 17 members of the third class of the OVAC Hall of Fame and the five OVAC 'Legends' for their contributions to sports in the Ohio Valley.

Congratulations



Proud of our Alumni!!

With Great Pride and
Gratitude for

Paul Billiard

OHIO

Congratulations

MARTINS FERRY



PURPLE RIDERS

ON BEING INDUCTED INTO
THE OVAC HALL OF FAME,
DENNIS!

MARTINS FERRY



PURPLE RIDERS

YOUR WHOLE FAMILY
IS SO PROUD OF YOU!

LOVE,

YOUR DAUGHTER, BRIANA AND SON, KYLE

MOM

RON AND ANN, NATALIE AND ALYSSA

DOUG AND ROSE, DJ, ANNA, SARAH AND MARIA

DIANA AND JIM, SAMANTHA AND NIKKI

MARY AND RICK, SPENCER, PARKER, TAYLOR AND EMMA

CHRIS, PEYTON AND ALEX

Congratulations Lefty
“From the Halls of
Barnesville High School
to the Halls of
WesBanco Arena”
From the Barnesville
Booster Club and
Athletic Department



CONGRATULATIONS!

Russ Craft & Paul "Bud" Billiard

ON YOUR INDUCTION INTO THE OHIO VALLEY
ATHLETIC CONFERENCE HALL OF FAME
WE ARE PROUD OF YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

BROOKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

John Casinelli

Norma Tarr

Bernie Kazienko

Congratulations Paul "Bud" Billiard



Paul T. Billiard
President

1321 Commerce Street
Wellsburg, WV 26070

(304) 737-1557
Cell (304) 281-1144
Fax (304) 737-1487



E-Mail Paul@riverfrontmortgage.com
www.riverfrontmortgage.com



Congratulations

Ron Mauck & Phil Niekro

**on your induction into
the OVAC Hall of Fame**

From The Bridgeport School District

Mark Matz, Superintendent

Amy Porter, Treasurer



Board of Education

Don Cash, Member

Bill Talik, Member

Jeffery Grandstaff, Member

Michael McGrath, Member

Jerry Moore, Member



PROUD TO BE A BULLDOG!

PAUL "BUD" BILLIARD

— THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES —

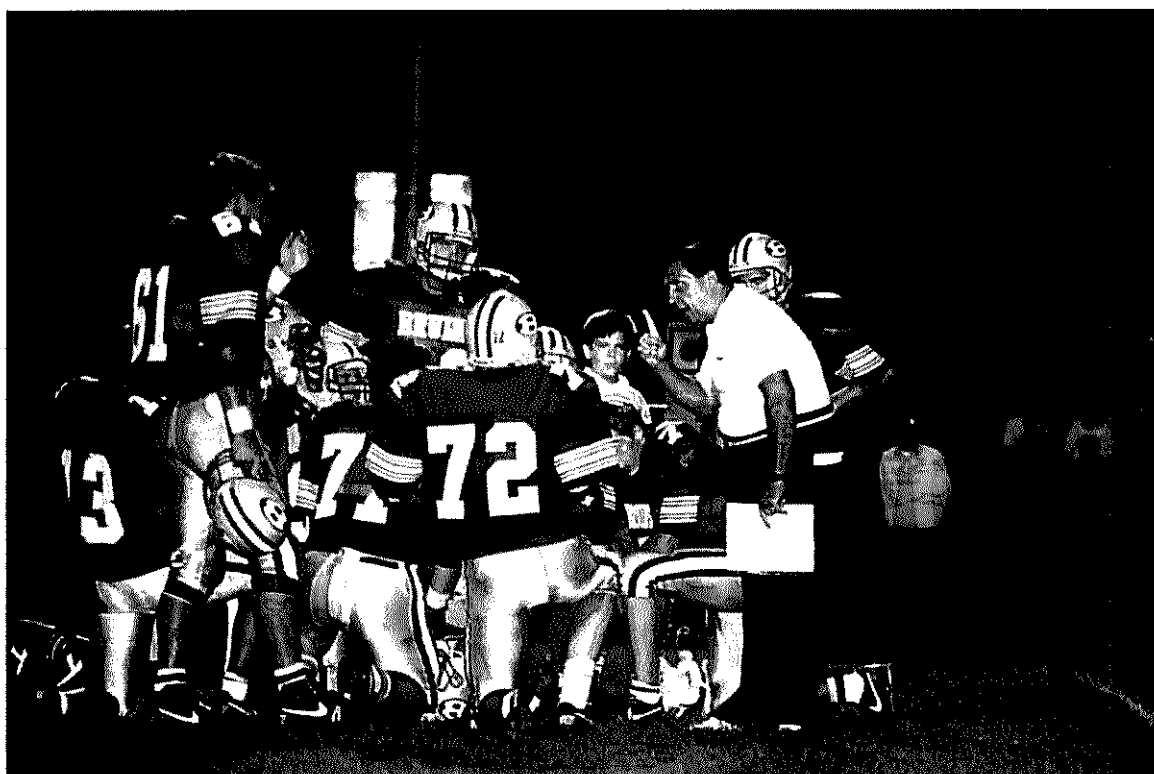
**CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR INDUCTION,
WE ARE PROUD OF YOU.**

FROM YOUR WIFE CAROL,

**DAUGHTER KIM WALES, HUSBAND MARK AND GRANDSONS
KYLE AND KODY.**

SON PAUL, WIFE MILLIE AND GRANDSONS CROSS AND BODE.

SON T.J., WIFE ERIN, AND GRANDDAUGHTER GIANA.



LET'S BE 1-0 ONE MORE TIME

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE INDUCTEES.

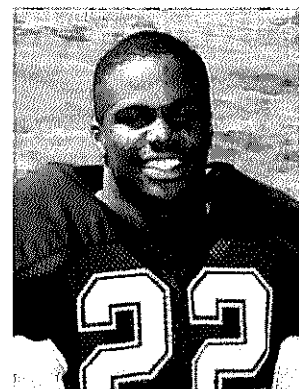


CONGRATULATIONS



BILLY WEST

**BUCKEYE LOCAL
HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE**



Bill West

**From the Buckeye Local
Athletic Department**

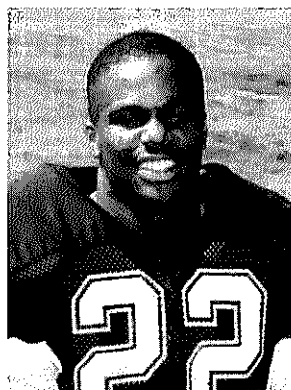
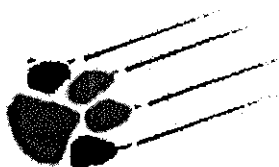
Individual Honors

BILL WEST

- All-State
- OVAC 1st team
- All-Valley
- All-District
- Clark Hinkle Award
- District "Back of the Year"
- OVAC All-Star team



Billy West



All-State

Clark Hinkle Award

OVAC 1st team

District "Back of the Year"

All-District

All-Valley

OVAC All-Star team

***Buckeye Local High School
Hall of Fame Inductee***

**Congratulations from the
Buckeye Local Touchdown Club**

Michael Haffey and the
Agency Associates Team
Congratulate

Dennis Swearingen

On His
Induction into the Hall of Fame

Congrats Dennis!



In Memory of
Coach Carl Hamill

From the Mid-Year Class of 1940 and the June Class of 1940.

Coach Hamill will always hold a special place in the hearts of all the athletes and students of Weir High School from 1929 to 1965.

The Weir High School classes of 1940 congratulate all of tonight's OVAC Hall of Fame inductees, especially Bob Gain, who is a Weir High graduate and an OVAC Hall of Fame honoree.

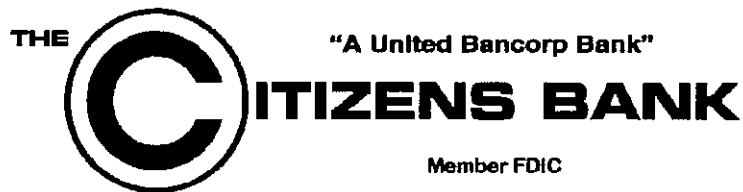




Congratulations

DENNIS SWEARINGEN

and all
Hall of Fame
Inductees



Your Hometown Bank Since 1902

Bridgeport Colerain Martins Ferry St. Clairsville

JOHN MARSHALL ATHLETIC BOOSTERS

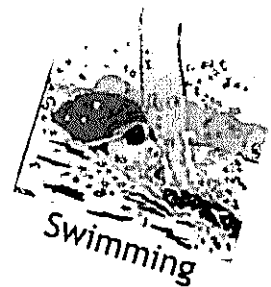
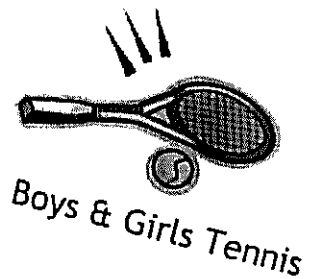
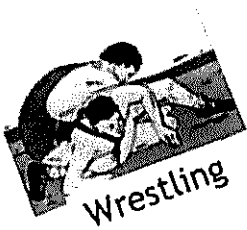
John Marshall High Schools
Glen Dale, West Virginia 26038

President: Bob Hanket
Vice President: Norman Huggins

Secretary: Reva Icard
Treasurer: Becky Cox

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

BOB HUMMELL

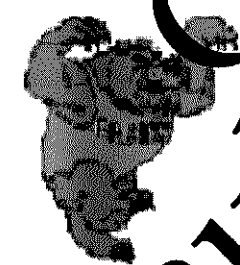


Special Athletes



Coached from 1979 to 2001
185 wins 79 losses 1 tie
Championship years: 85, 87, & 90

Brooke Football Boosters



Paul "Bud", Billiard

inducted into the
Hall of Fame

Officers:

President - Brian Ferguson & Tresa Thomas
Vice President - Dave Hartman & Patty Carroll
Secretary - Bob Cork & Kay Pownall
Treasurer - Ellen Larter & Paul Pownall

Never, Never Never Quit



From a family's first Campus Visit to Graduation Day, these words echo throughout the Linsly Experience.

- *To persevere through adversity*
- *To show grace in victory and defeat*
- *To respect the opposition*

These values serve students well while they are at Linsly and through their college and professional lives.

The Linsly School is a coeducational boarding and day school for grades 5-12, with boarding for Grades 7-12. Located just one hour west of Pittsburgh.

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The Linsly School
BRINGING YOUNG MINDS TO LIFE.

The Linsly School is an equal opportunity school • 60 Knox Lane, Wheeling WV 26003

THE OHIO

UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT

WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE

DENNIS SWEARINGEN

ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE

OHIO VALLEY ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

HALL OF FAME



DENNIS MADE MANY GREAT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE OHIO FOOTBALL PROGRAM DURING HIS FOUR-YEAR CAREER.

HE FINISHED HIS CAREER AS A BOBCAT FOURTH ALL-TIME WITH 3,267 PASSING YARDS, AND THIRD WITH 312 COMPLETIONS AND 569 ATTEMPTS.

DENNIS PUT TOGETHER ONE OF THE GREATEST INDIVIDUAL SEASONS AT QUARTERBACK FOR OHIO DURING HIS SENIOR CAMPAIGN IN 1985. HE FINISHED THE SEASON WITH THE SECOND-MOST TOUCHDOWN PASSES IN A SINGLE SEASON IN OHIO HISTORY WITH 13 AND THE FOURTH-MOST PASSING YARDS IN A SINGLE SEASON WITH 2,056.

CONGRATULATIONS DENNIS!!

**East Liverpool High School's
Athletic Hall of Fame**

Congratulates

Wendy Baker

ELHS Class of '89

ELHS Hall of Fame Class of '94

OVAC Hall of Fame Inductee

and

Bernie Allen

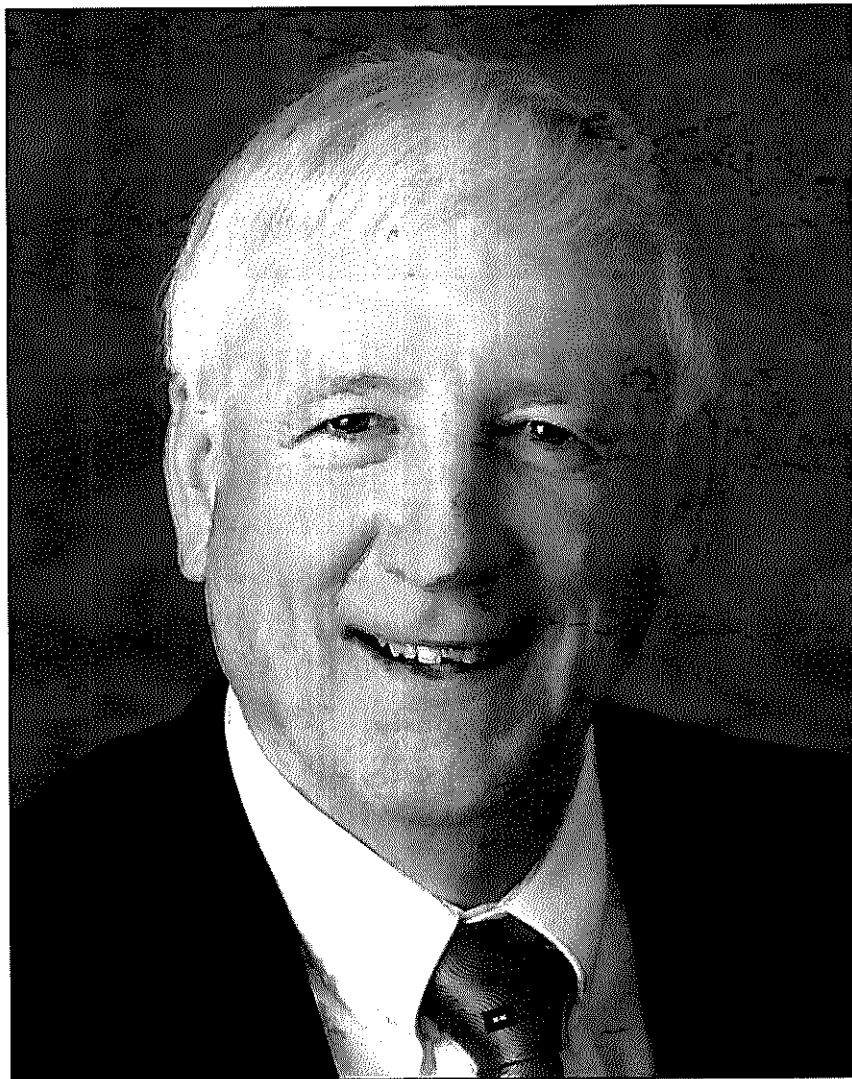
ELHS Class of '57

ELHS Hall of Fame Class of '82

'Legend' of OVAC honoree

“I” is an island and stands alone.

***“We” working together can
accomplish amazing things!***



***The Ohio Valley Wrestling Coaches’
Association salutes and thanks Ron Mauck
for making the OVAC Wrestling Tournament
what it is today — second to none.***



In Memory of

Our Teacher, Coach and Friend

Coach Carl Hamill

From The Grossi Family

Chester P. Grossi - Football 1937-39; Track 1937-39
Assistant Coach for Coach Hamill 1947-53

Dan Grossi - Football 1943-44; Baseball 1942-45

John Grossi - Football 1945-48; Baseball 1946-49; Basketball 1947-49

Louise Grossi Enrietti - Cheerleader 1945-46

Lena Grossi Schiavone - Weir High School Student Body President 1952-53





To Jule Rivlin

*Congratulations on your
Hall of Fame award.*

*You were our Super Grandfather and
Great Grandfather and you will always be
remembered in our hearts.*

*Carrie, Lindsey and Chrystal Schneider
Great Grandchildren Ethan & Allie Schneider*



Jule Rivlin

**Our Grandfather was an
inspiration to all who met him.
A man whose vocabulary never
included the word "can't".**

**He taught us what it meant to be a good per-
son, to give all we can give, to listen when we
were spoken to, and how to always be cognizant
of those around us.**

**To our Grandfather, congratulations on this
Hall of Fame award.**

Love, Kelley & Pat Fitch and Cody Wolfe



What's In A Name?

*Jule Rivlin, I would hear
Now I hear it and start
to tear
I never knew what that
name meant
I knew it meant my
Grandfather; only the words
were bent.*

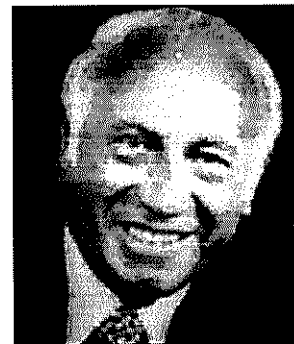
*But now I know it meant honor
Now I know it meant heart
Jule Rivlin played with all that was great and
I am glad I could be a part.*

*Today, I am a freshman on varsity
And I owe it to him and his fame
For he inspired me to love this great old game.*

*Jule Rivlin, I would hear
Now I hear it and start to tear
I never knew what that name meant
I knew it meant my grandfather; only the words were
bent.*

*But more than a celebrity, he was a great man
Even though he is known to many, I am his biggest fan.*

*Love,
Hayley Thayer*



**Congratulations Jule Rivlin, my grandfather
who was always ready to make me laugh.**

**He would call every day to see how I was
doing and to tell a joke.**

**I miss those phone calls so much now and I
frequently remember his goodbye, "Cheerio,
Tudiloo, I Love You"!!!**

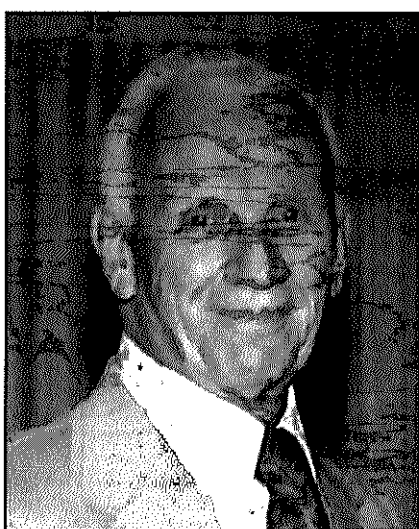
**He was a great man and an especially
great Grandfather.**

We all miss him greatly.

**Love,
Erin Thayer**

Weir Red Rider Boosters

salute and thank the OVAC
for the selection of
Coach Carl R. Hamill and Bob Gain
as OVAC Hall of Fame honorees.



Carl Hamill
Weir High 1929-62



Bob Gain
Weir High 1943-47

We are proud of their outstanding achievements in not only representing our community of Weirton, but instilling pride and carrying forward the excellent tradition of the Red & Black of Weir High School.

Coach Hamill

Football state champions 1935-1942-1949
Baseball state champions 1950
Basketball state runner-up 1942

Bob Gain

All-State 1946
All-American 1950
Outland Trophy 1950
NFL All-Pro 5 years
Member of 3 NFL
championship teams



OVAC HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2006



Cal Giffin

Cal Giffin (Bellaire High School, Class of 1947). One of the legendary figures involved in the sport of high school track and cross country in the OVAC.

During his 17 years employed as a teacher and coach in the Bellaire City School District, Giffin was one of the founders and the director of the famed Bellaire Relays. During its 52-year history, the Bellaire Relays attracted many of Ohio's greatest athletes to the Nelson Field. At one time, the Bellaire Relays was recognized as the second-largest track event in the Buckeye State. His teams won five OVAC and district track championships. During his reign, the Big Reds won 58 dual/triangular track meets. Also while at Bellaire, Giffin was an assistant coach in football under Cyril Lane, Reyman "Bud" Bonar and Don Ault. During the winter months, he assisted basketball coach Claire Cribbs.

Giffin's time-consuming work and contributions to the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference included a term as president (1973-74) and commissioner of the football and basketball officials. He directed many major OVAC track meets and to honor his efforts, the league championships in track and field were renamed as the OVAC Cal Giffin Classic.

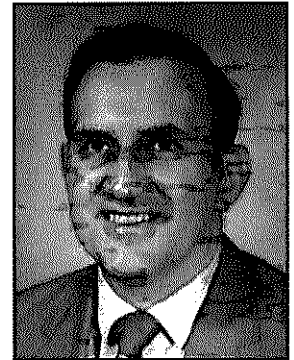
He was a member of the Eastern District of the Ohio Athletic Board, the Ohio High School Coaches Association, the Ohio Football Coaches Association and the National Collegiate Track and Field Coaches Association. He was voted into the Ohio State Track Coaches Hall of Fame in 1972. Giffin was presented two awards of merit from the OHSAA and, following his death in 1975, he was selected for a posthumous Alumni Achievement Award by West Liberty State College.

Giffin served the Eastern Ohio Coaches Association as president as well as being the state vice president for the Ohio Association of Track Coaches.

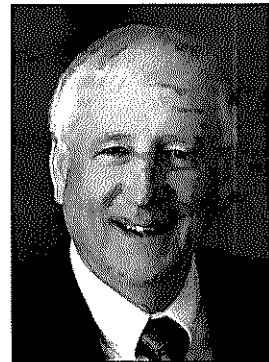
Athletically, Cal was a three-sport letterman (football, basketball and track) at Bellaire High. He played on the first Big Reds' football team to win an OVAC championship (1946). He also played in the Ohio-West Virginia All-Star Football Game in 1947.

Giffin's career also led him to the Martins Ferry School District where he was the supervisor of elementary and secondary education. From there, he became the principal of St. Clairsville High School and later served as superintendent of the St. Clairsville-Richland School District.

He received his B.A. in Education from West Liberty State College in 1951 and his Master of Arts Degree in school administration from WVU in 1967.



Cal Giffin



Ron Mauck

Ron Mauck

Ron Mauck (Bridgeport High School, Class of 1958). Educator, administrator, community leader.

Mauck has been director of the OVAC Wrestling Tournament, one of the largest high school events of its kind in the entire country, since 1979. This highly-regarded championship was renamed as the Ron Mauck OVAC Wrestling Tournament in 2006.

A pupil of the late George Kovalick, an OVAC Hall of Famer and considered to be the patriarch of high school wrestler in the Ohio Valley, Mauck also established the conference's dual meet championship standings in 1971 and directed five West Virginia state championship tournaments held at the Wheeling Civic Center (now WesBanco Arena). Three times, he served as a volunteer on the staff for NAIA and NCAA Division II championships (hosted by West Liberty State College) held in Wheeling.

In addition to his duties with the conference mat tournament, Mauck was a long-time member of the Rudy Mumley OVAC Charity All-Star Football Classic. He was assistant game director and later served as game director from 1993 through 1998.

The Bridgeport High and West Liberty State College graduate, who earned his master's in safety education, began his teaching and coaching career in 1965 at Follansbee High School where he started the school's varsity wrestling program and coached the school's only individual state champion (Lou Daly). While at Follansbee, Mauck coached John Craig, a first-time wrestler as a senior in 1965 who went on to become an All-American at West Liberty and later was one of the area's outstanding coaches before becoming an administrator.

When the consolidated Brooke High School opened in 1968, Ron was named to coach the wrestling team where he tutored the Bruins' first West Virginia mat champ in Jim Suddoth. Before retiring after a 34-year career in education, Mauck served Brooke High School as director of the school's Driver's Education Department, Physical Plant Director, Assistant Athletic Director and Athletic Director.

In addition to having the OVAC Wrestling Tournament renamed in his honor, Mauck also was presented the "Mr. Mat" Award in 1985. He was named the W. Va. Wrestling Coaches Man of the Year (1987); and received recognition awards from the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Club (1985 and 1997); W. Va. Athletic Director of the Year (1995). For his community efforts, Mauck twice was selected Warwood Lions Citizen of the Year, winner of the H.V. Corcoran, Sr. Award (2001) and a member of the Brooke County Wall of Fame (2006). He is past president of the W. Va. Safety Association, the Bridgeport Alumni and Warwood Junior High Athletic Association.

Boyd Nelson

Boyd Nelson (Bellaire High School, Class of 1945). Nelson spent 41 years as a photographer with The Times Leader in Martins Ferry. Fellow staffers and friends have called him a pioneer, a legend and, perhaps, the greatest goodwill ambassador in the newspaper's history. His work behind the camera, according to many area high school coaches, help bring the sports world alive to the readers of The Times Leader.

Nelson, a quiet, unassuming man, let his camera do his talking for him. No assignment was too big nor too menial for Nelson, who had the opportunity to take pictures of seven U.S. presidents from Harry Truman through Ronald Reagan. Nelson chronicled nearly every major happening throughout the Ohio Valley during his career. He was a familiar and much-welcome face at high school, college and professional games and matches from the start of his career in the late 1940s until his retirement in 1988. The coaches, fans and players were happy to see him there because they could look forward to seeing the results of his excellent handiwork in the next day's newspaper.

As was pointed out at the time of his death in 2003, there wasn't a gymnasium, football field or baseball diamond in The Times Leader's coverage area where Nelson didn't capture the exploits of athletes of all ages and abilities. Among the future professional greats he covered included baseball hall of famers Phil Niekro and Bill Mazeroski; basketball hall of famer John Havlicek, Joe Niekro, Tim Spencer, Olympic wrestler and coach Bobby Douglas and Allan Hornyak, just a to mention a few.

Boyd's devotion to his work also made him a role model and an inspiration to aspiring and seasoned photographers alike.

Nelson shunned the limelight throughout his life despite the urgings of co-workers and admirers to enter his pictures in statewide competition. As a result, he was bypassed for many awards that easily would have come his way. However, United Press International began presenting awards to newspaper and magazine photographers in the early 1970s and the very first honoree was none other than Boyd Nelson.

When The Times Leader published a pictorial history of Eastern Ohio in 1999, the book was dedicated to Nelson, a lifelong Belmont County resident.

He began his career following a stint in the U.S. Navy. He served a stint in the Philippines during World War II. After returning home, Nelson attended Ohio University for a year. However, after being hired as a summer intern by The Times Leader, he never returned to college and made photography his lifetime profession.



Boyd Nelson



OVAC HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2006



Paul (Bud) Billiard

Paul "Bud" Billiard (Wellsburg High School, Class of 1959). Head coach at Brooke High School for 23 seasons (1979-2001) where he compiled a record of 185 wins, 79 defeats and 1 tie. During this span, Billiard's Bruins won three West Virginia Class AAA state championships — 1985, 1987 and 1990. His 1987 and '90 powerhouses recorded perfect record seasons and both were nationally ranked. The 1987 team finished 25th in the country while the 1990 squad ended up in 23rd place.

In 1994, Brooke also ended the campaign with a 10-0 record but lost in the state playoffs. Fifteen of his 23 Bruin teams participated in the post-season playoffs and seven made the state championship game. Also, Billiard coached the green and gold to seven OVAC Class AAAA Division championships. He coached in two Rudy Mumley OVAC Charity All-Star Football games and in three West Virginia North-South Games. He was among the founding members and past president of the Ohio Valley Football Coaches Association for whom he also was chairman of the group's annual awards dinner. He also assisted in organizing the OVFA's Clinics and Prospect Nights.

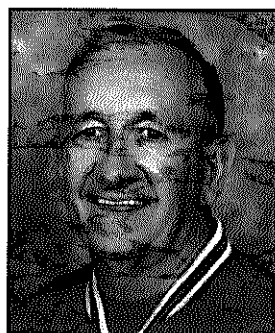
Billiard's Brooke coaching career also included eight years as an assistant coach in football, two years as a wrestling assistant, six years as head wrestling coach and three years as head track coach. Prior to coaching at Brooke, he spent four years as an assistant coach in football at Wheeling Central Catholic High School, two years as a volunteer assistant in wrestling and three years as head track coach after establishing the program in the spring sport.

While attending Wellsburg High School, he played four years of football and lettered three years, serving as team captain in 1958. He played baseball three years, earning two letters. At West Liberty State College, Billiard was a four-year varsity letterman in football playing on both the offensive and defensive lines. After his junior season, he earned first-team All-WVIAC laurels as an offensive lineman. The versatile performer was named a captain and first-team all-conference on defense as a senior.

Highlights of the various awards Billiard has received include: Ohio Valley, OVAC and West Virginia Coach of the Year; Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Man of the Year; Carl Hamill Coaching Award; Steubenville Moose Lodge Coach of the Year; West Liberty State College Athletic Hall of Fame; 2005 Ohio Valley Football Coaches Hall of Fame inductee; H.V. Corcoran Sr. Award for the Brooke football program bringing national attention to the Ohio Valley; and a 2005 recipient of the West Virginia Athletic Coaches Association's Retired Coaching Award.



Paul Billiard



Richard Hall

Richard (Lefty) Hall

Richard "Lefty" Hall (Barnesville High School, Class of 1959). Hall was one of the most successful two-sport coaches (baseball/golf) in OVAC history, compiling a whopping 1,116 victories over a 34-year span.

He began his baseball coaching career at Powhatan High School for a year before taking the same post at St. Clairsville High School. In his 33 years with the Red Devils (1969-2001), his teams amassed an outstanding 515-320 record.

With "Lefty" calling the shots from the dugout, St. Clairsville won seven OVAC championships and made five Ohio High School Athletic Association regional tournament appearances (1978, 1982, 1986, 1990 and 1997). The Red Devils advanced to the state tournament "Final Four" in 1997. St. Clairsville also won five Eastern Ohio Baseball League titles under Hall's guidance.

Hall was named OVAC Coach of the year in 1991 and received the same accolade from the Eastern District three times, 1990, 1995 and 1997. He also served as one of the coaches in the Mizuno All-Star Series in 1997. A true baseball "junkie," Hall was inducted into the Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame in 1996 and was named the Ohio Baseball Hall of Fame "Man of the Year" in 1999.

Hall coached six players who signed professional baseball contracts, the list including Gerry Craft, Gene Cattane, Ted Rose, Scott Barnhouse, Joe Slavik and Joe Dudek.

In golf, "Lefty" coached St. Clairsville for 27 years (1974-2000), finishing with a 601-123 record. He had three unbeaten teams and also tutored three squads that advanced to the Ohio state tournament. The Red Devils also collected 14 OVAC golf championships.

Hall, a life-long resident of Barnesville, lettered in baseball and track while performing for the Shamrocks. He graduated from Ohio University.

Warren (Nookie) Pugh

Warren "Nookie" Pugh (The Linsly School, Class of 1920). The Wheeling Island resident who died in 1983 at the age of 81 served the coaching and officiating profession very well and also was an outstanding contributor to his committee.

As an official, Pugh served as a football and basketball referee for over 40 years. In football, he worked in both high school and college, including the West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and West Virginia University, Pitt and Penn State.

A basketball official for more than 40 years, Pugh officiated high school and college contests. In 1933 and 1934, he worked the entire West Virginia state high school basketball tournament, his partners being Judge Paul Camilletti the first year and Dink Westfall the second year. Pugh and John Gott of Bluefield blew the whistle for all 11 games of the first WVIAC tournament held in 1935 at Fairmont.

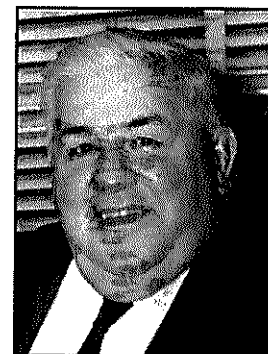
Pugh served as president of both the Ohio Valley Board of Football and Basketball Officials. He also was the referee of the famed Bellaire Relays for many years and was later named as the meet's honorary referee. He was also honored for his service by the Shadyside Relays and the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission. Pugh conducted officials' clinics in several sports and wrote a newspaper series on officiating that was published in *The Intelligencer*.

Pugh also was a Red Cross instructor in water safety and life-saving for over 50 years. In his youth, he was recognized as a tri-state diving champion and was known to many people in Wheeling for diving off the Suspension Bridge into the Ohio River. He performed that feat for the first time on Labor Day during the state fair held when he was a teenager. He repeated that dive on several other occasions during his youth.

He coached swimming at his alma mater The Linsly School for nearly three decades, guiding the Cadets to 26 OVAC championships, including 25 in a row.

Pugh was also a tremendous athlete, especially as a football player. He attended Alderson-Broadus College in Philippi for two years and played football before transferring to Davis & Elkins College where was a stellar fullback and center for Hall of Fame Coach Cam Henderson. Since eligibility rules never really existed in those days, Pugh played four years at D&E and was a standout on the 1928 team that defeated WVU 7-0 and Navy 2-0. He also admitted to slipping away from school on occasion to play professional football in Canton.

His community service included 15 years as Wheeling's Recreation Director, two terms as Ohio County Sheriff and six years as an Ohio County Commissioner. Pugh was inducted into the West Virginia Sports Hall of Fame (1980), the Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Hall of Fame (1984) and now the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Hall of Fame.



Warren Pugh



OVAC HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2006



Bob Gain

Bob Gain (Weir High School, Class of 1947). An all-time great on the high school, college and professional levels, he started his football career for the Red Riders and twice earned first team All-OVAC honors as a lineman and was honored on the 1946 All-W.Va. selections.

In 1969, he was selected as a 'Modern Era' defensive tackle on an All-Time Ohio Valley football team selected by The Intelligencer newspaper. In 2005, he was honored on an All-Time W.Va. high school team selected by The Fairmont Times newspaper.

At Weir High, he was the largest all-state honoree at 6-2, 210-pounds and was a two-way tackle as well as handling punting and kickoff duties. His late coach Carl Hamull never singled out his best Red Rider football product but always started his list with Gain, a four-year starter and his most honored protégé.

Gain is regarded as the greatest lineman in University of Kentucky, where he was a three-time All-Southeastern Conference honoree and a two-time first team All-America choice in 1949 and 1950. As a senior, he won the Outland Trophy as the nation's outstanding lineman, the first from the SEC so honored, and one of only two from the Ohio Valley. The other Outland Trophy honoree was the University of Iowa's Calvin Jones from Steubenville High.

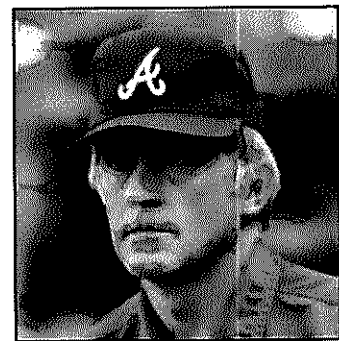
Playing for the legendary Paul "Bear" Bryant at Kentucky, the Wildcats were 33-10-2 in Gain's four seasons and he was co-captain of the 10-1 record team that upset national champion Oklahoma in the 1951 Sugar Bowl.

Gain was the No. 5 choice — the highest ever for an OVAC athlete — in the first round of the 1951 NFL Draft by the Green Bay Packers. However, he opted for Ottawa in the CFL before starting a 12-year NFL career with the Cleveland Browns. The five-time Pro Bowler was a starter on three NFL championship teams under legendary coach Paul Brown in 1954, 1955 and 1964.

The Cleveland area resident has been inducted into seven Halls of Fame — College Football, West Virginia Sports, Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan, University of Kentucky, Cleveland and Akron Halls and Cleveland Browns' Legends Hall.



Bob Gain



Phil Niekro

Phil Niekro

Phil Niekro (Bridgeport High School, Class of 1957). The Baseball Hall of Famer got his athletic start with the Bulldogs where he was a three-sport performer. Besides baseball, he was a football end and basketball forward and a teammate of fellow OVAC Hall of Famer John Havlicek.

Nicknamed "Knucksie" because of his staple pitch, the knuckleball, which he learned from his father, Niekro was a four-year Bulldog pitcher with a 17-1 career record. His only loss was 1-0 to Tiltonsville in 1954, his freshman year, when fellow Baseball and OVAC Hall of Famer Bill Mazerowski hit the game-winning home run.

The 1955 Bulldog team shared the East Ohio League title with Martins Ferry. In a 9-4 Ohio sectional tournament win over St. John's, Niekro won the game in relief and belted a two-run single. Bridgeport, however, was halted in the finals by Shadyside, a team twice defeated by the Bulldogs.

In 1956, Niekro and the Bulldogs defeated Steubenville Central, 7-1, in the Class A district tournament after sectional wins over Barnesville and St. Clairsville. Bridgeport bowed to East Liverpool in the district finals.

As a senior, Niekro tossed a four-hitter and struck out 10 in a 4-2 win over Steubenville Central for the OVAC Ohio-side title. He earlier hurled an 8-2 win over East Liverpool in the Class AA district semifinals.

Unbeaten Steubenville Central halted Bridgeport, 6-1 in the finals.

Niekro, who also played for the Bridgeport Legion team and Blaine in the summer Twilight League, was signed by the Milwaukee Braves for a \$500 bonus at a 1958 tryout camp in Bellaire.

In 1964, he started a 24-year major league career with the Braves, New York Yankees, Cleveland Indians and Toronto Blue Jays. He had a 318-274 career record while appearing in 864 games and striking out 3,342 batters, eighth on the all-time charts. He hurled a no-hitter and won five Gold Gloves and was named to five All-Star teams.

The Braves honored him by erecting a bronze statue in front of their home stadium and, in 1997, he was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. He resides in the Atlanta area.

Lee Patrone

Lee Patrone (Bellaire High School, Class of 1956). For 50 years, Patrone was the all-time leading career scorer in Big Reds' history with 1,842 points in three seasons. He led Bellaire High to three straight sectional titles with won-lost marks of 18-4, 20-3 and 19-4 while averaging 23.5, 26.7 and 32.9 points per game each season. His 27.1 point career average remains a school record.

The two-time first team All-OVAC honoree, and an All-Ohio first team honoree by The Associated Press as a senior, he was a scoring machine with 57 career games over 20 points, including all 23 as a senior, and he had 28 straight games in which he scored at least 20 points.

He tallied 54 points twice in a game in 1956, including his final game while playing with an injured leg against Martins Ferry in the district tournament title game. Ferry prevailed, 91-87, while surviving a limping Patrone's heroics. Earlier, against a Bridgeport team featuring Basketball and OVAC Hall of Famer John Havlicek, he converted 25 goals and his 299 season goals remains a school standard.

After a brief stay at Ohio State, the stocky 6-0 guard enrolled at West Virginia University in 1957 and led the 1958 freshman team in scoring with a 20-point norm. A member of the 1959 NCAA runner-up team led by All-American Jerry West, he was second to West in 1960 team scoring with a 14.2 per game norm and was named to three all-tournament teams: NCAA regional, Southern Conference and University of Kentucky. A Virginia sportswriter described him as "good enough to be cocky and cocky enough to be good."

As a senior, he was a third team All-America honoree by Helms Foundation. He ended his career with 1,028 points — then seventh best in WVU history.

After graduation, he taught and coached five seasons at Wintersville High School where his first 1969 team went 14-4 and 1972 team was 16-4. After retiring, he relocated to his current home in Florida.



Lee Patrone



OVAC HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2006



Bob Hummell

Bob Hummell (Moundsville High School, Class of 1966). This 6 ft. 3 guard was a scoring machine for Moundsville High School before taking his vast hoop talents to West Virginia University.

Hummell finished his stellar four-year prep career with 1,941 points, good for a 22.6 per game average. That average still ranks sixth among Class AAA players in the state.

His senior year was one for the record books at the Marshall County school. He poured in 897 points in 25 games for a 35.9 average, which is tied for the highest average in Class AAA archives.

Moreover, his scoring antics translated into team success as Moundsville finished as state runnerup in Class AAA, the school's first state final since 1920. Hummell torched Richwood for 45 markers in the state semifinal game. He established the Moundsville single-game scoring mark with 53 points in a win against Follansbee.

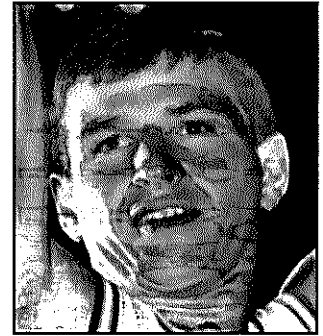
Hummell was chosen as the West Virginia "Player of the Year" by the Morgantown Touchdown Club while also being named captain of the Class AAA all-state team, all-OVAC and Scholastic Coach All-America.

He also was a top-notch baseball player for Moundsville, earning second-team all-state honors as a pitcher.

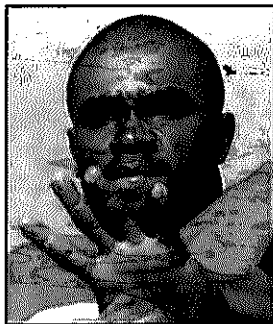
Following his glorious stay at Moundsville, Hummell joined the WVU hoop squad and he wasted no time in making his presence felt. Hummell led the WVU frosh team in scoring with a 24.2 average, including a 45-point outburst against Maryland and 41 against Duquesne. In those days, freshman were ineligible by NCAA rules from playing on the varsity level.

He went on to average 12.9, 15.5 and 14.0 points a game the following three seasons, all of which he served the Mountaineers as a starter. Hummell was the team's captain his senior season.

Hummell totaled 1,137 points in his WVU career, placing him seventh in school annals at the time his career ended in 1970. He was an adept free throw shooter, hitting at an 80.7 clip for his career. Hummell — who had 14 games of 20 or more points — was selected to the 1966-75 all-time WVU hoop team.



Bob Hummell



Harry Wilson

Harry Wilson

Harry Wilson (Steubenville High School, Class of 1963). This former Big Red star ranks with the elite running backs in OVAC history.

His gridiron career at Steubenville was nothing short of spectacular. His ability to carry the football took him to a starring role at the University of Nebraska and a short stint with the NFL's Philadelphia Eagles.

The 5 ft. 11, 190-pounder was also a safety and kick returner for Big Red, but rushing the football is what Wilson did best.

He carried the Big Red to a 9-1 mark his senior season, a campaign in which the Jefferson County charges pocketed a prized 14-8 win over heralded Massillon. Wilson paced the Ohio Valley in both rushing yards and scoring with 1,756 infantry stripes and 23 touchdowns. The former standard is a modern day school record for a 10-game campaign.

His achievements garnered him Ohio "Back of the Year" designation by both the AP and UPI in Class AA, which was the largest class back then. He was named first team all-Ohio and a Scholastic Coach All-American.

Wilson was almost as dominating his junior year. The "Steubenville Stomper" rushed for 1,586 yards and scored 28 touchdowns and 168 points in 10 games. He was selected first team all-Ohio by AP as a safety while also earning all-OVAC

and all-Valley laurels.

Wilson — who was also nicknamed "Lighthorse" — enjoyed a sparkling career at Nebraska. He led the Cornhuskers in rushing his junior and senior seasons, finishing his career with 1,702 yards and a stellar 5.0 per carry average.

He was named unanimous all-Big Eight as a senior and honorable mention All-America by UPI. He has the distinction of playing in three major bowl games — Cotton, Orange and Sugar.

After his playing days in Lincoln, Wilson was selected in the third round of the 1967 NFL draft by the Eagles. He spent three years with the team as a backup running back and kick returner.

Ed Burgy

Ed Burgy (Bellair High School, Class of 1971). This former Big Reds' star remains the measuring stick for prep baseball greatness in the Ohio Valley.

While also starting in football and basketball at the Guernsey Street school, Burgy distinguished himself as arguably the premier prep baseball player in OVAC annals. While his baseball statistics are staggering, he accomplished them in just three seasons as Bellair High did not start a baseball program until Burgy's sophomore season.

Known for his overpowering pitching prowess, Burgy was also a tremendous shortstop and powerful hitter. Upon the completion of his sparkling high school career, Burgy was a sixth-round draft choice of the New York Mets.

Burgy etched his name in Bellair High, Ohio Valley and OHSAA record books. The three-year All-Valley first-team honoree completed his prep career with a 20-5 record, still the most wins ever by a Big Reds' pitcher. He owns the career strikeout mark with 326 (in just 175 innings) and the single-season strikeout standard of 128.

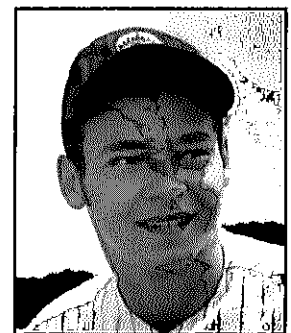
While possessing nearly-unhittable heat, he also owned great control. The talented right-hander walked just 31 batters in his career and went eight straight games without issuing a base on balls.

He carved out state records with a minuscule 0.13 ERA for a season and an 0.63 ERA for a career. His third OHSAA record was for hurling 16 shutouts. Burgy also set an Ohio Valley mark with 23 strikeouts in a 10-inning no-hitter versus River. He was also a deadly hitter. Burgy owns Bellair High records for hits in a game (6), triples in a season (8) and career triples (12).

Burgy also was a stellar, four-year football performer for coaches Rudy Sharkey and Jake Olsavsky. He was a slashing running back until his senior season. Olsavsky opted to switch Burgy to quarterback, a move that paid big dividends. Burgy helped guide the Reds to an 8-1-1 season, losing only to Marietta (12-0) while tying Wintersville (0-0). He was joined in the backfield by Ron Lee, who went on to fame with WVU and the Baltimore Colts.

Burgy was a multi-talented hoopster. Starting for three seasons, he poured in 1,197 points, a total that still ranks seventh on the all-time school scoring card. It was second only to legendary Lee Patrone when Burgy hung up the Big Red sneakers. He was a first-team All-Valley Big School honoree his sophomore and junior seasons. He exploded in his senior campaign for a 21.2 per game average.

Burgy — also an avid and accomplished golfer who has captured several Ohio Valley tournaments — spent three years in the Mets' farm system. His first assignment was in Virginia followed by a stop in Pompano (Fla.) before being elevated to Memphis. He collected 13 wins in one season and fanned 20 in one game.



Ed Burgy



OVAC Hall of Fame

Saturday, August 19, 2006

Social Hour4:30 p.m.

WelcomeJerry Narcisi, OVAC President

InvocationDr. Vince Monseau, River High School principal

Dinner5:30 p.m.

IntroductionsThomas E. Rataiczak, OVAC Executive Secretary

Master of CeremoniesJohn Sorrenti, Former Sports Director of WEIR Radio

Legends of the OVACBernie Allen, Russ Craft, Carl Hamill
Bernie Mehen, Jule Rivlin

2006 Hall of Fame Inductions

Athletes

Jeff Snedegarpresented by Ben Kennedy
(accepted by Bill Starr)

Bill Westpresented by Bill West, Sr.

Wendy Bakerpresented by Dick Wolf

Dennis Swearingenpresented by Dave Bruney

Ed Burgypresented by Tia Burgy

Bruce Smithpresented by Gordon Downie

Induction Ceremony



WesBanco Arena, Wheeling, W.Va.

Bob Hummellpresented by Brian Hummell and David Hummell

Harry Wilson.....presented by Reno Saccoccia

Phil Niekropresented by Phyllis Niekro Dillmore

Lee Patronepresented by John Sorrenti
(accepted by John Magistro)

Bob Gainpresented by Donald Donell

OVAC 'Family'

Cal Giffinpresented by Regis Woods
(accepted by Lou Ann Casey, Betsy Giffin, Ellen Giffin, Cal Giffin)

Ron Mauckpresented by Eric Mauck

Media

Boyd Nelsonpresented by John Sorrenti
(accepted by Christine Schumacher)

Officials

Warren Pughpresented by Jim Hawkins
(accepted by David Pugh)

Coaches

Richard (Lefty) Hall.....presented by Rich Gibson

Paul (Bud) Billiardpresented by Paul T. Billiard

BenedictionDr. Vince Monseau, River High School principal

Hall 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 2006



Bruce Smith



Bruce Smith

Bruce Smith (Martins Ferry High School, Class of 1976). He is at the top of the list when it comes to distance running as a four-time Ohio state champion who set countless meet, valley and school records along the way.

In cross country, Smith was a three-time All-Ohioan (1973, '74 and '75), capturing first place at the state meet in both his junior (9:43.0) and senior (9:33.4) seasons after placing seventh (10:05.0) as a sophomore. His time in 1975 was the state record at the time.

As both a junior and senior, he also finished first in the sectional, district, OVAC and Belmont County meets and finished undefeated both years. As a sophomore, he was second in the sectional, district and county meet and third in the OVAC.

He was a three-time All-Eastern District and All-Valley honoree in cross country as well.

In track, Smith earned All-Ohio status two times (1975, '76), winning the state championship in the two-mile run both years. He posted a time of 9:11.1 as a senior after winning in 9:31.1 as a junior. He also placed seventh at the state event as a sophomore (9:39.9).

He finished first in the sectional and district meets all three years, winning the county event twice and finishing as runner-up once. In OVAC meets, he won the OVAC one-mile run and finished third in the 880-yard run as a senior; and captured the two-mile run as both a sophomore and junior.

Smith garnered All-Eastern District and All-Valley laurels three times in track.

In the two sports at Martins Ferry, Smith was part of four undefeated teams, three sectional and district championship teams, one OVAC championship team and three OVAC runner-up teams.

Smith was also a long-time competitor in most area road races, including several years as the top local runner in the Elby's Distance Race (now the Ogden 20K Classic).



Wendy Baker

Wendy Baker

Wendy Baker (East Liverpool High School, Class of 1989). A two-sport standout for the Lady Potters, excelling in both basketball and softball.

On the court, she was a four-year varsity performer, becoming as the first player in school history to exceed 1,000 career points, finishing with 1,127 tallies. As a senior, she averaged 21.5 points per game. Baker also excelled defensively, posting 291 career steals including 135 as a senior.

As a senior, she was a second team all-Ohio Division I selection who was selected to play in the McDonald's All-Star Classic in Columbus. She was also OVAC Class 4-A, District 5, Division I and All-Columbiana County "Player of the Year". She was also an All-OVAC and All-Eastern District first team choice as a junior and an all-District honorable mention pick as a sophomore.

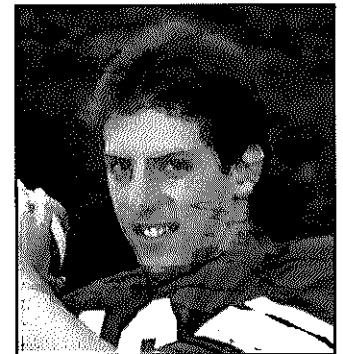
On the diamond, Baker's career pitching numbers included 49 victories and 226 strikeouts and .400-plus batting average. Her senior season numbers included a lofty .477 average along with some impressive pitching numbers — 19 victories, 117 strikeouts and a 0.54 E.R.A. She batted .483 as a junior with 32 RBI and had 109 pitching wins, registering 109 strikeouts and a 1.77 ERA. As a sophomore, she hit .422.

Baker's softball all-star honors included two-time All-Ohio (first team as a senior, second team as a junior); and

two-time All-OVAC Class 4-A.

She attended Wheeling College and played basketball for two seasons, scoring 882 points and posting 182 steals during that time. She gained first team All-West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference honors as sophomore after gaining honorable mention as a freshman.

Dennis Swearingen



Dennis Swearingen

Dennis Swearingen (Martins Ferry High School, Class of 1982). He earned 10 varsity letters in four sports, making his biggest marks in football and basketball.

In football, he was a three-year letterman and starting quarterback/defensive back, amassing 1,616 yards passing and 890 yards rushing while leading the Purple Riders to a combined 21-9 record, including a spotless 10-0 mark in his sophomore season, Ferry's first perfect record in 20 years. On defense, he was credited with 125 tackles and had 11 pass interceptions.

He was a two-time first team AP All-Ohio Class AA defensive back, earning second team all-star honors from UPI both years as well. He also garnered first team All-OVAC Class AAA, All-Eastern District Class AA and All-Valley honors twice.

Following his senior season, Swearingen was named a Centenary Prep All-American, an Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Club special honoree and participated in the OVAC Charity All-Star Football Game.

In basketball, Swearingen was a three-year starter and 1,000-point career scorer and he was a key member of Ferry's squad which posted a 20-5 record and advanced to the Ohio Class AA regional finals in Athens in 1982. Scoring 14.7 points per game as a senior, he was named first team All-OVAC Class AAA (captain), All-District 12 and All-Valley as well as second team All-Eastern District Class AA. He played in both the OVAC and District 12 All-Star Games.

As a junior, Swearingen averaged 18.9 points per game and was named first team All-OVAC Class AAA and All-District 12, second team All-Eastern District Class AA and third team All-Valley.

Swearingen also was a three-year letterman in baseball, earning All-OVAC Class AAA honors twice. He also lettered in track as a senior.

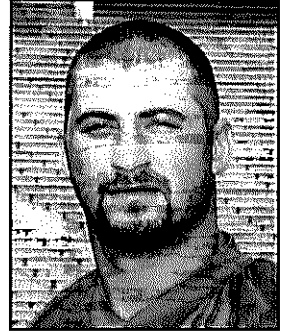
Swearingen went on to a stellar four-year football career at Ohio University, graduating in 1986 and positioning himself in the top five on the Bobcats' all-time passing list in 10 categories (through 2005). He is second in pass attempts in a game (57) and season (383); third in pass completions for a game (31) and season (195) as well as TD passes for a season (13); fourth in yards passing for a game (355), season (2,056) and career (3,267) as well as pass attempts (569) and completions (312) for a career; and fifth in career passing yards (3,267).



OVAC HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2006



Jeff Snedegar



Jeff Snedegar

Jeff Snedegar (Buckeye Trail High School, Class of 1995). He put up lofty numbers during his four-year gridiron career, culminating in his selection as the AP All-Ohio Division V Offensive Player of the Year and finishing as runner-up in the voting for Ohio's "Mr. Football" award following his senior season.

A 6 ft. 3, 210-pound four-year letterman at quarterback and linebacker for the Warriors, he racked up 7,000 yards offensively and registered 673 tackles on defense. He also earned second team All-Ohio following his sophomore and junior years and was a three-time All-Eastern District and All-OVAC selection.

As a senior, he led Trail to its first and only OHSAA playoff appearance (the Warriors finished with an 11-2 overall record, winning two games before losing in the Division V state semifinals to Wellsville). That year, he passed for what was then a school record 1,769 yards while rushing for 1,621 yards for a combined total of 3,390 yards. He participated in 212 defensive stops as a senior.

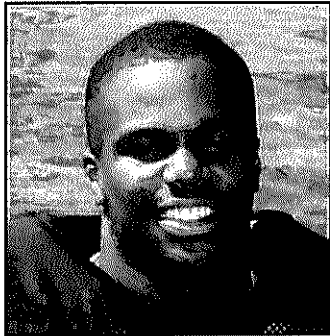
Snedegar was also a three-year letterman in basketball (he didn't play as a junior), finishing fourth on Trail's all-time scoring list with 834 points and third in career rebounding with 561.

He averaged 16.1 points per game as a senior, earning special mention AP All-Ohio as well as first team All-Eastern District and All-OVAC.

The 2000 Buckeye Trail Hall of Fame inductee went on to a stellar career at the University of Kentucky (1996-99), earning four letters as an outside linebacker. As a freshman, he had 42 tackles, started three games and was named the outstanding special teams' player and he followed that up with 97 tackles as a sophomore. Snedegar had 63 tackles and four sacks as a junior, helping Kentucky to an Outback Bowl berth where he recorded 11 tackles in a loss to Penn State University.

In his final year at UK, he had 84 tackles, four sacks and two interceptions, earning him defensive MVP honors. He was selected to the All-Southeast Conference squad and was named to the All-American Farm Football Team by Successful Farming Magazine.

Snedegar was signed by the Miami Dolphins of the NFL in 2000 as an undrafted free agent. He is currently a member of the Buckeye Trail football coaching staff.



Bill West

Bill West

Billy West (Buckeye Local High School, Class of 1993). He made his biggest impact on the football field, earning All-Ohio honors three times, including twice as a first team selection.

West also was a three-time All-OVAC selection (1990, '91 and '92) and a three-time All-Eastern District pick (first team in '91 and '92, second team in '90). He also participated in the Rudy Mumley/OVAC Charity All-Star Football Classic following his senior season.

After starting as a freshman at Buckeye North, where he rushed for 900 yards despite missing two-plus games due to injury, he put up some ultra-impressive numbers at the newly-consolidated Buckeye Local High School.

He finished with what still stands as a school-record 4,658 yards, including a single-season effort of 1,846 yards as a senior. He also had 1,719 yards as a junior and 1,093 as a sophomore. He also owns six of the top seven individual game rushing record at Buckeye Local, headed by a whopping 335-yard game against Martins Ferry in 1991 (second all-time).

West scored 352 points on the gridiron, including 152 in his final season.

During his three years with the Panthers, the team compiled a 28-4 combined record (9-2 in 1990, 10-1 in 1991 and 9-1 in 1992), making the playoffs twice and narrowly missing on a third.

West also lettered three years in track and two in basketball for the Panthers.

He was a four-year letterman at the University of Pittsburgh, starting for three years and earning All-Big East "Offensive Player of the Year" honors as a sophomore (1994) after replacing All-American tailback Curtis Martin in game two and rushing for 1,358 yards, fifth on the all-time single-season rushing list. A Panther tri-captain as a senior, West finished as the school's fourth all-time leading rusher with 2,803 yards.

OVAC Hall of Fame

Sponsored by Bob Robinson Chevrolet-Cadillac, Inc.

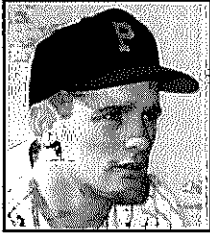


The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Hall of Fame Committee would like to thank Denny Magruder, Doug Campbell and the entire staff of WesBanco Arena for so graciously offering to be the permanent home of the OVAC Hall of Fame and for making this evening's festivities possible.





LEGENDS OF OVAC SCHOOLS - 2006



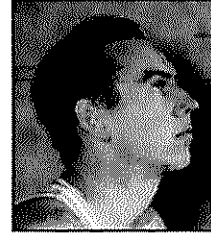
Bernie Allen



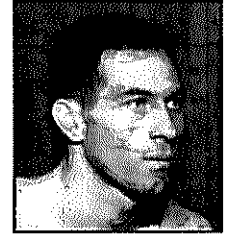
Russ Craft



Carl Hamill



Bernie Mehen



Jule Rivlin

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.

Bernie Allen (East Liverpool High School, Class of 1957)

A 10-letter winner in three sports for the Potters, he was a quarterback-placekicker for the 8-2 record 1956 football team; a regular basketball player on team which upset unbeaten Steubenville in the sectional tournament; and an all-state baseball infielder. He played in the Ohio All-Star Baseball Game and was on winning Ohio football team in annual Ohio-West Virginia All-Star Game.

At Purdue University, he earned six letters as football quarterback and baseball shortstop and was team MVP in both sports and All-Big Ten in baseball.

Allen earned National Football Back of Week honors from The Associated Press and Sports Illustrated for play in upset of Ohio State. He was Purdue's Outstanding Senior Athlete for 1960-61.

Allen signed a pro baseball contract in 1961 with the Minnesota Twins. After spending one year in the minor leagues at Charlotte, N.C., he went on to a 12-year major league career from 1962-73 with the Twins, Washington Senators, New York Yankees and Montreal Expos. In 1962, he was runner-up to the Yankees' Tom Tresh for the American League Rookie of the Year honors. He batted .269 with 12 home runs in 1962. In 1972, he hit three home runs in the Hall of Fame game in Cooperstown, N. Y.

He's been inducted into four other halls of fame. In 1999, he became the fifth inductee into the Purdue Hall and was a charter inductee into the East Liverpool Hall of Fame. He's also in the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan and Lou Holtz Ohio Valley Halls of Fame.

Russ Craft (Wellsburg High School, Class of 1939)

He was a three-sport performer in football, basketball and baseball for the Orange Knights and earned All-Valley and All-State honors as a senior football back.

Craft played football, baseball and ran track at the University of Alabama, where he was a two-way back regular in football and earned second team All-Southeastern Conference honors.

Drafted in 1943 by the Philadelphia Eagles of the National Football League, he played eight seasons (1946-53) as a defensive back-kick returner and was selected to the All-Time Eagles' Team. He played on Eagles' teams which won NFL titles in 1948 and 1949 and finished second in 1947. He was named to the Pro Bowl in 1951 and 1952. He is tied for the current NFL record of four pass interceptions in one game against the Cardinals in 1950. He also blocked three Pittsburgh Steeler extra-point kicks in 1952 game and returned a kickoff for a ten team record 103 yards against the Rams in 1950.

Craft is credited as the first player in the NFL to wear the new hard plastic helmet in 1951. He ended his NFL career in two seasons as a player-assistant coach with the Steelers. In 1995, he was included in the NFL Films' presentation of the 100 Greatest Touchdowns in NFL History. It featured his defensive theft, and 20-yard TD return, of a pass reception caught by NFL Hall of Famer Elroy (Crazylegs) Hirsch of the Rams.

Craft is inducted into the W. Va. Sports Hall of Fame and the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Hall.

Carl Hamill (Linsly School, Class of 1922)

A legendary athlete and high school coach in the Ohio Valley, he was a three-sport standout at Linsly and Bethany College. An All-Valley football player, he also scored an unheard-of 330 points in 21 basketball games in 1920, a rare total in the center jump, low-scoring era.

From 1929-51, he was the three-sport coach at Weir High. His football teams scheduled top-notch programs from three states and went 166-35-13 including a 111-10 mark vs. Mountain State teams. He coached six unbeaten teams and four with only one loss. Three state titles were claimed in 1935, 1942 and 1949 when the Red Riders won the first-ever WVSSAC largest class state playoff title and the school narrowly missed a state title trifecta. Later that school year, he coached the 1950 baseball team to its second state one-class crown (the other was in 1945). The 1949-50 basketball team lost a 38-37 regional title game to unbeaten Wheeling High, which went on to win the championship. He was selected West Virginia "Coach of the Year" for high school and college all sports.

In basketball, he guided Weir to a 370-127 record and six state tournament berths. Weir was runner-up in 1942.

Hamill has been inducted into several halls of fame, including W. Va. Sports, Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan, Bethany College and was the first inductee into the Ohio Valley Football Coaches Hall. The annual Dapper Dan coaching award is named for him and he was one of three prominent Weirton community leaders pictured on a downtown mural. The Weir High Fieldhouse is named in his honor.

Bernie Mehen (Wheeling High School, Class of 1938)

The first Ohio Valley athlete to be selected first team all-state basketball three straight years, he led the Wildcats to W. Va. state titles in 1936 and 1938 including a 24-0 record in 1938.

During those three years that he was the leading scorer, Wheeling High was 65-4 under Hall of Fame coach Everett Brinkman. Mehen scored 1,193 points in 84 career games with many coming during the center jump, low scoring era.

He later earned All-America and All-Southeastern Conference recognition at the University of Tennessee, where he helped the Vols win the 1941 Southeastern Conference championship. After serving in World War II, where he was wounded, he played professionally with the Youngstown Bears and Toledo Jeeps.

He was inducted into the City of Wheeling Hall of Fame in 1992.

Jule Rivlin (Triadelphia High School, Class of 1935)

He was an all-state basketball guard in high school where he led the Triads to a 20-1 record in 1934. He also was the high-point scorer in the 1935 one-class state track meet where he won three gold medals. He timed 10.2 for 100 yards, 22.8 for 220 yards and was a member of the medley relay winning unit.

At Marshall College, he was one of the first guards to run the fast break offense for state Hall of Fame coach Cam Henderson and earned Little All-America honors while setting a school season scoring record with 530 points. He helped the Herd to two Buckeye Conference titles. He later coached the Marshall basketball team to two Mid America Conference titles.

He played professionally with the Toledo Jeeps and was player-coach of the Wheeling Blues from 1950-52.

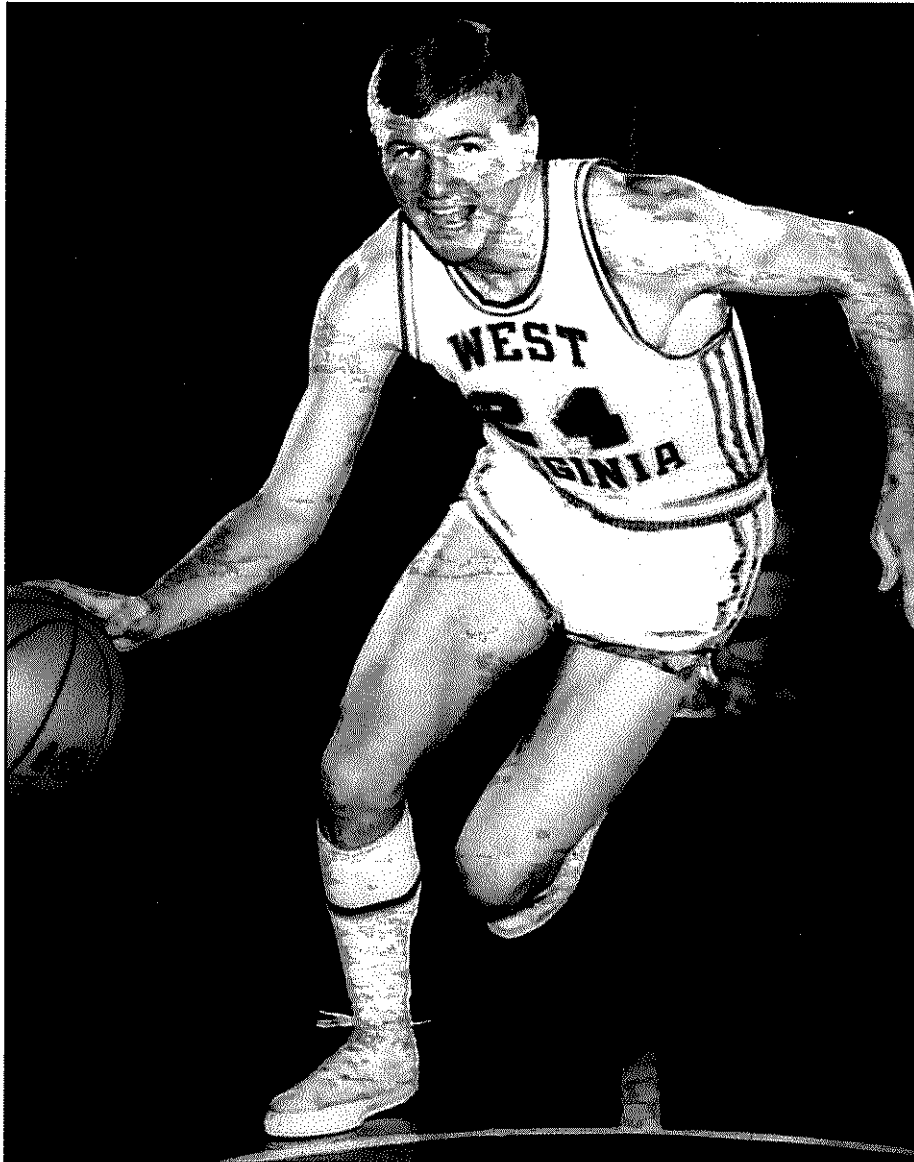
In 1947, he was the Most Valuable Player in the World Tournament in Chicago which featured the nation's best pro teams including the Harlem Globetrotters.

He was a 1980 charter inductee into the City of Wheeling Hall of Fame and is a member of four other halls of fame, including W. Va. Sports, Marshall and Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan.

“Simply the Best”

Congratulations Uncle Bob & Brother!!!
We are proud of you!

Christine, Greg, Bob, Rick, Tricia, Shirley and Buster



BEST WISHES FROM ALL YOUR FRIENDS AT CENTURY 21



St. Clairsville Athletic Department

*“salutes and congratulates”
OVAC HOF inductees*

*Coach “Lefty” Hall
and Mr. Cal Giffin*

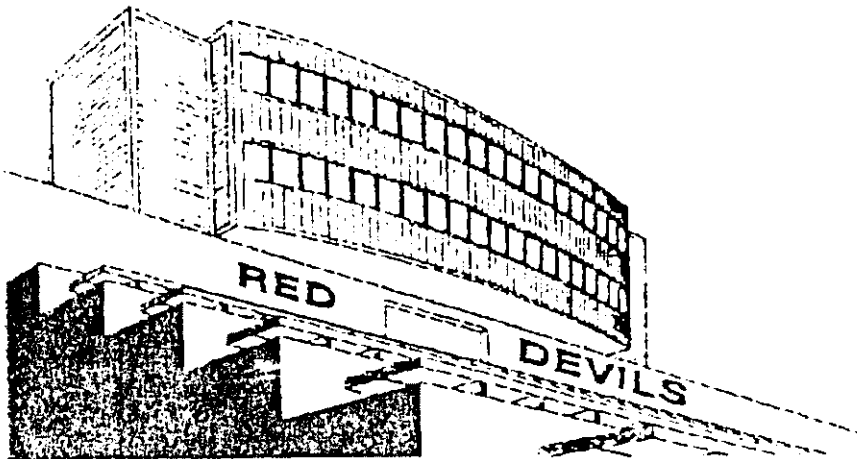


*Each of you positively impacted many lives
during your tenure at St. C.
You deserve this honor and your families should be proud!*



In Honor of
Richard "Lefty" Hall

The Saints Club 
St. Clairsville, Ohio





*These Red Devil Baseball Alumni
congratulate
Coach Richard “Lefty” Hall
for his induction
into the OVAC Hall of Fame*

- *Don Hynes ('72)*
- *Bob Vincenzo ('77)*
- *Jim Baugh, Jr. ('79)*
- *Don Vincenzo ('79)*
- *Mychal Egri ('80)*
- *Joe Dudek ('80)*
- *Bob Figura ('80)*
- *Doug McFarland ('82)*
- *Joe Slavik ('82)*
- *John Nemeti ('83)*
- *Chad Baugh ('84)*
- *Joe Maroon ('86)*
- *Ron Busby ('86)*
- *Pat Drazga ('87)*
- *Ron Balog ('87)*
- *Paul Foster ('94)*
- *Vinnie Kirkpatrick ('94)*
- *Matt King ('96)*
- *Chris Baugh ('00)*
- *D.J. Hynes ('01)*

*“Thanks Coach” for your investment in
us. We are proud of your accomplishment!*



*Congratulations
Russ Craft*

2006 OVAC Hall of Fame legend

*From Bud & Carol Billiard and
family*

We are proud of you.

*On behalf of the
Rivlin Family*

*Congratulations to all of the inductees of the
Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Hall of Fame.*

Pappy

Congratulations!

We are so proud of you!

Love,

*Giana, Mama (Erin)
and Daddy (T.J.)*

Congratulations!

Ron Mauck

A dynamic and inspirational leader

A compassionate and caring friend

from

Dick & Mary Wolf

Congratulations Inductees

Paul Billiard

Ron Mauck

Russ Craft

**Best Wishes From Brooke Coaches
(Past & Present)**

Congratulations Inductees

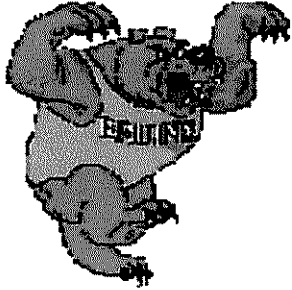
Paul Billiard

Ron Mauck

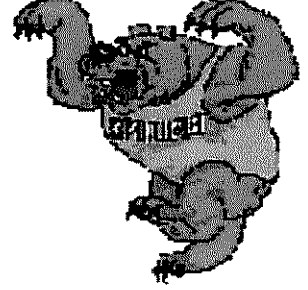
Russ Craft

**Best Wishes From “The Greeks” From Short Creek
The Markos, Sfamenos, Basil & Tsuhlares Families**

CONGRATULATIONS
OVAC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



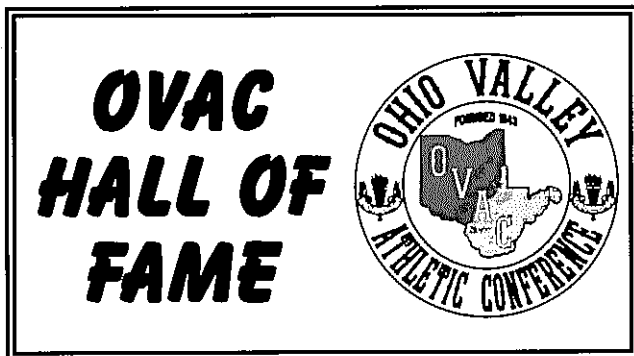
Ron Mauck
Paul Billiard
Russ Craft



BROOKE HIGH SCHOOL
PRINCIPALS, TEACHERS AND STAFF



WHEELING PARK
HIGH SCHOOL
SALUTES:



Bernie Mehen
Jule Rivlin

Congratulations!

Ron Mauck

**Your induction into the
OVAC Hall of Fame
is an honor well earned
and richly deserved.**

**Through your dynamic leadership
and commitment, the Conference
has become a reflection of all that
you bring to it.**

**With the utmost of admiration,
affection and respect**

Nick Trombetta



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Friendly florist providing a personal touch



proudly supports
East Liverpool "Potters"
and
congratulates tonight's
OVAC Hall of Fame
inductees



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East Liverpool, OH

CONGRATULATIONS

Wendy Baker

**Now as then
Admired and Respected**

**East Liverpool High School
Class of '89**

CONGRATULATIONS!

Bernie Allen

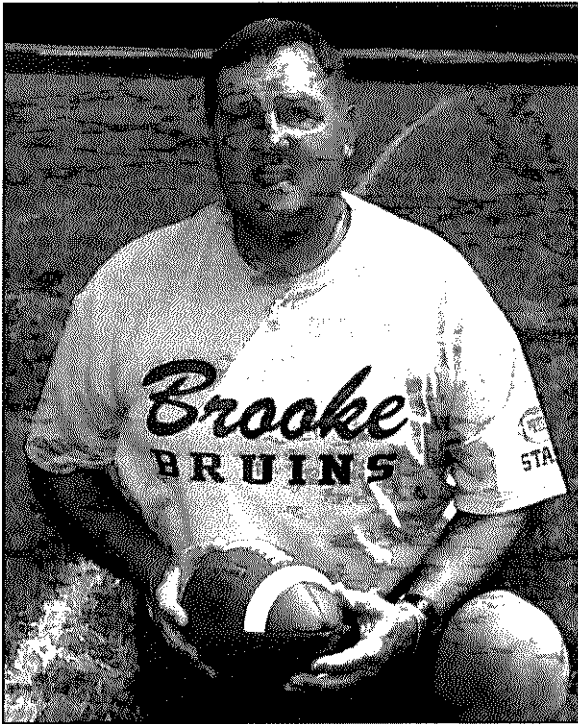
**Recognized as a
Legend of the Valley**

by

O V A C

Hall of Fame

**Classmates of ELHS
1957**



Bud Billiard



Russ Craft

The City of Wellsburg and its residents would like to congratulate Paul “Bud” Billiard and Russ Craft for being selected to the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Hall of Fame, Class of 2006.

Bud Billiard, a Wellsburg High School and West Liberty State College graduate, won more games than any other football coach in Brooke County history and he ranks among the winningest coaches in the state of West Virginia.

Russ Craft, a Wellsburg High School and Alabama University graduate, was an All-Pro performer for the Philadelphia Eagles and was selected to football legend and hall of famer Chuck Bednarik’s all-time All-Pro football team.



OVAC Hall of Fame Trivia



By Doug Huff

(1) Weir High product Bob Gain was the No. 5 selection in the 1951 National Football League Draft by the Green Bay Packers. No other OVAC product was ever drafted higher than the Outland Trophy winner from the University of Kentucky.

(2) Phil Niekro lost only one pitching decision in four years at Bridgeport High. That was in his freshman season, 1954, when Tiltonsville defeated the Bulldogs, 1-0, on a home run by another Baseball Hall of Famer, Bill Mazeroski, a 2004 OVAC Hall of Fame honoree.

(3) Lee Patrone, whose Bellaire High career scoring record stood for 50 years, is the only Big Reds' product selected in the National Basketball Association Draft. The former West Virginia University guard was picked in the 6th round of the 1961 draft by the Detroit Pistons.

(4) Bob Hummell set high school basketball scoring records which remain after 40 years. The Moundsville High luminary averaged 35.9 points a game in 1966, a mark which is tied as the highest average ever for the W. Va. Class AAA player. His 45 points vs. Richwood in the 1966 state semifinals is tied for highest in a Class AAA state tournament game.

(5) Harry Wilson was selected Ohio Class AA Back of the Year in 1962 after he helped Steubenville Big Red to a 9-1 record while rushing for a modern 10-game school record total of 1,756 yards. The two-time All-Ohio honoree went on to play in three major bowl games — Cotton, Orange and Sugar — at the University of Nebraska.

(6) Bellaire High didn't sponsor a varsity baseball team until OVAC Hall of Famer Ed Burgy, a local summer youth baseball legend, became a Big Reds' sophomore. After three record-setting seasons, the fireballing righthander was drafted by the New York Mets in the sixth round.

(7) Martins Ferry's Bruce Smith set an Ohio state cross country record time of 9:33.4 in winning his second straight title in 1975. Smith's four Ohio gold medals — two each in cross country and track two-mile, set a standard for OVAC runners.

(8) Wendy Baker became the first East Liverpool basketball player, girl or boy, to score more than 1,000 career points when she tallied 1,127 from 1987-89.

(9) Dennis Swearingen earned six All-OVAC honors while earning 10 Martins Ferry letters in three sports. The two-time All-Ohio football defensive back also was quarterback on the 10-0 record 1979 Purple Rider team, the first unbeaten Ferry squad in 20 years.

(10) Buckeye Trail's Jeff Snedegar was runnerup for Ohio's Mr. Football in 1994 when he set an OVAC rushing season rushing record for a quarterback — 1,621 yards. He also passed for 1,769 yards and was in on 212 defensive stops as a linebacker.

(11) Bill West is the answer to a trivia question: who held the OVAC career football rushing record before Weir High's Quincy Wilson came along? The Buckeye Local product rushed for 5,287 yards in four seasons.

(12) Bernie Allen, a 10-letter winner in three sports at East Liverpool, was runnerup for 1962 American League Rookie of the Year to Tom Tresh of the New York Yankees. Allen played 12 years in the major leagues after a two-sport career in baseball and football at Purdue University.

(13) Wellsburg High's Russ Craft, who played three sports at the University of Alabama, is credited as the first National Football League player to wear the new hard plastic helmet while playing for the Philadelphia Eagles in 1951. Craft also was included in the 1995 NFL Films' presentation of the 100 Greatest Touchdowns in NFL History. It featured his defensive theft, and 20-yard TD interception return of a pass reception caught by NFL Hall of Famer Elroy (Crazylegs) Hirsch of the Los Angeles Rams.

(14) Carl Hamill narrowly missed coaching Weir High to a rare state championship trifecta in 1949-50. The '49 Red Rider football team won the first-ever W. Va. SSAC largest class state playoff title and the 1950 baseball team also captured the one-class baseball championship. However, the Weir basketball team lost a 38-37 regional title game to Wheeling High, which went on to finish as unbeaten state champion.

(15) Wheeling High's Bernie Mehen became the first Ohio Valley athlete to be selected first team all-state three straight years from 1936-38. He helped the Wildcats to state championships in 1936 and 1938 including a 24-0 record as a senior.

(16) Jule Rivlin became one of the first basketball guards to run the fast break for Marshall coach Cam Henderson. In 1947, he was selected the Most Valuable Player in the World Tournament in Chicago. It included the nation's best pro teams including the Harlem Globetrotters.

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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. 18, 2007

PREVIOUS OVAC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



Class of 2004

OVAC Hall of Fame

Sponsored by Bob Robinson Chevrolet-Cadillac, Inc

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 Nickro, 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 Moundsville, 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.

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.

Jim Foti (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).

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.

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-Oglebay 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.

Richard L. (Dick) Potts (Coaches)



Richard L. (Dick) Potts finished his career as the Ohio Valley's all-time winningest basketball coach with 589 career victories. Inducted into the Ohio High School Hall of Fame in 1983 by the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association, Potts coached a total of 40 seasons, all of which were spent in Monroe County. He began in 1951 at Bethel High School. His 1957 Blackhaws came out of the Monroe County hills at tournament time and advanced all the way to the Ohio Class A state finals where they lost by a single point. At the time the school had just 13 boys in grades nine through 12 and all but one of the male students was on the basketball team. In seven years at Bethel, his teams won more than 20 games five times, including the 27-2 miracle team that played in the state tournament. When the school was taken into the Skyvue consolidation after the '58 campaign, Potts was named coach of the Golden Hawks where he spent four years before moving on to River High in 1963. He remained at the Pilots' helm through the 1991 season. The former Hannibal High School athlete was named in 1981 as the recipient of the prestigious Ohio Paul Walker Award, given in memory of Jerry Lucas' high school coach at Middletown, Ohio. Walker was the Buckeye State's all-time winningest coach. The navy veteran, Potts was the first OVAC coach to reach the 500-win plateau in basketball, reaching that goal with a win over Monroe County rival Woodsfield in 1983. Considered a master strategist and teacher of the game, Potts may have been at his best during critical situations in post-season play. His teams won seven overtime tournament games, including a nine-OT win achieved by River against Morgan in Class AA sectional play.

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' 1946 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 Shadyside 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-American 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-American 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 103-107 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 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 game.

The athlete, known as "Catfish" as a youth and "Max" 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 also as a starter in baseball.

He wrestled two years at West Liberty State College, winning an NALA 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 captained 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 303-17-7 (.953). 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 titles 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 NALA 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 left-hander 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 Bellaire.

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-American 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 *Purade* 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 1,028 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 *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 piled 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 she was named to the *Parade*, *Street & 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 a 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.

Rudy Mumley (OVAC 'Family)



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 fundraiser, 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. 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.



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PREVIOUS OVAC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Agnes Timmons (OVAC 'Family')



Agnes Timmons (Scioto 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 members 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.

Timmons left teaching after 1948 to begin raising a family. After leaving 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 Muenley to host and serve as director of the first conference volleyball championship tournament which was held at Barnesville High. 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 Shamrock 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 jays and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Her track teams were perennial contenders for OVAC titles and several volleyball teams advanced to the district.

Doug Huff (Media)



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 Scholastic-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 Sportswriters & 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 Monchouse 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.

Bob Burton (Coaches)



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.

George Strager (Coaches)



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 Cincotta of Woodsfield/Morroe 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, naming his trademark "belly series" to a record of 134-51-9 there. His Red Devil teams posted three undefeated seasons (1969, '78 and '85); the 1983 squad earned the school's first-ever trip to the OHSAA playoffs and the 1986 team all the way 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 (Coaches)



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-wimmers and one state champion (175-pounder John Scortos 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 Garrrell. 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 topplers and a member of two undefeated teams that played in bowl games. (Smokey Mountain Bowl and Pythian Bowl).

Chester Grossi (Officials)



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 years, 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 Barnell 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 Weirton 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 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.

Walter Heil (Officials)



Walter Heil (Bellair 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 Bellair High Athletic Hall 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 (Athlete - 1940s)



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. Titonville. 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 Rallias — 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. Groza died of lung cancer at his home in San Diego on January 21, 1995.

PREVIOUS OVAC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Chuck Howley (Athlete - 1950s)



Charles L. (Chuck) Howley (Wheeling 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 started 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.

Mike Sherwood (Athlete - 1960s)



Mike Sherwood (Bellair High School, Class of 1967). This soft-spoken athletic great rates with Bellair'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. He poured in a career-high, and school-record, 59 points against Guernsey Street rival St. John Center. He was also selected for 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.

John 'Fuzzy' Filliez (Athlete - 1970s)



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.

Dee Davis (Athlete - 1980s)



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. Weintown 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 team 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 Georganna 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.

Dick Miller (Athlete - 1950s)



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 Contreras, a four-year letterman for the Maroon Knights. Contreras' record was later topped by a Central girls' basketball great, Klyden 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 Williamsport. 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 basketball 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 the team 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 where 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.

Terry Snively (Athlete - 1960s)



Terry Snively (Powhatan High School, 1966). This all-round athlete started 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 1,446 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, starting 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 Bellair 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 Bellair to a pair of sectional crowns in hoops while gaining a district title (1974) and OVAC championship (1976) in baseball. Snively maneuvered to Shady Side 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.

Lance Mehl (Athlete - 1970s)



Lance Mehl (Bellair 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.

Brian Swisher (Athlete - 1980s)



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.

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.

PREVIOUS OVAC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Joey Galloway (Athlete - 1990s)



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

The mercury-headed wide receiver was an All-Ohio gridder for coach John Magistro before a sparkling career at Ohio State University. After his Scarlet & 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 game-breaker 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 Armaric. 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 Bulletin then took his amazing athletic skills to Columbus, starting 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 collected 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.

Matt Gaudio (Athlete - 1990s)



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 Lammie 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.



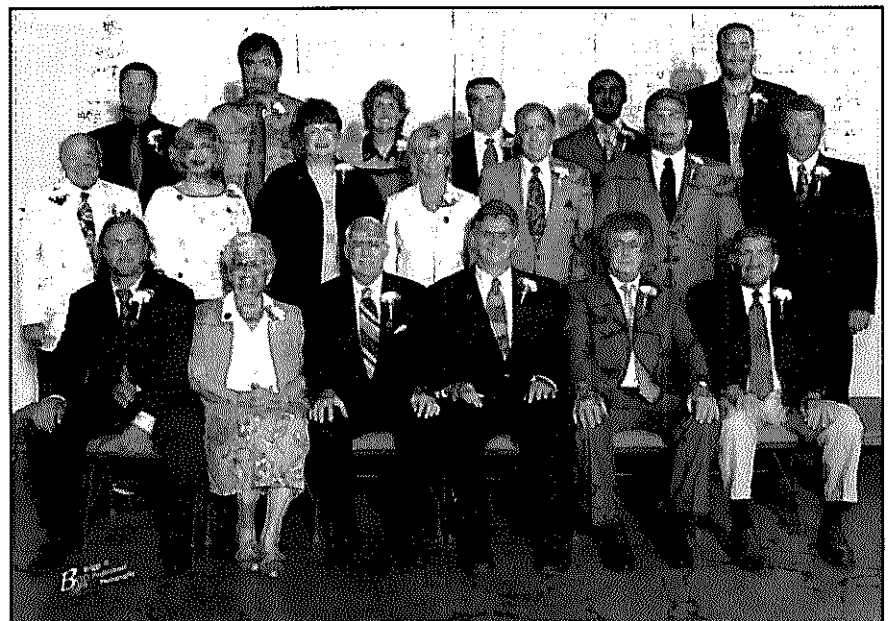
OVAC Hall of Fame Class of 2004

Members of the OVAC Hall of Fame Class of 2004 or their representatives include, front row left to right, Nancy Mumley (accepting for the late Samuel A. Mumley), 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 Mazeroski, 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.

OVAC Hall of Fame Class of 2005

Members of the OVAC Hall of Fame Class of 2005 or their representatives include, front row left to right, Matt Mumley (accepting for the late Rudy Mumley), Agnes Timmons, Doug Huff, Duke Strager (accepting for the late George Strager), Bob Burton and John 'Corky' Vrotsos.

Second row, Chester Grossi, Mary Kay Zitzelsberger (accepting for the late Walter Heil), Mary Schuetz (accepting for the late Alex Groza), June Paull (accepting for Chuck Howley), Dick Miller, Mike Sherwood and Terry Snively. Third row, John 'Fuzzy' Filliez, Lance Mehl, Dee Davis, Briann Swisher, Courtney Redman (accepting for Joey Galloway and Matt Gaudio).





LEGENDS OF OVAC SCHOOLS - 2005



V. Everett Brinkman



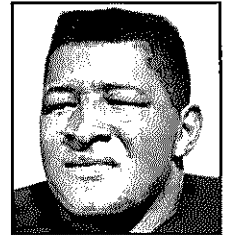
Clarence 'Bevo' Francis



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.

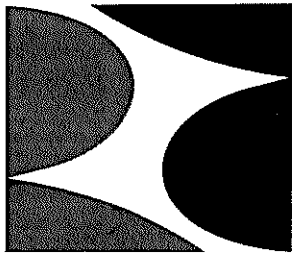
At Big Red, he helped the 1952 basketball team to a school-best 28-1 record and Ohio Class A runner-up finish. En route, Big Red handed the Francis-led Wellsville team its only two losses.

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.



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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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