

2007

Ohio Valley Athletic Conference HALL OF FAME



4th Annual Ceremony

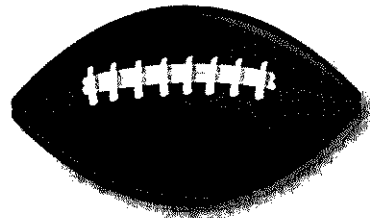
Saturday August 18, 2007
WesBanco Arena, Wheeling, WV





CONGRATULATIONS

to the 2007
Inductees at the
4th Annual
Hall of Fame
Banquet!



*The All
New!*

 **BOB ROBINSON**

CHEVROLET | BUICK | PONTIAC | GMC | CADILLAC

69-16TH STREET • WHEELING WV • 304-233-8000



The OVAC Hall of Fame Committee: front row (left to right). Tom Rataiczak, Robert "Bubba" Kapral and Tom Tisher; second row, Jeff Harrison, Kelly Rine, Nick Bedway and Ron Mauck; third row, Doug Huff, Jay Kiger and Dick Wolf.



OVAC Hall of Fame Committee



- Nick Bedway**Retired Sports Editor, News-Register/The Intelligencer, Wheeling
- Jeff Harrison**.....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



2007-2008 OVAC Executive Board



The 2007-2008 OVAC Executive Board. Front row, left to right, Walt Skaggs, Ohio Board Member; Jeff Crosier, Ohio Board Member; Jerry Narcisi, Past President; Dianna Vargo, President; Dan Doyle, Vice-President; and Dan Angalich, West Virginia Board Member. Second row, Tom Rataiczak, Executive Secretary; Steve Wojcik, Baseball Commissioner; John Howell, Basketball Commissioner; Don Zinni, Football Commissioner; Tom Bechtel, Softball Commissioner; and Nancy Mumley, Treasurer. Third row, Blair Closser, Class AAAA Representative; Kelly Rine, Class AAA Representative; Ed Cihy, Class 2-A Representative; Bob Koch, Class AA Representative; and Doug Tush, Class A Representative. Not pictured, Tim Haught, West Virginia Board Member.



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

BRINGING YOUNG MINDS TO LIFE.

Admissions: 304-233-1436

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CONGRATULATIONS OVAC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE JOHN G. REGER, LINSLY CLASS OF 1950

- NAMED FIRST TEAM ON THE ALL-OVAC, ALL-CITY AND ALL-VALLEY FOOTBALL TEAMS DURING HIS SENIOR YEAR AT LINSLY
- RECRUITED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
- BEGAN HIS PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL CAREER IN 1955 AS A DEFENSIVE LINEBACKER WITH THE PITTSBURGH STEELERS
- DURING HIS NINE YEAR CAREER AS A STEELER (1955-63) VOTED MVP IN 1959, NAMED DEFENSIVE CAPTAIN AND SELECTED TO THREE NFL PRO BOWLS
- COMPLETED HIS TWELVE YEAR NFL CAREER WITH THE WASHINGTON REDSKINS (1964-1966)

The Linsly School is an equal opportunity school.



In Memory of Gene Cattane

St. Clairsville Red Devil Class of 1977



The Saints Club

St. Clairsville, Ohio



Congratulations

Nick Bedway

Thanks for your 47 years of dedicated service to the youth of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference

Your election to the OVAC Hall of Fame is most deserving

**From your buddies,
Frank Pasden, Dave Schuetz, Joe Belancic,
Mike Kostival, Jim Fiorilli**

Congratulations

Sam Andy

Thanks for your dedication to the kids of Ohio County on the basketball court and off the basketball court

Your election to the OVAC Hall of Fame is most deserving

Go Browns!

***From your Vegas buddies,
Frank Pasden, Dave Schuetz, Mike Kostival, Nick Bedway***

Congratulations

John Leon

Brooke High School, Class of 1976

Brooke Football Boosters

Congratulations

Joe Fortunato

OVAC Hall of Fame Inductee

Les Carney

OVAC 'Legends' Honoree

Indian Creek

Athletic Boosters





**The employees of The Intelligencer
and Wheeling News-Register
would like to congratulate**

Nick Bedway

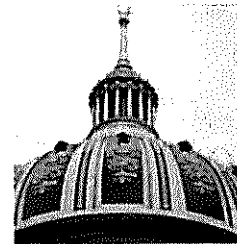
on being named to the OVAC Hall of Fame

**“You have helped to make the
OVAC what it is today.”**



Congratulations on your Induction

Chris Enochs and all of the inductees



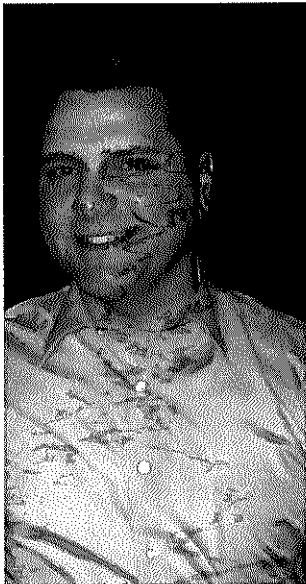
Your Friend, WV State Delegate Randy Swartzmiller

**Strong State Leadership for the Northern Panhandle:
Chairman: West Virginia Homeland Security**

**West Virginia State Delegate Randy Swartzmiller is
working hard on issues that are important to You!**

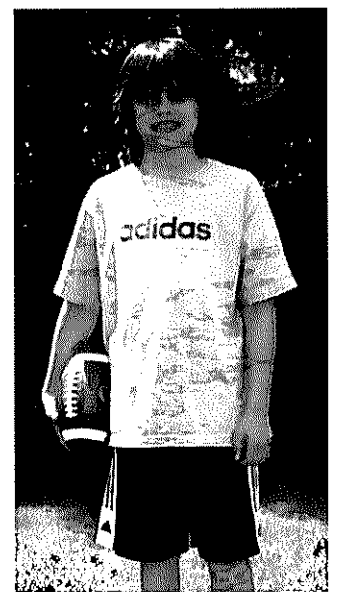
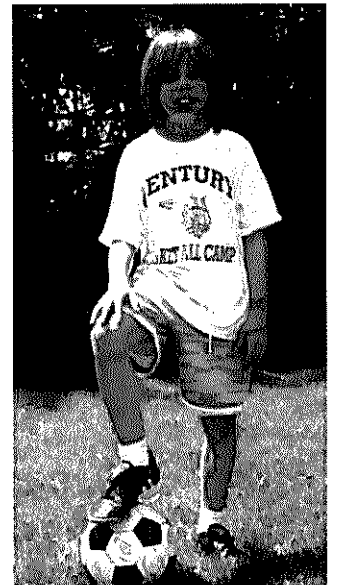
**Randy Swartzmiller, 244 Oil Well Lane:
New Cumberland, WV 26047
Home: (304) 564-3806
Mobile: (304) 479-5140
Capitol Office: (304) 340-3138
E-mail: rswartzmiller@hotmail.com**

Paid for by: Friends of Randy Swartzmiller, Jeanmarie Swartzmiller, Treasurer

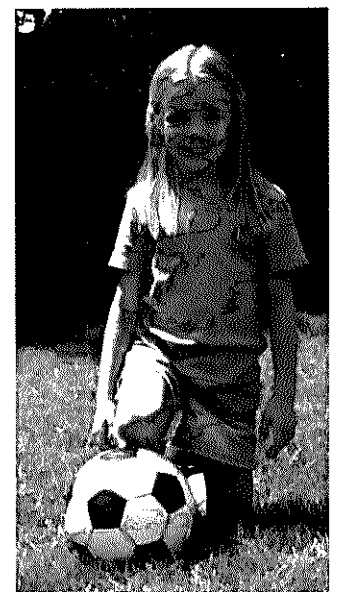


2, 4, 6, 8!

Who do we appreciate?
Pap-pap Klevins - that's who!



Congratulations Pap-pap-
We love you and
are so proud of you!



Congratulations

Jennifer Hyland Brown

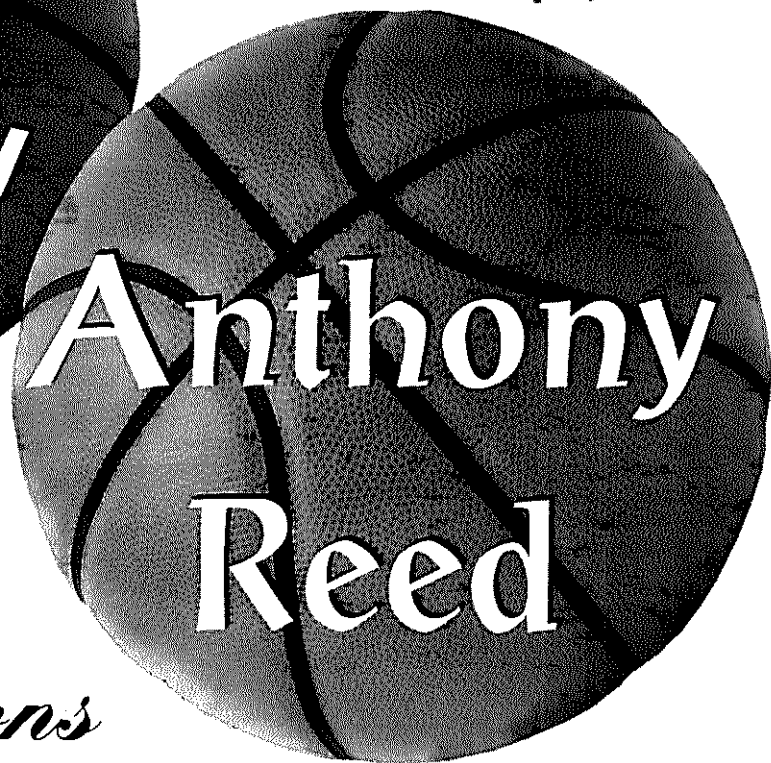
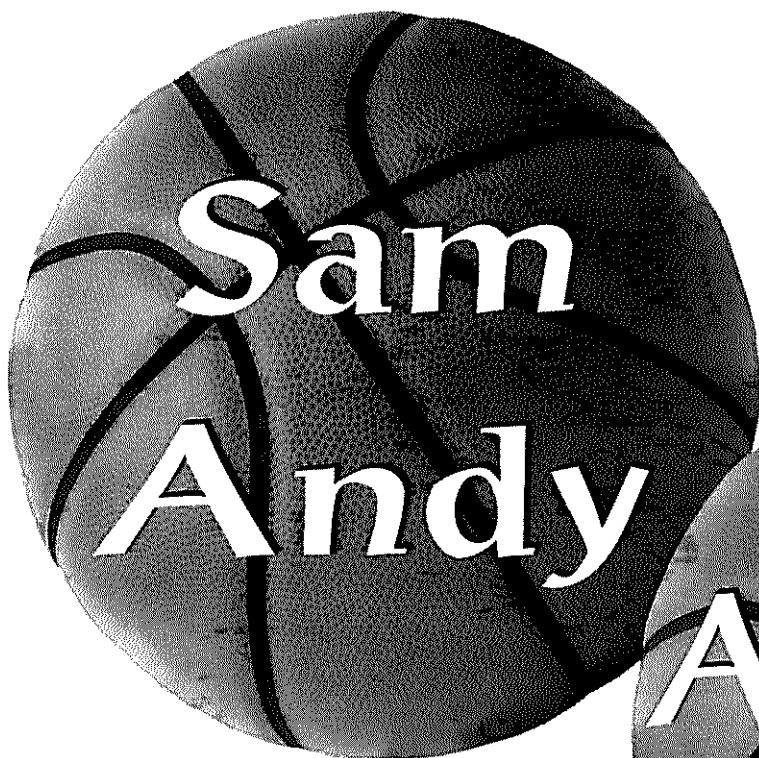
***on your induction into
the OVAC Hall of Fame***

***River High School's
first student-athlete
member of the "Hall"***

***River High School
Athletic Department***

Dr. Vince Monseau, Principal

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

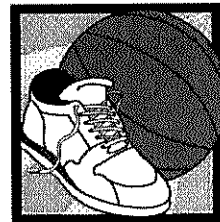


Congratulations

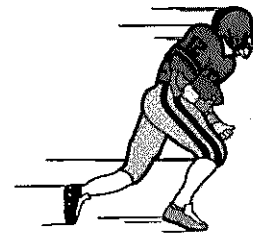
**WHEELING PARK
HIGH SCHOOL**

Marshall County is proud
of our inductees:

Rudy Baric



Doc Hartwig



Bill Hinegardner



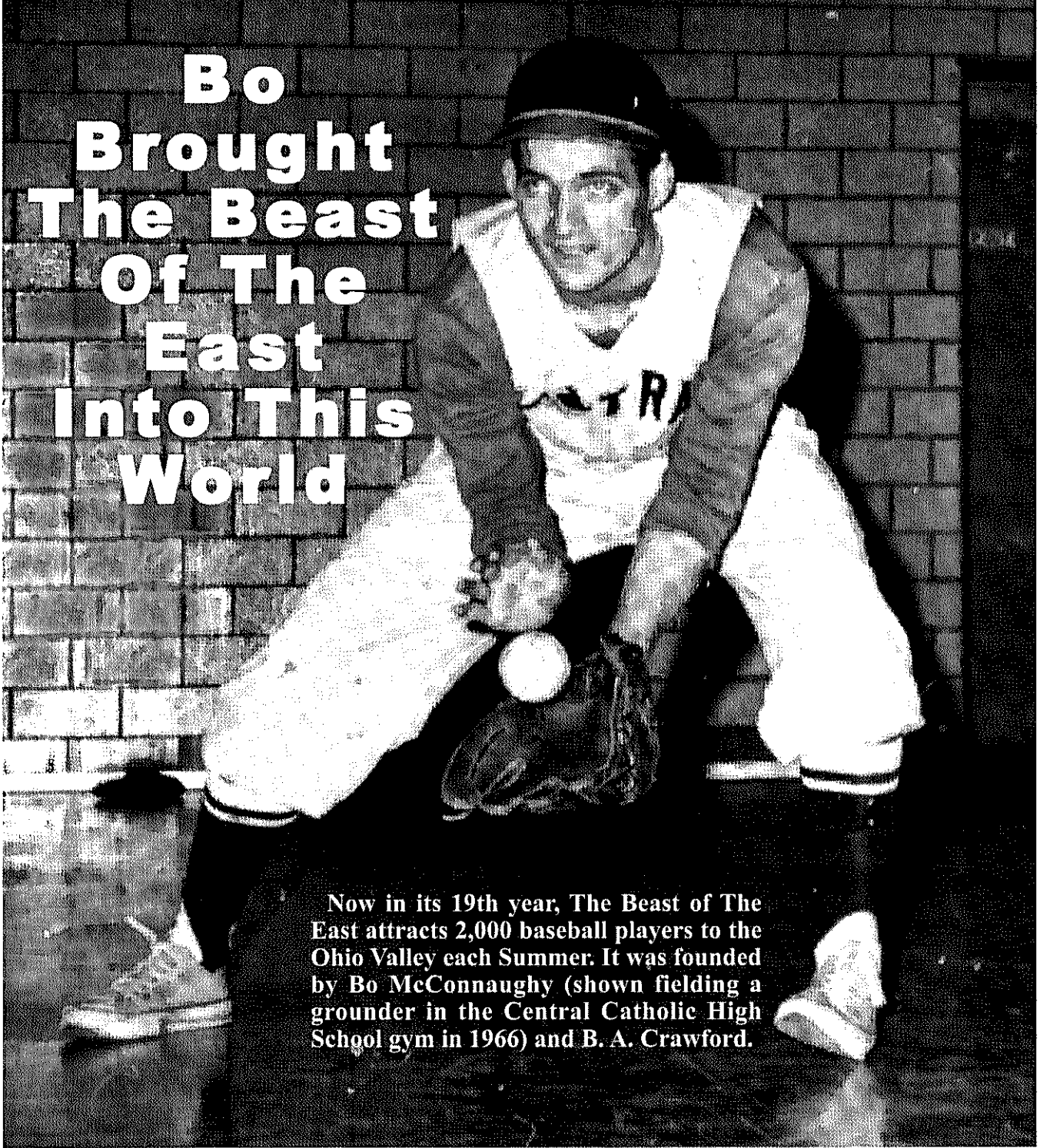
From the Marshall County
Coaches Association

*With the utmost admiration,
affection and respect*



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

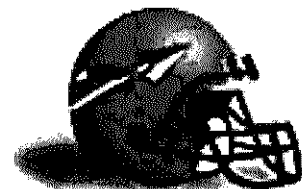
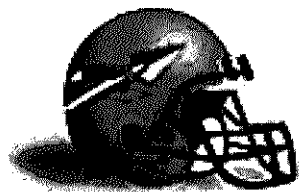
Bo Brought The Beast Of The East Into This World



Now in its 19th year, The Beast of The East attracts 2,000 baseball players to the Ohio Valley each Summer. It was founded by Bo McConaughy (shown fielding a grounder in the Central Catholic High School gym in 1966) and B. A. Crawford.



**Beast Of The East
Congratulates Bo,
OVAC Hall of Famer!**



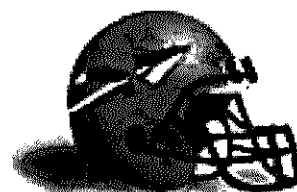
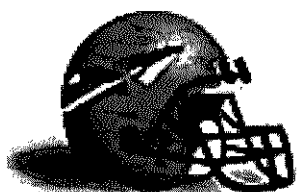
Jose' Davis

OVAC Hall of Fame Inductee

Mike Basrak

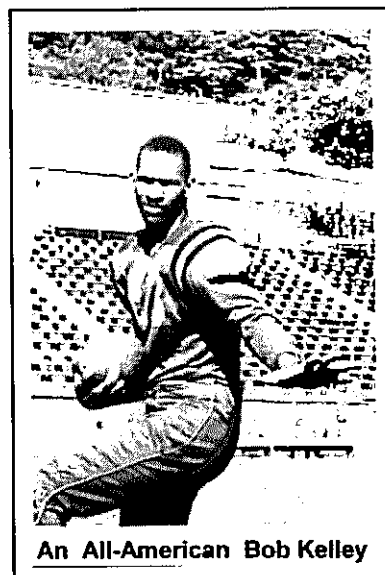
OVAC 'Legends' Honoree

**Special
Congratulations
from the
Bellaire High School
Athletic Department**



**Weir Red Rider Football Boosters
and
Weir High School Administration
and
Athletic Department**

**Salute and thank the OVAC
for the selection of Bob Kelley
as an OVAC Hall of Fame honoree**



**1960 Kennedy Award Winner
1960 - First team all-State
1960 - Weir Red Riders State Champions
1958-60 - Weir won 26 games/lost 5
1958 - OVAC champions
1961 - Cameron Junior College
Junior Rose Bowl champions**

Congratulations

Bill Hinegardner

Thanks for your hard work
and guidance.

**River High School
Athletic Department**

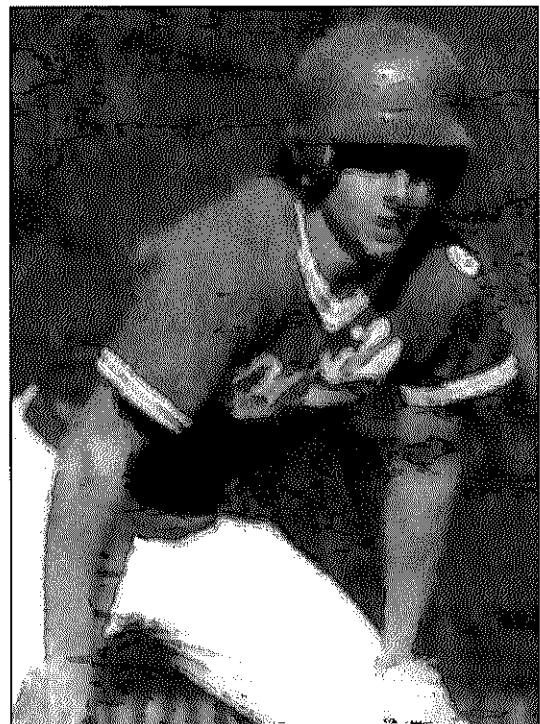
Dr. Vince Monseau, Principal



St. Clairsville Athletic Department

**extends congratulations and gratitude to the family of
Gene Cattane for his OVAC Hall of Fame induction
and for his outstanding contributions to the sport of
baseball as a Red Devil from 1974-77**

- All-Ohio
- Four-time all-Valley selection
- Fourth all-time in total hits in Ohio (172)
- American Legion 'Player of the Year' in 1976





WHEELING LIONS CLUB

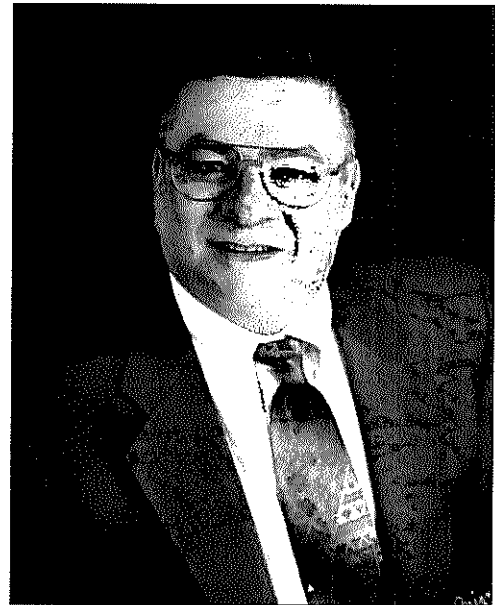
ORGANIZED JANUARY 6, 1922

P.O. BOX 1122
WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA 26003
lions@stratuswave.net

The Wheeling Lions Club

**Congratulates
Our Fellow Lion
and Club Secretary**

**Nick
Bedway**



**on his election
to the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference
Hall of Fame**

Congratulations

Sam Andy '63 • Bo McConnaughy '82

on your induction into the
OVAC Hall of Fame

from
West Liberty State College

and

West Liberty State College Alumni Association

Congratulations

Bo McConnaughy '82

on your induction into the
OVAC Hall of Fame

from

West Liberty State College

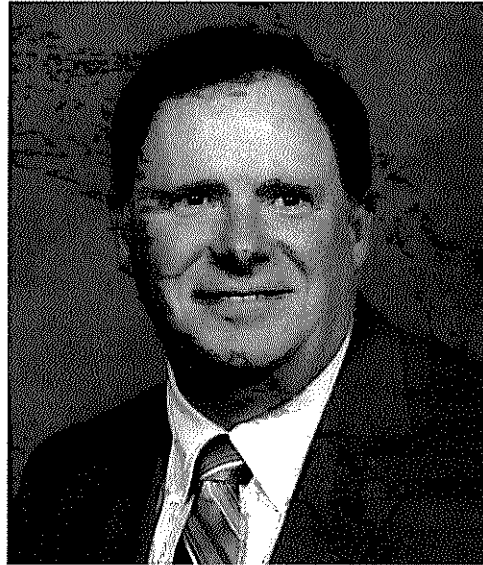
and

West Liberty State College Alumni Association



Congratulations

BILL HINEGARDNER



on your induction into the
OVAC Hall of Fame

WE ARE PROUD OF YOU.

LOVE FROM YOUR FAMILY,

SHIRLEY

**TIM AND LIZ
ALEXA, BRAD & LUKE**

**TAMMY AND RANDY
SEAN**

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THE INDUCTEES!





**Congratulations from
 the brothers and sisters,
 family and friends of**

Bo McConnaughy

**for his induction into the
 OVAC Hall of Fame**



Congratulations

Bo McConnaughy

*for your induction into the
 OVAC Hall of Fame in 2007*

from the employees of

CVS Pharmacy
National Road, Wheeling

CONGRATULATIONS!
Bo McConnaughy
OVAC Hall of Fame



DATE: _____		OPPONENT: _____	
EAGLES		OPPONENTS	
1	Kim	1	Kristi
2	Justin	2	Larry
3	Jeremy	3	Jessica
4	Jim	4	Brooke
5	Sara Jane	5	Jimmy
6	Kelly	6	Jenny
7	Paul	7	Lexi
8	Tyler	8	Jada
9	Breanna	9	
10		10	

*All-Star
 Family Line-Up*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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OVAC HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2007



Donna Joseph

Donna Joseph (Shadyside High School, Class of 1964). A leader in the OVAC track and cross country community for three decades, she also coached girls track and boys and girls cross country at alma mater Shadyside High School from 1983-98.

A registered track and cross country official for 30 years, she started working Cal Giffin OVAC Track Meets in the early 1970s and continues to serve as director of the Class A-AA meet, a position she started in the mid-1980s.

She currently is chairperson of the OVAC Track Committee with over 15 years on the board and is co-chairperson of the OVAC Cross Country Committee with over 20 years of service with the group.

A recipient, along with husband Butch Joseph, of the Cal Giffin OVAC Track Service Award, she also has been active with the Ohio Association of Track and Cross Country Coaches.

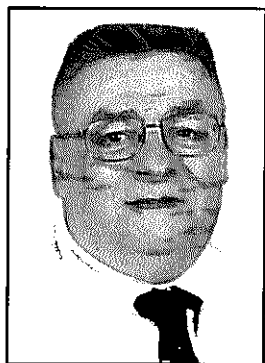
She is presently the secretary and membership chairperson of the OAT&CCC and serves on the Executive Board of the statewide organization. Donna and Butch handle the registration for the annual track clinic attended by an estimated 1,700 coaches.

She served as Meet Manager for the Midwest Meet of Champions when Ohio hosted the event at Ohio Wesleyan College and also served as Ohio coach when the meet was contested in Indianapolis, Ind. The Josephs were awarded the Ed Barker Award this year from the OAT&CCC.

Besides track and cross country, Donna also has served on the committees and worked the annual Sam Mumley OVAC Basketball All-Star games and the Rudy Mumley OVAC Football All-Star games. She also assisted with the OVAC Volleyball Tournaments and team standings. The 1964 Shadyside High graduate earned her degree from Ohio State University in 1968 and her master's degree in 1983 from Ohio University. She was a mathematics instructor at Shadyside from 1968-98.



Donna Joseph



Nick Bedway

Nick Bedway

Nick Bedway (Wheeling Central High School, Class of 1958). One of the area's most versatile and prolific newspaper sports journalists for five decades, he has been on the scene for numerous OVAC events since 1960.

After attending West Liberty State College for one year, he joined the Wheeling News-Register as a copy boy in 1960. Later that year, he joined The Intelligencer staff as a sportswriter. In 1967, Bedway joined the News-Register staff headed by Bill Van Horne and was promoted to Associate Sports Editor in 1971. Bedway became N-R Sports Editor in 1995 and was named Executive Sports Editor of The Intelligencer/News-Register in 2000, a position he held until he retired in 2005.

He authored daily and Sunday newspaper columns entitled "Nick's Notebook" and also wrote columns on area golf, bowling, college sports, outdoors and the Wheeling Nailers' hockey team.

The OVAC media guide was dedicated to Bedway in 1999.

He served as co-publicity director of the OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Game from its inception in 1972 until 1990. Bedway also served as the OVAC standings' statistician in football, boys and girls basketball and baseball for more than 25 years.

Bedway served one term in 1977 as president of the W. Va. Sports Writers Association and received the Gene Morehouse Award in 1990 from the organization. He was inducted into the Ogdon Newspapers 20K Classic Hall of Fame in 2006 and the Media Wing of the Ohio Baseball Hall of Fame in 1996. He twice was selected to serve as the Honorary Referee for

the W. Va. Super Six Class AA state championship football games held at Wheeling Island Stadium.

Bedway was the inaugural recipient of the Father John Lester Award for a lifetime of support to local sports and youth of the Ohio Valley and received the Spirit and Leadership Award from the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Club. He also has received awards from the Wheeling Soccer Association, Allegheny Mountain District U. S. Tennis Association, Wheeling Post 1 American Legion Baseball Team, Oglebay Park Men's Golf Club, and the Ohio Valley Golf Association.

A past member of the Wheeling Hall of Fame Committee and current member of the OVAC Hall of Fame Committee, Bedway also is active with the Wheeling Lions Club and received, in 2005, the Leonard Jarrett Award, the highest Lion honor bestowed in West Virginia.

Currently the chapter secretary and Board of Directors' member, he has served as media relations director, chapter president, first vice-president and Tail Twister. Married 45 years to the former Judy Katona, the Bedways had four children and have five grandchildren.

Earl Klevins

Earl Klevins (Warwood High School, Class of 1934). One of the Ohio Valley's most prominent football and basketball officials during a 35-year career from 1938 to 1973.

Klevins attended Wheeling High School for one and a half years before transferring to Warwood High, from which he graduated in 1934. He played high school basketball at both schools.

Earl attended Bethany College where he played football and basketball along with competing in track under legendary coach John Knight.

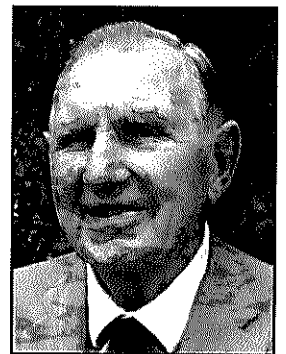
Klevins officiated in his first basketball game in 1938 at the Madison gymnasium. The opponents on that occasion were Wheeling High and Bridgeport and his officiating partner was another OVAC Hall of Fame member, the late Walter Heil. Thirty-five years later when he hung up his whistle, Klevins had officiated in more than 1,300 basketball games and 570 football games on the high school and collegiate level.

Along with serving as an OVAC official, Klevins officiated games in the Southern Conference, the West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and at many other colleges in the tri-state area.

He also played professionally with the Wheeling Blues basketball team and was a long-time participant in local independent leagues and tournaments.

Klevins was a long-time standout on the area tennis courts, winning many local, regional and national tournaments. In 1975, Earl and his partner won the United States national doubles title in the 75-and up age bracket. The tournament was held in Myrtle Beach, SC. At age 45, he won the West Virginia state singles title and teamed with the late Loran Mercer for doubles honors in their age group. Earl also won numerous Oglebay Park Tennis Club championships through his mid-80s at which time he retired from competitive tennis.

The committee for the Samuel A. Mumley OVAC Basketball Classic presented Klevins with the Robert "Bobby" Dawson Officials Award. Earl and his wife Lucy have been married for more than 70 years. They raised three children: Earl Jr., Judy and Robert. They have been blessed with four grandchildren and five great grandchildren.



Earl Klevins



OVAC HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2007



Sam Andy

Sam Andy (Wheeling High School, Class of 1958). The winningest coach in Ohio Valley high school boys' basketball history with 611 wins over a 39-year career, Andy surpassed a record set by charter OVAC Hall of Fame inductee Richard L. "Dick" Potts.

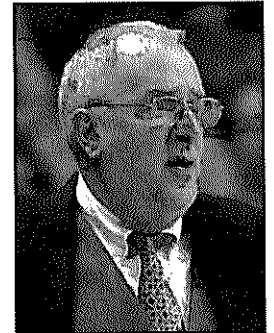
Andy's head coaching career included two seasons at Frazesburg (O.) High School (1964-1966), seven years at Wheeling High School (1969-1976) and the last 30 years at Wheeling Park High School (1976-2006).

Second all-time for victories in West Virginia's big school class, Andy's teams won three Class AAA state championships (1976 at Wheeling High, 1980 and 1995 at Wheeling Park). The 1995 state final was one of the memorable championship games in W.Va. boys' basketball history as Andy's Patriots defeated Beckley Woodrow Wilson 99-96 in a triple-overtime masterpiece. He also had one other Patriot squad finish as the state runner-up (1997) and four semifinalist teams (1988, 1990, 1998 and 2000).

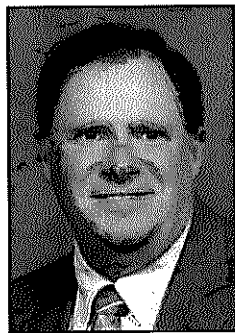
Andy coached in 922 games and his clubs experienced only three losing seasons. Under his direction, Wheeling High and Wheeling Park qualified for an OVAC record 20 state tournaments. In 37 years at the two Ohio County schools, Andy produced 31 sectional championship teams, 28 Region One titlists and six Ohio Valley Athletic Conference division pennant winners.

Through most of his career, the Wheeling Wildcats and Park Patriots dominated their rivals in the conference, winning 78 percent of their games against OVAC opponents. They also annually played a schedule that included many of the top basketball powers in the state. His commitment to have the Patriots play the very best competition in the country saw them line up against other high school juggernauts from states including Ohio, Pennsylvania, Florida, Kentucky, Michigan, Maryland, Louisiana, New York, Virginia and the District of Columbia. Andy coached four West Virginia Player of the Year standouts and had 31 players earn college scholarships, including several Division I stalwarts.

He twice was honored as the OVAC Coach of the Year (1976 and 1995). In 2004, he was selected as the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Club's Co-Man of the Year along with Monroe Central Coach Jay Circosta. In 2007 he was the recipient of the Earl Haberfield Coaches' Award presented by the committee directing the annual Samuel A. Mumley OVAC Basketball Classic. A 1958 graduate of Wheeling High School, Andy graduated from West Liberty State College in 1963. He was a basketball starter and letterman at both schools



Sam Andy



Bill Hinegardner

Bill Hinegardner

Bill Hinegardner (Meadow Bridge High School, Class of 1960). Referred to by the late Bill Van Horne — a 2004 OVAC Hall of Fame Inductee — as West Virginia Wrestling's "Man of Character," Hinegardner received his bachelor's degree from Concord College in 1965 and master's degree from West Virginia University in 1968.

The former Concord basketball and baseball player entered the Marshall County School System as a mathematics teacher at the start of the second semester of the 1964-65 school year. He served as an assistant coach in wrestling and football at Moundsville High for three years before taking over the head wrestling coaching position when the consolidated John Marshall High School opened its doors at the outset of the 1968-69 school year.

During his 14 years as head coach, the Monarch program became one of the most successful in the OVAC and also in the state of West Virginia. Hinegardner's teams won four W. Va. Class AAA championships (1972, 1973, 1974 and 1979). The Monarchs were also runners-up four times and finished lower than sixth place only once in the W. Va. State Tournament.

The Ron Mauck OVAC Wrestling Tournament saw Hinegardner's John Marshall powerhouses take the overall team championship four times (1972, '73, '74, '77) and finish second five times. The Monarchs also earned five OVAC Class 4-A titles and emerged as Class 4-A Dual Meet winners five times. From December of 1971 through December of 1976, Hinegardner's wrestlers went through 41 straight dual matches without sustaining a defeat. His overall dual meet record was an impressive 133-29-1. Hinegardner's

wrestling program produced 20 individual state champions, including a pair of two-time winners. Hinegardner also has served as an assistant coach in football, track and baseball. In 1996, he was a member of the late Mike Linsky's staff that led John Marshall to the West Virginia Class AAA football title.

He has served as President or Director of the W. Va. Wrestling Coaches Association; the Region One Coaches Association; Marshall County Coaches Association; Co-Director of the OVAC and W. Va. State Tournaments; Executive Board Member of the OVAC and the WVSSAC for Wrestling. The numerous awards to Hinegardner included: National Wrestling Hall of Fame Lifetime Service in Wrestling Award (2004); National High School Coaches Association District 3 Coach of the Year (1976); OVAC Coach of the Year (1974); W. Va. Wrestling Coach of the Year (three times); Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Achievement Awards (two times); Mr. Mat Award for contributions to the sport of wrestling in the OVAC (1984); Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Carl R. Hamill Award (2000); Moundsville Area Junior Chamber of Commerce Jim Edge Award (1977) given for outstanding work in religious and youth activities; and the John Marshall High School Wall of Fame (First Class, 2005).

After retiring from Marshall County in 1999, Bill went to work for the Switzerland of Ohio School District at River High School as a Guidance Counselor until he retired in 2004.

Joe Fortunato

Joe Fortunato (Mingo High School, Class of 1948). A nine-time letterwinner in three sports at Mingo (football, basketball and baseball), he was an All-Ohio Valley Athletic Conference performer as a football and basketball player.

Fortunato enrolled at Virginia Military Institute, but transferred to Mississippi State when the Keydets' head coach Slick Morton accepted the job with the Bulldogs. At Mississippi State, Fortunato became an All-Southeastern Conference fullback-linebacker.

The honorable mention All-America performer led Mississippi State in rushing and had a game high of 169 yards against North Texas State.

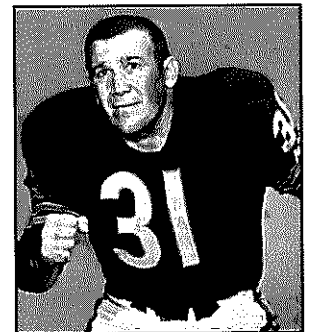
Highlight of his collegiate career occurred when the Bulldogs defeated national champion Tennessee 7-0. Volunteers' Coach General Tom Neyland praised Fortunato after the game by calling him one of the greatest players his teams at Tennessee had ever faced.

Fortunato was drafted in the seventh round by the Chicago Bears, but played one season in the Canadian League before signing with the National Football League team.

He started at linebacker for 12 seasons (1955-1966) with the "Monsters of the Midway" and was named first team All-Pro three times along with being selected for the Pro Bowl on five occasions. The defensive captain of the Bears was also captain the last Pro Bowl team coached by the legendary Vince Lombardi.

After his playing career, Fortunato spent two seasons on the Bears' staff, coaching the linebackers one year and then serving as defensive coordinator the next year. Fortunato also is the only Ohio Valley athlete to be selected to the National Italian American Sports Hall of Fame. He was the leading vote-getter in The Intelligencer's 1970 All-Time Ohio Valley Team, which was selected by a vote of the area sports fans.

Fortunato also is a member of the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Hall of Fame.



Joe Fortunato



OVAC HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2007



Don Fleming

Don Fleming (Shadyside High School, Class of 1955). The two-time All-Ohio Valley Athletic Conference first team honoree in football, Fleming was captain of the Tigers' undefeated conference champions in 1954. He also played center for the Shadyside squad that won an OVAC division title in basketball.

This versatile athlete played in the Ohio East-West All-Star baseball game held in Columbus and performed in the Ohio-West Virginia All-Star Football Game held during the summer of 1955 at Wheeling Island Stadium.

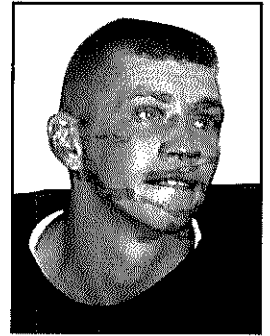
Fleming went on to the University of Florida on a football scholarship. He was a three-year starter and a two-way end performer for the Gators. He was elected captain of the 1958 team that played in the Gator Bowl and was a member of the All-Southeastern Conference team that same year.

He was drafted by the Chicago Cardinals of the National Football League and the Boston Patriots of the American Football League. However, Fleming elected to remain in college to complete work on his degree and play baseball. As a senior, Fleming also was chosen captain of the Florida baseball team that won the SEC championship and earned a berth in the NCAA tournament. In the spring of 1959, Fleming earned a degree as a construction engineer.

When Paul Brown, owner-coach of the Cleveland Browns, traded for Fleming's NFL rights, Fleming bypassed signing with the baseball Baltimore Orioles and decided to play professional football. Despite never having played defensive back, he started as a rookie with the Browns at safety and made the NFL All-Rookie team in 1960. After his third season with the Browns, Fleming was named to the All-NFL first team. In that off-season, while working on a construction job building a bank in Florida, Fleming was killed in an electrical accident.

Born June 11, 1937, Fleming was just 25 years old at the time of his passing. Despite having played just three seasons with the Browns, he had such an impact on the franchise that they named their practice field, Fleming Field, in his honor and retired No. 46, which was his number.

The University of Florida named its intramural field, Fleming Field, and the Florida Alumni Association established an award in his name that is given annually to the senior in any sport exemplifying the best leadership qualities. He also was selected for induction into the University of Florida's Hall of Fame and is a member of the State of Florida's Athletic Hall of Fame. Shadyside High School retired his number (59) and named its athletic complex Fleming Field.



Don Fleming



John Reger

John Reger

John Reger (Linsly High School, Class of 1950). This all-OVAC honoree in football and basketball was inducted into the Wheeling City Hall of Fame in 1998.

Reger's football achievements were remarkable considering that he was less than six-feet tall and weighed just 125 pounds when he began competing as a high school athlete, but he had more important attributes such as a huge, competitive heart and the determination of a youth twice his size. He played fullback and linebacker at Linsly and captained the 1949 Cadet squad that lost just one game to Triadelphia (20-19) in what was regarded as the most memorable high school football contest played during that era at Wheeling Island Stadium.

Reger went on to the University of Pittsburgh on a football scholarship and his freshman team in 1950 went undefeated. After just three varsity games the following year, his collegiate career was ended by a knee injury.

The Wheeling native returned home and was working in a gasoline station when his former high school coach, Etz Rine, arranged a tryout for him with the Pittsburgh Steelers even though he had not played football in three years. Displaying the same grit and determination he had shown in high school, Reger opened the 1959 season as one of the Steelers' starting linebackers. During his nine seasons in Pittsburgh, Reger earned three Pro Bowl invitations. He became captain of the Steelers defensive unit and was voted as the team's MVP during the 1959 season. Reger played in his first Pro Bowl in

1960 and made two more appearances in 1961 and 1962.

He sustained a life-threatening and near career-ending injury during his final season in Pittsburgh during a game against the Eagles at Franklin Field in Philadelphia. Reger was hit in the head and had a spasm in his throat that cut off air. Fortunately, the ambulance they sent for included oxygen and he was revived. Following that harrowing incident, every team in the NFL was required to have oxygen on the sidelines.

Reger was placed on waivers by the Steelers prior to the start of the regular season in 1964 and he was picked up by the Washington Redskins, for whom he played three more years before retiring. Overall, he played 12 seasons in the NFL.

Born on Sept. 11, 1931, Reger was selected to The Intelligencer's All-Time Ohio Valley Football Team in 1970. His wife Kathy passed away in 1996.

Bob Kelley

Bob Kelley (Weir High School, Class of 1961). Kelley made the most of his gifted and speedy legs to carve his niche into the Weir High and OVAC record books in two sports. He was a star both on the gridiron and the track cinders for the Red Riders.

Kelley — coached by the legendary Jim Carey — rushed for 2,730 yards and 42 career touchdowns. Kelley led Weir to a 10-1 season and the West Virginia state championship in 1960. He gained 1,259 yards that year with 22 touchdowns.

In the 40-0 rout of Nitro in the state championship game, Kelley was a one-man wrecking crew. He tallied four TDs and passed for a fifth. The speedy halfback also had a 75-yard scoring jaunt nullified due to a penalty.

Kelley was also a two-way starter as a junior for the Red Riders. He was the second underclassmen in state history to receive the Kennedy Award, bestowed each year on the state's premier prep football player, and the first winner from the OVAC.

The first-team all-West Virginia and all-OVAC honoree captured the Wigwam and Scholastic Magazine All-American honors as the Red Riders were ranked 11th nationally.

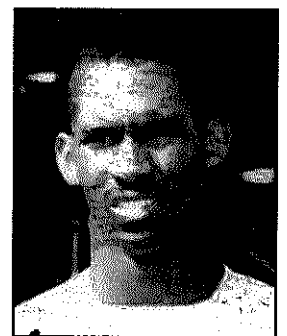
He played in the OVAC All-Star Game and left with Most Valuable Player accolades.

Kelley also made his mark in track his senior season. He established a Steel Valley League record of 9.95 seconds for the 100-yard dash and an OVAC meet standard of 10.1 seconds at the same distance.

He was voted most valuable performer at the OVAC meet where he won three gold medals and one silver. He went on to win four regional track titles and four more medals in the state meet, including second place in the 100-yard dash.

After graduation from Weir, Kelley matriculated to Cameron Junior College in Oklahoma. He led the Aggies to the JUCO championship, beating Bakersfield, 28-20, in a game played in the Rose Bowl. Kelley led Cameron with 712 yards on the season, earning first-team all-Oklahoma Conference team honors. He was also honored on the 1961 Junior College Helms Athletic Foundation All-American team as a first-team halfback.

He later attended Oklahoma State and Colorado, but was sidelined due to injuries.



Bob Kelley



OVAC Hall of Fame

Saturday, August 18, 2007

WelcomeThomas E. Rataiczak, OVAC Executive Secretary

InvocationDon Cordery, Rock Hill Presbyterian Church

Dinner5:30 p.m.

IntroductionsThomas E. Rataiczak, OVAC Executive Secretary

Master of CeremoniesJohn Sorrenti, Former Sports Director of WEIR Radio

Legends of the OVACRudy Baric (accepted by Fred Tweedlie),
Mike Basrak (accepted by Gene Ammirante), Les Carney, Charles "Doc" Hartwig
(accepted by Barbara Erickson, Charles Hartwig, Dorothy Albright and Susan Hartwig),
Jim "Monk" Moscrip (accepted by Dr. Glenn Christy)

2007 Hall of Fame Inductions

OVAC 'Family'

Donna Josephpresented by Joel Joseph

Media

Nick Bedwaypresented by Becky Buza
Trey Bedway, Rachel Hallsten

Officials

Earl Klevinspresented by Robert McCoid

Coaches

Sam Andypresented by Shane Mallett

Bill Hinegardnerpresented by Edward Dugas

Induction Ceremony

WesBanco Arena, Wheeling, W.Va.



Athletes

Joe Fortunato.....presented by Baci Carpico

Don Fleming.....presented by David "Ty" Fleming
(accepted by Rosalie McSwain)

John Reger.....presented by Doug Huff

Bob Kelleypresented by Bill Thompson
and Bob Rossell

Bo McConnaughy.....presented by Tom Ackerman

Gene Cattanepresented by Tom Sliva
(accepted by Brenda Cattane Ballog)

John Leonpresented by Paul "Bud" Billiard

Jennifer Hyland Brownpresented by Tina Jones

Anthony Reedpresented by Sam Andy

Jose Davis.....presented by Gene Ammirante

Chris Enochs.....presented by Jay Kiger

BenedictionDon Cordery, Rock Hill Presbyterian Church

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 2007



Bo McConnaughy

Bo McConnaughy (Wheeling Central High School, Class of 1966). He was a two-sport phenom for the Maroon Knights in the mid 1960s, starring in basketball and baseball.

McConnaughy was a four-year letterman in both sports, gaining first-team all-state honors in baseball as a senior. That same year he garnered second-team all-West Virginia laurels in hoops after helping lead the Maroon Knights to the West Virginia Catholic Tournament title.

In baseball, McConnaughy is considered one of the best shortstops the Ohio Valley prep ranks has ever produced. He went on to star at West Liberty State College in both sports.

In 1970, McConnaughy was named first-team all-WVIAC as a shortstop and shortly thereafter signed a professional contract with the Baltimore Orioles. A year previously, he was drafted by the Cincinnati Reds in the 24th round, five rounds ahead of Ken Griffey, Sr.

He spent three years in the Orioles' farm system before returning home and starring for the Warwood Reds of the Ohio Valley Baseball League.

Bo was a second-team all-conference selection as a senior for the Hilltoppers' hoop team.

McConnaughy has maintained his relationship with West Liberty, finishing up his 25th year at the Hilltoppers' baseball helm.

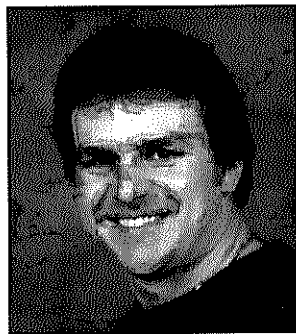
He has accumulated more than 500 wins at his alma mater to go with five conference crowns and a berth in the 1990 NAIA World Series. McConnaughy led the Black & Gold to their first-ever NCAA Regional Playoffs in 1998.

McConnaughy was elected to the West Liberty State College Hall of Fame in 1988. He has been named WVIAC Coach-of-The-Year on four occasions.

In addition to baseball, he has coached football, track and men's and women's basketball at West Liberty. He is currently in charge of the WLSC Intramurals Program.



Bo McConnaughy



Gene Cattane

Gene Cattane

Gene Cattane (St. Clairsville High School, Class of 1977). Cattane put together an impressive four-year career on the diamond as a shortstop and pitcher for the Red Devils.

Some 30 years later, he still ranks in Ohio's top 10 in two statistical categories — No. 4 on the all-time career hit list with 172 and No. 7 in RBI with 145.

In 109 varsity games, Cattane's career numbers also included a batting average of .431 with 127 runs scored, 29 home runs, 13 triples and 25 doubles. As a pitcher, he compiled a 14-11 career record.

He was a four-time all-Valley selection (second team as a freshman and first team the next three years, including serving as captain as a senior) and he was selected to participate in four Eastern Ohio Baseball League All-Star Games.

Cattane was also tabbed for the Ohio All-Star Series in Columbus, equivalent to gaining all-state honors at that time.

As a senior, Cattane helped the Red Devils to the OVAC Class 3-A championship and a 23-9 overall record. He batted .478 (fifth in the valley) with valley-leading totals of 54 hits, 10 home runs, 38 RBI and 35 runs scored. He also had four triples, six doubles and 16 stolen bases. On the mound, he was 6-2 with a 1.73 E.R.A. in 52.2 innings, striking out 71 while walking 27 and allowing 31 hits.

Cattane's junior numbers included a .455 average (fifth in the OVAC) with valley bests in home runs (8) and RBI (36) along with 40 hits, five doubles, three triples and 26 runs scored. As a sophomore, he hit .349 with valley highs in home runs (9) and RBI (46) along with 38 hits, four doubles, three triples and 32 runs scored. His freshman totals included a .449 average (fourth in the OVAC) and valley-leading marks in hits (40) and runs scored (34) along with 10 doubles, three triples, two home runs and 25 RBI.

In addition to his high school exploits, Cattane was also a standout American Legion player. He was named Ohio American Legion Player of the Year in 1976 after leading Maynard Post 666 to a state runner-up finish with a 28-7 record, batting .350 for the season including .433 in seven tournament games.

He also played for more than 10 years with Maynard of the Ohio Valley Baseball League and was a perennial all-star.

Cattane, who was inducted into the St. Clairsville High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 2006, died in a tragic coal mining accident on Sept. 10, 1990 at the age of 31.

John Leon

John Leon (Brooke High School, Class of 1976). This Bruin starred in three sports, etching his name into the OVAC annals as one of the premier football linemen and track weightmen ever to compete in the conference.

Leon — who was also a standout grappler at Brooke — was a two-way line star for the powerful Bruins, earning a myriad of all-star accolades, including the 1975 Ken Hunt Award, going to the Lineman of the Year in West Virginia, making Leon the first OVAC winner of the prestigious honor.

Leon led Brooke to a 9-1 season en route to the OVAC championship in his junior campaign before earning all-conference and all-state laurels as a senior. The powerful Leon played in the 1976 OVAC All-Star game, captaining the Mountaineers to victory.

He was just as impressive in track circles, rewriting the OVAC record books in the shot put and discus. In the 1976 state meet, Leon launched the iron ball 59-1, breaking the W. Va. standard by some two feet. The record lasted two years before being eclipsed by future Olympian Randy Barnes. Leon won three state throwing titles, two in the shot and one in the discus.

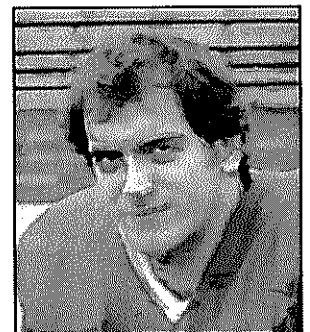
Leon was also a force on the mats, compiling a 48-6 mark as a junior and senior heavyweight.

Upon graduation from Brooke, Leon accepted a football scholarship to Notre Dame. He was a three-year letterman for the Fighting Irish as a guard. The Irish won two Cotton Bowls and one Gator Bowl during his career at South Bend.

After graduating from Notre Dame, he received his MD degree from West Virginia University in 1984.

He has been a radiologist for 20 years. He is the current president of Radiological Physicians Associates. He is past president of the West Virginia Radiological Society, past president of the Marion County Medical Society as well as past president of the Fairmont Field Club.

Leon and his wife Marcy have been married for 22 years. They reside in Fairmont with their four children: Johnny, Camille, Isabella and Joseph.



John Leon



OVAC HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2007



Jennifer Hyland Brown

Jennifer Hyland Brown (River High School, Class of 1986). She ranks among the all-time greats in girls' track, having excelled at the conference, league and state levels of competition as a sprinter.

In four years at OVAC Championship meets, Hyland scored a whopping 126 points as River won two Class 2-A team titles (1983 and '86) and finished as runner-up twice (1984 and '85). During her freshman, sophomore and junior years, she won the 100, 200 and 400-meters and was on the winning 1600-meter relay team while as a senior, she won the 400 and 1600-relay and was second in the 100 and 200.

In state meet competition, Hyland was the 400-meter runner-up as a freshman in 1983; first in the 400, second in the 100 and third in the 200 as a sophomore in 1984 (her 24 points single-handedly gave River a third place finish in the state); first in the 400 as a junior in 1985; and first in the 400 with a state-record time of 55.65 and on the sixth place 1600-meter relay team as a senior in 1986.

Hyland also sparkled in Ohio Valley Track League (OVTL) Championship meets for the Lady Pilots, winning the 200 and 400 all four years while taking the 100 the last three.

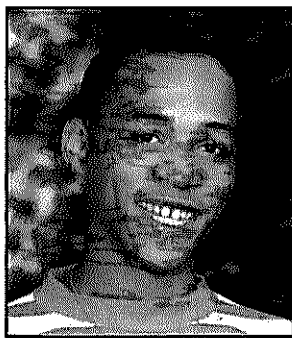
She also enjoyed tremendous success in the Belmont County Relays, finishing as the top scorer as a sophomore after winning the 100, 200 and 400; duplicating the top scorer feat as a junior by winning the same three events (including a meet record in the 200); and scoring the same "triple" as a senior (bettering her mark in the 200).

She was selected All-Ohio in the 400-meters all four years by the Ohio Association of Track and Cross Country Coaches. She was also an All-District and All-Valley honoree in multiple events. In 1984, Hyland was named honorable mention High School All-America and in 1986, she was invited to participate in the Midwest Meet of Champions in Indiana, an event showcasing the best senior athletes from Ohio, Indiana and Illinois.

A member of the River High School Wall of Fame, she received a scholarship to run track at West Virginia University where she competed for one season.



Jennifer Hyland Brown



Anthony Reed

Anthony Reed

Anthony Reed (Wheeling Park High School, Class of 1989). Reed left a lasting mark on the athletic scene both for the Patriots and the OVAC, evident when he became the first person inducted into the Wheeling Park Sports Hall of Fame in 1997 for his exploits in basketball and track.

On the basketball court, Reed was a two-time first team All-West Virginia Class AAA selection, serving as captain as a junior. He was a two-time USA Today West Virginia Player of the Year and the Gatorade State Player of the Year as a senior. He also gained first team All-OVAC and All-Valley accolades twice and was a tri-captain on The Intelligencer's all-decade team of the 1980s.

The 6-4 wing scored 1,290 points in two seasons, including what still stands as a school-record 663 points (a 28.9 per-game average) as a senior. He averaged 11.5 rebounds per game that year and also set what was then an OVAC-record 88 three-point goals as a senior.

As a junior, Reed was selected to the West Virginia Class AAA All-Tournament team.

In track, the talented Reed was a stellar performer in the high jump, hurdles and relays.

A two-time West Virginia Class AAA state champion in the high jump (including a meet-record 6 ft. 9 in. effort), he also set what was then a valley-record with a 6 ft. 11 in. leap.

Reed placed second in the 110-meter high hurdles at the state meet (14.65 seconds) and was on state championship relay teams to help Park finish a close second in the Class AAA state meet in 1989.

The Park product also made his presence felt at the collegiate level, starting and lettering for three years at Cleveland State University.

He scored 1,090 points (ranking him 10th on the all-time CSU scoring list at the time), averaging 15.6 points per game as a senior to earn second team All-Mid Continent Conference accolades.

As a junior, he averaged 13.2 points per game and received the Paul Stewart Award presented to the player whose unsung contributions did the most to further the success of the team. Reed also won the Mid-Continent Conference high jump championship as a junior.

Jose Davis

Jose Davis (Bellaire High School, Class of 1996). Davis put together some eye-popping numbers in both football and basketball, earning him All-Ohio recognition in both sports during his stellar career.

On the gridiron, Davis was a three-year starter at quarterback, leading his team to a record of 30-5. As a senior, he led the Big Reds to a third straight OVAC Class 3-A championship, first undefeated regular season and first-ever OHSAA playoff appearance (Bellaire advanced to the Division IV state championship game, losing a 50-44 double-OT thriller to Versailles). He finished the season 253-of-406 passing for 3,551 yards and 32 TDs while adding another 10 scores rushing.

Davis earned All-Ohio Division IV Offensive Player of the Year honors and was runner-up for the prestigious Mr. Football award as a senior. He also received first team All-Eastern District, All-OVAC Class 3-A and All-Valley big school accolades on multiple occasions.

The talented signal-caller set BHS career records for most yards gained (7,306), pass attempts (790), pass completions (455), highest completion percentage (55.7), passing yards (6,769) and TD passes (60).

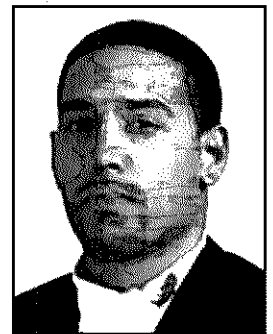
On the hardwood, Davis started and lettered four years, racking up 1,457 points, 479 rebounds, 167 assists and 151 steals (all ranking in the top five on the BHS career list). His all-star accolades in basketball included first team All-Ohio Division III, All-Eastern District, All-OVAC Class 3-A and All-Valley big school. He was also named third team All-American as a senior.

Also a three-year letterman in baseball at Bellaire, Davis continued his career at Kent State University.

A three-year starter and letterman for the Golden Flashes in football, he put up equally impressive numbers including single-game record for most pass attempts (59), completions (34) and TD passes (7); single-season marks for offensive yards (2,883), pass attempts (365), pass completions (194), passing yards (2,707) and TD passes (32); and career records for offensive yards (7,731), passing yards (6,722) and TD passes (52). He had a Mid-American Conference record 551 yards passing in 1997 against Central Florida and when he left KSU, he ranked 10th in MAC history in passing yards and was third in TD passes.

Davis also doubled as a point guard on the Kent State basketball team in 1997-98.

Professionally, Davis played for the Winnipeg Blue Bombers of the Canadian Football League in 2000 and 2001; for the Ohio Valley Greyhounds of the National Indoor Football League in 2002, leading the team to the league title by passing for 1,668 yards and 37 TDs and earning championship game MVP honors; for the Indiana Firebirds of the Arena Football League in 2003, the Colorado Crush in 2004 and 2005; and the Grand Rapids Rampage in 2006.



Jose Davis

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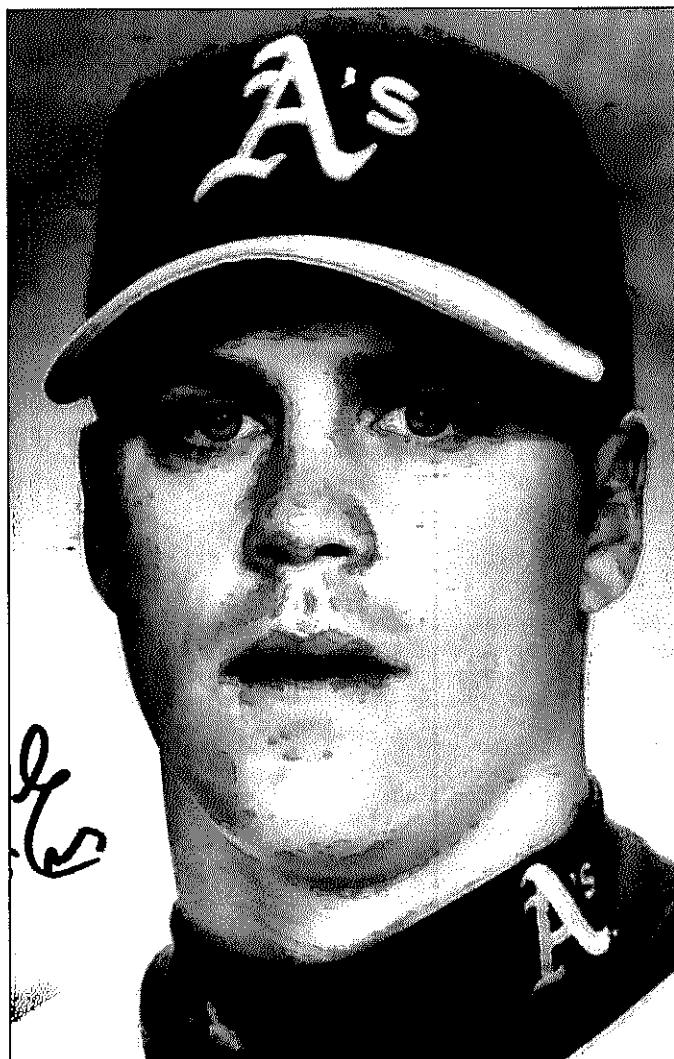
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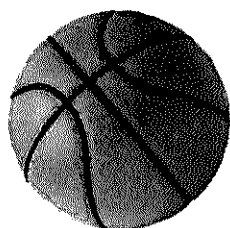
THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES
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Sam Andy



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VAC

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~ Inductees ~



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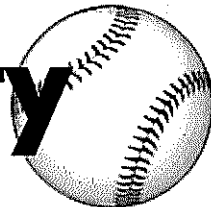


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**For Your Induction
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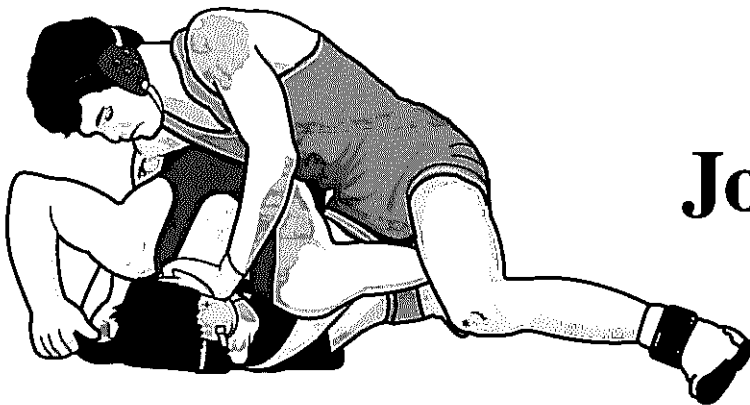
**From your OVAC
wrestling friends:**

Dan Doyle

John Stephenson

Ron Mauck

Dick Edge



**‘Best Wishes’
and “Thank You”**

‘Nick’ and ‘Bo’

**Wheeling Central Alumni
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and Robert ‘Bo’ McConnaughy**

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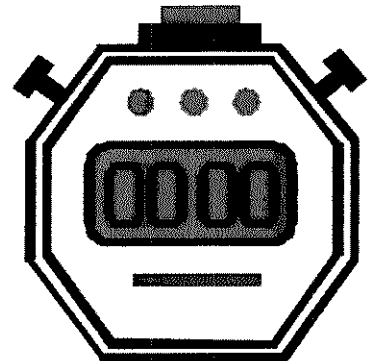


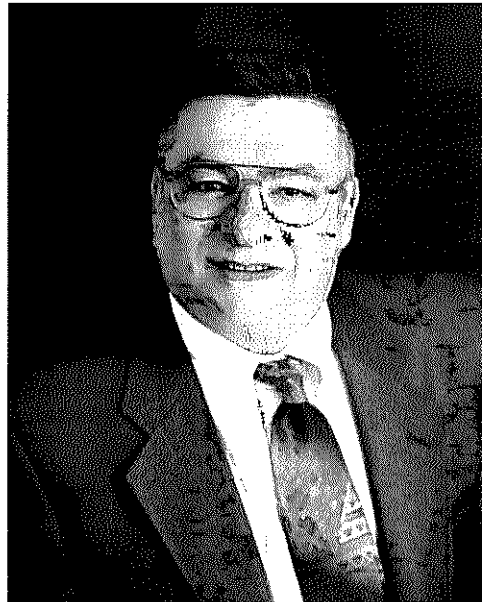
Congratulations

Donna

We're proud of you

Love,
Butch, Joel, Jared
Jillian and Jordan





**Congratulations
on being inducted into
the OVAC Hall of Fame**

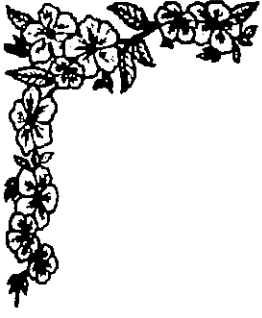
NICK BEDWAY

**Your whole family
is so proud of you**

**Love,
Your Wife, Judy**

**Daughter Becki Buza, Husband Dave and Grandson Corey
Son Trey, Wife Linda, and Grandchildren Linda and Cole
Daughter Rachel Hallsten, Husband Kent,
and Grandsons Zach and Matt**

Thanks OVAC Hall of Fame Selection Committee



Flowers courtesy of

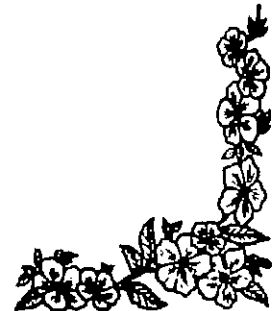
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Executive Administrator of
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Midland, PA.

***“As a former OVAC coach, I am aware of the unique role that this conference plays in the lives of the member school’s student-athletes. Your demonstrated emphasis on sportsmanship and scholarship are a tribute to your dedicated leadership and is rivaled by no other high school organization of which I am aware.*”**

The OVAC Hall of Fame is providing an opportunity to recognize and honor individuals whose accomplishments continue to inspire and motivate today’s athletes.

It is both my honor and extreme pleasure to play a small part in your continuing success.”



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. 16, 2008

PREVIOUS OVAC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



Class of 2004

OVAC Hall of Fame

Sponsored by Bob Robinson Chevrolet-Cadillac, Inc

Samuel A. Mumley (OVAC 'Family')

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



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

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

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

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

George Kovalick (OVAC 'Family')

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



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

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

Among the athletes he tutored in high school or college were all-time Ohio Valley greats John Havlicek, Phil and Joe Niekro, 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 Interscholastic 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 stints 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.

Bill Van Horne (Media)

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



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

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

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

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

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

Cal Pokas (Media)

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



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

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

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

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

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

Richard L. 'Dick' Potts (Coaches)

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.

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 Core 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 WVA 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).

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 WVIAA tournaments. The former City of Wheeling Treasurer was a three-year football and basketball letterman at Wheeling High School. He played on the Wildcats' 1940 state championship basketball team.

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

John Havlicek (Athlete - 1950s)



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 was a starter in baseball.

He wrestled two years at West Liberty State College, winning an NIAA 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 Olympic title.

Also as a competitor, he won five national championships and a pair of U.S. Olympic Trials titles. He had a fourth-place featherweight finish at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics and he captured the U.S. freestyle team title 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 (93%). 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 1988. 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 NIAA Wrestling Hall of Fame, the Ohio Hall of Fame and the Arizona State Hall of Fame.

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 I 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 2,093 career points - then an OVAC "big school" record - and averaged 30.9 as a senior and 30.1 as a junior. He scored a school-record 55 points against East Liverpool. He was named All-America by *Parade* and *Scholastic Coach* magazines.

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

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

The two-time team captain as 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.'

Ken Alessi (Athlete - 1940s)



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bill Mazeroski (Athlete - 1950s)



Bill Mazeroski (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, Mazeroski led Warren Consolidated to the 1953 Ohio Class A (largest class) baseball finals before falling, 2-1 to Cincinnati Purcell. Mazeroski pitched a four-hitter in a losing cause.

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

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

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

Mazeroski 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 Mazeroski'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 Mazeroski Highway."

Allan Hornyak (Athlete - 1960s)



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

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

As a junior, he scored 812 points in 19 games, including 295 goals and 222-of-272 free throws. In his senior year, he tallied 923 points in 22 games with 346 goals and 231-of-296 free throws.

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

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

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

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 both *The Associated Press* and *United Press International*, Eastern District Class AAA "Player of the Year" (1976); and first team All-OVAC Class 4-A (1976).

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

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

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

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

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

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

PREVIOUS OVAC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Tim Spencer (Athlete - 1970s)



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

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

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

Spencer also played basketball and ran track for the Red Devils, excelling in the 100- and 200-meters.

After his prep days, Spencer matriculated to Columbus to play for Coach Earle Bruce's Ohio State Buckeyes.

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

Spencer led the Big Ten in rushing as a senior with 1,371 yards, eighth best in the nation. He was accorded All-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.

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.

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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; served as an assistant coach at Kent State University since the 2002-03 season.

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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.

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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.

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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 starting 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 fund-raiser, served the OVAC and the rest of Ohio Valley in many different, but special ways. He was a two-time president, charter member of the conference's Foundation Board, served on the football and basketball committees and was the organizer and long-time game director of the Ohio-West Virginia Charity Football Classic. The mid-summer all-star football clash was renamed in his honor in 1986. He also served as OVAC president during the 1967-68 school year. To help the game get off the ground, Mumley once mortgaged his home to achieve the financing needed for the inaugural OVAC-sponsored contest in 1972.

He also was a great supporter of the OVAC wrestling tournament.

A graduate of old Wheeling High School and West Liberty State College with a master's degree from WVU, Mumley served in the Air Force during World War II and was recalled during the Korean conflict. He taught at Powhatan, Shadyside and Smithfield High Schools before being appointed principal at Warren Consolidated High in Tiltonsville in 1964. Rudy later served as principal at Yorkville High. Later, when the Buckeye Local School District was formed, he became principal at Buckeye South and remained there until his retirement in 1979.

Mumley, who was born in 1918 and died in 1999, also provided great service to the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Club and his college alma mater, West Liberty State. Rudy was a member of the Dapper Dan Board of Directors for some 25 years and was banquet co-chairman six times. At West Liberty, he earned a rare honor as a non-athlete when he was inducted into the school's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1985. 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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Class of 2005

OVAC Hall of Fame

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PREVIOUS OVAC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Agnes Timmons (OVAC 'Family')

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

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

Timmons left teaching after 1948 to begin raising a family. After having four children, she returned to her teaching and coaching career at Barnesville in 1962. Timmons coached volleyball and basketball even though it wasn't until June of 1972 that Title IX was enacted, demanding equal sports opportunities for girls. She was asked by then OVAC executive secretary Sam Mumley to host and serve as director of the first conference volleyball championship tournament which was held at Barnesville High. Timmons coached basketball and track until well into the 1980's, but continued her duties with the volleyball team until her retirement from teaching in 1991. She also coached softball for one year when her daughter played because the talented youth also wanted to compete as a member of the track and field team. The school district would only permit that to happen if Timmons coached both sports, which she did.

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

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

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

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



Bob Burton (Coaches)

Robert W. (Bob) Burton (Magnolia High School, Class of 1957) coached several sports at Paden City High School, but is most remembered 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 Circosta of Woodfield/Monroe Central.

Strager's coaching career began in 1950 at tiny Sistersville High School, compiling a 42-22-3 record in seven seasons there and leading the Tigers to the West Virginia Class A state championship in 1953. He moved on to Clarksburg Notre Dame High for four years as head football and basketball coach (1957-60), going 24-10 on the gridiron and leading the basketball team to the West Virginia Class A state semifinals. Next came a three-year stint at Wheeling Central Catholic (1961-63) which featured two undefeated regular seasons and a mark of 21-9-1. The 1962 team lost to Charleston Catholic in the inaugural West Virginia Catholic State Championship game, but the next year Strager's team avenged that loss to win the crown. Up next was a five-year stay at Cambridge High (1964-68), posting a 25-23-2 record.

He then began a legendary 19-year run at St. Clairsville High in 1969, turning his trademark "belly series" to a record of 134-51-9 there. His Red Devil teams posted three undefeated seasons (1969, '77 and '85) and the 1983 squad earned the school's first-ever trip to the OHSAA playoffs and the 1986 team advanced to the state semifinals before losing a heart-breaker to Chagrin Falls Kenston.

Strager's top honors included induction into the Ohio High School Football Coaches Hall of Fame in 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-winners and one state champion (175-pounder John Scordios in 1964). Ferry's dual meet record during the Vrotsos years was 85-20-1, including unbeaten seasons in 1964 and '67.

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

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

As an athlete, he was a three-year letterman in football and basketball at Martins Ferry. In football, he was a center-linebacker under legendary coach Fred Thomas, playing center and linebacker on the 1944 and '45 OVAC championship squads, earning all-conference "AA" honors as a senior. He played guard in basketball under coaches Floyd Baker and Ralph Gartrell. After serving in the army, Vrotsos then attended West Liberty State College, graduating in 1951. He was a three-year varsity football player for the Hill 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 Interscholastic 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 Bartel in 1941 and after World War II.

He graduated from West Liberty with a bachelor's degree in political science, returning to Weir High School as a teacher and assistant coach. He left the education field to enter into the investment and insurance business in 1960. He remains active in many civic, fraternal and service organizations. He is president of the Weirtonian Lodge of the Italian Sons and Daughters of America, serves on the Board of Directors of the Fraternal Association and is an honorary national president of ISDA; a member of the board of the Upper Ohio Valley Italian Heritage Festival; the Weirton Council 3734 Knights of Columbus and an officer of their Fourth Degree; a life member of Post 10 of the American Legion; board member of Camp Fire USA, the Weirton Elks; and is a member of the West Liberty State College Foundation's Finance Committee, Hall of Fame Committee, Hilltoppers Athletic Club and a life member of the Alumna Association.

He was inducted into the West Liberty State College Hall of Fame and was honored by the West Virginia Northern



Walter Heil (Officials)

Walter Heil (Bellairs 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 Interscholastic 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 Bellairs High Athletic Wall of Fame and the 1998 recipient of the OVAC's Robert Dawson Officials' Award.

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



Alex Groza (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. Tiltonville. He was an all-conference and all-Ohio first-team selection.

Alex was the top scorer and rebounder on the University of Kentucky's "Fabulous Five," which won back-to-back NCAA titles in 1948 and '49, with Groza being named the tournament MVP both years. He was a three-time All-Southeastern Conference choice and a two-time consensus All-American. He set 22 individual SEC records. Groza still ranks seventh on Kentucky's all-time scoring list with 1,744 points. Alex's jersey number (15) was retired by the school. Groza and four of his UK teammates — Ralph Beard, Wallace Jones, Cliff Barker and Kenny Rollins — won a gold medal as U.S. Olympians at the London Games in 1948. Groza, in 1949, was named the Helms Foundation Basketball Player of the Year. In a 1950 Associated Press nationwide poll of sports writers selecting the leading athletes of the half-century, Alex was chosen as one of the five top-rated basketball players.

In the NBA, Groza averaged 22.5 points in 130 pro games with the Indianapolis Olympians in 1950 and '51. He coached Bellarmine (Ky.) College from 1959 through 1966. The school had never won a basketball championship before Groza's tenure. He led the Knights to the Kentucky Interscholastic 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 (Warwood High School, Class of 1954) was a first team all-West Virginia and all-OVAC tackle in 1953. He lettered in football, basketball and baseball. As a teenager, he also competed for an independent All-America boys gymnastics group.

The West Virginia University graduate is still the only Mountaineer athlete to letter in five sports — football, gymnastics, wrestling, track and swimming. In football he played guard, center, and linebacker while earning All-Southern Conference laurels three straight years. Also the long snapper on special teams, Howley was selected as a third-team All-American his senior year. Howley, at 6-2, 220 pounds, was considered to be one of the fastest linemen in WVU history. He started in three college all-star games — East-West Shrine Game, Senior Bowl and the College Football All-Star Game. He lettered for the Mountaineers on the trampoline in gymnastics, a heavyweight in wrestling, sprinter and weightman in track and a diver in swimming. In 1957, Howley was selected as the West Virginia Amateur Athlete of the Year.

He was an NFL first-round draft choice (1958) of the Chicago Bears — only the third Mountaineer selected in the opening round. He played a year and a half in Chicago before being sidelined by a serious knee injury. Howley was back home in Wheeling working at a gas station in 1961 when the expansion Dallas Cowboys traded two draft picks for him. The ex-Bear decided to give it one more try and wound up starting at outside linebacker 12 years for the Cowboys, earning all-pro laurels six times. He 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.



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 broken by David Contraguero, a four-year letterman for the Maroon Knights. Contraguero's record was later topped by a Central girls' basketball great, Kaylene Fitzsimmons. Miller also had a game high of 30 points in a West Virginia-Kentucky All-Star Game, leading the Mountaineer team to an 81-80 victory at Williamson. Twice, (1951 and '52), Miller was chosen as the state's basketball player of the year. He also was a standout performer in football and baseball in high school. He was a "T" formation quarterback as a football performer and a shortstop/pitcher on the baseball team.

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



Mike Sherwood (Athlete - 1960s)

Mike Sherwood (Bellaire High School, Class of 1967). This soft-spoken athletic great quarterback with Bellaire High's all-time statwraps 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 Clairen 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 Gurnsey Street rival St. John Central. 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 1971. 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.



Terry Snively (Athlete - 1960s)

Terry Snively (Powhatan High School, 1966). This all-round athlete starred in four sports for the Indians. He established an Ohio Valley football modern era season record by amassing 222 points, including 35 touchdowns, his senior season. The quick-footed running back finished with 398 career points. Snively was named Ohio's UPI Class A Back of the Year in 1965. He was an All-OVAC honoree as a junior and senior while garnering All-Eastern Ohio and All-Valley laurels.

Captain of the Indians' football, baseball and track teams. He also was a four-year letterman in basketball, starting his last three seasons. Snively averaged better than 24 points a game in each of his final two seasons and finished his career with 1,146 points. He was third team All-Ohio as a senior and first team All-OVAC as a junior and senior. Springtime at Powhatan saw Snively do double duty, starring in baseball and track. He was a talented pitcher and outfielder in the diamond sport for four years. He helped the Indians to a pair of Ohio state tournament berths, including winning the state Class A crown in his freshman season when he batted .315 as leadoff hitter. Powhatan also coached a track program in his sophomore season. He was the OVAC 100-yard, 200-yard and long jump champion as a junior and qualified for the state meet in the 100. He holds the school records in the 100 (10.2), 200 (23.4) and long jump (19-5).

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

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



John 'Fuzzy' Fillicz (Athlete - 1970s)

John Fillicz (Magnolia High School, 1973). The first OVAC athlete to earn All-W. Va. first team honors in football, basketball and baseball also earned 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.

Fillicz 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. Fillicz currently resides in Delaware, Ohio.



Lance Mehl (Athlete - 1970s)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mehl was selected to the Pro Bowl after the 1985 season when he recorded 115 tackles, 43 assists and three pass interceptions.

After his NFL career ended, he returned to the Ohio Valley and resides in St. Clairsville.



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

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

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

She signed a basketball scholarship to Tennessee Tech where she played for two seasons before finishing her college career at West Virginia University. In her two seasons with the Mountaineers, she served as team co-captain with Georgann 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.



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 awarded 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 Reds' four-sports performer has excelled on the prep, collegiate and professional levels.

The mercury-heeled 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 Ammirante. He earned All-OVAC, All-Valley and All-Ohio honors.

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

The Bellaire Bullet then took his amazing athletic skills to Columbus, 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 collared 72 passes for 1,649 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 Lamie Most Inspirational Player Award.

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

Cal Giffin (OVAC 'Family')



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, he served as an assistant coach in football and basketball.

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 OHSA 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 in 1951 and his Master of Arts Degree in school administration from WVU in 1967.



Class of 2006

OVAC Hall of Fame

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Ron Mauck (OVAC 'Family')



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 wrestling in the Ohio Valley, Mauck also established the conference's dual meet championship standings in 1971 and directed five W. Va. state tournaments 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 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). 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 (Media)



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 and 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. 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 fame John Havlicek, Joe Niekro, Tim Spencer, Olympic wrestler and coach Bobby Douglas and Allan Hornyak, just 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.

Paul 'Bud' Billiard (Coaches)



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 OVAC's Clinics and Prospect Nights. Billiard's Brooke coaching career also included eight years as an assistant in football, two years as a wrestling assistant, six years as head wrestling coach and three years as head track coach. Prior to Brooke, he spent four years as an assistant in football at Wheeling Central, two years as a volunteer assistant in wrestling and three years as head track coach.

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-WVAC laurels.

Among his awards are: 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.

Richard 'Lefty' Hall (Coaches)



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 as 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.

PREVIOUS OVAC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Warren Pugh (Officials)



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 Wesfall the second year. Pugh and John Gott of Bluefield blew the whistle for all 11 games of the first WVAC 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 Shady Side Relays and the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission. Pugh conducted officials' clinics in several sports and wrote a newspaper series on officiating. 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-Broaddus College in Philippi for two years and played football before transferring to Davis & Elkins College where he 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. 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.

Bob Gain (Athlete - 1940s)



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 Hamill 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.

Phil Niekro (Athlete - 1950s)



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 Mazeroski 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 Shady Side, 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-hit 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 hated 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 trout 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 (Athlete - 1950s)



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-loss 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. His 299 goals in a season 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 Winterville 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.

Bob Hummel (Athlete - 1960s)



Bob Hummel (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.

Hummel 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. Hummel torched Richmond for 45 markers in the state semifinal game. He established the Moundsville single-game scoring mark with 53 points in a win against Follansbee. Hummel 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, Hummel joined the WVU hoop squad and he wasted no time in making his presence felt. Hummel 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, freshmen 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. Hummel was the team's captain in his senior season.

Hummel totaled 11,377 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. Hummel — who had 14 games of 20 or more points — was selected to the 1966-75 all-time WVU hoop team.

Harry Wilson (Athlete - 1960s)



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 (Athlete - 1970s)



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

While also starring in football and basketball at the Guemsey 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 Bellaire 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. Burgy etched his name in Bellaire 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-unfittable 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 Bellaire 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 Winterville (6-0). 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 hooper. 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 was a sixth-round draft choice of the New York Mets and spent three years in the Mets' farm system, first in Virginia followed by a stop in Pompano (Fla.) and Memphis. He had 13 wins in one season and fanned 20 in one game.

Bruce Smith (Athlete - 1970s)



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 800-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).

PREVIOUS OVAC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Wendy Baker (Athlete - 1980s)



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 (Athlete - 1980s)



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 an 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 (5,267) as well as pass attempts (569) and completions (312) for a career; and fifth in career passing yards (3,267).

Jeff Snedegar (Athlete - 1990s)



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.

Bill West (Athlete - 1990s)



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 Museum Seeks Memorabilia

The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference, the nation's largest high school conference with 46 member schools, has established an OVAC Museum to display memorabilia from its member schools — past and present — and is currently seeking additional display items. Each school will have a display case for its trophies, photographs and other items to showcase its athletic history. For more information, call the OVAC office at 740-671-3269.



Be sure to check out the display cases in the outer concourse of WesBanco Arena before you leave tonight's OVAC Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony.

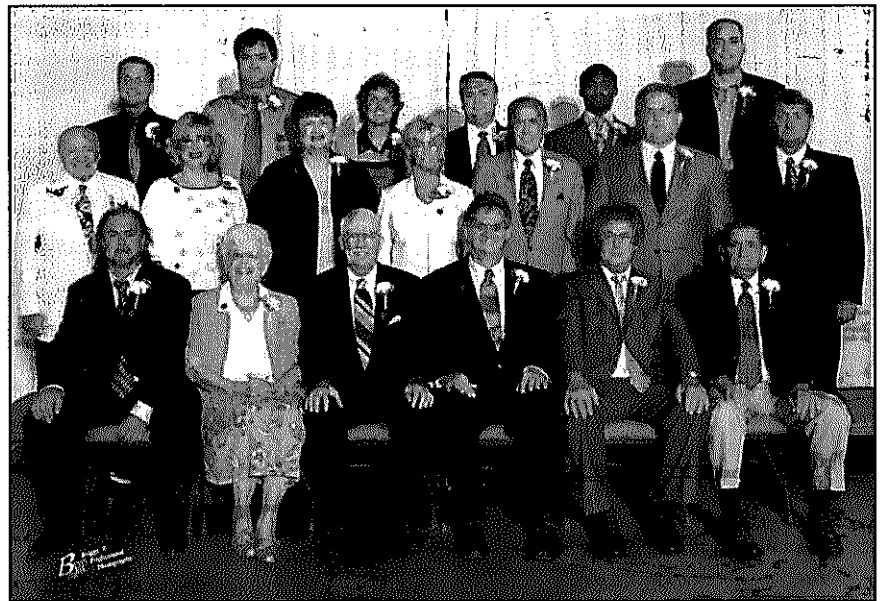


OVAC Hall of Fame Class of 2004

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 Mazerowski, Dr. Al Blatnik (accepting for Bobby Douglas), Alan Hornyak and Rayna Williams (accepting for the late Ron 'Fritz' Williams). Third row, Doug Donley, Gerald Spencer (accepting for Tim Spencer), Amy Gamble, Mitch Hannahs, Vicki Pullie-Stokes, Geno Ford and Stephanie Petho.

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, Brian Swisher, Courtney Redman (accepting for Joey Galloway), and Matt Gaudio.



OVAC Hall of Fame Class of 2006

Members of the OVAC Hall of Fame Class of 2006 or their representatives include, front row left to right, Lou Ann Cawsey (representing Cal Giffin), Ron Mauck, Mike D'Innocente (representing Boyd Nelson), Richard 'Lefty' Hall, Paul 'Bud' Billiard and Dave Pugh (representing Warren Pugh). Second row, Bob Gain, Phil Niekro, John Magistro (representing Lee Patrone), Bob Hummell and Harry Wilson. Third row, Ed Burgy, Bruce Smith, Wendy Baker, Dennis Swearingen, Bill Starr (representing Jeff Snedegar) and Bill West.



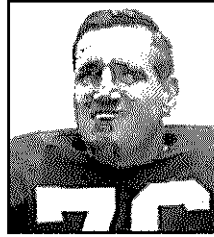
LEGENDS OF OVAC SCHOOLS - 2005



V. Everett Brinkman



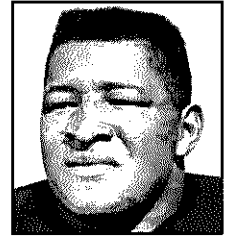
Clarence 'Bevo' Francis



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 Famers 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.

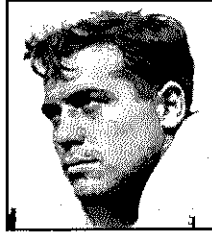
He was the first African-American athlete pictured on the cover of Sports Illustrated.



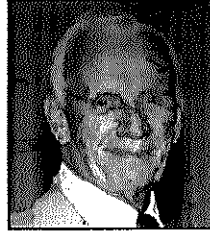
LEGENDS OF OVAC SCHOOLS - 2006



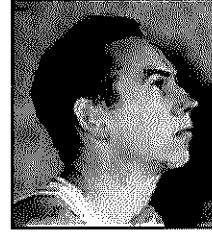
Bernie Allen



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.

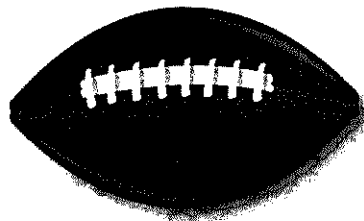
In 1947, he was the Most Valuable Player in the World Tournament in Chicago which featured the nation's best pro teams including the Harlem Globetrotters.

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.



CONGRATULATIONS

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