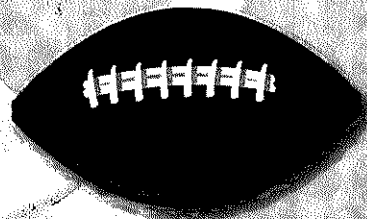






**CONGRATULATIONS**

to the 2008  
Inductees at the  
5th 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). Thomas E. 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** .....Assistant Principal, 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



# 2008–2009 OVAC Executive Board



The 2008-2009 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 AA Representative; Bob Koch, Class AA Representative; and Doug Tush, Class A Representative. Not pictured, Tim Haught, West Virginia Board Member.



# Never, Never, Never Quit.



**Congratulations!**  
**OVAC Hall of Fame**  
**Linsly Inductees:**  
**Jim Keane '41**  
**Tom Keane '45**  
**Bob Kettlewell '48**

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.

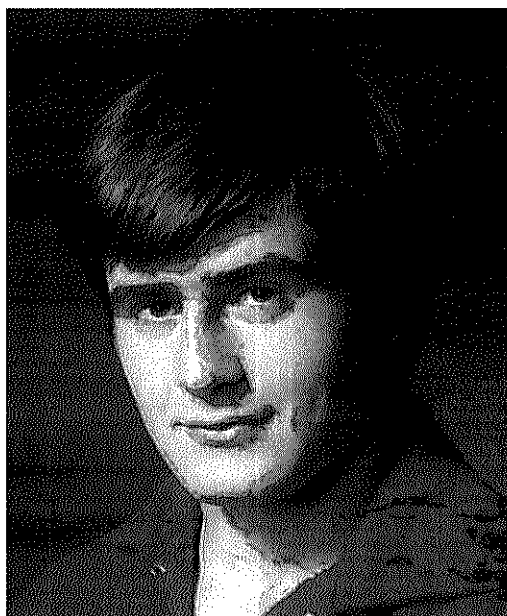


[www.linsly.org](http://www.linsly.org)  
phone 304-233-1436

**The Linsly School**  
BRINGING YOUNG MINDS TO LIFE.

©2008, The Linsly School, 60 Knox Lane, Wheeling, WV 26003. The Linsly School is an equal opportunity school.

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



**Mike Kovalick**

Proud Graduate of  
Bellaire High School  
Class of 1975

From  
Bellaire High School  
Athletic Department

**Go Big Reds!**

# **Thank you to Mr. Ron Mauck**



**As a Teacher, Coach and Mentor, Ron has served as a role model for me these past 40 years. Ron was the teacher that gave a chance to a senior first time athlete at Follansbee High School. He was the coach that began to develop skills in a young undisciplined wrestler. And he was the mentor that guided a young coach at Steubenville High School on the road to success.**

**Again, thanks Coach Mauck**

**John Craig,  
Principal  
Indian Creek High School**



**Congratulations**

**Tom Yakubowski**

**of**

**Adena High School**

**on your induction into  
the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference  
Hall of Fame - Class of 2008**

**From the Buckeye Local Touchdown Club**

**Go Panthers!**







# Congratulations

# John Blatnik

on being honored  
as a 'Legend of the OVAC'

From the Bridgeport School District

Mark Matz,  
*Superintendent*

Amy Porter,  
*Treasurer*



**Board of Education**

Don Cash  
Bill Talik  
Roger Stewart  
Michael McGrath  
Jerry Moore



Proud to be a Bulldog!



**CONGRATULATIONS**

**BILL KENNEDY**



On Your Induction Into The  
**OVAC HALL OF FAME**

**WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!!!**

LOVE,

THE SMITH'S - PATTI AND HEATHER

&

THE KENNEDY'S - BRYANT, JOHNNY, AARON,  
TERRANCE & RALEIGH



Congratulations  
To the family of Bob Kettlewell

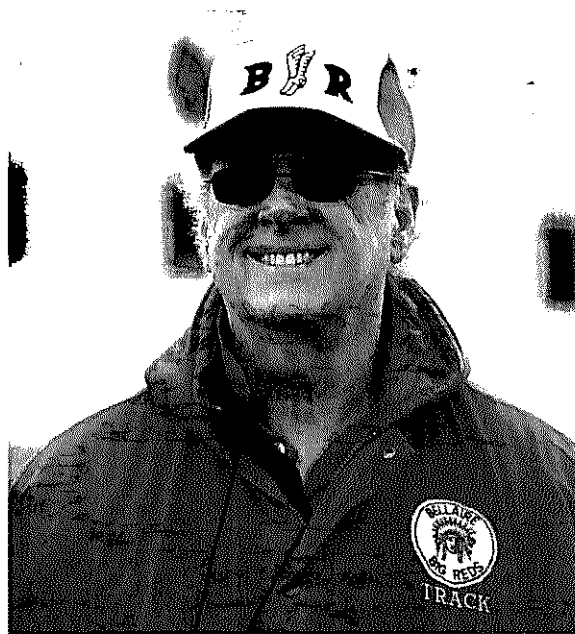
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Congratulations  
John Craig

Ohio Valley Athletic Conference  
Hall of Fame Inductees  
Class of 2008  
From the Indian Creek Athletic Boosters



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



**Coach Thomas**

Proud Graduate of  
Bellaire High School  
Class of 1952

**From  
Bellaire High School  
Athletic Department**

**Go Big Reds!**





Congratulations

**Ernie Bell**

on being honored

as a “Legend of the OVAC”

at the OVAC Hall of Fame Banquet

From East Liverpool High School

*East Liverpool High School*

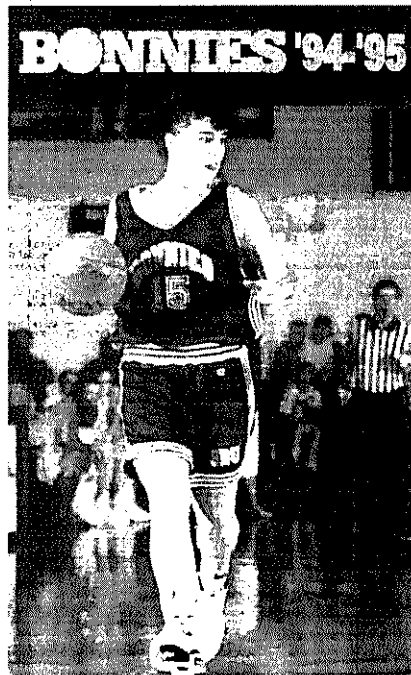
100 MAINE BOULEVARD  
EAST LIVERPOOL, OHIO 43920-1999





# CONGRATULATIONS SUZIE

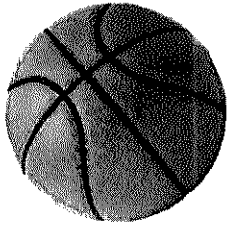
YOUR CCHS FAMILY & FRIENDS



FROM PLAYER TO COACH

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75 14th Street • Wheeling, WV 26003 • (304) 233-1660



# *Suzie Dailer*

## Basketball Accomplishments

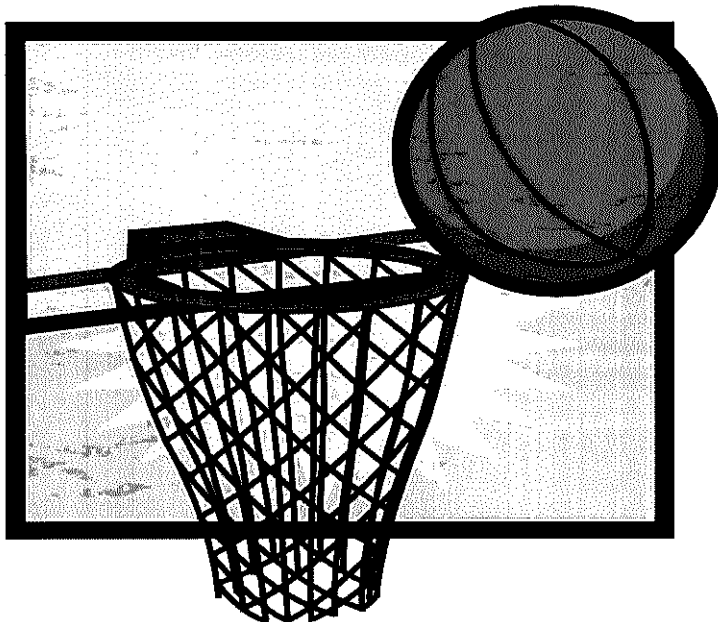


WV Class 'A' All-State 3 years  
Asst. Coach 2 WV State Champions  
National 3-Point Shootout Champ  
St. Bonaventure Basketball Hall of Fame  
OVAC Hall of Fame



*Congratulations #15*

*Love Mom, Dad, Dubie, J-Jay & Kerry*



## CONGRATULATIONS

**\* AUNT SUZIE \***

**WE LOVE YOU!**

*Kerry, Kathy,  
Maggie and Sydney*



Congratulations  
**Bill Thomas**

Dad and Papa

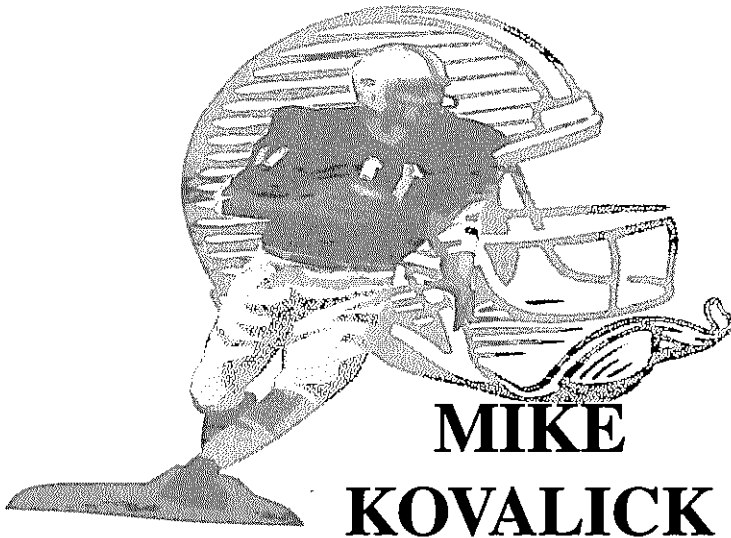
Doug  
Cindi  
Cody  
Jordan



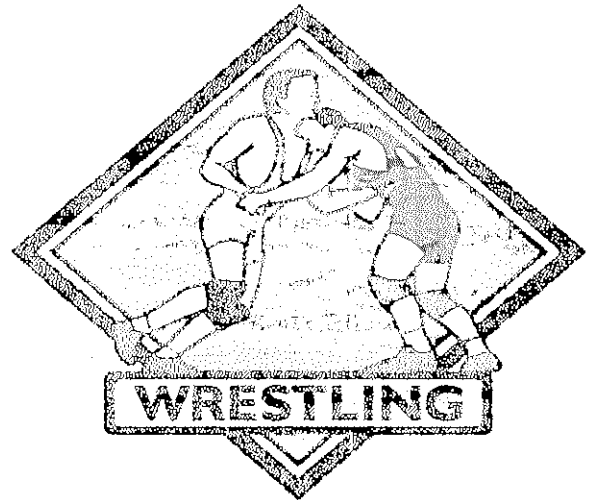
David  
Mindy  
Julia  
Matthew  
Rebecca

The Thomas Families

# CONGRATULATIONS



**MIKE  
KOVALICK**



**ON YOUR INDUCTION INTO THE OVAC HALL OF FAME**

**Weir High Faculty, Staff and Administration**

Congratulations



# Tom Yakubowski

Adena High School Class of 1958

Dad, we are all very proud of you!

From your family

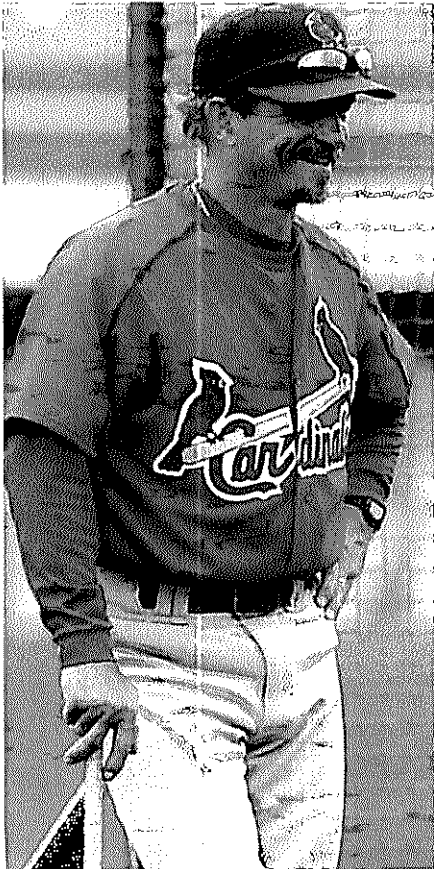
Chris Yakubowski

Mark and Gail Yakubowski & family

John and Beth Shumacker & family

Patrick Yakubowski

Vince and Lisa Yakubowski & family



# Joe Pettini

We are very proud of all  
that you have accomplished  
in your career

Love,  
Barb, Amy, Kevin and Joseph  
The Pettini Family


# CONGRATULATIONS



## TOM YAKUBOWSKI



On your induction to the  
OHIO VALLEY ATHLETIC CONFERENCE HALL of FAME!  
From your "HOMETOWN" bank...

The Peoples National Bank of Mt. Pleasant   
740-769-2377 or [www.peoplesnationalbankonline.com](http://www.peoplesnationalbankonline.com)

Adena

Member  
**FDIC**

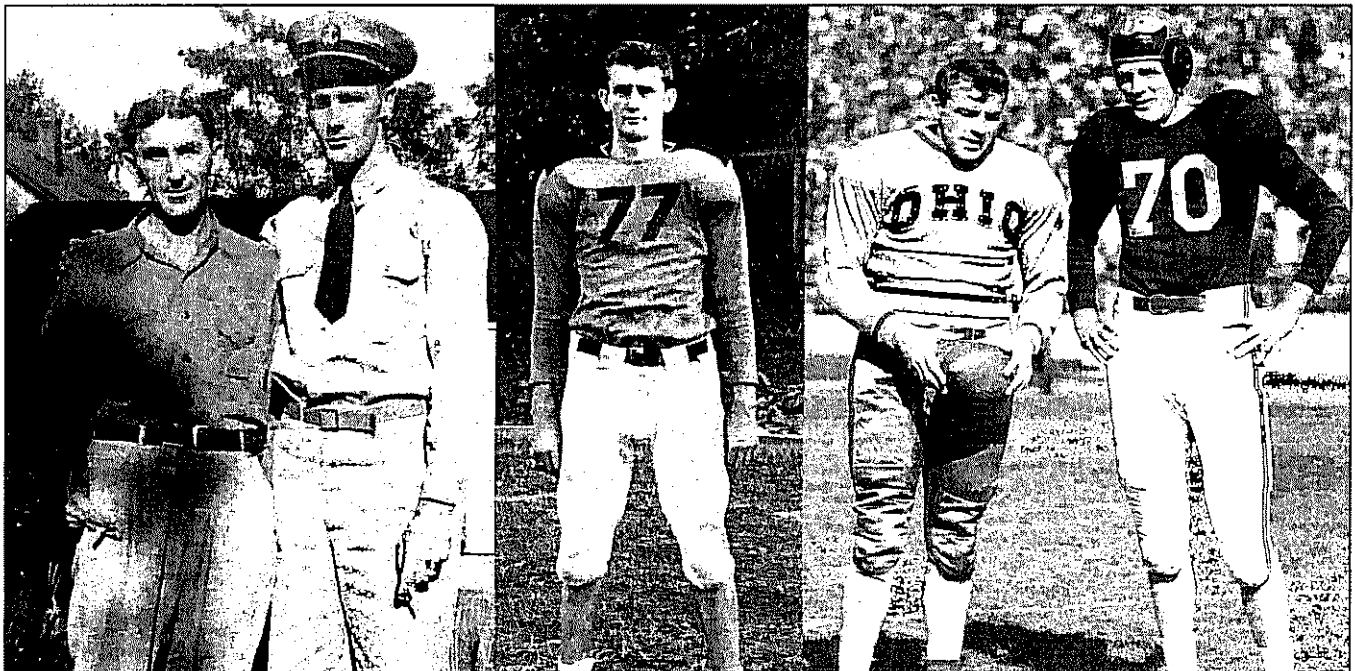
Mt. Pleasant



Dillonvale

## Congratulations Tom and Jim Keane

OVAC Hall of Fame honorees



Leo Keane  
Father

Jim Keane  
U.S. Navy

Mike Keane  
Linsly Academy '44

Tom Keane  
Ohio State '44

Jim Keane  
Great Lakes '44



JOHN BLATNIK  
CLASS OF '39



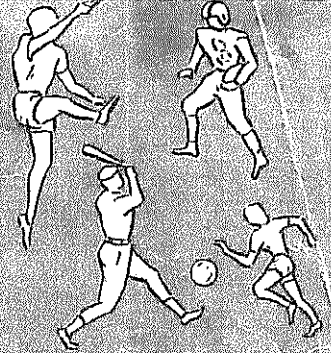
THE BRIDGEPORT ATHLETIC BOOSTERS  
WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE THE  
LATE JOHN BLATNIK AND HIS FAMILY  
ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE OVAC  
HALL OF FAME.

RESPECTFULLY,  
BRIDGEPORT ATHLETIC BOOSTERS

Congratulations! Ernie from ELHS Athletic – Hall of Fame

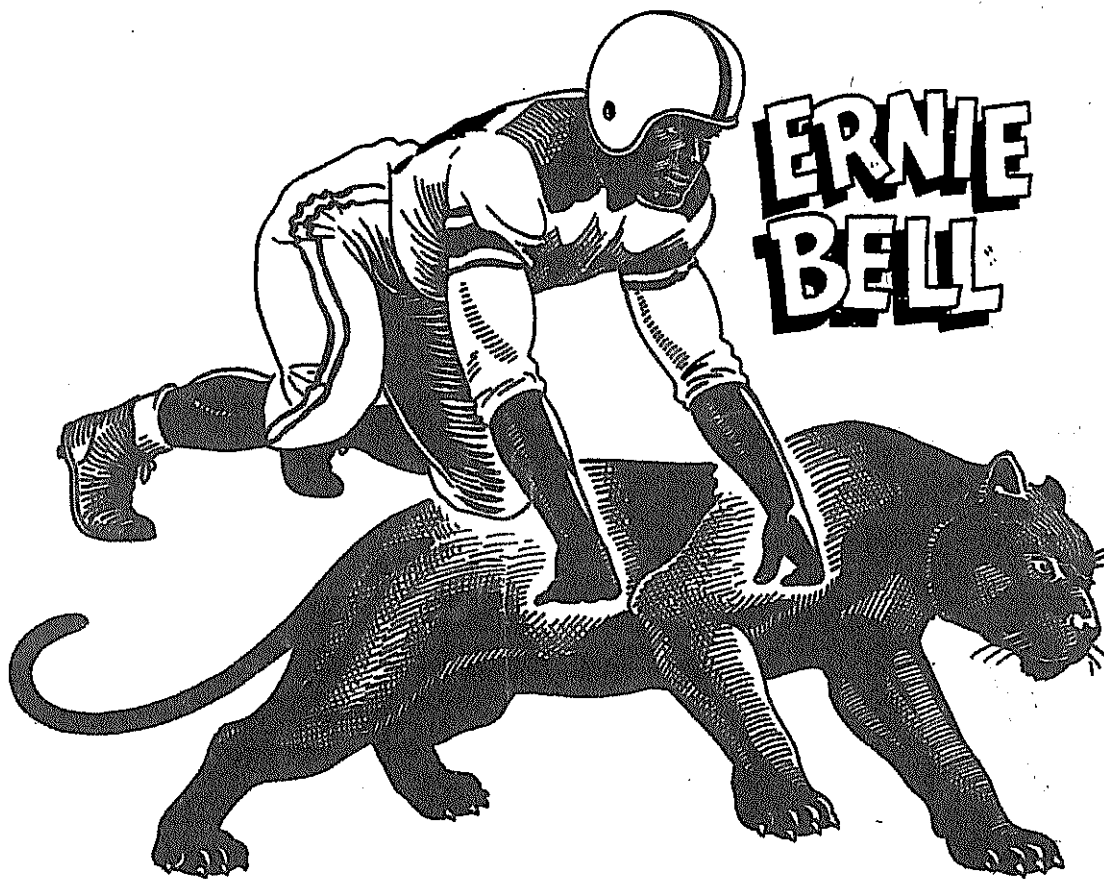
OHIO'S

# FIRST



AND TEN

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS MAGAZINE



# ERNIE BELL

EAST  
LIVERPOOL  
HIGH  
SCHOOL  
ATHLETIC  
HALL  
OF  
FAME  
CHARTER  
INDUCTEE

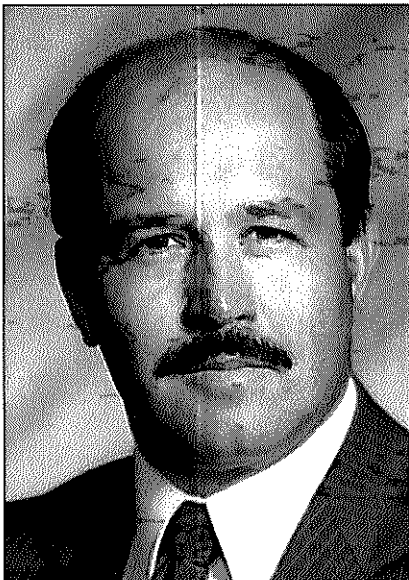
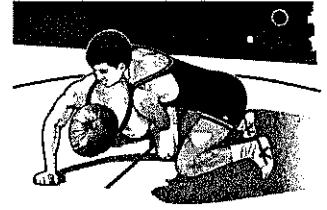
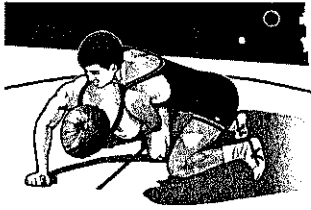
CLASS  
of  
1982

NOVEMBER, 1952

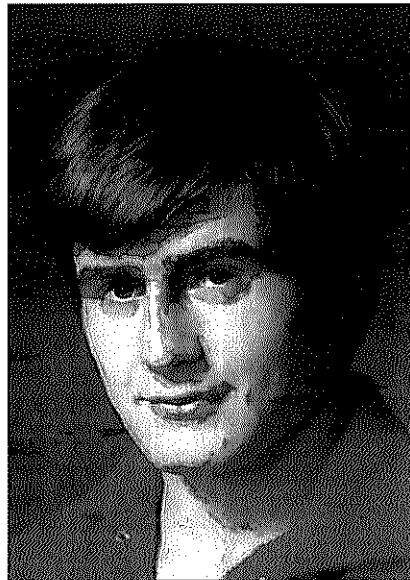
25 CENTS

Congratulations

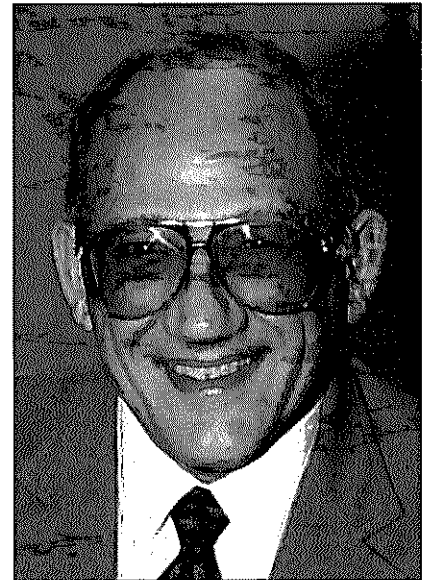
**John Craig**  
**Mike Kovalick**  
**Bob Hedmond**



John Craig



Mike Kovalick



Bob Hedmond

The Ohio Valley Wrestling Coaches' Association  
salutes and thanks you for your contributions to wrestling  
in the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference



To one of Buckeye Trail's Finest Athletes

# CONGRATULATIONS

on your induction into the  
**OVAC HALL OF FAME**

## Connie Doutt

Girls' Basketball

State Champion – 1979

State Runner-up – 1978, 1980 & 1981

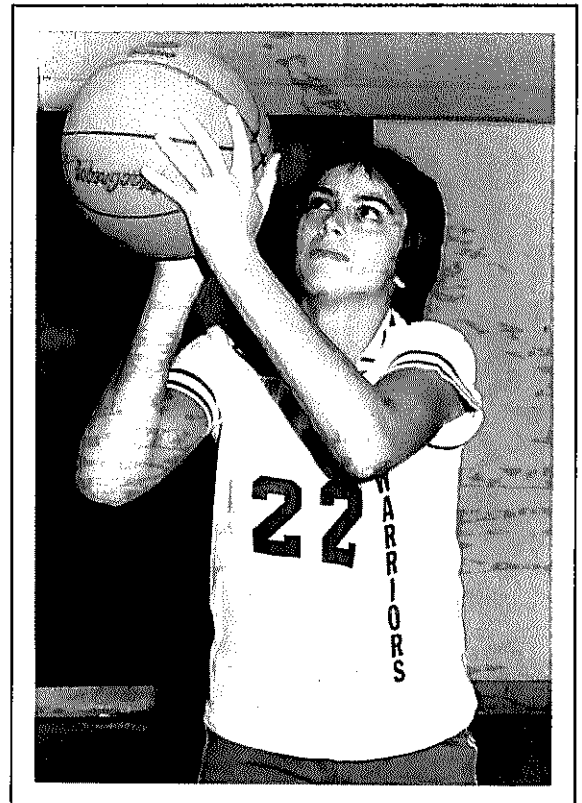
Career Scoring – 1842

*All-time leading career score at Buckeye Trail*

Single Season Scoring – 662

*All-time leading season at Buckeye Trail*

Career Rebounds – 538

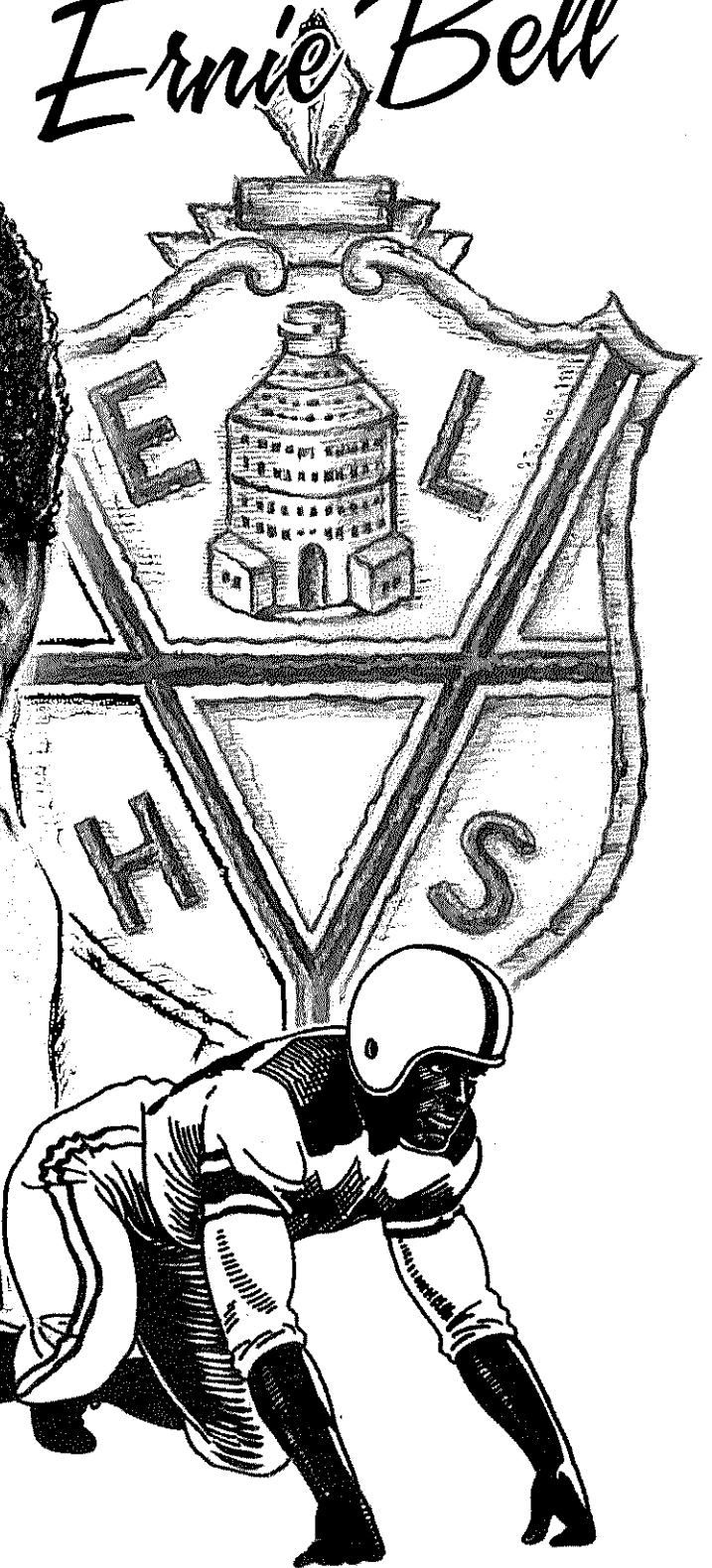
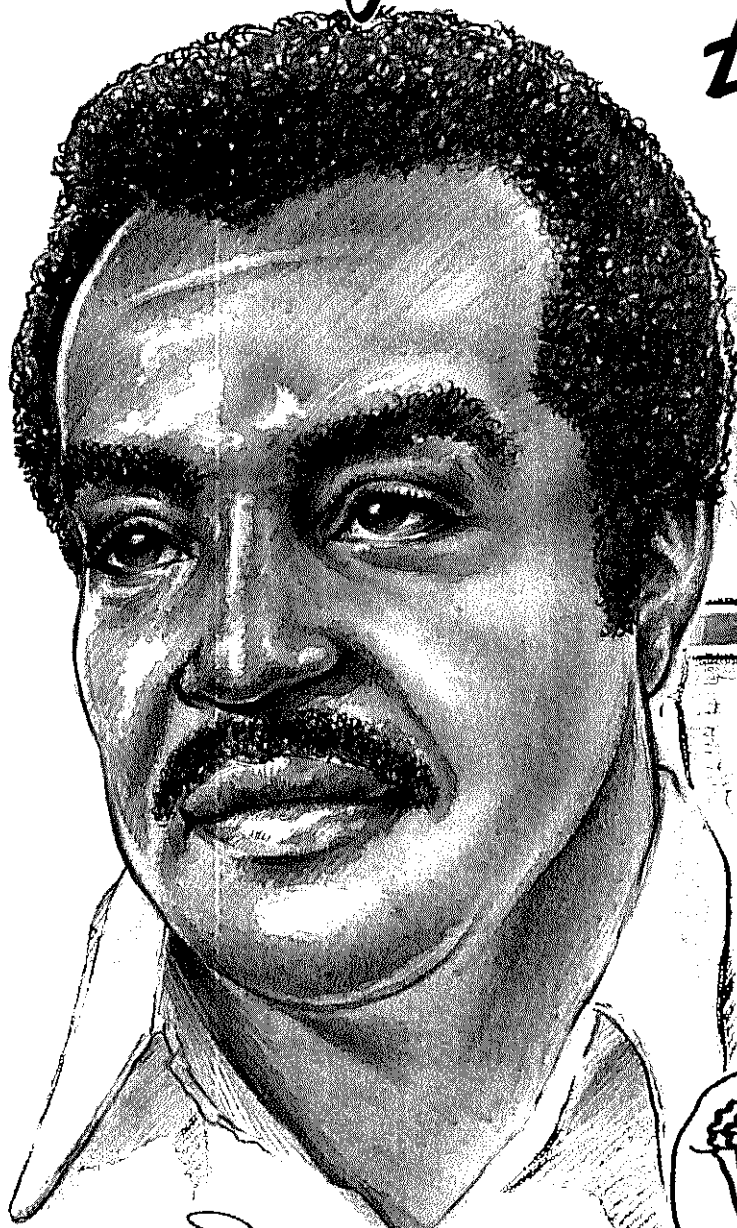


Connie Doutt is the only girl at Buckeye Trail to play Division I sports. Her skills and abilities were not limited to girls' sports as she could have played on most boys' teams. Because of her abilities, the statistics she accumulated were accomplished mostly in two quarters per game. Her passing ability and sharing the ball were probably her greatest strengths. With the exception of a LeBron James, how many people have ended their high school career having been in a state final each year?

~Dave Linn, Head Coach

**From Buckeye Trail Athletic Booster Club**

*Congratulations  
Ernie Bell*



*Love, Lana*

DESI, SUE, KEVIN, MIKE & LORI

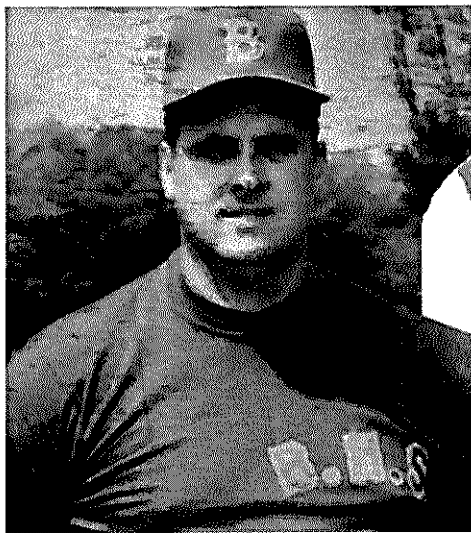


Five Straight Winning Seasons

Congratulations  
Coach



Bill Thomas



1968-72

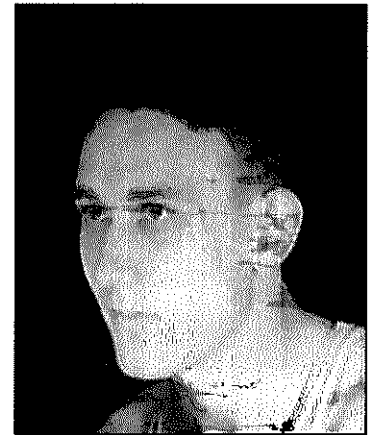


Barnesville Boosters Club  
Barnesville High School  
Athletic Department



# Kenny Griffith

Wellsburg High School  
 Class of 1937  
 “Legend of the OVAC”

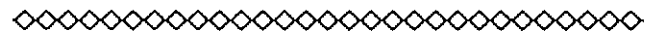


Thank you from  
 The Griffith Family

## Congratulations Mark Cisar



Love,  
 Your #1 Fans  
 Angie, Maddie & Jacob



The Lexington High School  
 Athletic Booster Club  
 congratulates

## Connie Douth

on her induction  
 into the Ohio Valley  
 Athletic Conference  
 Hall of Fame





# OVAC HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2008



## Bob Hedmond

**Robert L. "Bob" Hedmond** (Follansbee High School, Class of 1948). During his high school days, Hedmond was a varsity letterman in football, track, baseball and basketball. He won the half-mile title and played in the 1948 OVAC Charity All-Star Football Game in which he sustained torn knee cartilage.

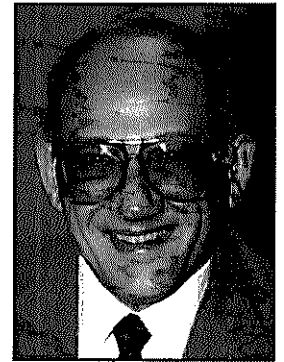
After spending 21 months in the military, Hedmond enrolled at Shepherd College where he played fullback and defensive end before graduating in 1954.

In coaching, Hedmond met with success at every stop. He was especially adept at starting neophyte programs or rebuilding teams that needed a spark. He coached football, track and/or wrestling at several schools, including Oxon Hill (Md.), East Liverpool, Brooke and Steubenville. Hedmond started the program at Oxon Hill and took his team from an 0-5-4 record the first year to a 5-3-1. He became the first head football coach at the consolidated Brooke High School in 1969 and led the Bruins to an OVAC championship. Hedmond took over at Steubenville in 1981 and directed the Jefferson County squad for two years. His teams compiled an 18-4 record and qualified for Big Red's first two post-season berths since Ohio adopted a playoff system in the 1970s. While at East Liverpool, Hedmond lettered 18 sophomores as the Potters turned in a 3-7 record. The following season, they rebounded to finish at 7-3. Overall, his record as a head football coach was 44-22-5. During his time as track coach with the Potters, his teams went through four straight seasons without losing a dual meet.

Successful as he was with a coaching whistle around his neck, Hedmond was even more effective as an administrator. Within the OVAC, he served as a class representative, was a long-time member of the OVAC Foundation Executive Board and, for several years, he directed giant OVAC Wrestling Tournament.

Hedmond served as Athletic Director at Steubenville High School and later was the Building and Grounds Superintendent with Steubenville City Schools.

Among his numerous honors were the Carl Hamill Memorial Award, presented by the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Club; OVAC Mr. Mat Award; Ohio Eastern District Coach of the Year; Eastern District Athletic Director of the Year and an Outstanding Achievement Award, also from Dapper Dan. Before his passing, Hedmond was inducted into the Ohio Athletic Administrators Hall of Fame.



**Bob Hedmond**



**Jimmy Stewart**

## Jimmy Stewart

**James C. "Jimmy" Stewart** (Triadelphia High School, Class of 1918). Stewart devoted nearly a half-century to the newspaper profession, serving with great distinction.

He began his career associated with the Wheeling News and The Register, which then were separate newspapers. Stewart was sports editor of the now-defunct Wheeling Telegraph from 1921 through 1929 and later became the sports editor of the News-Register. He eventually concluded his long career as the associate sports editor of the N-R where he worked alongside fellow Hall of Famer Bill Van Horne.

In the early years of the OVAC, the conference perhaps had no greater friend than "Jimmy" Stewart, this according to Van Horne himself. Beginning in 1943, Stewart kept the weekly standings on football and basketball until his retirement on December 31, 1968.

Stewart also painstakingly kept record books that proved invaluable to anyone interested in Ohio Valley sports lore. He also was recognized as a walking encyclopedia on local athletics. His head was a storehouse of sports information. What wasn't committed to his memory could be found in his pocket-sized record books and envelopes which filled his desk and filing cabinet.

If someone wanted to know the score of the Martins Ferry-Bellaire football game in 1921, for example, all they needed was to call and he would come up with the information in a matter of seconds.

Beginning in the early 1920s, Stewart's "Lookin' Em Over" column was one of the most widely-read throughout the area.

In later years, he penned a golf column, "The 19th Hole," which appeared in the newspaper every Sunday from the spring months into the fall. He also initiated a popular Monday column on area collegiate sports which he titled, "With the Colleges."

He was also involved with the scheduling of basketball games worked by members of the Ohio Valley Board of Approved Basketball Officials. His area of newspaper coverage went back to the days when Wheeling had a franchise in the Middle-Atlantic Baseball League. His love of sandlot baseball was well known, as he almost meticulously covered happenings in the old Intelligencer and United Mine Workers baseball leagues.

A quiet man who never cast himself in the limelight during his career, Stewart was honored with a special award at the time of his retirement from an appreciative Ohio Valley Athletic Conference. He also received an award of appreciation from the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Club and a plaque from the Golden Valley Basketball Tournament that was then hosted by West Liberty and Wheeling College.

## John Craig

**John Craig** (Follansbee High School, Class of 1967). Craig enjoyed an illustrious 26-year career as a head wrestling coach, including two seasons at Hillsboro (Ohio) High School, 18 years at Steubenville Big Red and five years at Indian Creek High School in Wintersville.

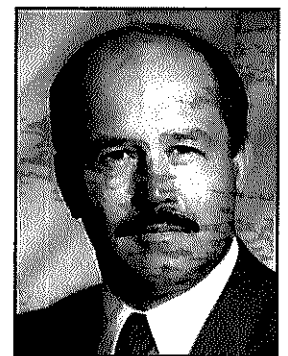
While at Big Red, his teams earned six overall championships in the OVAC Wrestling Tournament. Steubenville also captured seven divisional titles and finished in the top three a total of 13 times at the conference championship event. Thirty-one of his Big Red matmen earned individual conference titles. He had 87 qualifiers for the Ohio state meet, five of whom earned individual championships, and 23 who were state place-winners. His team finished in the top five at the Ohio state tournament four times, including a runner-up finish in 1988.

Craig's 1989 squad finished the regular season ranked No. 1 in The Associated Press Division II wrestling poll and placed third at the state tournament. His overall dual meet record was 201-74-3 and he coached his teams to 42 tournament championships, including nine district titles. Four times, his teams turned in undefeated dual meet records. Several of his former wrestlers went on to compete in college at schools such as Ohio State, Purdue, Army, Navy and West Liberty. One of his protégés won a Big 10 championship and others were place-winners in the NCAA Division I, II, III and NALA national tournaments.

Craig was named OVAC Wrestling Coach of the Year on five occasions and was presented the prestigious "Mr. Mat Award" in 2002. He is a member of the Ohio Wrestling Coaches and the West Liberty State College Athletic Halls of Fame. In 1989, he was selected as the East-Southeast Wrestling Coach of the Year and the Ohio Division II Coach of the Year.

For 21 years, Craig served as a wrestling official on the youth, junior high, high school, college and open levels. As a principal at Indian Creek, he was one of the founders of the Buckeye 8 Athletic League.

As an athlete, Craig wrestled at Follansbee High School and was a three-year letterman at West Liberty where he earned WVIAC championships three times and twice was the MVP in the conference tournament. In 1972, Craig was the runner-up in the NAIA national meet, where he earned All-American honors.



**John Craig**



# OVAC HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2008



## Bob Kettlewell

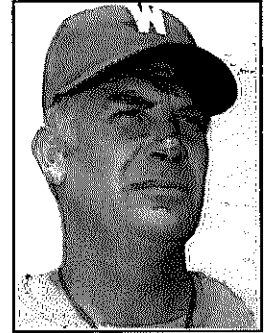
**Robert S. "Bob" Kettlewell** (Linsly Military Institute, Class of 1947). During his 20 years as the head coach at Wintersville High School (1956-75), Kettlewell's teams posted a 143-40-10 record, the third-best winning percentage in Ohio Valley history for coaches with 100 or more wins. His teams earned nine league championships (four in the Big Eight and five OVAC titles). Wintersville won its first OVAC crown under Kettlewell in 1956, got its second in 1966 and then captured three in a row from 1970 through 1972, which equaled a record held previously by Bellaire and Martins Ferry.

Kettlewell had three undefeated teams at Wintersville — 1957, 1967 and 1972 — and seven clubs that sustained just one loss. From 1966 through '73, the Warriors lost only 11 games. Under Kettlewell's direction, Wintersville scored in a record 140 straight games, ending with a scoreless tie against Bellaire in a contest that saw the Gold Warriors denied what would have been a game-winning and streak-continuing touchdown because of a penalty.

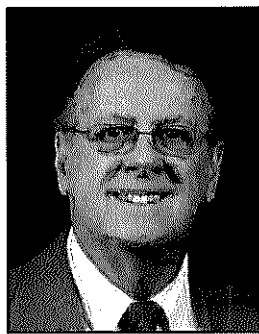
Among the stars coached by this highly-regarded mentor was Donnie Young, the Ohio Valley career rushing record holder. Among the other numerous college athletic football standouts tutored by Kettlewell were Ohio State captain Alan Jack who played on an undefeated Rose Bowl team with the Buckeyes, and Roger Alford, the first black to sign at West Virginia University.

Kettlewell also was a standout athlete while playing at Linsly Military Institute. He lettered in four sports and played football at West Virginia University, where he also lettered.

Indian Creek High School's (formerly Wintersville High) football facility was renamed "Bob Kettlewell Memorial Stadium" in his honor. In 1990, Bob was the fourth Ohio Valley coach inducted into the Ohio Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame. He joined the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Hall of Fame in 1987.



**Bob Kettlewell**



**Bill Thomas**

## Bill Thomas

**William D. "Bill" Thomas** (Bellaire High School, Class of 1952). During a 48-year career as a track official, Thomas served as the meet referee for nearly every major championship in the Ohio Valley. The list includes the Martins Ferry and Shadyside Relays; the St. Clairsville, Barnesville and Wheeling Park Invitationals; Cal Giffin Track Classic; various OVAC championship meets; West Virginia Regionals and the Ohio High School Athletic Association Eastern Sectional and District meets.

He was a meet official for 10 OVAC schools, including Bellaire, Barnesville, Cambridge, John Marshall, Martins Ferry, Shadyside, Skyvue, St. Clairsville, Wheeling Park and Union Local and Thomas also worked as a meet official at the Mansfield Relays (15 years); Bellaire Relays (48 years); Ohio regional championships (10 years) and the Ohio high school state meets for boys and girls (15 years). Thomas also served as meet director as numerous Buckeye State district and regional events, along with the OVAC Track Championships.

He received the OVAC Cal Giffin Award for service to track and field in 1983; was honorary referee at the Bellaire Relays in 1996 and was honored again during the 50-year celebration of the famed Bellaire meet in 2004. The former Bellaire High athletic great is a member of the school's Wall of Fame.

A brilliant high school athlete, Thomas capped his track career at Bellaire in the spring of 1952 when he placed second at the Ohio state meet in the 120-yard high hurdles with a sparkling effort of 14.6 seconds. He also was fourth that year in the long jump.

Thomas is regarded as one of the finest hurdlers to grace the Ohio Valley. His brilliant 14.6-second state meet effort against big school competition (there were only two classes in Ohio in those days) stood as an all-time valley record. He also excelled in football, basketball, track and baseball. Thomas was a quarterback in football and played forward in basketball. Bill played first base on the baseball team in the spring of 1952. Thomas was a two-way performer for the Ohio team in the annual Ohio-West Virginia All-Star Football Game and later coached in the game as an assistant to River's Marty Flannery in 1973.

Thomas attend Mississippi State on a football scholarship and also lettered there in track his freshman year. After two years with the Bulldogs, he entered the Army and served overseas before coming home and playing on the 1956 National Service football championship team, coached by Don Coryell, who later coached the San Diego Chargers. Thomas finished his college career at West Liberty State College where he lettered in football and baseball. He also had a long and successful career in coaching. He spent five years as an assistant in football and basketball at Bellaire High. After that tenure, he went to St. Clairsville as head baseball coach and an assistant in football and basketball. Bill later spent five years as head football coach at Barnesville before becoming athletic director at Bellaire in 1973. He served as head coach at Union Local from 1978 until 1981 when he returned to Bellaire as a teacher until retiring in 1989.

## Tom Keane

**Tom Keane** (Linsly Military Institute, Class of 1944). The Bellaire native was a multi-sport standout for the Cadets and earned All-OVAC basketball and football on the first selections in 1943-44. He also was an All-City basketball selection. As a senior on a 7-4 record Cadet football team, the two-way back and punter returned a pass interception 106 yards to score in an 18-6 win over Warwood.

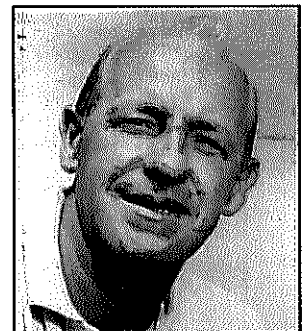
He enrolled at Ohio State where he lettered as a freshman before serving 20 months in the U.S. Navy.

Upon discharge, he enrolled at West Virginia University and lettered in 1946 and 1947, becoming a rare letterman at both OSU and WVU.

Keane was a third round pick and 18th overall National Football League Draft selection by the Los Angeles Rams in 1948. He played eight NFL seasons, and 87 games, as a defensive back-offensive end including the first four with the Rams. In 1952, he played with the Dallas Texans before two years with the Baltimore Colts and ended his career in 1955 with the Chicago Cardinals. He was a two-time All-Pro and played in the 1953 Pro Bowl, ranked second in the NFL in pass interceptions twice, and played in three NFL championship games including the 1951 Rams' title team. From 1948-52, both Keane brothers competed in the NFL.

He was a long-time assistant coach in the NFL including Chicago Cardinals from 1957-59, Pittsburgh 1965 and was an original member of the Miami Dolphins' staff in 1966 where he remained through 1985 as defensive backs and special teams coach. In 1962, he became the first head coach of the Wheeling Ironmen and served until joining the Steelers' staff. The Ironmen went 9-4 in 1962 before winning the United Football League title with a 12-1 record in 1963. In 1964, the Ironmen were 7-7.

Keane died at age 74 in 2001.



**Tom Keane**



# OVAC HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2008



## Nick Mumley

**Nick Mumley** (Wheeling High School, Class of 1955). One of the most honored three-sport athletes in the long history of Wheeling High, he starred in football, basketball and track, earning three varsity letters in each.

He was first team All-State in football as a two-way end and he also received All-OVAC and All-City accolades.

In basketball, he was first team all-class All-West Virginia as a senior and was a two-time All-OVAC and All-City first team selection. He scored 15.8 points per game as a junior and 24.3 per outing as a senior.

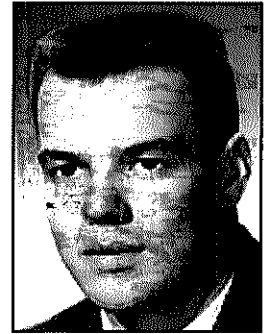
As a Wildcat senior in 1955, the 6-foot-6 center was the anchor of the final team coached by OVAC Legends' honoree Everett Brinkman which won its first 18 games before bowing in the regular season finale at Bellaire. The OVAC title-winning team won the sectional and regional titles before bowing in the first round of the state tournament to Mullens to finish with a 22-2 record.

He also scored 30 points in a record-setting 146-110 victory over Weir High at Madison Gymnasium, a game which set Ohio Valley and West Virginia marks for combined points in a game (256).

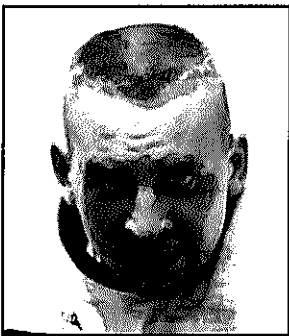
In track, he won two state one-class shot put titles with marks of 51-3 1/2 in 1955 and 52-2 3/4 in 1954 and two OVAC shot put crowns, including a conference-record toss of 53-5 1/2.

He earned a football scholarship to Purdue University, where he lettered three years as a regular two-way end.

He was the 51st overall NFL draft pick in 1959 by the Philadelphia Eagles, but opted to play in the new American Football League where he competed three seasons from 1960-62 with the New York Titans, a forerunner of the Jets, as a defensive end-offensive tackle. He played in a total of 42 AFL games.



**Nick Mumley**



**Tom Yakubowski**

## Tom Yakubowski

**Tom Yakubowski** (Adena High School, Class of 1958). A three-sport standout for the Golden Wave who starred in the first year the school joined the conference, which expanded to three classes in 1957-58.

At Adena, he was a three-sport team captain in football, basketball and baseball and earned 10 letters— four in baseball and three each in basketball and football.

The 1957 Adena football team went 6-2-2 and won the OVAC Class A crown. He was a fullback-linebacker-quarterback in football and an All-OVAC, All-Valley Small School and All-East Ohio Athletic League selection. He was the MVP of the 1958 Ohio-W.Va. All-Star game won by Ohio, 25-0. He scored 13 points and starred as fullback-linebacker.

In basketball, he was a two-time All-East Ohio Athletic League honoree and averaged in double figures for three seasons, including 11.3 points per game as a sophomore; 17.5 points as a junior and 19.2 points as a senior.

In baseball, the pitcher-infielder was an All-Ohio selection as a senior and he also pitched in the East-West All-Star game in Columbus. He led the Golden Wave to a 12-1 record, losing in the regional finals to Northwestern High and future Major League pitcher Dean Chance. He tossed two one-hitters in a three-day span and had 32 2/3 consecutive scoreless innings in tournament play, which ranks second in the Ohio High School record book.

He earned a football scholarship to Purdue University, where he lettered as a sophomore and senior fullback-linebacker while suffering a series of knee injuries. He was second on the team in rushing (310 yards) as a sophomore. He also played baseball one season at Purdue.

Yakubowski competed in the 1962 Blue-Gray All-Star Football Game and tried out as a free agent with the Buffalo Bills.

He later had a 38-year education career as a teacher, coach and administrator.

## Bill Kennedy

**Bill Kennedy** (Warwood High School, Class of 1967). Basketball and Bill Kennedy are synonymous. Some four-plus decades since starring at old Warwood High School, basketball still is a major part of his life.

Kennedy enjoyed a stellar prep career with the Vikings. The dazzling 6 ft. 2 guard led Warwood to state Class AA basketball tournament appearances in both the 1966 and '67 campaigns. He capped his prep hoop career by sparking the Vikings to the school's only state basketball crown.

That team finished with a stellar 24-2 mark, including closing the season on a 15-game victory run. Warwood captured its first OVAC hoop title in 21 years, with Kennedy providing much of the firepower with his 26.2 points per game average.

The explosive backcourt dandy garnered first-team all-West Virginia, all-OVAC, and all-City plaudits.

Just a season prior, Kennedy led the Vikings to a 22-4 mark and the state semifinals before being eliminated by Mullens. He was a first-team all-OVAC honoree that year and was named an all-state tournament selection, an honor he duplicated as a senior.

Kennedy finished his illustrious Vikings' basketball career with more than 1,200 points. He was also an accomplished high jumper, as reflected in his third-place finish in the state Class AA meet as a senior.

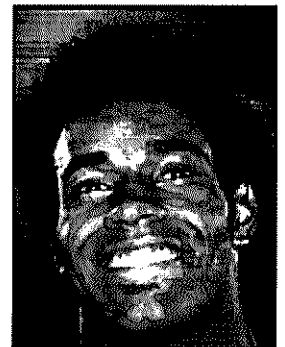
His basketball achievements earned him a spot with the West Liberty State College basketball team. He wasted no time in making his mark for the Hilltoppers, leading the team in scoring in both his freshman and sophomore seasons with 509 and 445 points, respectively.

Kennedy earned all-WVIAC and all-tournament plaudits as a freshman.

His two years of impressive play with WLSC provided a springboard to a transfer to Arizona State for the 1971 and '72 seasons. Kennedy proved he was no small-school wonder as he led the Sun Devils in scoring both seasons, averaging 14.8 and 14.6 points per game, respectively. His two-year point total of 765 is the ninth best for a Sun Devil in a two-year career. All told, he scored 1,719 on the collegiate level.

His play at Arizona State caught the eyes of professional scouts. He was drafted by Memphis of the ABA, but opted for a career as a basketball official.

Kennedy, who still resides in the Phoenix area, continues to be a Pac-10 college basketball official.



**Bill Kennedy**



# OVAC Hall of Fame

Saturday, August 16, 2008

**Welcome** .....Thomas E. Rataiczak, OVAC Executive Secretary

**Invocation** .....Dr. Vince Moseau, River High School principal

**Dinner** .....5:30 p.m.

**Introductions** .....Thomas E. Rataiczak, OVAC Executive Secretary

**Master of Ceremonies** .....John Sorrenti, Former Sports Director of WEIR Radio

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**Legends of the OVAC** .....Ernie Bell, John Blatnik (accepted by Dr. Jay Blatnik),  
George Burgwin (accepted by Reno Saccoccia),  
Kenny Griffith (accepted by Robert Griffith), Jim Keane

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## 2008 Hall of Fame Inductions

### OVAC 'Family'

Bob Hedmond.....presented by Don Donatelli  
(accepted by Chip Hedmond)

### Media

Jimmy Stewart .....presented by Doug Huff

### Officials

Bill Thomas.....presented by Monte Miller

### Coaches

John Craig .....presented by Ron Mauck

Bob Kettlewell.....presented by Dennis Montgomery, DDS  
(accepted by Margaret Ann Kettlewell)

# Induction Ceremony

WesBanco Arena, Wheeling, W.Va.



## Athletes

Tom Keane .....presented by Thomas R. Keane

Nick Mumley .....presented by Jody Mumley

Tom Yakubowski.....presented by Steve Kokovich, PhD

Bill Kennedy .....presented by Jack Schuetz

Bob Rieves.....presented by Doug Huff

Mike Kovalick .....presented by Dennis Bowman

Joe Pettini .....presented by Doug Huff  
(accepted by Joseph Pettini)

Connie Douth .....presented by Dave Linn

Jay Peterson.....presented by Eric Peterson

Mark Cisar .....presented by Dave Cisar

Suzie Dailer .....presented by Penn Kurtz

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Benediction .....Dr. Vince Moseau, River High School principal

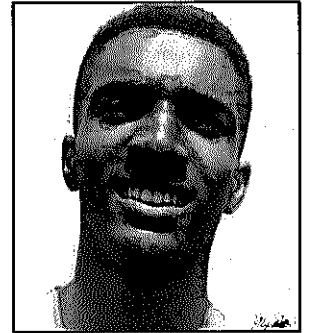
Hall of Fame inductees or their representatives will be available for autographs and photographs immediately following the conclusion of tonight's ceremonies. Additional programs are available prior to and immediately following tonight's induction at a cost of \$10 each.



# OVAC HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2008



## Bob Rieves



**Bob Rieves**

**Bob Rieves** (Wheeling High School, Class of 1969). Some 40 years after running his final prep race, Rieves remains the measuring stick for sprint greatness in the Ohio Valley. The 156-pound mercurial-heeled rocket was nothing short of sensational during his career with the Wildcats.

Rieves was nearly untouchable his final two years in the high school ranks.

As a senior, Rieves turned in a performance that still ranks with the all-time great OVAC running fetes. He broke two state records in the state championship meet while tying a third.

He blistered the 220-yard dash in a new state standard of 21.5 while he smashed the 440 mark by 1.2 seconds via his 47.7 clocking. Rieves' scintillating 9.8 in the 100 equaled the state record.

His assault on the state records resulted in him becoming the first OVAC athlete in 28 years to be the state meet's high scorer.

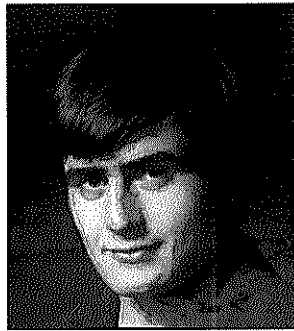
Rieves was also the West Virginia state champion in the 220 as a junior.

The Wildcat star captured five individual OVAC sprint gold medals in his final two years of high school. His impressive efforts helped lead Wheeling High to the 1969 OVAC team championship, the school's first such title in 23 years.

His sprinting dominance is reflected in the fact that he was undefeated as a senior in the 220 and 440 and was never worse than second in the 100 in that time. He tied for high-point honors in the prestigious Bellaire Relays his senior year while being the high scorer in every other meet that spring.

Rieves' sprinting accomplishments were so impressive that his track jersey was retired at the annual Wheeling High awards assembly.

Rieves earned a track scholarship to West Virginia University. He competed for two seasons for the Mountaineers. He earned his bachelor of science degree in landscape architecture. He now resides in Brooklyn and is employed by the New York City Parks & Recreation Department as a capital projects analyst.



**Mike Kovalick**

## Mike Kovalick

**Mike Kovalick** (Bellaire High School, Class of 1975). Kovalick has the distinction of not only being a two-sport standout, but also a two-state standout.

Kovalick, the son of legendary coach George Kovalick, was a prep grid and mat performer for three years at Weir High before matriculating to Bellaire High for his senior year. Both schools benefited from his prowess on the gridiron and on the mat.

Kovalick is a rare state champion wrestler in both West Virginia and Ohio. He turned the trick in the Mountain State as a junior for the Red Riders and capped his prep mat career with a state championship in the Buckeye State for the Big Reds. Both wrestling crowns came in the 185-pound classification.

The powerful matman was near-perfect his final two years on the mat. He won 27 of 28 matches as a junior before running the table in all 28 bouts as a senior. He was an OVAC champion both winters after placing fifth as a sophomore.

He finished his illustrious wrestling career with a stellar 64-3-2 mark.

Kovalick continued his mat success on the collegiate Division I level. He wrestled for Bobby Douglas at Arizona State. Kovalick finished as PAC-10 runner-up at 190 pounds in his senior season.

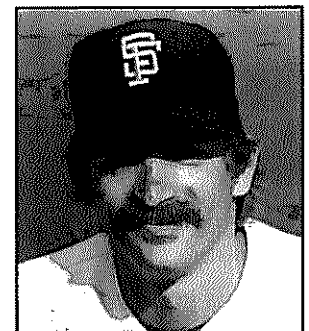
Kovalick — Bellaire High's first-ever state wrestling champion — was inducted into the school's Hall of Fame in 1983.

He was also an all-star performer in football. The two-way lineman anchored the Weir High trenches his sophomore and junior years and filled the same role for Bellaire in 1974.

Kovalick earned all-Valley and all-OVAC honors his final two years. Moreover, he was named all-Ohio in football his senior campaign and he played in the OVAC All-Star Game.

Kovalick resides in Wheeling.

## Joe Pettini



**Joe Pettini**

**Joe Pettini** (Brooke High School, Class of 1973). Pettini is without question on the short list of the greatest prep baseball players in Ohio Valley annals. His high school diamond resume is overflowing with accomplishments which led to a sparkling collegiate career at Mercer University.

The multi-talented Pettini started every game during his Brooke High career, some 140 contests. He didn't skip a beat at Mercer, starting all 196 games for the Macon, Georgia-based institution.

Pettini not only enjoyed individual success in his prep career, he also led the Bruins to a coveted state baseball championship. He was a two-time first-team all-West Virginia selection and was twice named captain of the all-Valley squad. He earned the distinction of being captain of both the all-Valley and all-OVAC teams as a senior.

After his brilliant Mercer career, Pettini was signed as a non-drafted free agent with the Montreal Expos in 1977. He was later traded to San Francisco, playing four seasons with the Giants. Pettini finished his professional baseball career by playing three years with the Class AAA Louisville Redbirds.

He then entered the coaching ranks, holding several different posts. His managerial career commenced with Hamilton, Ontario in 1989. He moved to St. Petersburg for the 1990 season and in Arkansas for three seasons. Pettini ended his minor league managerial career by guiding the Louisville Redbirds to the American Association championship.

Pettini gained a plum assignment in 2002 when St. Louis Cardinals' manager Tony LaRussa tabbed Pettini to be his bench coach, a position he still holds today. He attained the ultimate in 2006, gaining a World Series championship ring with the Cardinals.

Joe and his wife Barbara have two children, Michelle (25) and Joseph James (20). They reside in Bethany, W. Va.





# OVAC HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2008



## Connie Doult

**Connie Doult** (Buckeye Trail High School, Class of 1981). At a time when girls' sports were starting to take hold in high school athletics, Doult was one of the first who excelled in three sports — basketball, volleyball and softball — but it was on the basketball court where she had her biggest impact.

The school's all-time leading scorer with 1,842 points who also had 538 career rebounds, the 5-7 guard helped Trail to four straight trips to the OHSAA State Tournament under Coach Dave Linn, including a state championship during her sophomore season in 1979.

In her freshman year, Trail posted a 22-1 record, with Doult scoring 284 points and gaining Associated Press All-Ohio honorable mention. She scored 311 points as the Lady Warriors went 23-1 in winning the state title in her sophomore season, with Doult named the state tournament MVP and again gaining honorable mention All-Ohio accolades.

The team went 26-1 with Doult as a junior scoring 432 points. She received first team All-Ohio from United Press International and finished as runner-up as the "Player of the Year" to Trail teammate Lori Heady. She was also a third team All-Ohio pick by AP.

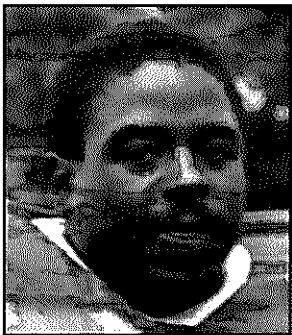
Doult moved to the head of the class, so to speak, as a senior when she scored 815 points and was first team UPI All-Ohio and "Player of the Year" as well as first team AP All-Ohio and first team All-OVAC. That year, Trail posted a 23-4 record, meaning the Lady Warriors' record during Doult's four years was an incredible 94-7. She was selected for the first Ohio North-South All-Star Game and scored 18 points to earn game MVP honors.

Doult was also a four-year starter and letterwinner in both volleyball and softball, playing on the Lady Warriors' state tournament team in 1979. She was inducted into the Buckeye Trail Athletic Hall of Fame in 1996.

The talented cager went on to a fine four-year career at the University of Michigan, becoming the school's first out-of-state scholarship recipient in women's basketball. For her career at Michigan, Doult scored 415 points, had 267 rebounds and 170 assists.



**Connie Doult**



**Jay Peterson**

## Jay Peterson

**Jay Peterson** (Cadiz High School, Class of 1980). A spectacular four-sport athlete, Peterson made his biggest impact on the football field.

The Hopedale native dazzled as a running back with numerous memorable performances, including a single-game modern Ohio Valley-record 377 yards against Mingo and games of 288 and 282 yards. He scored six touchdowns in a game twice.

Peterson broke a 50-year old Ohio Valley single-season rushing record held by OVAC "Legends" honoree George (Puck) Burgwin when he rushed for 2,348 yards on 203 carries to lead Cadiz to an 8-0-2 record. He just missed the modern single-season scoring record with 221 points (32 TDs, 28 PAT kicks), one point shy of OVAC Hall of Famer Terry Snively of Powhatan's mark of 222 points.

In his three-year gridiron career with the Cardinals, he rushed for 3,959 yards (second at the time on the Ohio Valley career list) and scored 349 points.

Peterson had his football No. 22 retired by the school.

In track, he recorded the Ohio Valley's fastest time in the 100-meters as a senior (11.0 seconds) and also had the fastest 100-yard time (10.3) that year. He won the OVAC Class AA 100-meter race in 11.1 seconds.

He split spring duty between track and baseball and was an All-Valley honorable mention pick, hitting .352 and recording 25 stolen bases on an 18-7 record team. Peterson also participated in basketball as a sophomore and junior.

He earned a scholarship to Miami (Ohio) University and was honored three times on the All-Mid-American Conference football team, including first team accolades in 1982, second team in 1983 and honorable mention in 1981. A four-year letterwinner, he is fifth on the all-time career rushing yardage list at Miami with 2,874 yards.

Following his graduation from Miami in 1985, Peterson went on to a coaching career, first as high school assistant at Cadiz as well as Cincinnati Anderson and Cincinnati Withrow. He then spent eight years at Miami of Ohio (1991-98), five years at Northwestern University (1999-2004) and he is currently beginning his fourth year at Eastern Michigan University where he is the assistant head coach/defensive coordinator/linebackers coach.

## Mark Cisar

**Mark Cisar** (Magnolia High School, Class of 1994). He is the only two-time winner of a state football "Player of the Year" award in OVAC history, having won West Virginia's Kennedy Award in 1992 and '93. He was also the Gatorade "Player of the Year" in 1992 and was a two-time Class AA all-state captain. He was a two-time All-OVAC and All-Valley selection.

Cisar played quarterback, safety, placekicker and punter on Blue Eagle teams that compiled a two-year record of 25-3, finishing as the Class AA state runner-up twice under the tutelage of his father, Dave Cisar.

In two seasons as a starter and one as a backup, he passed for Ohio Valley record totals of 5,193 yards and 64 touchdowns. As a junior, he passed for a record 2,691 yards and 34 TDs. He also kicked a valley and state record total of 85 points and had a record-tying 99-yard TD pass as a junior.

In baseball, he was a three-time All-West Virginia Class AA, All-OVAC and All-Valley pitcher.

He was also a regular in basketball, scoring 45 points in a game on one occasion.

He earned a baseball scholarship to Charleston Southern University in South Carolina where he was a four-year starter. He was named Big South Conference "Player of the Year" in 1997 and was a three-time all-conference selection.

He was drafted by the Boston Red Sox and was the Red Sox Rookie League "Pitcher of the Year" in 1998. In 1999, he was selected to the South Atlantic League All-Star Team and won a South Atlantic League title in '99 as a member of the Augusta Green Jackets.

He then played for the Capitales de Quebec, an independent league team, and was an all-star in 2002 and the Northern League "Relief Pitcher of the Year".

Cisar earned his bachelor's degree in physical education and was a substitute teacher for five years in the Wetzel County School system before going back to Charleston (S.C.) to serve as a health and physical education teacher as well as an assistant football coach.

Currently a teacher at the Belmont Career Center in St. Clairsville, he is the head football coach at Union Local High School, guiding the Jets to a 9-1 record and their first-ever OHSAA playoff berth in 2007. He was named the Eastern District's Division IV "Co-Coach of the Year" in Division IV.



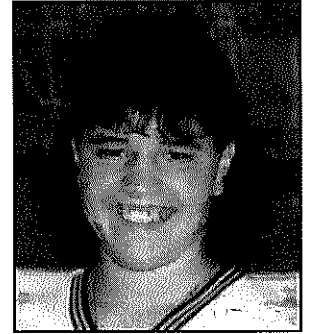
**Mark Cisar**



# OVAC HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2008



## Suzie Dailer



Suzie Dailer

**Suzie Dailer** (Wheeling Central Catholic High School, Class of 1991). She proved to be a true "queen of the court" in many ways, excelling for four years in basketball and tennis and adding a couple of fine seasons in volleyball for good measure.

In basketball, Dailer gained All-West Virginia recognition all four years, including first team in Class AA as a sophomore and senior and second team laurels as a junior. She was also a three-time All-OVAC and All-Valley first team selection and a two-time All-Mountaineer League pick. The valley's leader in three-point field goals all four years, she scored 22.1 points per game as a senior and finished her career with 1,381 points, the all-time girls' mark for the Lady Maroon Knights. Dailer led Central to three straight OVAC Class AA championships and was a sophomore on the Knights' W. Va. Class AA state runner-up squad in 1989. Central posted a 77-17 record during her career.

In tennis, she also lettered four years and had tremendous success in both OVAC and state tournament play, culminating in a W. Va. state doubles championship (with Pam Butch) as a senior as the Lady Knights finished as the state runner-up. She also finished first or second in several OVAC and regional tournaments in both singles and doubles and helped the team to three OVAC titles and three top four finishes in the state.

In volleyball, she lettered twice and gained first team All-OVAC honors as a senior, helping the team to a 37-5 record and the OVAC, W.Va. Section 1 and Region 1 titles, and a Class AA runner-up finish in the state tournament.

Dailer continued to star at St. Bonaventure University as a four-year starter and letterwinner. She finished as the school's fifth all-time leading scorer (1,422 points) and had the fifth-best single-season in 1992-93 (524 points). She set records for single-game (8), single-season (99) and career (291) three-pointers; had the single-season record for assists (163) and was second in career assists (449). Her all-star honors at St. Bonaventure included second team all-conference as a sophomore and third team as a senior. The 1995 Division I Women's Basketball National Three-Point Shooting champion, she was inducted into the St. Bonaventure Athletic Hall of Fame in 2006.

*Special Thanks  
to Denny Magruder  
and the staff  
at WesBanco Arena*

*Site of the OVAC Hall of Fame,  
OVAC Museum, OVAC Banquet  
of Champions, Ron Mauck  
OVAC Wrestling Tournament,  
OVAC Cheerleading Championship,  
and OVAC Queen of Queens Pageant*

.....  
*Next Year's OVAC Hall of Fame  
Banquet will take place  
on Saturday, Aug. 22, 2009*

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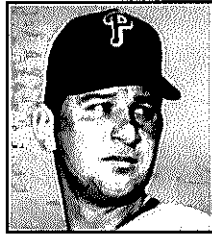
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# LEGENDS OF OVAC SCHOOLS - 2008



**Ernie Bell**



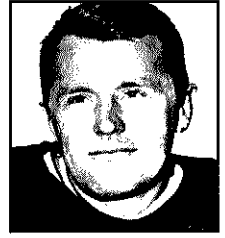
**John Blatnik**



**George Burgwin**



**Kenny Griffith**



**Jim Keane**

*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.*

**Ernie Bell** (East Liverpool High School, Class of 1953).

He was a two-way line standout on the unbeaten 1952 Potter football team regarded as one of the best in school history.

The 160-pound guard was named to five All-Ohio first team selections, and an Ohio Lineman of the Year selection by the International News Service after the 9-0-1 record team was voted No. 3 in the final statewide poll.

The Potters defeated Cleveland West, Steubenville, New Philadelphia, Youngstown Rayen, Alliance, Martins Ferry, Salem, Ashtabula and Wellsville and tied Sandusky, 13-13.

Opposing teams found it almost impossible to keep Bell out of their backfield. Alliance quarterback Len Dawson, a future star at Purdue University and the Kansas City Chiefs, was sacked several times by Bell and he lauded the Potter defender as the best he faced all season.

Bell also blocked four punts in one game of his four-year career.

An inductee into the East Liverpool High School Hall of Fame, Bell also was a member of the winning North team in the annual Ohio North-South game.

**John Blatnik** (Bridgeport High School, Class of 1939).

He was a two-sport Bulldog standout who signed a pro baseball contract before his senior high school season. He was a member of two teams which advanced to the Ohio state basketball tournament in the largest Class A division.

The 1938 team, coached by Floyd Baker, defeated Bowling Green and Akron St. Vincent before bowing to eventual champion Newark in the semifinals. In 1939, under coach Stan Plummer, the Bulldogs defeated Akron Buchtel in the tournament before bowing to eventual champion Akron North in the quarterfinals.

Baseball was where Blatnik earned fame in high school and the pros, however. He competed for Coach Orville (Tubby) Edmundson in high school and played for the Fred Englehardt-coached Bridgeport National Bank Juniors in the summer. Between his junior and senior prep seasons, he worked out for six weeks with the Cleveland Indians and signed a contract with scout Bill Bradley but played his final high school season.

After graduation, he started his pro career with Greensburg, Pa., in the Class D Penn State League. He then competed, as a first baseman and outfielder, in Fargo, N.D., and Charleston, W.Va., before serving from 1942-46 in the Air Force. He returned to play in Harrisburg and Wilkes-Barre, Pa., before being called up by the Philadelphia Phillies. He competed for the Phillies and St. Louis Cardinals for two full seasons, plus minor league stops, from 1948-56 before retiring from baseball.

**George 'Puck' Burgwin** (Steubenville High School, Class of 1933).

A legendary early era four-sport Big Red who set school and Ohio Valley football rushing records while playing for 31-3 record teams against top tri-state competition from 1929-32.

He was the anchor of the 9-0 record, unscored-upon Big Red team of 1930 and a program which reeled off an OV record 17 straight shutout wins. As a junior, he rushed for 2,126 yards and scored 196 points in nine games — both Big Red records after 75 years and OV standards for six decades.

His career totals of 541 points and 5,614 rushing yards are both Big Red school records.

A two-way football player and kicker, he also excelled in track, baseball and basketball and some of his school track records lasted until the early 1950s.

He played one college season for Western Reserve before leaving school and played in 1947-48 for the Steubenville semi-pro team. He's inducted into the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Hall of Fame.

Burgwin died of a heart attack at age 37 in 1951.

**Kenny Griffith** (Wellsburg High School, Class of 1937).

He was a senior standout on the 1937 Orange team which won its first, and only, OVAA championship with an 18-1 regular season record. It ended a school-best 22-2 season, under coach Reed Clark, in the regional finals with a loss to Benwood Union.

He enrolled at Alderson-Broadus College, where he became a national scoring sensation under Coach Rex Pyles. He broke the national career scoring record of 1,596 points set by national Hall of Famer Hank Luisetti of Stanford by scoring 1,941 points in four seasons. Griffith led the nation in scoring his last two seasons (1940 with a 23.9 average and 1941 at 22.0) and became the first West Virginia Conference player to average 20 points for a season.

In 1941, the small college All-American became the first state basketball player to be selected the W. Va. Amateur Athlete of the Year. He also competed in a national All-Star game in Chicago.

An Alderson-Broadus Hall of Famer who is featured on the walls of the school gymnasium, he was selected to the all-time West Virginia Conference team. After college, the 6-foot-2 Griffith played briefly in 1942 with the pro Akron Goodyears.

**Jim Keane** (Linsly Military Institute, Class of 1941).

The Bellaire native was a six-sport Cadet letterman in football, basketball, track, golf, tennis and boxing. He earned All-Valley honors in football and received a football scholarship to the University of Iowa. He finished his career at Northwestern University in Chicago.

A 6-foot-4, 208-pound end, he was drafted in the 18th round by the Chicago Bears in 1945 and played seven seasons in the National Football League — the first six with the Bears and one with the Green Bay Packers. In his rookie season, the Bears defeated the New York Giants, 24-14 in the NFL championship game.

In his second season, he led the NFL in pass receiving with 64 catches for 910 yards and 10 touchdowns in 12 games.

His seven-year, 81-game NFL career included 224 pass receptions for 3,222 yards and 24 touchdowns.



Congratulations

# Connie Douth

Buckeye Trail High School  
Class of 1981  
on your induction  
into the OVAC Hall of Fame

We're proud of you!  
Love,  
Your Family

Congratulations

# Connie Douth

Buckeye Trail High School  
Class of 1981

OVAC Hall of Fame Inductee  
Class of 2008

**Dennis Douth**  
Eastern Ohio District Manager



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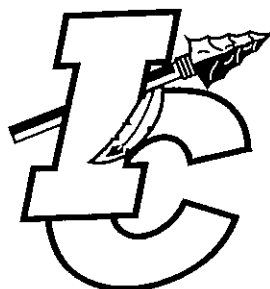
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Congratulations

# Bob Kettlewell John Craig

OVAC Hall of Fame  
Class of 2008

From Indian Creek  
Athletic Department



Congratulations

# Tom Yakubowski

OVAC Hall of Fame  
Class of 2008

From the Adena High School  
Class of 1958

We are proud of you!



# Congratulations

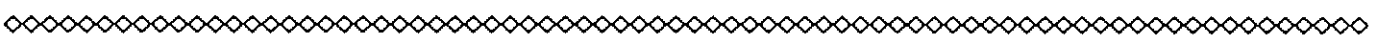


**John Craig  
Mike Kovalick  
Joe Pettini**



and all of the OVAC  
Hall of Fame inductees

From  
Ron and Mary Lou Mauck

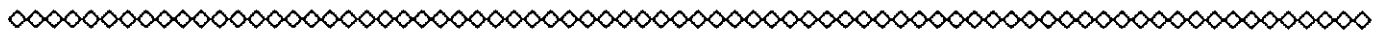


# Congratulations



**Bill Thomas**

from the St. Clairsville  
Athletic Department





# Congratulations

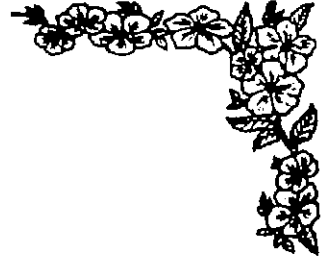
## Jay Peterson

Being inducted into the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Hall of Fame is something very special that you will remember the rest of your life. This is long overdue after a great career at Cadiz High School, Miami University and now as a coach at Eastern Michigan. All of your friends and fans of the former Cadiz Booster Club and now the Harrison Central Booster Club would like to congratulate you on this very special award.

Good luck, Jay

Enjoy your special night





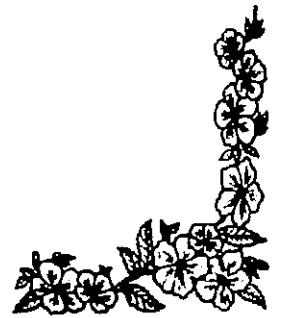
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# **DR. NICK TROMBETTA**

Superintendent of Midland Borough School District

Executive Administrator of  
Western Pennsylvania Charter Cyber School  
Midland, PA.

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***“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. 22, 2009*



# OVAC Hall of Fame

## Gallery of Previous Inductees



Ken Alessi (Class of 2004)  
 Sam Andy (Class of 2007)  
 Wendy Baker (Class of 2006)  
 Nick Bedway (Class of 2007)  
 Paul 'Bud' Billiard (Class of 2006)  
 Ed Burgy (Class of 2006)  
 Bob Burton (Class of 2005)  
 Gene Cattane (Class of 2007)  
 Dee Davis (Class of 2005)  
 Jose Davis (Class of 2007)  
 Doug Donley (Class of 2004)  
 Bobby Douglas (Class of 2004)  
 Chris Enochs (Class of 2007)  
 John 'Fuzzy' Filliez, (Class of 2005)  
 Don Fleming (Class of 2007)  
 Geno Ford (Class of 2004)  
 Joe Fortunato (Class of 2007)  
 Jim Foti (Class of 2004)  
 Bob Gain (Class of 2006)  
 Joey Galloway (Class of 2005)  
 Amy Gamble (Class of 2004)  
 Matt Gaudio (Class of 2005)  
 Cal Giffin (Class of 2006)  
 Chester Grossi (Class of 2005)  
 Alex Groza (Class of 2005)  
 Richard 'Lefty' Hall (Class of 2006)  
 Mitch Hannahs (Class of 2004)  
 John Havlicek (Class of 2004)  
 Walter Heil (Class of 2005)  
 Bill Hinegardner (Class of 2007)  
 Allan Hornyak (Class of 2004)  
 Chuck Howley (Class of 2005)  
 Doug Huff (Class of 2005)  
 Bob Hummell (Class of 2006)  
 Jennifer Hyland-Brown (Class of 2007)  
 Donna Joseph (Class of 2007)  
 George Kovalick (Class of 2004)

Bob Kelley (Class of 2007)  
 Earl Klevins (Class of 2007)  
 John Leon (Class of 2007)  
 Ron Mauck (Class of 2006)  
 Bill Mazerowski (Class of 2004)  
 Robert 'Bo' McConnaughy (Class of 2007)  
 Lance Mehl (Class of 2005)  
 Dick Miller (Class of 2005)  
 Rudy Mumley (Class of 2005)  
 Samuel A. Mumley (Class of 2004)  
 A. Wilson Murray (Class of 2004)  
 Boyd Nelson (Class of 2006)  
 Phil Niekro (Class of 2006)  
 Lee Patrone (Class of 2006)  
 Stephanie Petho (Class of 2004)  
 Cal Pokas (Class of 2004)  
 Richard L. 'Dick' Potts (Class of 2004)  
 Warren Pugh (Class of 2006)  
 Vicki Pullie-Stokes (Class of 2004)  
 Anthony Reed (Class of 2007)  
 John Reger (Class of 2007)  
 Evan Reese (Class of 2004)  
 Mike Sherwood (Class of 2005)  
 Bruce Smith (Class of 2006)  
 Jeff Snedegar (Class of 2006)  
 Terry Snively (Class of 2005)  
 Tim Spencer (Class of 2004)  
 George Strager (Class of 2005)  
 Dennis Swearingen (Class of 2006)  
 Brian Swisher (Class of 2005)  
 Agnes Timmons (Class of 2005)  
 Bill Van Horne (Class of 2004)  
 John Vrotsos (Class of 2005)  
 Billy West (Class of 2006)  
 Ron 'Fritz' Williams (Class of 2004)  
 Harry Wilson (Class of 2006)

## Previous 'Legends of OVAC Schools'

Bernie Allen (2006)  
 Mike Basrak (2007)  
 Russ Craft (2006)  
 Clarence 'Bevo' Francis (2005)  
 Lou Groza (2005)  
 Carl Hamill (2006)  
 Clarke Hinkle (2005)  
 Calvin Jones (2005)

Bernie Mehen (2006)  
 Jule Rivlin (2006)  
 V. Everett Brinkman (2005)  
 Rudy Baric (2007)  
 Les Carney (2007)  
 Charles 'Doc' Hartwig (2007)  
 Jim 'Monk' Moscrip (2007)



# 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 Nickro, and Bobby Douglas. In baseball, Kovalick coached the Hilltoppers to the 1964 NAIA baseball championship, the only national title ever captured by the school. He also had West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championship teams at West Liberty in football, wrestling and baseball.

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

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

He was OVAC Baseball Director for many years and also directed the conference's mat championship event.

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

#### 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 Sports-writer of the Year three times; received the Gene Morehouse Memorial Award for contributions in sports-writing 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-Ogdey Tennis Club Hall of Fame. He served as president of the West Virginia Sports Writers Association and was a member of the Football Writers of America. Bill was the first 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 for Ohio Valley sports fans as the sports editor. He also was assistant sports editor, a courthouse and political reporter and Martins Ferry City Editor. Even after his retirement, Cal continued to contribute to his newspaper's sports pages with his weekly "Eye on the Bucks" column about Ohio State football. Pokas also personally saw to it that many of the so-called minor sports such as cross-country, track and volleyball, received their share of coverage in his newspaper.

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

Pokas had a keen sense 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 OHSA. 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 Blackhawks 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 Hamhill 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 County consolidation, Foti's Vikings advanced to the state tournament semifinals before being eliminated. The 1975 team played in the state championship game. He had five W.Va. Catholic title-winning teams at Wheeling Central and guided his squads to OVAC championships in three divisions.

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

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

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

Foti coached several outstanding athletes during his distinguished career. Among the Central standouts were James "Dubie" Daiber and Billy Compers, 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 WVAC tournaments. The former City of Wheeling Treasurer was a three-year football and basketball letterman at Wheeling High School. He played on the Wildcats' 1940 state championship basketball team.

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

## Ken Alessi (Athlete - 1940s)



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## John Havlicek (Athlete - 1950s)



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

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

An excellent rebounder and passer, he also scored 1,594 career points in 59 games and averaged more than 30 points per game the last two seasons. He led the OVAC in scoring as a junior with a 31.9-point noon, 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.

## Bill Mazeroski (Athlete - 1950s)



Bill Mazeroski (Warren Consolidated High School, Class of 1951) 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 failing, 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 the section of Route 7 near his Rush Run childhood home north of Tiltonsville is known as "Bill Mazeroski Highway."

## Bobby Douglas (Athlete - 1960s)



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

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

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

Also as a competitor, he won five national championships and a pair of U.S. Olympic Trials titles. He had a fourth-place featherweight finish at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics and he captained the U.S. freestyle team at the 1968 games in Mexico City. Named the nation's outstanding wrestler in 1970 — the year he retired — Douglas compiled a career record of 303-17-7 (95.3). 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 NAIA Wrestling Hall of Fame, the Ohio Hall of Fame and the Arizona State Hall of Fame.

## Allan Hornyak (Athlete - 1960s)



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

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

As a junior, he scored 812 points in 19 games, including 295 goals and 222-of-272 free throws. In his senior year, he tallied 923 points in 22 games with 346 goals and 231-of-236 free throws.

The two-time All-OVAC and All-Ohio eager 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.

## Ron 'Fritz' Williams (Athlete - 1960s)



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

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

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

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

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

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

## Doug Donley (Athlete - 1970s)



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

On the gridiron, Donley was a three-year letterman at running back for the Bobcats, finishing with a career total of 2,572 rushing yards. He also had 226 yards receiving and 1,028 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 53 passes for 898 yards and four TDs.

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

# PREVIOUS OVAC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

## Tim Spencer (Athlete - 1970s)



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

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

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

Spencer also played basketball and ran track for the Red Devils, excelling in the 100- and 200-meters. After his prep days, Spencer matriculated to Columbus to play for Coach Earle Bruce's Ohio State Buckeyes. The 6-1, 210-pounder was a three-year starter for the Buckeyes. He finished his career with 3,553 yards which still ranks third on Ohio State's all-time rushing charts.

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

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

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

He gained more than 5,000 rushing yards and scored 45 touchdowns as a professional. Spencer served as Ohio State's running backs coach from 1994 through the 2003 season. He left the Buckeyes for an assistant's role with the Chicago Bears.

## Amy Gamble (Athlete - 1980s)



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Mitch Hannahs (Athlete - 1980s)



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Vicki Pullie-Stokes (Athlete - 1980s)



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

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

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

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

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

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

## Geno Ford (Athlete - 1990s)



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

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

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

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

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

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

## Stephanie Petho (Athlete - 1990s)



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

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

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

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

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

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

She capped her high school career by being named co-valuedictator 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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# 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 Mumbley 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 Circoza 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 1998; Ohio Valley Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1991; selection as OVAC Coach of the Year in 1979 and '87; and recognition by the Dapper Dan Club of the Upper Ohio Valley in 1992. He also coached in the OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic twice (1972 and '87). A graduate of Salem College, Strager passed away in 1990, but his memory lives on in the form of the George Strager Memorial Football Camp and Scholarship Program as well as the "George Strager Evening with the Stars" dinner held in conjunction with the OVAC Charity All-Star Football Classic.

## John 'Corky' Vrotsos (Coaches)



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

Vrotsos guided the Purple Rider grapplers from 1957-68, leading his team to seven consecutive OVAC Tournament championships (1961-67) along with six straight Ohio District Tournament titles. His teams finished ranked in the top 10 in the state four times (1959, '60, '63 and '64) and the best finish at the state tournament was a fifth place effort in 1968.

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

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

In addition to serving as head wrestling coach, Vrotsos was also an assistant in football and track for the Purple Riders. He was on the football staff during Ferry's run of three consecutive undefeated seasons (1959-61) and four OVAC championships (also 1965).

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

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

Heil officiated football and basketball at the high school, collegiate and professional levels. He worked five West Virginia High School State Tournaments, five West Virginia Catholic High School State Tournaments and three West Virginia 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 Bellaire High Athletic Wall of Fame and the 1998 recipient of the OVAC's Robert Dawson Officials' Award.

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

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

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

In the NBA, Groza averaged 22.5 points in 130 pro games with the Indianapolis Olympians in 1950 and '51. He coached Bellarmine (Ky.) College from 1959 through 1966. The school had never won a basketball championship before Groza's tenure. He led the Knights to the Kentucky 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 starred in two Super Bowls. The 1971 game saw Howley intercept two passes and recover a fumble to earn MVP honors in a 16-13 loss to the Baltimore Colts. He remains the only player on a losing team to be selected as the Super Bowl's most valuable player. In 1972, he helped the Cowboys win Super Bowl VI over the Miami Dolphins by intercepting a Bob Griese pass to set up a touchdown.

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

## Dick Miller (Athlete - 1950s)



**Dick Miller** (Wheeling Central Catholic High School, Class 1952) was a first-team all-state and all-OVAC performer in basketball three straight years while performing for the Maroon Knights. Miller led Central Catholic to the conference and West Virginia Catholic championships all three seasons, scoring 1,593 points during a stellar high school career. His three-year scoring average was 21.4 points per game. His career point total stood for 51 years until it was bested by David Contraguero, a four-year letterman for the Maroon Knights. Contraguero's record was later topped by a Central girls' basketball great, Kayleen Fitzsimmons. Miller also had a game high of 30 points in a West Virginia-Kentucky All-Star Game, leading the Mountaineer team to an 81-80 victory at Williamson. Twice, (1951 and '52), Miller was chosen as the state's basketball player of the year. He also was a standout performer in football and baseball in high school. He was a "T" formation quarterback as a football performer and a shortstop/pitcher on the baseball team.

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

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

He was just as impressive on the hardwood for legendary coach Claire Cribbs. The sweet-shooting 6-4 guard was a two-year starter for the Big Reds and surpassed the 1,000-point plateau while earning All-Ohio honors. He averaged 25.3 points a game in leading the Big Reds to a 17-4 record. As a junior, he averaged 25 points per game. He poured in a career-high, and school-record, 59 points against Guernsey Street rival St. John 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 1970. A member of the All-Time WVU 1950-69 Era team, Sherwood was inducted into the WVU Sports Hall of Fame in 1997.

After graduation, he stayed on at WVU and was a graduate assistant for Bobby Bowden and Frank Cignetti. He went to Bethany College to serve as offensive coordinator from 1974-78 under his high school coach, Don Ault. Sherwood returned to his prep alma mater, serving as the Big Reds' head coach from 1980-84, registering a 26-12-2 record. He was named Eastern District Coach of the Year in 1982. He became the school's athletic director in 1984 and is currently the high school principal.

## 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 single season record by amassing 222 points, including 35 touchdowns, his senior season. The quick-footed running back finished with 398 career points. Snively was named Ohio's UPI Class A Back of the Year in 1965. He was an All-OVAC honoree as a junior and senior while garnering All-Eastern Ohio and All-Valley laurels.

Captain of the Indians' football, baseball and track teams. He also was a four-year letterman in basketball, starting his last three seasons. Snively averaged better than 24 points a game in each of his final two seasons and finished his career with 1,146 points. He was third team All-OVAC as a senior and the Phillips All-Overs in a junior and senior. Springtime at Powhatan saw Snively do double duty, starting in baseball and track. He was a talented pitcher and outfielder in the diamond sport for four years. He helped the Indians to a pair of Ohio state tournament berths, including winning the state Class A crown in his freshman season when he batted .315 as leadoff hitter. Powhatan High launched a track program in his sophomore season. He was the OVAC 100-yard, 200-yard and long jump champion as a junior and qualified for the state meet in the 100. He holds the school records in the 100 (19.2), 200 (23.4) and long jump (19-5).

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

After earning his WVU diploma, he opted to remain in athletics in his native Ohio Valley. Snively cut his coaching teeth at Bellaire High. During his six-year stint with the Big Reds, he was a football aide to Jake Olsavsky and served as head basketball and baseball coach for five years. He led Bellaire to a pair of sectional crowns in hoops while gaining a district title (1974) and OVAC championship (1976) in baseball. Snively matriculated to Shadyside High as head basketball coach for two years. His 1976-77 team won a district title and OVAC crown. In that season, he was named district coach of the year. Snively left Tigertown for River High, where he served as head football coach for 25 seasons. During that quarter of a century, his 1997 team went 18-0 and won an OVAC title while his teams made the Ohio playoffs in 1993 and 1997. Snively coached in the OVAC All-Star Game twice, while also coaching the Ohio North-South Game in 1994. In 2004, Snively received the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Carl Hamill Award.

## John 'Fuzzy' Filliez (Athlete - 1970s)



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

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

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

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

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

Recruited for football by Marshall, West Virginia, Virginia Tech, Pitt and Penn State, the 5-11, 175-pounder signed early with WVU, but opted for Marshall where he led the Thundering Herd in pass receiving for four straight years and set school records with 168 catches for 1,954 yards and 14 TDs. His reception total ranked, at the time, eighth among all-time NCAA Division I receivers. Starting four years, he set a then-NCAA record by catching passes in 42 straight games. He broke the mark set by Heisman Trophy winner Johnny Rodgers from Nebraska. Automobile bumper stickers supporting the police showed up at Herd games, where they had a different meaning. They read: "I Love the Fuzz." The team co-captain was a two-time All-America honorable mention choice and a first team National Independent All-Star honoree.

Filliez also was selected as the state Amateur Athlete of the Year in 1976. In 1985, he was inducted into the Marshall Athletic Hall of Fame. Filliez currently resides in Delaware, Ohio.

## 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 in 1986 with Georgetown 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 to the Kennedy Award as state player of the year and was accorded the Hunt Award as state Lineman of the Year.

He set season and career pass receiving marks in the Ohio Valley and averaged 39.2 yards on kickoff returns and 20.2 yards on punt returns. He also was productive on end-around rushing plays. Swisher, who set an OV record by catching passes in 36 consecutive games — every game he started. His career regular season totals were 126 receptions for 2,174 yards and 23 TDs.

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

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

In the spring, he competed in track as a 100 and 200-meter sprinter, long jumper and relay member. He won eight individual medals in three state Class AA meets — a first in the 100 as a sophomore, six seconds and a third, and was a member of a first place 4x100 relay team. He tied a state meet AA 100-meter record with a 10.9-second mark in the 1981 trials.

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

Swisher currently resides in Lewis Center, Ohio.

# PREVIOUS OVAC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

## Joey Galloway (Athlete - 1990s)



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

The mercury-heeled wide receiver was an All-Ohio grinder 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 1,049 yards and 12 TDs. He left Seattle for the Dallas Cowboys and is now a member of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

## Matt Gaudio (Athlete - 1990s)



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

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

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

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

He opted to continue his academic and athletic career at Penn State University, where he was plagued by chronic back problems which required surgery. In spite of the medical woes, Gaudio endured to turn in a solid career. During his redshirt sophomore season, he averaged 9.4 points and 4.7 rebounds a game and was named recipient of the Lou 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 OHSAA and, following his death in 1975, he was selected for a posthumous Alumni Achievement Award by West Liberty State College. Giffin served the Eastern Ohio Coaches Association as president as well as being the state vice president for the Ohio Association of Track Coaches.

Athletically, Cal was a three-sport letterman (football, basketball and track) at Bellaire High. He played on the first Big Reds' football team to win an OVAC championship (1946). He also played in the Ohio-West Virginia All-Star Football Game in 1947. Giffin's career also led him to the Martins Ferry School District where he was the supervisor of elementary and secondary education. From there, he became the principal of St. Clairsville High School and later served as superintendent of the St. Clairsville-Richland School District. He received his B.A. in Education from West Liberty in 1951 and his Master of Arts Degree in school administration from WVU in 1967.



## Class of 2006

# OVAC Hall of Fame

Sponsored by Bob Robinson Chevrolet-Cadillac, Inc

## 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 WestBanco Arena). Three times, he served as a volunteer on the staff for NAA 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 Dalry). 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 Studdoth. 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-welcomed 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 famer John Havlicek; Joe Niekro, Tim Spencer, Olympic wrestler and coach Bobby Douglas and Allan Hornyak, just a to mention a few.

Boyd's devotion to his work also made him a role model and an inspiration to aspiring and seasoned photographers alike. Nelson shunned the limelight throughout his life despite the urgings of co-workers and admirers to enter his pictures in statewide competition. As a result, he was bypassed for many awards that easily would have come his way. However, United Press International began presenting awards to newspaper and magazine photographers in the early 1970s and the very first honoree was none other than Boyd Nelson. When *The Times Leader* published a pictorial history of Eastern Ohio in 1999, the book was dedicated to Nelson, a lifelong Belmont County resident. He began his career following a stint in the U.S. Navy. He served a stint in the Philippines during World War II. After returning home, Nelson attended Ohio University for a year. However, after being hired as a summer intern by *The Times Leader*, he never returned to college and made photography his lifetime profession.

## 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 III 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 OVACA'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 Cattaue, 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

## Wendy Baker (Athlete - 1980s)

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

On the court, she was a four-year varsity performer, becoming 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 a 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 as starting quarterback/defensive back, amassing 1,616 yards passing and 894 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 29-5 record and advanced to the Ohio Class AA regional finals in Athens in 1982. Scoring 14.7 points per game as a senior, he was named first team All-OVAC Class AAA (captain), All-District 12 and All-Valley as well as second team All-Eastern District Class AA. He played in both the OVAC and District 12 All-Star Games. As a junior, Swearingen averaged 18.9 points per game and was named first team All-OVAC Class AAA and All-District 12, second team All-Eastern District Class AA and third team All-Valley.

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

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



## Jeff Suedegar (Athlete - 1990s)

**Jeff Suedegar** (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.

Suedegar 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. Suedegar 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.

Suedegar 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 records 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.



## Class of 2007

## OVAC Hall of Fame

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## Nick Bedway (Media)

**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 Horn 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 Ogden 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 Basketball Team, Oglesby 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 (Officials)

**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 was numerous Oglesby 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.





# PREVIOUS OVAC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

## John Leon (Athlete - 1970s)



**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 shotput 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 have four children: Johnny, Camille, Isabella and Joseph.

## Jennifer Hyland Brown (Athlete - 1980s)



**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. White 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.

## Anthony Reed (Athlete - 1980s)



**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-W.Va. Class AAA selection, serving as captain as a junior. He was a two-time USA Today W.Va. 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 (Athlete - 1990s)



**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, 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 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.

## Chris Enochs (Athlete - 1990s)



**Chris Enochs** (Oak Glen High School, Class of 1994). Enochs excelled in three sports for the Golden Bears, but it was baseball where he would make his biggest impact.

Enochs' senior season diamond exploits earned him first team all-West Virginia Class AA accolades and he was named the "Player of the Year" by both Gatorade and USA Today and was selected as the runner-up for that honor by the W. Va. Sportswriters Association.

Also a first team all-OVAC Class 3-A first teamer and "Player of the Year" and an all-Valley first teamer and "big school" captain, Enochs led the valley with 11 home runs and 42 RBI while batting .442. His pitching totals included a 6-4 record and a 1.22 E.R.A. with 106 strikeouts and 26 walks in 63 innings. He pitched a perfect game for Oak Glen against Toronto.

On the basketball court, Enochs was first team all-OVAC and all-Valley and was an honorable mention all-West Virginia Class AA choice. He averaged 19.2 points and 13.2 rebounds per game as a senior and finished his career with 1,047 points.

On the football field, Enochs earned first team all-West Virginia Class AA as a quarterback after leading Oak Glen to its first-ever WVSSAC playoff appearance. Also a first team all-OVAC Class 3-A and all-Valley pick, he led the valley with 1,729 passing yards.

Drafted by the Cleveland Indians in 1994, Enochs opted for a scholarship to West Virginia University where he became the Big East "Pitcher of the Year", first team All-East Region and was a second team All-American pick by Baseball America, The Sporting News and the National Collegiate Baseball Writers. Named the team's co-MVP, he was 12-1 on the mound with a 3.03 E.R.A. and 10 complete games, including a no-hitter against Villanova. As a junior he was named the Big East Tournament's MVP and Outstanding Pitcher. Enochs had 21 wins, including 14 complete games, in his three-year Mountaineer career.

Following his junior year, he became the highest drafted player in OVAC history, selected No. 11 in the first round by the Oakland Athletics in 1997. The 6-3, 225-pound right-hander with a 93-mile per hour fastball played nine seasons in the minor leagues, the first seven in the Oakland organization and then one year each for Houston and Pittsburgh. He pitched in 250 games with a 45-52 record and a 4.91 E.R.A., posting 661 strikeouts while walking 380. He was a member of the Class AAA Pacific Coast League champion Sacramento Rivercats and played for the Puerto Rican Winter League champion Ponce Leones.

Enochs also played for Team USA, winning a silver medal at the 2001 World Cup in Taiwan.

# 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

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## A look back at past OVAC Hall of Fame Banquets

### *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.



# A look back at past OVAC Hall of Fame Banquets

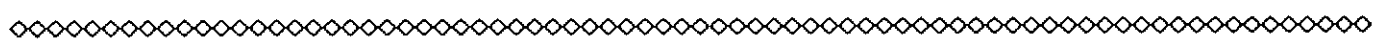
## OVAC Hall of Fame Class of 2006

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.



## OVAC Hall of Fame Class of 2007

Members of the OVAC Hall of Fame Class of 2007 or their representatives include, front row left to right, Donna Joseph, Nick Bedway, Earl Klevins, Sam Andy and Bill Hinegardner; second row, Baci Carpico (representing Joe Fortunato), Rosalie McSwain (representing Don Fleming), John Reger, Bob Kelley, Robert 'Bo' McConnaughy and Brenda Cattane Ballog (representing Gene Cattane); third row, John Leon, Jennifer Hyland Brown, Anthony Reed, Jose Davis and Chris Enochs.





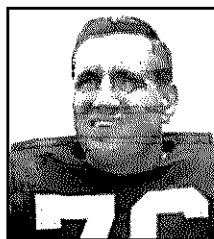
# LEGENDS OF OVAC SCHOOLS - 2005



**V. Everett Brinkman**



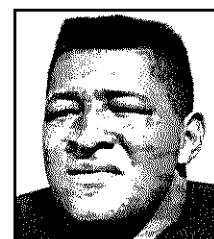
**Clarence 'Bevo' Francis**



**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.

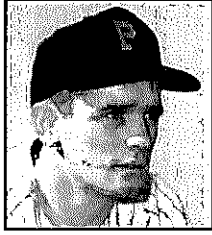
In football, the All-Ohio lineman selected the University of Iowa over Ohio State and went on to All-Big Ten Conference honors three times. He made 22 All-America teams at guard, including a record 15 in 1954. As team captain, he earned the Outland Trophy given to the nation's top interior lineman and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



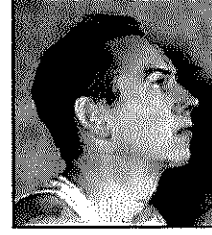
**Bernie Allen**



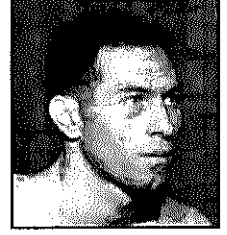
**Russ Craft**



**Carl Hamill**



**Bernie Mehen**



**Jule Rivlin**

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## **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.





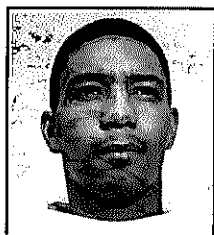
# LEGENDS OF OVAC SCHOOLS - 2007



**Rudy Baric**



**Mike Basrak**



**Les Carney**



**Charles 'Doc' Hartwig**



**Jim 'Monk' Moscrip**

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## **Rudy Baric** (Benwood Union High School, Class of 1938)

He was a first team All-W.Va. basketball honoree as a senior when the OVAC charter member school bowed to unbeaten Wheeling High in the section finals. As a junior, he helped the Ironmen to a state tournament berth and the school's best-ever record of 23-2.

At West Virginia University, the 6-3 center captained the 1942 team which won the National Invitation Tournament championship in New York's Madison Square Garden when the NIT was more prestigious than the NCAA Tournament. After a 16-4 regular season record, the Mountaineers were seeded last in the eight-team event before they upset top-seeded Long Island U., 52-49, in the first round. WVU then defeated Toledo, 51-39, and Western Kentucky, 47-45, before 17,000 fans in the finals. The team's only 6-footer was the team's leading rebounder and second-highest scorer and was selected tournament MVP. The three-year regular helped WVU to a 45-20 record.

In 1943, with WVU coach Dyke Raese in the armed services, Baric served as interim coach and guided WVU to a 14-7 record. He then went on to coach high school basketball for 19 years at Penns Grove, N. J., where his teams won more than 300 games.

A member of the All-Time WVU era team, he was inducted into the second WVU Hall of Fame class and is a W. Va. Sports HOF inductee.

## **Mike Basrak** (Bellaire High School, Class of 1931)

The 6-3, 210-pound football center started 22 games in his Big Reds' career and earned All-Eastern Ohio and All-Valley honors before becoming the first college All-America player from Bellaire and the first in Duquesne University history. He started 30 games at Duquesne and was selected All-America by the A-A board, The Associated Press and other major selectors. Bellaire displayed its pride for its hometown hero by placing a 10-foot pictorial banner above the front entrance to the City Building.

In the second National Football League Draft of 1937, Basrak was the fifth overall league selection in the first round by the Pittsburgh Pirates, later renamed the Steelers. No other OVAC product has been drafted earlier than Basrak. Weirton's Bob Gain, inducted into the OVAC Hall in 2006, also was a fifth pick. Basrak played two seasons in the NFL.

## **Les Carney** (Wintersville High School, Class of 1952)

A 10-letter winner in four sports — football, basketball, baseball and track — for the Warriors, the football running back played in only one losing game in three seasons for Coach Bob McFarren. Wintersville, however, didn't join the OVAC until 1955 after Carney accepted a scholarship to Ohio University.

As a sophomore OU running back, he earned honorable mention All-Mid American Conference for the MAC champions before being called to military service.

After returning, he led the Bobcats' track team to the 1958 and 1959 MAC titles while earning NCAA All-America honors as a senior. He held the NCAA 220-yard dash record of 20.8 seconds for one day. The two-time MAC 220-yard champion set a conference record which lasted 21 years. He also won the conference 100-yard crown with a 9.7-second clocking. At one time, he claimed all or parts of five school individual or relay records.

Carney was drafted by the NFL Baltimore Colts, but bypassed the offer for a job in his current hometown of Akron where he competed in AAU track meets. He earned a spot on the U.S. team for the 1959 Pan-American Games and won a silver medal at 200 meters.

In 1960, he placed third in the U.S. Olympic Trials at 200 meters and earned a spot on the U.S. team for the Rome Olympics. In the 200-meter finals, he earned a silver medal in a photo finish with hometown hero Livio Berutti of Italy, who set an Olympic record of 20.5 seconds. Carney's time of 20.6 would have won every previous Olympic final including the 1936 Games won by the legendary Jesse Owens in 20.7.

## **Charles 'Doc' Hartwig** (Benwood Union High School, Class of 1930)

An All-Valley and All-West Virginia football lineman who went on to earn national fame and recognition at the University of Pittsburgh. He played for Coach Everett Brinkman at Union and helped the Ironmen to the school's first unbeaten season of 8-0 in 1928. At Pitt, he was selected team captain, starred in the 1933 Rose Bowl, and earned All-America honors in 1934 after coming back from an injury which forced him to miss his sophomore season. The 1934 Pitt team was acclaimed national champions. The three-year letterman played on Panther teams with a combined 24-3-2 record.

He also played in the East-West Shrine Game along with fellow honoree Jim Moscrip and Michigan's Gerald Ford, a future U.S. president.

Hartwig became a national hero when he was pictorially featured on a Wheaties cereal box, the only Ohio Valley athlete so honored.

He coached Moundsville High in 1938 and Martins Ferry High the next two years before returning to Pitt to join the athletic department.

Hartwig died in 1950 after a lingering illness and Benwood Union named its football field, Hartwig Field, after the school's only All-American.

## **Jim 'Monk' Moscrip** (Adena High School, Class of 1931)

He earned 10 letters in three sports — football, basketball and baseball — and was an All-Eastern Ohio and All-Valley football end under Coach Fred Thomas. He led the 1930 football team to a 9-1-1 record as the Golden Wave outscored foes, 284-19. He also the MVP of the county basketball tournament.

After spending a year at Kiski Prep in Saltsburg, Pa., the 6-foot, 186-pounder became a three-year starter at Stanford University and played on the famed "Vow Boys" team — so named for vowing not to lose to Southern California during their career. Moscrip and teammates kept their promise and defeated USC three times and compiled a 25-4-2 record while becoming the first team to play in three straight Rose Bowls. Stanford won twice and Moscrip, a two-way end and placekicker, was MVP of the 1936 Rose Bowl win over SMU. He also played in the East-West Shrine Game.

He was selected by the old NFL Brooklyn Dodgers in the first NFL Draft in 1936, but his NFL career was two seasons with the Detroit Lions.

A member of the All-Time Stanford team, he was inducted into the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Hall of Fame and the College Football Hall of Fame.

# Ohio Valley Athletic Conference



## Embarks on 66th Year



The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference was organized in 1943 with F.W. Bowen, J.E. Ewing, J.C. Greer, M.S. Hattala, B.G. Lockhart, J.V. Nelson, C. Petty, C.F. Walker, and C.S. Wiseman among those responsible for its basic conception. C.S. Wiseman became the conference's first president.

A demand arose in 1943 for a conference which would help stimulate and promote a more lucrative program of competitive high school athletics in the upper Ohio Valley.

Today, the OVAC is the largest and most functional high school conference of its kind in the United States. A total of 45 schools supply the upper Ohio Valley with more than 17,000 athletes in the various competitive athletic areas.

It is the basic objective of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference to continue the promotion of all high school athletics and to serve in the overall development of proper school relationship, scholarship, and sportsmanship within the conference.

### Current OVAC Member Schools

Paden City	Steubenville Catholic Central	Meadowbrook
Zanesville Bishop Rosecrans	Caldwell	Oak Glen
Bishop Donahue	River	Harrison Central
Weirton Madonna	Shenandoah	Indian Creek
St. John Central	Wheeling Central Catholic	Steubenville
Conotton Valley	Monroe Central	Weir
Beallsville	Buckeye Trail	Edison
Bridgeport	Fort Frye	East Liverpool
Valley	Barnesville	Buckeye Local
Toronto	Magnolia	Beaver Local
Cameron	Bellaire	Cambridge
Shadyside	Tyler Consolidated	Zanesville
Frontier	Union Local	Brooke
Linsly	Martins Ferry	John Marshall
Wellsville	St. Clairsville	Wheeling Park



# CONGRATULATIONS

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Inductees at the  
5th Annual  
Hall of Fame  
Banquet!



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