

# 2012

Ohio Valley Athletic Conference

# HALL OF FAME

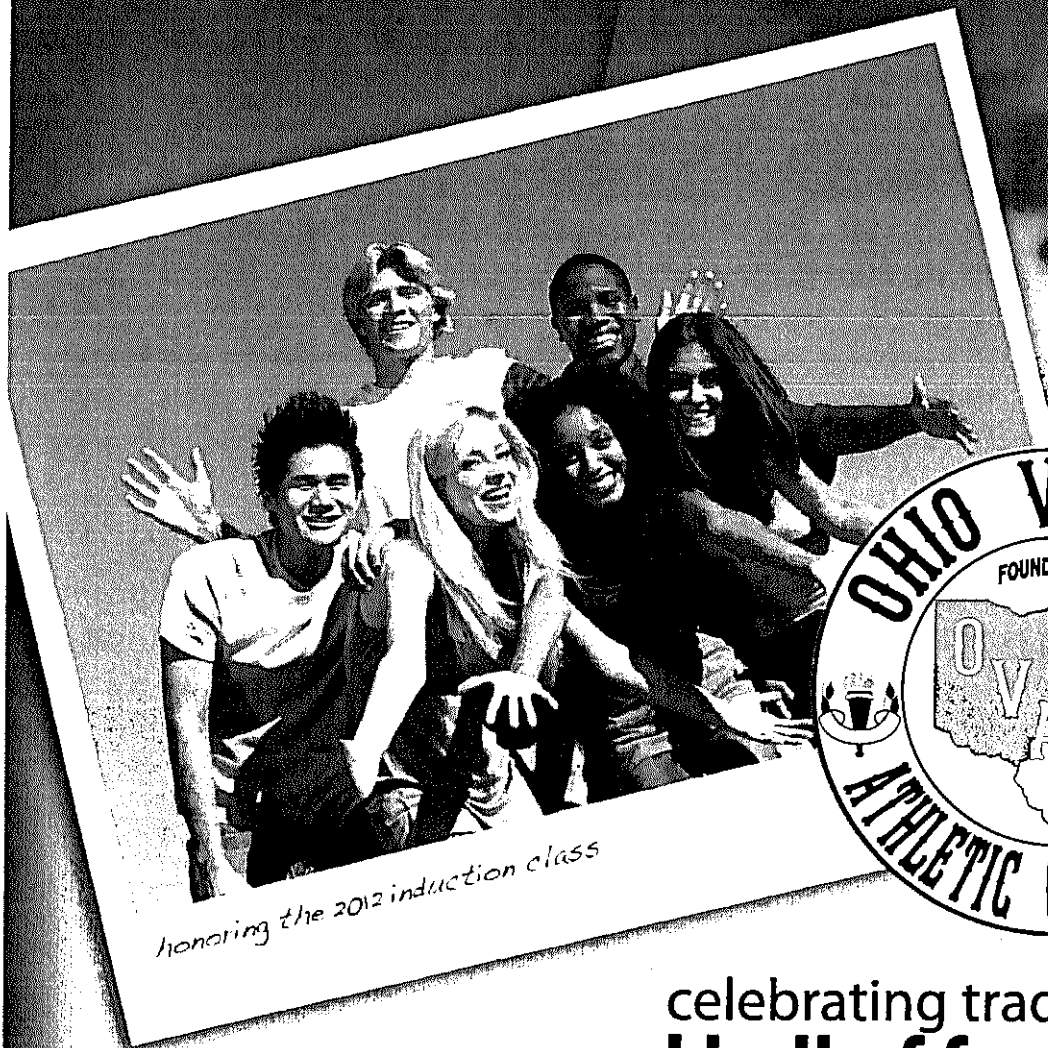


*9th Annual Ceremony*

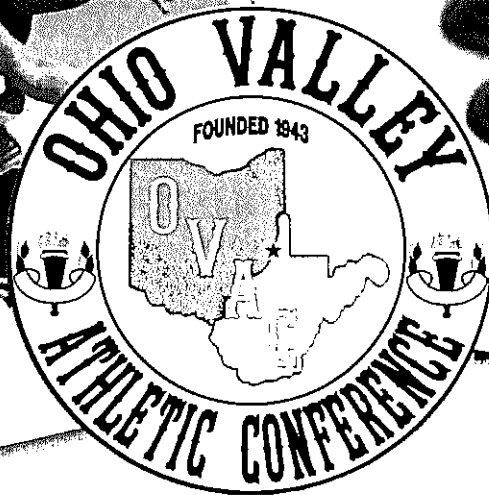
Saturday August 18, 2012  
WesBanco Arena, Wheeling, WV



we are a  
**proud sponsor of:**



*honoring the 2012 induction class*



celebrating traditions of the  
**annual hall of fame banquet**

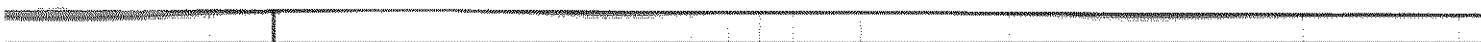


**ROBINSON  
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ROBINSON DRIVE - THE HIGHLANDS  
(304) 233-8000 / GM  
(304) 232-1880 / Toyota  
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**EIGHT BRANDS. YOUR CHOICE. ONE PLACE.**





*The OVAC Hall of Fame Committee. Front row, left to right, Doug Huff, Don Zinni, Dick Wolf, Ron Mauck and Jeff Harrison. Back row, Tom Rataiczak, Bob Koch, Seth Staskey, Robert "Bubba" Kapral, Tom Tisher and Kelly Rine.*



# *OVAC Hall of Fame Committee*



- 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
- Bob Koch** .....OVAC Football All-Star Game Director
- Ron Mauck** .....Former OVAC Football All-Star, Wrestling Tournament Director
- Tom Rataiczak**.....OVAC Executive Secretary
- Kelly Rine** .....Athletic Director, St. Clairsville High School
- Seth Staskey** .....Sports Editor, The Times Leader, Martins Ferry
- Tom Tisher** .....Athletic Director, River High School
- Dick Wolf** .....Former East Liverpool City Schools Board Member
- Don Zinni** .....OVAC Football Commissioner



# 2012-2013 OVAC *Executive Board*



*The OVAC Executive Board for 2012-2013. Front row, left to right, Bob Koch, Football All-Star Game Director; Dan Enich, West Virginia Board Member; Jeff Crosier, Vice-President; Corey Murphy, President; Dr. Dan Doyle, Past President; Jerry Narcisi, Ohio Board Member; Walt Skaggs, Ohio Board Member. Second row, Fred King, Class 1A Representative; Ed Cihy, Class 2A Representative; Molly Feller, Class 3A Representative; Kelly Rine, Class 4A Representative; Rick Leach, Class 5A Representative; Thomas E. Rataiczak, Executive Secretary/Treasurer. Back row, Steve Wojcik, Baseball Commissioner; John Howell, Basketball Commissioner; Ron White, Assistant Basketball Commissioner; Don Zinni, Football Commissioner; Dave Clutter, Assistant Football Commissioner; Tom Bechtel, Softball Commissioner; Pegi Bannan, Volleyball Commissioner. Absent: Bernie Dolan, West Virginia Board Member; Dr. Dianna Vargo, West Virginia Board Member.*





**Ohio Valley Board  
of Football Officials**

**congratulates**

**Tom 'Bear' Bechtel**

**our long-time member  
(Board secretary for 25-plus years)**

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



**Officers**

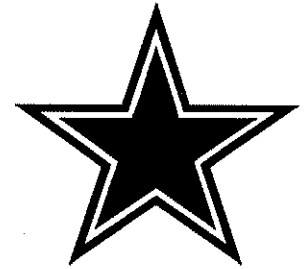
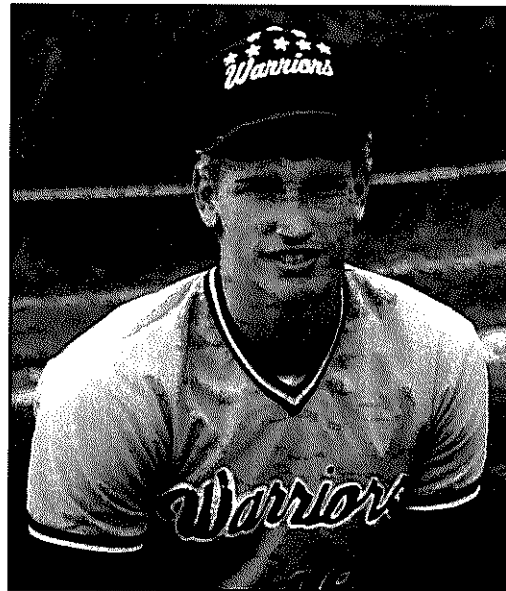
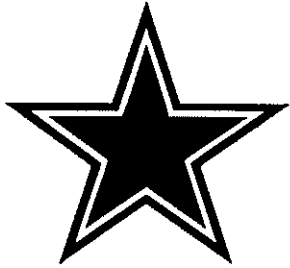
President Jeff Loeffler  
Vice-President Larry Rine  
Secretary Mike Clyde  
Treasurer Jerry Ames

**Executive Committee**

Joe Koler  
Bruce Myers  
Butch Minkemeyer

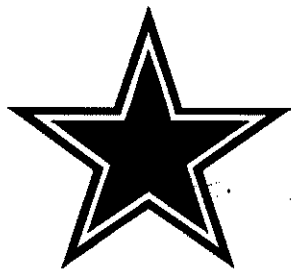


# Congrats Chris Starr!

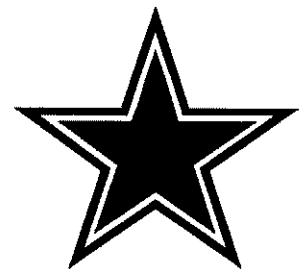


*We are very proud of you!*

## The Starr Family



Howard  
Susan  
Julie  
Dan  
Andrea  
Tiger







**The Straub Automotive Group**

**Wishes to Congratulate**

**Danny Abramowicz**

**On His Well-Deserved Induction**

**Into the OVAC Hall of Fame.**

**Best Wishes, Danny,**

**From The Entire Fato Family.**

**God Bless**

*The Martins Ferry High School  
Athletic Department*



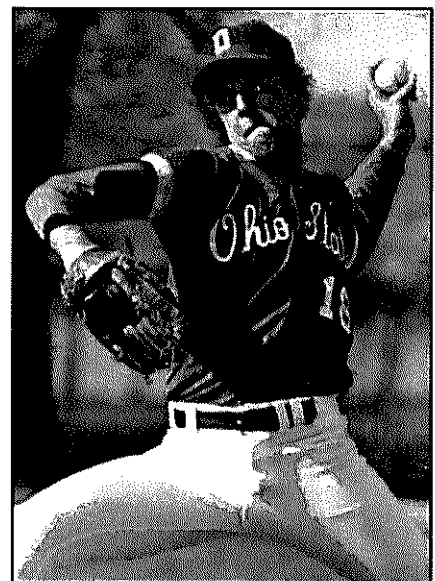
*congratulates*



*Eudie Joseph (MFHS Class of 1945)  
and  
Doug Swearingen (MFHS Class of 1979)*



Eudie Joseph



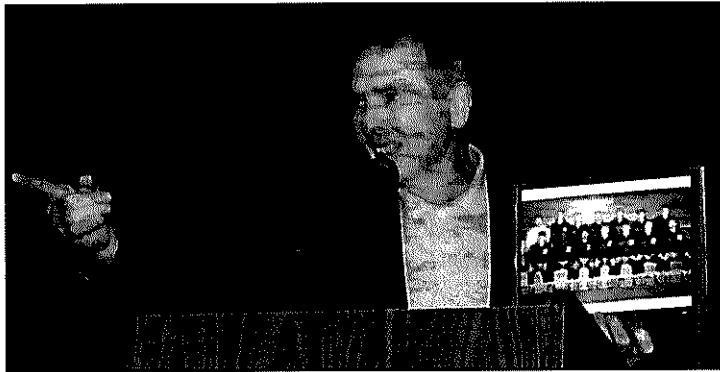
Doug Swearingen

*on their induction  
into the OVAC Hall of Fame*

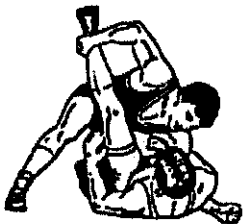


***Art Hehr***

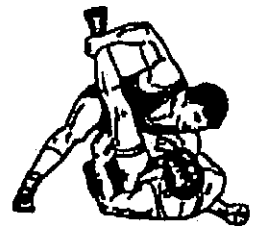
***Bridgeport  
High School  
Class of 1959***




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




**The Bridgeport High School  
Athletic Department  
*“Home of the Bulldogs”***

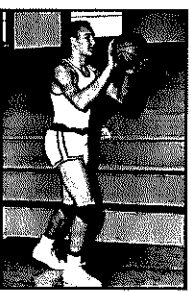


# IN MEMORY OF FLUSHING'S FINEST

 Home of **CARTER HOWELL**



- **2012 OVAC Hall of Fame**
- **1955 UPI 1<sup>st</sup> Team All Ohio**
- **Career points 1961**
- **Flushing Mayor 1988-90**



## SPONSORED BY FRIENDS & TEAMMATES:

Flushing American Legion Post 366

Charles Campanizzi, 1953, 1954, 1955 Teammate

Willie Diosi (deceased 2011) 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955 Teammate

Fred Kidd

Jake Kidd

Tom Michelli

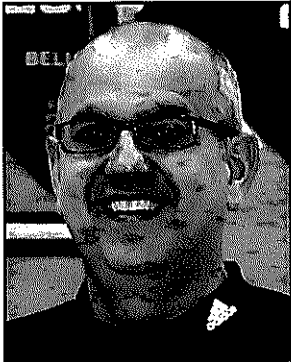
Bob Twarog

# GUERNSEY STREET GREATS

Congratulations to OVAC Hall of Famers

**Gene Ammirante and Kenny Howell**

It's been our  
pleasure to chronicle  
your accomplishments



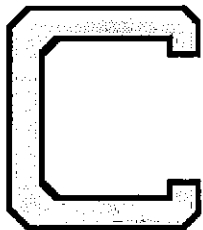
Gene Ammirante

**The Times Leader**

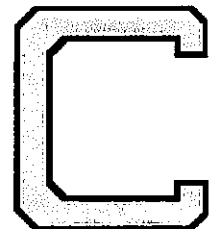
**Bubba Kapral  
Seth Staskey  
Rich Gibson  
Kim North  
Rick DeLuca**



Kenny Howell



**The  
Steubenville Catholic Central  
Athletic Boosters**



**congratulate**

**Danny Abramowicz**

**on his induction into  
the OVAC Hall of Fame  
Class of 2012**

# NEVER, NEVER, NEVER QUIT.



FROM A FAMILY'S FIRST CAMPUS VISIT TO GRADUATION DAY, THESE WORDS ECHO THROUGHOUT THE LINSLY EXPERIENCE:

**TO PERSEVERE THROUGH ADVERSITY.**

**TO SHOW GRACE IN VICTORY AND DEFEAT.**

**TO RESPECT THE OPPOSITION.**

THESE VALUES SERVE STUDENTS WELL WHILE THEY ARE AT LINSLY AND THROUGH THEIR COLLEGE AND PROFESSIONAL LIVES.

## CONGRATULATIONS 2012 OVAC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES AND LINSLY ALUMNI:

**GARY SPRAGUE  
EUDIE JOSEPH  
ALEX WELKER '77**

# The Linsly School

FORWARD AND NO RETREAT

1814

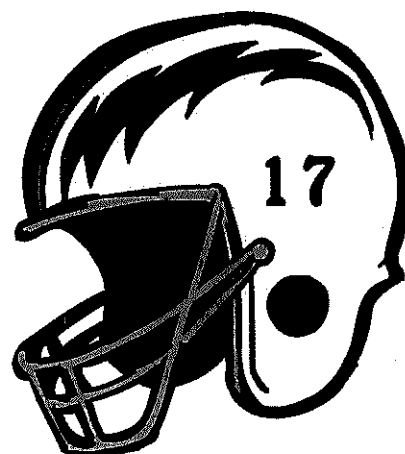
2014

*Celebrating 200 Years*

60 Knox Lane Wheeling, WV 26003 304-233-1436 [www.linsly.org](http://www.linsly.org)

**Congratulations**

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



**Love Your Proud Family:**

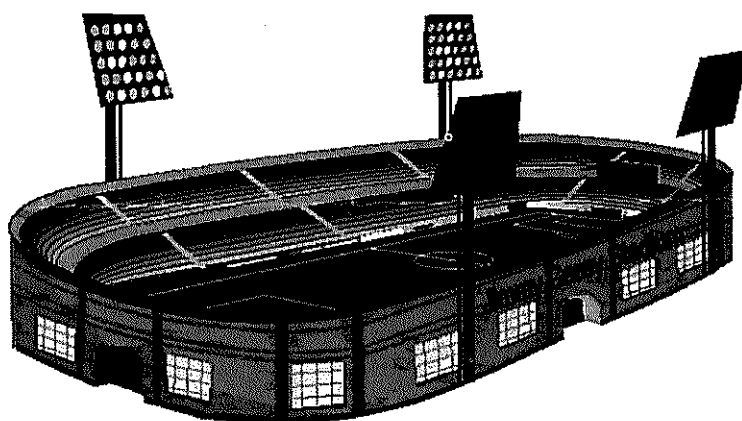
**Jodi, Kelsey, Jasmine, Jordan, Trent,  
Izaak, Don & Sandy, Jay, Lorry, Summer & Cassidy**



**Jim Carey**



**OVAC Hall of Fame Inductee**



*Congratulations. . .*

*Faculty, Staff and Administration  
WEIR High School*



**THE SAMUEL A. MUMLEY MEMORIAL BASKETBALL CLASSIC**

**CONGRATULATES OUR DIRECTOR  
TOM 'BEAR' BECHTEL**

**AND FORMER DIRECTOR  
GENE AMMIRANTE**

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

**36TH ANNUAL  
ALL-STAR  
BASKETBALL  
GAME**



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**SAMUEL A. MUMLEY MEMORIAL CLASSIC**

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**Sunday, April 7, 2013  
Ohio University Eastern Gym**

**TOM BECHTEL  
Game Director 2004-Present  
Increased Game Scholarships from \$2,000 to \$3,000**

**GENE AMMIRANTE  
Former Game Director 1982-87 - 1990-94  
Founded and Directed The OVAC Basketball Coaches Clinic  
Through the Initial Six Years 2002-2008  
Established the Annual Basketball Coaches Clinic Scholarship  
\$1,000 Awarded to the Son or Daughter of an OVAC Basketball Coach  
Named OVAC Coach of the Year 2004**

# Congratulations Coach A

26 of 30  
Winning Seasons

471-205  
Career W-L  
Record

14  
Section  
Championships

70%  
Career Winning

2  
Undeclared  
Regular Seasons

6  
District  
Championships

4  
19-Win Seasons

## Coach Gene Ammirante

2  
Regional  
Finalists

7  
20+ Win  
Seasons

Head Basketball Coach  
Bellaire High School  
1981-2011

4  
Regional  
Semi Finalists

2  
18-Win Seasons

1  
Regional  
Championship

Nearly 16  
Career Average  
Wins Per Year

14  
OVAC  
Championships

1  
State  
Final Four

15  
Top 20  
State Rankings

***Not I or Me, but Us and We***

Compliments of the  
Bellaire Athletic Department

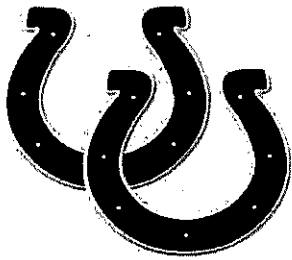
# *Congratulations*

*Catholic Central High School  
Graduate*

*Danny Abramowicz*



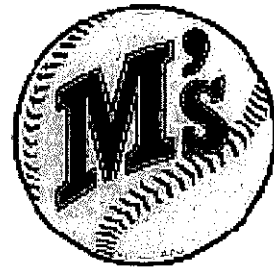
*From C. C. H. S.  
Faculty, Students & Staff*



*Purple Riders*



*Buckeyes*



*Mariners*

# *Congratulations Doug Swearingen*

*on being inducted to the OVAE Hall of Fame.  
We are very proud of you!*

*Love,  
Mom*

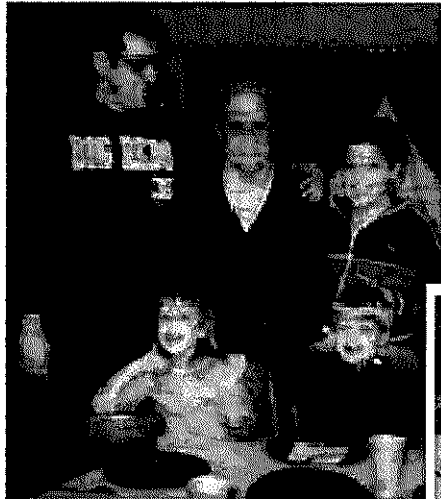
*Brother Ron and Ann, Natalie & Alyssa*

*Sister Diana and Jim, Samantha & Nikki*

*Brother Dennis and Jane, Kyle, Jameson  
Briana, Matt, Jaxon & Madelyn*

*Sister Mary and Rick, Spencer, Parker, Taylor & Emma*

*Brother Chris and Heather, Peyton & Alex*



You've taught us about life, about basketball, about family. More importantly you've taught us hard work will bring you success, there is no pain in admitting you're wrong, & that there is inherent value in saving that extra dollar. You teach us preparedness, punctuality, & tough skin when the world isn't so kind. You showed us that no matter whether you're the leading scorer, or the last person on the bench, you will be suspended for the biggest game of the year if you show up late. Crying is for when someone is sick, God comes first, and there is no one in this world that will ever come before your family. You may think we aren't listening or weren't paying attention, but we noticed. We are lucky just to know you, but we are beyond blessed to be able to call you Dad. No matter what you did or where you went, you always made us #1. We'll always be your biggest fans.

Love, Mom, Lin, Jer, Katie & Milano



*Ohio Valley Board  
of Softball Umpires*

*congratulates*

*Tom 'Bear' Bechtel*

- *Founder of OV Board*
  - *35-year member*
- *Only secretary and rules interpreter  
in board history*
- *Assigner for 33 years*

*on his induction  
into the OVAC Hall of Fame*

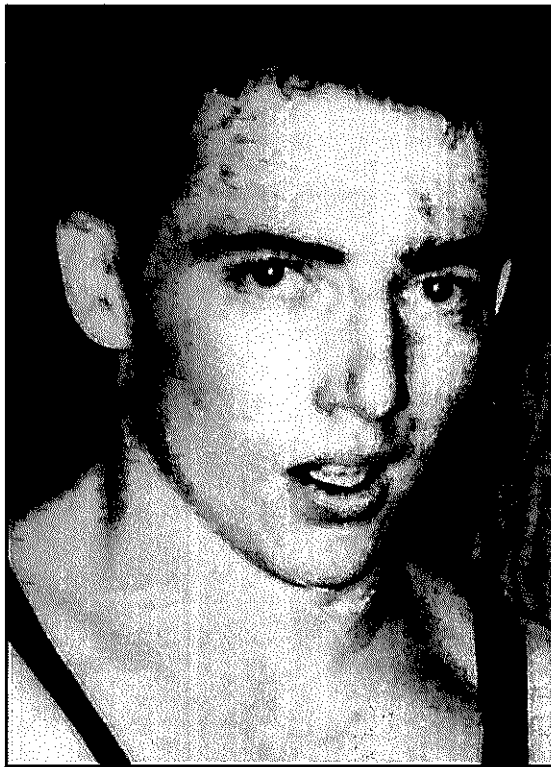




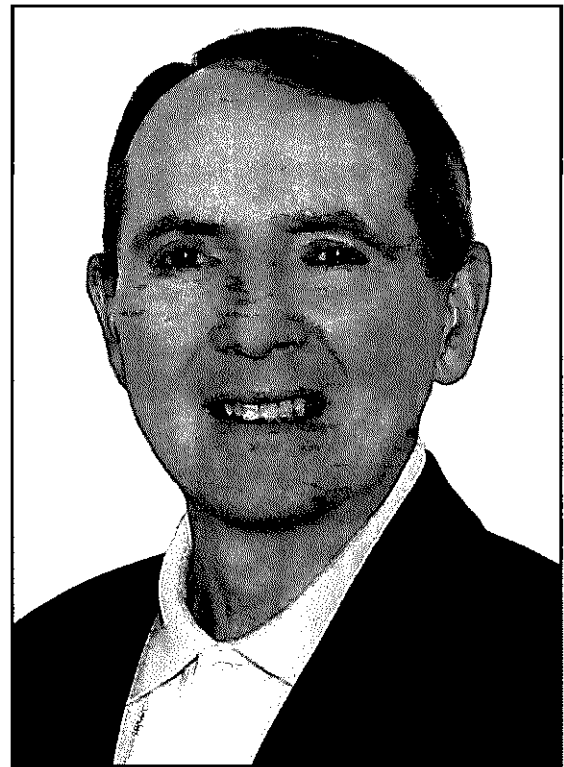
Congratulations



**Art Hehr**



Then.....

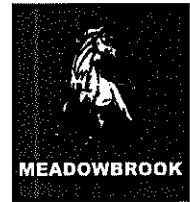
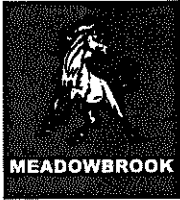


.....and Now

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

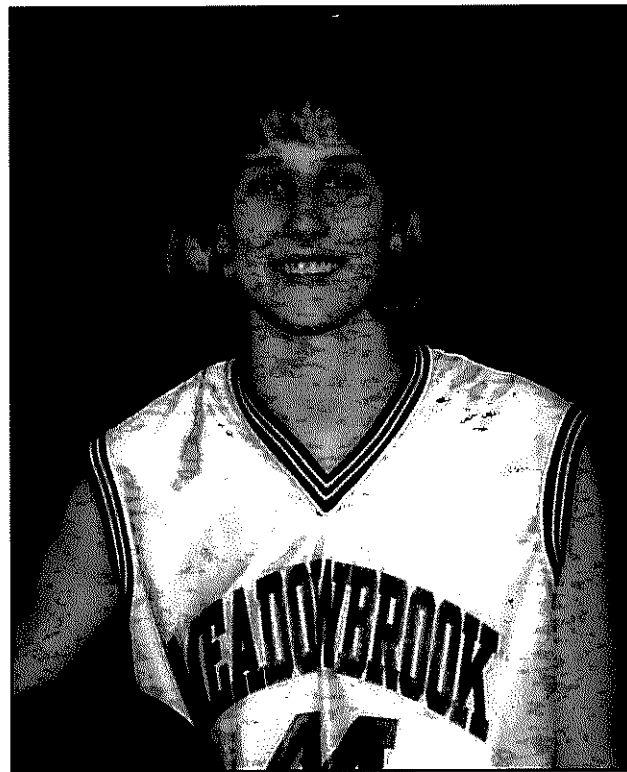






*Congratulations*

**OVAC Hall of Famer**



**Amber Ellison**  
**Meadowbrook High School**  
**Class of 1999**

**From**  
**The Meadowbrook**  
**Athletic Department**





**The Buckeye Local  
Athletic Department**

**congratulates**

**Jim George  
Smithfield Spartans  
Class of 1950**

**OVAC 'Legend'**



**Congratulations**

**Carter Howell  
Flushing High School  
Class of 1955**

**OVAC Hall of Fame  
'Legend' honoree**



*The Weir High  
Soccer Boosters*

*are proud to recognize*

*Jimmy Carey*

*on his induction  
into the 2012 OVAC  
Hall of Fame*



**Chris Starr  
1986 Buckeye Trail  
High School Graduate**

*On behalf of the East Guernsey Local  
School District, congratulations on  
your induction into the Ohio Valley  
Athletic Conference Hall of Fame.*

**Richard Hall  
Superintendent**

# A Tribute To A Local Legacy



## Charles "Red" Donley

A U.S. Marine Corps veteran of World War II, Donley was born and raised in Wellsburg, W.Va.

Charles "Red" Donley began his broadcast career at WSTV radio in 1947, first broadcasting high school football games out of the back of his station wagon.

Besides his duties at WSTV, Red was also the track announcer at the former Waterford Race Track in Chester, W.Va. Having witnessed Red's work as a great track announcer, the founder of the Pittsburgh Steelers - Art Rooney Sr. - hired him to work alongside Ray Scott to broadcast Pittsburgh Steelers football games.

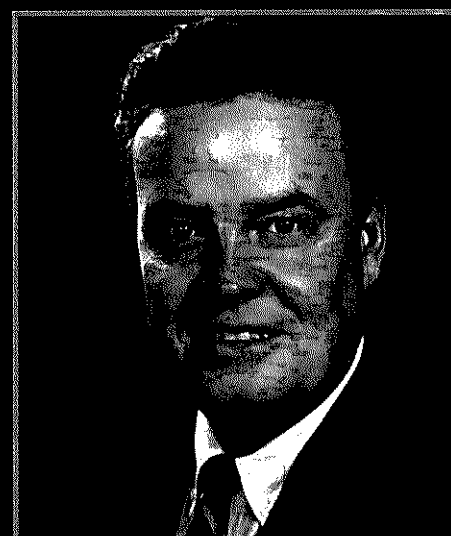
When Russ Craft Co., the owners of WSTV radio, decided to start up a television station, they turned to Red Donley to take on the duties of sports director.

In 1961, Donley's talents took him to WIIC-TV Channel 11 in Pittsburgh (now WPXI-TV). There, he became the voice of University of Pittsburgh football.

Donley also produced several award-winning sports documentaries, including a trip to Carolina, Puerto Rico, to feature major league baseball Hall of Famer Roberto Clemente.

In 1970, Red returned to Channel 9 and began an 18-year stint as the main news anchor. He retired in December 1988 after 41 years of service in the broadcast industry. Many young reporters learned their craft from him and were able to enhance their careers due to Red's tutelage.

Red Donley passed away in January 1998. After his passing, the address of WTOV-TV was changed to 9 Red Donley Plaza to honor his legacy. In 2006, the Ohio Association of Broadcasters honored Red by inducting him into the Ohio Associated Press Broadcasters Hall of Fame.

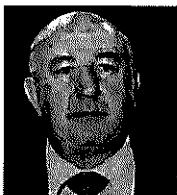


# \*NEVER FORGOTTEN\*

THANKS FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO BELLAIRE HIGH SCHOOL'S  
COACH GINE AMMIRANTE'S INDUCTION TO THE  
O.V.A.C. HALL OF FAME



**SCOTT COYNE** - Bellaire High School All-Ohio Point Guard



**COACH EARL HABERFIELD** - Basketball Coach Wheeling Central, Bishop Donahue, Wintersville, Amherst Steele, Founder of OVAC All-star Basketball Game



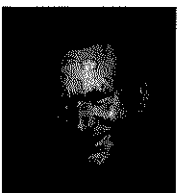
**COACH DAVE ICE** - Bellaire H.S. Assistant Basketball Coach  
TRUE MR. BIG RED



**COACH GEORGE KOVALICK** - Bellaire H.S. Football Coach  
and Athletic Director



**COACH MARK MATZ** - Bishop Donahue, Bellaire High School - Hired Coach A in 1976



**COACH DICK POTTS** - River High School Basketball Coach



**COACH SKIP PROSSER** - Linsley, Wheeling Central, Xavier Loyola (MD), Wake Forest Basketball Coach

*From the Administration, Faculty, Alumni and Friends of*



# St. JOHN CENTRAL

*Congratulations*

**Joseph C. Maroon, MD**

*SJC Class of 1958*

**Kenneth W. Howell**

*SJC Class of 2000*

*And the entire 2012 OVAC Hall of Fame Class*

**Joining**

Richard L. Boron - SJC Class of 1965; OVAC HoF 2011

Stephanie Petho - SJC Class of 1992; OVAC HoF 2004

Allan Hornyak - SJC Class of 1969; OVAC HoF 2004

***St. John Central High School***

***StJohnCentralHS.org***

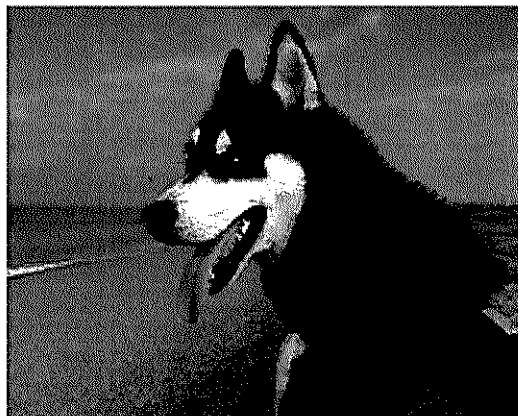
*A 125-Year Legacy of Catholic Education*

*Developing our students to be Critical Thinkers & Compassionate Leaders.*

**STRONG TRADITION**



**BRIGHT FUTURE**



**CONGRATULATIONS**  
**NEW OVAC HALL OF FAME MEMBERS**

**DENVER WILLIAMS - CADIZ HIGH SCHOOL**



**DAVE JONES - JEWETT-SCIO HIGH SCHOOL**



**HARRISON CENTRAL BOOSTERS CLUB**

# Congratulations to these Bellaire Basketball senior players who helped place Coach Gene Ammirante ("Coach A") into the OVAC Hall of Fame!

**1982**  
**Record:** 13-9  
**Seniors:** Jeff Helms, Bill Kahl, Richard Leigh, James Wesley

**1983**  
**Record:** 13-10  
**Titles:** Sectional Champion, District Semi-Finalist  
**Seniors:** Andy Bobka, Jeff Carmen, Mike Kahl, Glen Yoho

**1984**  
**Record:** 9-12  
**Seniors:** John Buddenberg, Don Giffin, Quintin Helms, Todd Weekley

**1985**  
**Record:** 18-4  
**Seniors:** Dave Feller, Jeff Frey, Todd Kinder, Scott Maffe, Mark Martin

**1986**  
**Record:** 14-7  
**Seniors:** Doug Bennington, Keith Blanchard, Bob Cam-sky, Tom Dobrovich, Eric Fijalkowski, Robey Jeffreys, Pat Meintel, David Youngblood

**1987**  
**Record:** 8-13  
**Seniors:** Ray Benesh, Billy Dodds, Jim Sabinski, Chris Stevens

**1988**  
**Record:** 16-6  
**Titles:** OVAC Champions, Sectional Champion, District Semi-Finalist  
**Seniors:** Dave Caldwell, Chris Kelly, Mark Spigarelli, Scott Thomas

**1989**  
**Record:** 19-4  
**Titles:** OVAC Champion, Sectional Champion, District Finalist  
**Seniors:** Jim Kruger, R. D. Ramsey, Che Sitton, Scott Woods

**1990**  
**Record:** 14-7  
**Titles:** OVAC Champion  
**Seniors:** Bob Arno, Bill Bell-ville, Jim Buddenberg, Ezan Ellsworth, Steve Fisher, Joe Galloway, Eric Patterson, Mar-cus Raine, C. J. Snell

**1991**  
**Record:** 20-3  
**Titles:** OVAC Champion, Sectional Champion, District Semi-Finalist  
**Seniors:** Hedy Heathering-ton, David Ice, Chris Jones, Matt Kinter, Greg Stevens

**1992**  
**Record:** 19-6  
**Titles:** Sectional Champion, District Champion, Regional Semi-Finalist  
**Seniors:** J. R. Battista, Chad Magistro, Billy Marinacci, Mike Sechrest

**1993**  
**Record:** 20-5  
**Titles:** OVAC Champion, Sectional Champion, District Champion, Regional Semi-Finalist  
**Seniors:** Mike Call, Mike Dunfee, Ben Sabinsky

**1994**  
**Record:** 21-1  
**Titles:** OVAC Champion, Undefeated Regular Season  
**Seniors:** Jay Bellville, Scott Coyne, Correy Eimer, John Farrier, Jason Tuttle

**1995**  
**Record:** 17-4  
**Titles:** OVAC Champion  
**Seniors:** Ryan Clark, Jer-emiah Johnson, Keith Pitts, Scott Pitts

**1996**  
**Record:** 20-4  
**Titles:** OVAC Champion, Sectional Champion, District Champion, Regional Finalist  
**Seniors:** Jerry Ammirante, Jose Davis, Dusty Kinder, Hutch McFeley, Bob Roth, C. J. Zerfoss

**1997**  
**Record:** 16-8  
**Titles:** OVAC Champion, Sectional Champion, District Champion, Regional Semi-Finalist  
**Seniors:** Grant Allen, Chas Call, Brian Porter, Ben Taylor

**1998**  
**Record:** 15-7  
**Seniors:** Nathan Brinker, Clint Lekanudos, Ty Masci-arelli, Richie Materkoski, J. J. Schmidli

**1999**  
**Record:** 19-2  
**Titles:** OVAC Champion  
**Seniors:** Jay Cordery, Josh Johnson, Chris Lednik, Mar-cus Pitts, Kevin Porter, Bobby West

**2000**  
**Record:** 22-2  
**Titles:** OVAC Champion, Sectional Champion, District Finalist  
**Seniors:** Tony Lekanudos, Chris Ofat, Drew Spencer, Josh Tuttle, James Watts

**2001**  
**Record:** 13-9  
**Seniors:** Don Abbuhl, Matt Materkoski, Derek Myers, P. J. Russell, Matt Sherwood, Marcus Vincent, Rich Wojn-rowski

**2002**  
**Record:** 13-9  
**Seniors:** Ben Doyle, Mark Dunfee, Corey Henry

**2003**  
**Record:** 18-5  
**Titles:** OVAC Champion, Sectional Champion, District Semi-Finalist  
**Seniors:** Scott Beveridge

**2004**  
**Record:** 22-5  
**Titles:** Sectional Champion, District Champion, Regional Champion, State Final Four Semi-Finalist  
**Seniors:** Aaron Agnew, Josh Fisher, Adam Lucci, Chris Palmer

**2005**  
**Record:** 19-6  
**Titles:** OVAC Champion, Sectional Champion, District Champion, Regional Semi-Finalist  
**Seniors:** Zach Bowman, Mikel Fisher, Jay Ofat

**2006**  
**Record:** 23-1  
**Titles:** Undefeated Regular Season, OVAC Champion, Sectional Champion, District Finalist  
**Seniors:** Andrew Bobka, Todd Coyne, Nate Davis, Jerred Ryan

**2007**  
**Record:** 12-9  
**Seniors:** Joey Fry, Jayson Keyser, Mikel Williams, Tim-my Young

**2008**  
**Record:** 4-17  
**Seniors:** Derrick Tolliver

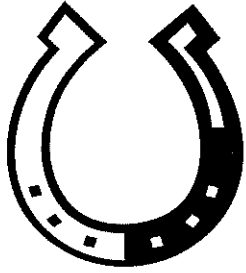
**2009**  
**Record:** 10-12  
**Seniors:** Brandon Metz

**2010**  
**Record:** 10-10  
**Seniors:** Trevor Bobka, Jake Cam-sky, Levi Crozier, Josh Lish, Kasey Tuttle

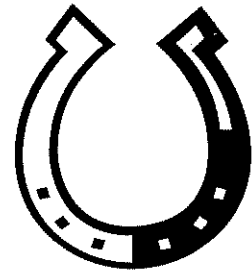
**2011**  
**Record:** 12 - 9  
**Seniors:** Trovonte' Black-man, Anthony Rocchio, Josh Tolliver



**CONGRATULATIONS**  
*Amber*



*From:*  
**LADY COLTS**

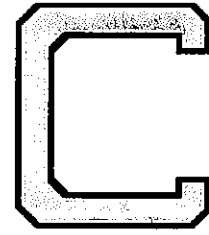
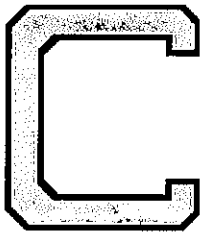


**MEADOWBROOK**

***Doug Swearingen***

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

***We are so proud of your achievement!  
Your loving family,  
Mia, DJ and Angie, Anna, Maria, Sarah***



**Congratulations**

**Danny Abramowicz**

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

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# The St. Clairsville High School Athletic Department



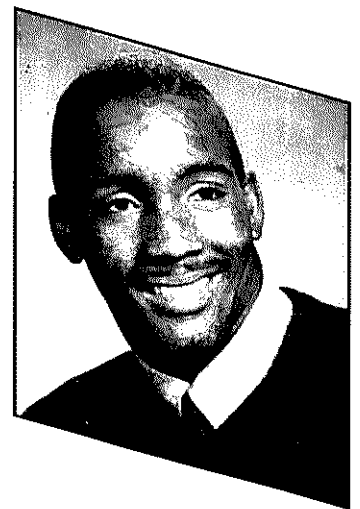
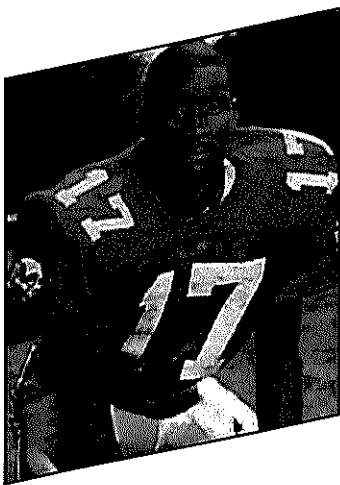
congratulates



## Shawn Vincent

(St. Clairsville High School Class of 1987)

on his induction  
into the OVAC Hall of Fame





Even then,  
we knew you were  
destined  
for great things.

CONGRATULATIONS  
to our inductee....  
Son, Brother, Uncle &  
Great Uncle....  
GENE AMMIRANTE  
“Coach A”

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

Love Always, Your family,

Nanna  
Anna & Bob  
J.R., Christine & Jeana  
Stacy, Joe & Cooper

*In Loving Memory  
Richard R. (Dickie) Kerwood*



*I had a dream last night, dear Brother;  
I dreamed that you were here.  
My heart was filled with joy, my Brother;  
Just knowing you were near.*

*We walked along together that night  
Talking about how much we've grown.  
We talked and laughed together, my Brother;  
Just sharing our love alone.*

*I awoke to find you missing, my Brother;  
It caused my heart to grieve,  
For though I know that you have gone,  
My heart will no believe.*

*The Kerwood Family*



## Locations

103 Technology Drive  
Butler, PA 16001

Greenville Medical Center  
Lower Level

90 Shenango St.  
Greenville, PA 16125

Grove City Medical Center  
647 North Broad St.  
Grove City, PA 16127

3100 Innovation Way  
Hermitage, PA 16148

UPMC Monroeville Imaging Center  
600 Oxford Drive, Suite 210  
Monroeville, PA 15146

UPMC West  
1600 Coraopolis Heights Road,  
Suite G  
Moon Township, PA 15108

UPMC Passavant  
2 Main, Suite 2096  
9100 Babcock Blvd.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

UPMC Presbyterian  
Suite 5C  
200 Lothrop St.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

3000 Stonewood Drive, Suite 300  
Wexford, PA 15090

Wheeling Hospital  
10 Medical Park  
Wheeling, WV 26003

## Tri-State Neurosurgical Associates-UPMC

Nominated as two of Pittsburgh's "Best Doctors," Matt El-Kadi, MD, PhD, FACS (left); and Joseph C. Maroon, MD, FACS (right), are board-certified in neurosurgery and provide expert spine care and surgery. They have access to UPMC Passavant and the wide range of resources of the UPMC health care network. The Tri-State Neurosurgical team performs more than 1,800 spine procedures per year. They work with pain management clinic and physical rehabilitation therapists to provide alternatives and tailor treatment plans.

Dr. El-Kadi is chief of Neurosurgery at UPMC Passavant and vice chairman and clinical professor in the Department of Neurological Surgery at UPMC. He specializes in minimally invasive spine surgery, spinal and disc disease surgery, spine tumors, image-guided surgery, and complex spinal instrumentation and fusion surgery.

Dr. Maroon is vice chairman and clinical professor in the Department of Neurological Surgery at UPMC. He has a special interest in minimally invasive spine surgery, pituitary tumor, and brain surgery; prevention and treatment of traumatic injuries to the central nervous system; and complementary approaches to inflammatory disease associated with aging. He is also the team neurosurgeon for the Pittsburgh Steelers and an advisor to the NFL on concussions.



**Chris  
Starr**

**Buckeye Trail High School**



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Swearingen**

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**Congratulations**

**Amber Ellison**

**Meadowbrook High School**



**We are so proud of you!  
Thanks for the memories.**

**Love,  
Mom, Dad, Lexi, Drew  
and Becca**

**SISTERSVILLE HIGH  
SCHOOL  
ALUMNI  
ASSOCIATION**

**Kenny Mikes  
SHS Class of '54**

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THE OVAC HALL OF  
FAME FROM YOUR  
FELLOW TIGER ALUMNI!**



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**Sports Department**

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**The OVAC Hall of Fame Class of 2012**

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**Chris Starr**

**(Buckeye Trail High School, Class of 1986)**

**and**

**Amber Ellison**

**(Meadowbrook High School, Class of 1999)**

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***Carpenters Local #3 of Wheeling  
as the Denny Magruder Distinguished Service Award  
recipient for 2012***

*This group of individuals is responsible  
for construction of the custom-made  
showcases of the OVAC Museum  
located throughout WesBanco Arena*



*Past winners of the award:  
Denny Magruder (2010)  
Bob Robinson (2011)*



**The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference  
Hall of Fame Committee is seeking  
nominations for future consideration  
for induction into the OVAC Hall of Fame**



Individuals are selected in various categories (OVAC 'Family',  
OVAC 'Contributor', Media, Coaches, Officials and Athletes)

To nominate an individual, please send detailed biographical information  
and, if possible, a photograph, to the OVAC Hall of Fame Committee,  
c/o the OVAC Office, 64962 Breezy Point Lane, Bellaire, OH, 43906.  
Information should focus heavily on high school-related accomplishments  
(statistics, all-star honors, etc.), but college/professional information is also requested.

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*The 10th annual OVAC Hall of Fame Banquet is scheduled  
on Saturday, August 17, 2013 at WesBanco Arena in Wheeling, W. Va.*



# OVAC HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2012



## Tom (Bear) Bechtel

**Tom (Bear) Bechtel** (Wheeling Central High School, Class of 1969). Commissioner, director, official...Bechtel wears many hats in the athletic realm, and he wears them well.

He is a long-time member of the OVAC Softball Committee, currently serving as the OVAC Softball Commissioner and has been Game Director of the annual Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Classic since 2005.

As an official, Bechtel has worked area high school softball, basketball and football games dating back to 1974. He founded the Ohio Valley Board of Softball Umpires, serving as secretary for 31 years; was an Ohio Valley Officials Board officer for more than 20 years; and has officiated football playoff games in Ohio and West Virginia for more than 20 years. He has worked 26 state tournaments in softball and six state championship games in football.

He also umpires softball in the West Virginia Conference.

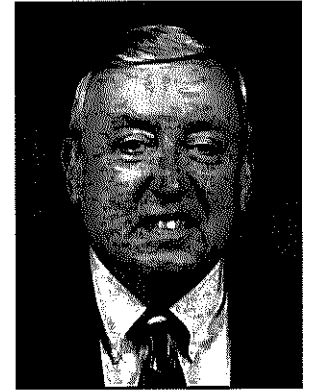
In 1990, he became the first West Virginia recipient of the National Federation of State High School Associations' Officials Award.

Bechtel has been director of the City of Wheeling Recreation Department since 1974, actively promoting various youth sports activities. He founded the Wheeling Recreation Summer Basketball League which has grown to more than 100 teams; organized the annual Wheeling Basketball Shootout which has brought numerous high profile athletes to the area; and oversees the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex which hosts more than 2,000 baseball and softball games annually.

A basketball and baseball player at Wheeling Central High, he graduated from Wheeling College in 1973 and served as an assistant basketball coach there from 1974-78.

He has served as a color analyst for WTRF-TV on football and basketball broadcasts; worked as a radio announcer for basketball games; and was the public address announcer at Wheeling Jesuit University home basketball games. He is also director of the annual Undo's Catholic Basketball Tournament in Wheeling.

Bechtel received the Robert S. McKelvey Memorial Award from the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Club in 2008.



**Tom Bechtel**

## Burdell (Jimmy) Carey



**Jimmy Carey**

**Burdell (Jimmy) Carey** (Follansbee High School, Class of 1923). He is the only coach in the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference and the state of West Virginia to win state championships in three sports – football, basketball and baseball.

Carey got his first taste of coaching with 10 years at his alma mater, Follansbee High, before moving to Weir High to assist OVAC Hall of Famer Carl Hamill and begin a 25-year Red Rider career.

Carey coached Weir to W. Va. Class AAA football titles in 1957 (11-0), 1960 (10-1) and 1961 (10-1) and his 1958 team was 9-1, losing only to eventual state champion Parkersburg. In six seasons (1956-61), his teams posted a 52-11 record and won two OVAC Class AAA championships (1957 and 1958).

In basketball, Carey coached Weir for 13 seasons (1956-68), compiling a record of 178-115. His teams made the W. Va. Class AAA title game three straight years, winning in 1963 with a record of 20-5. The 1962 team was 24-1 and the 1964 team had a 23-2 record. Overall, his Red Rider hoop teams won seven sectional titles, five regional crowns and made four state tournament appearances while also winning two OVAC championships (1962 and 1964).

In baseball, he guided Weir to five state tournament berths and the one-class W. Va. state championship in 1959 while also winning four straight OVAC titles.

Carey was selected the West Virginia All-Sport Coach of the Year in 1958. He is a member of the West Virginia Sports Hall of Fame; the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Hall of Fame and the Weir High Hall of Fame.

Weir High named its football stadium in his honor.

At Follansbee High, Carey was a multi-sport athlete who went on to play three sports (football, basketball and baseball) at George Washington University before transferring and graduating from West Liberty State College.

## Charles (Red) Donley

**Charles (Red) Donley** (Wellsburg High School, Class of 1941). An early pioneer of radio and television broadcasting in the Ohio Valley, Donley got his start at WSTV-AM radio in 1946 where he served as play-by-play announcer for high school football and basketball games and was the station's sports director.

In 1954, when WTSV-TV Channel 9 (now WTOV) went on the air, Donley became the sports director and soon thereafter, was selected to work with Joe Tucker on Pittsburgh Steelers' broadcasts, a position he held from 1955-62.

He also announced horse racing at both Wheeling Downs and Waterford Park from 1949-56.

In 1960, he left to become sports director at Channel 11 in Pittsburgh, a position he had for 10 years. During his days in Pittsburgh, Donley won five "Golden Quill" awards for distinguished news coverage, including one for a documentary he wrote and narrated on the late Art Rooney and two others (on Roberto Clemente and Pie Traynor) that are in the Baseball Hall of Fame.

In 1962, he was named to succeed legendary Ray Scott as play-by-play announcer for the University of Pittsburgh.

Donley rejoined Channel 9 in Steubenville in 1972 as news director and remained there until his retirement in 1988.

Donley received the President's Media Award from what was then the College of Steubenville in 1989; received an honorary degree from Jefferson Technical College in 1987 and an honorary baccalaureat degree from the College of Steubenville in 1989; was the recipient of the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Club's Robert S. McKelvey Award in 1991; and was inducted into the Ohio AP Broadcasters Hall of Fame in 2006.

He also participated in many charitable projects including the United Way and Easter Seals and made countless appearances as a master of ceremonies at community events. His many contributions were recognized at a testimonial dinner in his honor back in 1979:

The road leading to the current WTOV-TV9 hilltop studio in Steubenville is named "Red Donley Drive" in his honor.

A World War II veteran who served in the Marine Corps, Donley passed away in 1998.



**Red Donley**



# OVAC HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2012



## Gene Ammirante

**Gene Ammirante** (Wheeling Central Catholic High School, Class of 1969). When you think of Ammirante, you think of two things – passion and success. During his 30-year career as head boys' basketball coach at Bellaire High, "Coach A" displayed plenty of the former and achieved plenty of the latter.

Ammirante began his coaching career in 1976 as an assistant to Mark Matz at Bellaire before beginning a successful run as head coach of the Big Reds.

He compiled an impressive 471-205 career record at Bellaire, the all-time best coaching record in boys' basketball at the school. That included a 189-41 mark during the 1990s, an average of 19 wins per season during that 10-year span.

Bellaire High achieved Top 20 rankings in Ohio 15 times under Ammirante; won 14 Ohio Valley Athletic Conference championships; 14 sectional crowns; six district titles and one regional championship as Bellaire earned its first ever-trip to the OHSAA Division III State Tournament "Final Four" in 2003-04, tying the school record for wins (22) before losing to Versailles in double-overtime in the semifinals.

His teams posted two undefeated regular seasons, going 20-0 in 1993-94 and 2005-06; and two 19-1 records; and the 2005-06 team broke the school record with 23 victories.

Among Ammirante's numerous awards were "Coach of the Year" for Ohio Division II, the Eastern District and District 12 as well as the OVAC overall "Coach of the Year" in 2003-04; and the Bob Arzen Award for 20 consecutive years at the same school (1996).

He was also selected to coach the South squad in the annual Ohio North-South All-Star Game in Columbus in 1997.

He served as Game Director for the Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Classic on two different occasions and is still active on the committee; founded and directed the OVAC Basketball Clinic for six years; is director of the Wheeling Recreation Department's Youth Basketball Program; and started the annual Saturday Morning Fundamental Feeder Program and Basketball Camp at Bellaire. He received the OVAC's Earl Haberfield Boys' Basketball Coaches Award in 2012.

Ammirante received his bachelor's degree from West Liberty State College in 1973 and his master's from West Virginia University in 1976.



**Gene Ammirante**



**Gary Sprague**

## Gary Sprague

**Gary Sprague** (Needham (Mass.) High School, Class of 1964). He piloted the Linsly School baseball program from 1974-2006, compiling an impressive 33-year record of 488-257-1, which ranks fourth all-time among Ohio Valley coaches.

He led the Cadets to 13 OVAC Tournament championships - more than any other conference coach (1982, '85, '86, '87, '89, '90, '91, '94, '95, '97, 2001, '03, '05, '06) and coached Linsly to five Eastern Ohio Baseball League titles (1987, '88, '90, '95 and '96).

Sprague was named OVAC "Coach of the Year" in 1986 after guiding the Cadets to a 27-4 record and EOBL "Coach of the Year" three times.

He coached six athletes who went on to play professional sports – Heath Haynes, Ron Stephens, Kevin Tatar, Mike Coss and Mark Seaver in baseball and Willie Clay in the NFL. He also coached a total of 13 first team all-state players including two captains; five OVAC "Player of the Year" winners and four West Virginia American Legion "Player of the Year" selections.

He also coached freshman football at Linsly.

Sprague received the Carl R. Hamill Award from the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Club and was the recipient of the OVAC's Thomas E. Rataiczak Scorekeeper/Timer Award in 2009 after nearly three decades as the timer at Linsly basketball games.

Sprague graduated from West Virginia Wesleyan College in 1968.

## Bill Tonini

**Bill Tonini** (Avella (Pa.) High School, Class of 1940). "Play ball!" Considering the fact that his career as an umpire spanned an incredible seven decades, perhaps no one has uttered those words more than Tonini.

He spent a total of 52 years working countless baseball games throughout the Ohio Valley and beyond from 1957-2010 while also serving 30 years as a football official and 10 years as a basketball referee.

His expertise as an umpire, primarily behind home plate calling balls and strikes, earned Tonini numerous high school post-season assignments, including five state tournaments in Ohio and five in West Virginia. He also umpired more than 30 years of OVAC Tournament action.

Tonini worked NCAA Division III College World Series games in Marietta a total of 10 times; several NCAA Division I games involving Ohio State and Ohio University; a host of American Legion games in the summer and three years in the minor leagues, including the Northwest League in Eugene, Oregon and Walla Walla, Washington.

He also was an instructor at Bill Barr's Umpire School in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Tonini is in the Western Pennsylvania Soccer Hall of Fame and he received a special award from the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Club.

A highly-decorated World War II veteran who received commendations from both the United States and France, the 90-year old Tonini resides in Hannibal.



**Bill Tonini**



# OVAC HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2012



## Eudie Joseph

**Eugene (Eudie) Joseph** (Martins Ferry High School, Class of 1945). A three-sport All-OVAC honoree in football, basketball and track, he was a major contributor to top-record Purple Rider football and basketball teams.

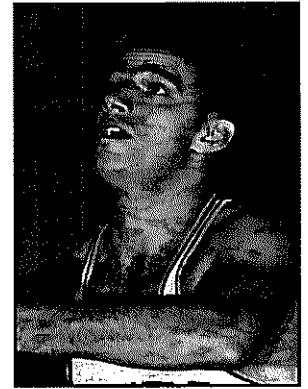
In basketball, playing for OVAC Hall of Fame Legend coach Floyd Baker, Joseph was a regular on teams which went 71-4 in three years including 21-2, with 20 straight wins, as a senior. He was a junior on a 26-1 record team which won the first OVAC Class AA title in 1944. That team lost its only game to eventual Ohio champion Middletown, 38-34, in the state tournament semifinals. Joseph, along with teammate and OVAC Hall of Famer Alex Groza, were all-tournament selections. Joseph scored 421 points — second on the team to Groza's OV record total of 628 points. As a sophomore, Joseph was a member of a 24-1 record team.

In football, he was co-captain of a 7-2-1 record team which won the first OVAC Class AA title and recorded eight shutouts. He earned All-Ohio UPI honors as well as All-OVAC and was a two-time All-Eastern Ohio selection at running back. Nicknamed the "Ghost" for his elusive style, he played on a 9-1 record team as a junior and Ferry was 22-6-1 in his three seasons.

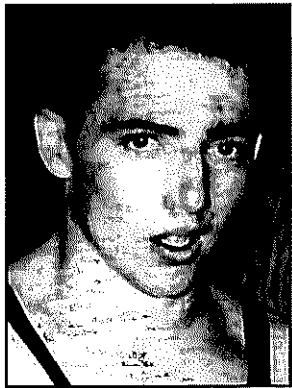
In track, Joseph set an OVAC high hurdle record in the two-year-old meet as a junior and won the high jump. He didn't compete as a senior after being drafted for military duty.

After discharge, he enrolled at the University of Dayton and played four years of basketball with three as a starter on teams with school records of 24-8, 27-5 and 28-5. The last two years, the Flyers were runners-up in the National Invitation Tournament and also were NCAA regional semifinalist in his senior year of 1952.

He spent his entire 37-year professional career teaching and coaching at Linsly Military Institute where he was head coach of boys' basketball (1953-72) and track and assistant in football and also served as athletic director. His Cadet teams won three OVAC titles — 1971 basketball and 1961-62 in track. The top court records were 16-4 in 1957, 15-4 in 1971 and 15-3 in 1972. A Linsly scholarship is named in his honor.



**Eudie Joseph**



**Art Hehr**

## Art Hehr

**Art Hehr** (Bridgeport High School, Class of 1959). He graduated as the winningest career wrestler in the OVAC, with two straight unbeaten seasons capped by Ohio titles in 1958 and 1959 after placing third in the state meet as a sophomore. He was captain of the 1959 Ohio state championship team — the first for an OVAC member, coached by OVAC Hall of Famer George Kovalick. He won his last two titles at 127 pounds after competing at 120 pounds as a sophomore. He also won three consecutive OVAC titles on conference championship teams.

He also competed in football and was a member of the Bulldogs' first-ever unbeaten season in 1958 and the first Bridgeport team to defeat rival Martins Ferry in 1956.

After serving in the U. S. Army from 1959-62, he enrolled at West Liberty State where he was a member of the West Virginia Conference title teams in 1962 and 1963, also coached by Kovalick. He was injured and couldn't compete for part of his college career.

After graduation, he coached wrestling at Wheeling College and started the wrestling program at old Skyvue High School. He also coached Martins Ferry High to an OVAC title in 1968 as well as sectional and district crowns. He served as a wrestling official from 1970-86 and as athletic director at Skyvue for 28 years and Monroe Central two years plus three years as track coach at Skyvue.

Hehr was inducted into the Bridgeport High School Sports Hall of Fame in 2011 and was the recipient of the OVAC Wrestling Coaches "Mr. Mat" award in 2012.

He resides in Woodsfield.

## Joe Maroon

**Joe Maroon** (St. John Central High School, Class of 1958). A four-year Irish letterman in football, basketball and baseball, he became the first St. John's griddier to earn first team All-Ohio football honors (as a defensive safety) and also was an All-Ohio baseball selection. A two-time All-OVAC and All-Valley football honoree, he was co-captain of the 1957 All-OV 'Big School' honor roll as a 5-foot-6, 150-pound two-way back. After earning second team All-OVAC honors as a sophomore, he helped the Irish record the school's first-ever perfect football season of 9-0 with an OVAC title as a junior under Coach Hen Healy in 1956. Then he posted major statistics in only seven games (6-1 record) in a senior season shortened by influenza.

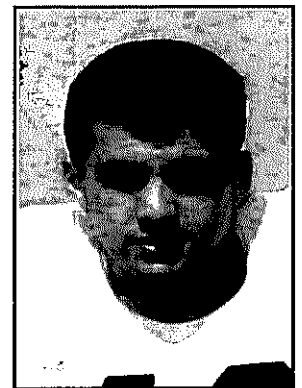
As a senior, Maroon led the Irish in scoring and rushing in the seven-game season. He led Eastern Ohio with 107 points on 17 touchdowns and five conversion runs and also completed 16 of 35 passes for eight scores. He had eight TD runs between 50-80 yards; returned four kicks for TDs with a long of 78 yards; and had four-TD games against Wheeling Central, Mingo and Barnesville. On defense, he intercepted five passes and also punted.

A three-sport Irish team co-captain, he also was selected captain of the winning Ohio team in the annual Ohio-W. Va. All-Star game. He also was awarded the Coca-Cola Scholar-Athlete Award by the OVAC.

Maroon attended Indiana University on a football scholarship and earned Academic All-America honors. He was a starting halfback in 1960 and averaged 5.3 yards a carry.

After receiving a medical degree from Indiana, he trained at Georgetown University and at Oxford University in England. Currently Vice-Chairman and Professor of Neurosurgery at the University of Pittsburgh, he is also the Team Neurosurgeon for the Pittsburgh Steelers. He also participates in numerous marathon races and triathlons. He was the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Man of the Year in 1987.

Maroon resides in the Pittsburgh area.



**Joe Maroon**



# OVAC<sup>®</sup> Hall of Fame

Saturday, August 18, 2012

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

**Invocation**.....Woody Biggs, Stop Nine Church of Christ, Byesville

**Dinner** .....

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

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

-----

**Legends of the OVAC** .....Tony Carna, Jim George, Carter Howell  
Dave Jones, Kenny Mikes

**Distinguished Service Award** .....Carpenter's Local #3

-----

## 2012 Hall of Fame Inductions

### OVAC 'Family'

Tom "Bear" Bechtel.....

### OVAC 'Contributor'

Burdell "Jimmy" Carey .....accepted by Phillip Carey

### Media

Charles "Red" Donley .....accepted by Shawn Donley

### Coaches

Gene Ammirante .....

Gary Sprague .....

### Officials

Bill Tonini .....

# Induction Ceremony

WesBanco Arena, Wheeling, W.Va.



## Athletes

Eudie Joseph .....accepted by Aimee Joseph Maher and Stephanie Joseph Wilson

Art Hehr .....

Joe Maroon .....accepted by Joey Maroon

Danny Abramowicz .....accepted by Dave Lalich

Dick Kerwood .....accepted by Mark Kerwood

Joug Swearingen .....

Alex Welker .....

Chris Starr .....

Shawn Vincent .....

Amber Ellison .....

Denver Williams .....accepted by Larry Williams

Kenny Howell .....

Benediction .....Woody Biggs, Stop Nine Church of Christ

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 2012



## Dan Abramowicz

**Dan Abramowicz** (Steubenville Catholic Central High School, Class of 1963). This glue-fingered wide receiver had to make believers out of countless doubters every step of his brilliant football career.

The Crusaders' three-sport standout was deemed too slow and too small to make it in big-time college football. After he shredded that fallacy, Abramowicz did so even more emphatically on the professional level.

After a sparkling career at Steubenville Central where he was honored as an all-OVAC and all-Ohio wide receiver, the college recruiters were nowhere to be found, turned off by his pedestrian-like 4.8 40-meter clocking. His lone college scholarship offer came from Xavier University in Cincinnati.

Abramowicz made the most of that opportunity, and went on to enjoy a record-setting stay with the Musketees. Abramowicz established a host of Xavier receiving records during a brilliant four-year career, including 120 catches for 1,685 yards and 14 touchdowns.

His prodigious numbers resulted in him being tabbed by the New Orleans Saints in the 17th and final round of the 1967 NFL Draft. That 17th round pick turned out to be a gem for the Saints.

Abramowicz carved out a pro career that many first-rounders would relish.

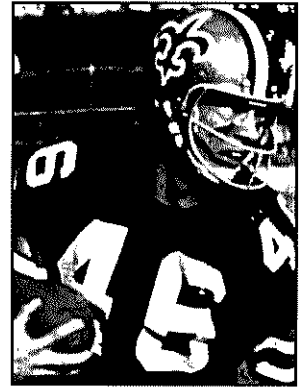
He was instant impact in "The Big Easy," landing 50 passes for 721 yards and six touchdowns as he was one of the top contenders for NFL Rookie of the Year honors.

Two seasons later, Abramowicz led the league with 73 receptions. His biggest NFL achievement, however, was setting a league record for catching a pass in 104 consecutive games, which has since been broken.

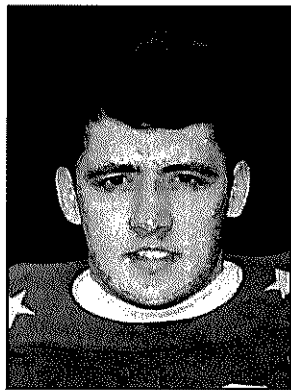
The Saints dealt Abramowicz to the San Francisco 49ers after the second game of the 1973 season for draft choices. After an adjustment period, he became a 49ers' starter the last 11 games, catching 35 passes for 442 yards and a TD.

He retired after the 1974 season, a campaign in which he grabbed 25 passes for San Francisco.

Abramowicz put up some lofty numbers during his eight-year NFL career. He caught 369 passes for 5,686 yards and 39 TDs in 111 games.



Dan Abramowicz



Dick Kerwood

## Dick Kerwood

**Richard (Dick) Kerwood** (Bishop Donahue High School, Class of 1968). Some would have viewed it as a handicap; Kerwood used it as motivation.

The Bishop Donahue star was born June 9, 1950 with just one arm. It never hindered him in life or athletics.

During his youth, he played basketball and baseball, excelling in both. He was also a pioneer in weightlifting. He bought a cast iron set of weights while in grade school and used it passionately. The visionary strength training paid handsome dividends.

As a freshman at Bishop Donahue, Kerwood played football, basketball and baseball for Coach Tom O'Connell, lettering in all three sports.

During the next three years at the McMechen-based school, he opted to concentrate on just football and basketball. It proved a prudent decision.

The powerful 6 ft. 2, 190-pounder started on the gridiron his final three seasons as a center, middle linebacker and kicker.

During that time, he was accorded all-Valley, all-OVAC and all-State honors, named captain of the first two all-star squads.

Kerwood distinguished himself so much as a senior gridder that he earned honorable mention All-American plaudits. He was also invited to play in the OVAC All-Star Football Game.

His basketball career with the Bishops also took on all-star status. Kerwood was the team's center and gained all-OVAC and all-Valley honors. He was accorded the Sportsmanship Trophy at the West Virginia State Basketball Tournament as a senior.

Kerwood's sparkling prep play afforded him several college scholarship offers in both football and basketball. He opted to play football at Salem College, earning extensive playing time as a freshman.

As fate would have it, Kerwood was tragically killed in an automobile accident shortly after his frosh grid season at Salem.

## Doug Swearingen

**Doug Swearingen** (Martins Ferry High School, Class of 1979). He was best known for his pitching prowess, but Swearingen was a multi-sport standout for the Purple Riders.

In addition to the diamond, Swearingen sparkled on the gridiron as well as the hardwood for Ferry. With that said, Swearingen remains one of the finest hurlers in Ohio Valley prep annals.

The crafty southpaw was a four-year baseball letterman for the Purple Riders. When not on the hill, Swearingen was a hard-hitting outfielder.

He was a two-time all-Valley honoree and was a first-team all-Ohio selection as a senior. There was no all-OVAC team back then.

Swearingen went 6-2 a senior, compiling a miniscule 0.74 ERA. He fanned 130 batters in 62 innings. He was equally as potent at the plate, batting a robust .412 with eight doubles, three triples, one homer and 24 RBI. He lost the ultimate heartbreaker that spring, dropping a 1-0, 10-inning district final affair to Cadiz. He struck out 20 in a route-going effort.

Such an outstanding prep career had college baseball coaches coveting the 6 ft. 2, 195-pound southpaw. He chose The Ohio State University, a decision he would not regret. Swearingen was a four-year letterman for the Buckeyes. He compiled a sparkling 23-13 career mark with a 3.80 ERA. Swearingen was a superb 9-1 as a junior, losing only to Oklahoma in the NCAA Regional. He was second-team all-Big Ten that season. Swearingen finished his Scarlet & Gray career tied for 14th place for career mound wins, ninth in innings pitched (278) and 13th in strikeouts (224). He was the team's co-captain as a senior.

He was drafted by the Seattle Mariners in the 23rd round. He pitched for four years in the minors, going 30-22 with a 3.36 ERA.

Swearingen was also a member of the 1982 U.S. National Team which participated in South Korea. He posted a 3-1 record with a 2.25 ERA as the U.S. claimed the bronze medal.

A two-year letterman in football and basketball, he was a first-team all-OVAC defensive back as a senior and was chosen to play in the OVAC All-Star Football Game, but he opted to bypass the game due to his Ohio State baseball scholarship.



Doug Swearingen





# OVAC HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2012



## Alex Welker

**Alex Welker** (The Linsly School, Class of 1977). He is the Michael Phelps of Ohio Valley swimmers. Welker splashed his way to a career like none other in OVAC swimming annals. Simply put, Welker was unbeatable.

The Linsly star never lost a race in high school, including relays, so it is only fitting that he is the first swimmer to be inducted into the OVAC Hall of Fame.

He entered Linsly as a sophomore and quickly established himself as an aquatic star. An exclamation point to his unblemished record was that he held an OVAC record in every event he competed in. He competed without ever shaving his body or tapering, methods use to lower resistance, yielding faster times.

Welker still holds school and OVAC records dating back to 1976. He earned the distinction of being named All-American as both a junior and senior.

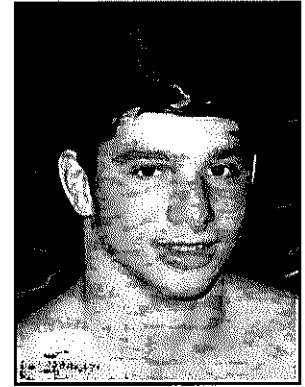
His unparalleled swimming career proved a springboard to a scholarship from The Ohio State University, and Welker found more pool success in Columbus.

He was voted the Buckeyes' Freshman Swimmer of the Year, helping the Scarlet & Gray to a runner-up finish in the Big Ten. He was a two-time NCAA qualifier while establishing five Ohio State records.

Welker, unfortunately, suffered a major shoulder injury during his sophomore season, and many thought his swimming career was over. He proved the naysayers wrong as he earned "Comeback of the Year Award" while also setting a new Ohio State record in the 200-meter freestyle as a senior.

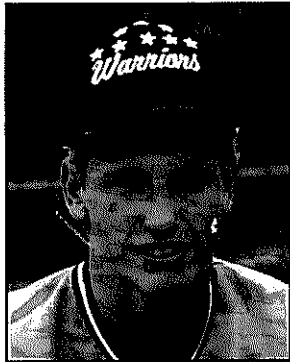
He also set numerous records during his earlier years in AAU competition.

He also earned a piece of a world record. In 1975, he was a member of a 10-swimmer team that established a world mark in the 50-mile relay in Mount Vernon, Ohio, with Welker posting the fastest split.



Alex Welker

## Chris Starr



Chris Starr

**Chris Starr** ( Buckeye Trail High School, Class of 1986). You name the sport and this former Warrior shined en route to earning 12 varsity letters and eventually a scholarship to Michigan.

While football and basketball were priorities for Starr, baseball was where he made his greatest impact.

Starr was a standout on the hill for the Warriors and earned first-team all-Ohio Class A, first-team all-Eastern District and first-team all-OVAC. He also played in the Ohio North-South All-Star Series.

During the summer months, Starr was a key contributor for the Maynard Post 666 American Legion squad which won two state titles and played in the American Legion World Series in 1986.

Starr earned a full baseball scholarship to play for the Wolverines in baseball. He played two seasons in Ann Arbor, winning a Big 10 championship in 1987. However, due to injury, Starr eventually transferred to Muskingum College where he pitched for two years, earning all-Ohio Athletic Conference honors. He had 125 strikeouts in his two seasons with an ERA of 2.81 and was named a pre-season all-American, but tore his ACL in the first game of the season.

Continuing to overcome adversity, Starr was drafted in the 16th round of the Major League Baseball Draft by the Texas Rangers in 1991. He played three seasons of professional baseball.

On the football field, Starr etched his name into Buckeye Trail history as the school's all-time leader in passing and rushing yards. He was an honorable mention all-Ohio pick, first-team all-OVAC and first-team all-Eastern District.

He was chosen to play in the OVAC All-Star Football Game, but turned it down due to Legion baseball.

During basketball season, Starr also earned all-state accolades. He was named to the third-team as well as first-team all-OVAC and all-District 12 squads. All told, he scored 770 points, averaging 12 points a game. He grabbed 367 rebounds, passed out 154 assists and shot 45 percent from the field.

He is currently a teacher and coach in the East Guernsey School District.

## Shawn Vincent

**Shawn Vincent** (St. Clairsville High School, Class of 1987). Football was the name of the game for this Red Devils' icon.

You name the way to be involved in a football game and Vincent was the leader of a team that advanced to the OHSAA Division III state semifinals before falling to Chagrin Falls Kenston, 22-21.

Vincent triggered the Red Devils' attack at the quarterback spot, setting an Ohio Valley record for rushing yards from the position at 1,360 yards in 13 games. He also scored 150 points for a Red Devil squad which won the OVAC Class 3-A title. During the regular season, Vincent averaged 10.1 yards a carry and scored 20 touchdowns.

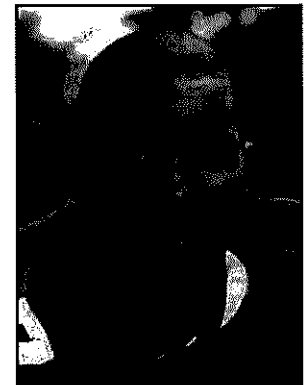
Vincent passed for 441 yards and four touchdowns during his senior campaign. All told, he scored 24 touchdowns. He was also a weapon as a punt and kick returner, accumulating 638 yards and three scores. On the defensive side of the ball, Vincent roamed in the secondary and had seven interceptions.

For his season, Vincent was an all-OVAC, all-Ohio and all-Valley selection.

Upon his graduation, he accepted a scholarship to play defensive back at the University of Akron. He started for the Zips for three seasons and in 1988 shared the top sophomore award. He still holds the school record with 265 interception return yards and his 13 career interceptions rank second in the Akron record book.

Vincent then signed a free-agent contract with the Pittsburgh Steelers, playing 10 games in 1991 and recording two interceptions.

Aside from his football prowess, Vincent lettered in basketball and track and field for the Red Devils. He was the track most valuable athlete and still holds the school long-jump record.



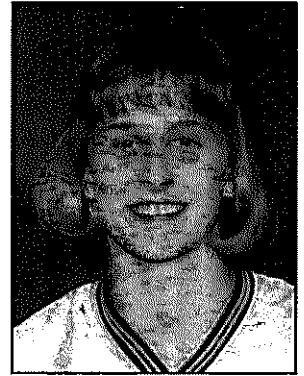
Shawn Vincent



# OVAC HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2012



## Amber Ellison



**Amber Ellison**

**Amber Ellison** (Meadowbrook High School, Class of 1999) . The Lady Colts' basketball program is one of the most storied in the Ohio Valley and Ellison is a major reason why.

Ellison was a four-year letterwinner for the Lady Colts, twice earning first-team all-Ohio accolades en route to her honors and eventual basketball scholarship to Wheeling Jesuit University.

She's currently Meadowbrook's second all-time girls' leader in points (1,363) and rebounds (850) and the all-time leader in steals (506) and assists (472). Ellison also holds the Meadowbrook single-game record for 44 points, which she netted as a senior against John Marshall.

During that senior season, Ellison averaged 24.1 points and 14.6 rebounds per game en route to every first-team award imaginable. She was first-team all-Ohio in Division II, Eastern District Player of the Year; All-District 12; Player of the year in the East Central Ohio League and first-team all-OVAC. She was also chosen for the Ohio North-South and OVAC All-Star games.

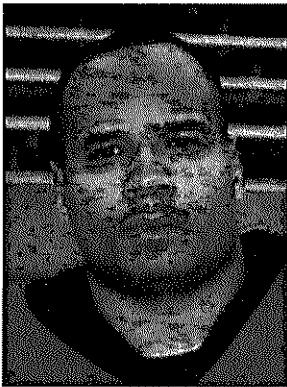
As a junior, Ellison poured in 19 points, grabbed 10 rebounds, passed out 5.7 assists and snared 5.5 steals per game en route to first-team all-everything. She was also named honorable mention all-USA Today.

If basketball wasn't enough, Ellison is also one of the finest softball players to ever wear a Lady Colts' uniform. She batted better than .400 every year of her career. Ellison was a three-time all-Ohio softball selection and four-time all-district pick. She was player of the year, as a sophomore, in the ECOL after batting .506 with seven home runs, seven triples and 37 RBI.

At Wheeling Jesuit, Ellison scored 1,273 career points, grabbed 521 rebounds, passed out 389 assists and made 218 steals, and for good measure, she blocked 42 shots. As a four-year letterwinner, she was a two-year captain for the Lady Cardinals and was twice named to the all-WVIAC squad.

After her playing career at Jesuit, Ellison accepted a coaching position at Shenandoah where she served as an assistant for a season before ascending to the head coaching job. She was with the Lady Zeps for three seasons, posting a 54-17 record while reaching three district tournaments. She also had brief coaching stints at Franklin Heights and Olentangy Orange.

## Denver Williams



**Denver Williams**

**Denver Williams** (Cadiz High School, Class of 1996). When it comes to speed, there have been very few, if any, faster than Williams.

Regardless if it was on the track or on the football field, Williams was consistently running away from the opposition.

Williams was a four-year regular in both track and football for the Cardinals. On the oval, Williams wrote his name into Ohio Valley history in both the 100-meter and 200-meter dashes.

He wasted little time in making a name for himself. He won the Division III state 200-meter dash title as a freshman in 1993. He proceeded to win three more, making him one of just five athletes in state history to win the same event four straight years.

Williams didn't stop with the 200 titles. He added the Division III 100-meter crown to his resume in both his junior and senior seasons. Williams ran his personal-best times of 10.55 and 21.50 to win the gold medals as a senior, and both still stand as all-time OHSAA and Ohio Valley records.

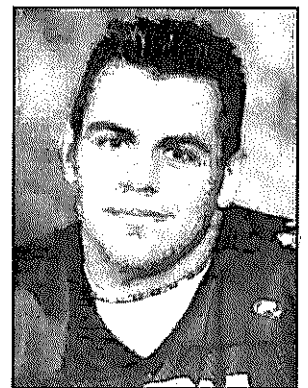
On the football field, Williams also sparkled, earning first-team all-Ohio and all-Eastern District twice. He owns the Cadiz school record for career rushing yards with 4,479.

After his prep career, Williams accepted a football scholarship to the University of Kentucky where he also ran track. He red-shirted as a freshman and then transferred to Youngstown State where he helped the Penguins win the NCAA Division I-AA National Championship. All told, he lettered four years at YSU in football and three in track.

For the Penguins' track team, Williams was the 200-meter runner-up in the Mid-Continent Conference and was apart of school records in the indoor 4x400 and sprint medley.

Williams has now entered the coaching field. He's spent time at Ashland, Ohio Northern and Heidelberg. Currently, he's working as a football coach and track coach at Trinity College in Hartford, Conn.

## Kenny Howell



**Kenny Howell**

**Kenny Howell** (St. John Central High School, Class of 2000). It didn't matter the season or the sport for this former Irish standout.

However, it was in track and field where Howell made his greatest impact despite only participating in the sport for three years because he played baseball as a freshman.

After being encouraged to give track and field a try, Howell became the area's most decorated male thrower, shining in the discus and shot put.

Howell was a three-time all-Ohioan in the discus. He placed third in the state his first season in the circle and then captured the coveted Division III state championship in 1999. As a senior, Howell was undefeated until the state meet when he settled for silver despite a personal-best throw of 180 feet. That mark still stands as the best in Ohio Valley history. Along with his efforts in the state competition, Howell was a three-time OVAC Champion in the platter event.

Howell placed fifth in the state shot put competition as a senior and was a two-time OVAC champion in the iron-ball event.

Howell also ran on high quality sprint relay teams for the Irish.

On the football field, Howell etched his name into St. John Central history book as a three-year starter for squads which combined for a 25-6 record and qualified for the playoffs in 1999 after a 9-1 season.

Howell was the primary running back for the Irish, amassing 1,500 yards as a junior en route to second-team all-Ohio status. He was first-team all-stater as a senior when he ran for better than 1,300 yards and was twice named to the OVAC's first team.

Howell was also a three-year starter for the Irish basketball program.

After high school, Howell accepted a track scholarship to West Virginia University, but eventually transferred to The Ohio State University where he completed his career and degree. He now resides in Columbus and works in the construction business.



# LEGENDS OF OVAC SCHOOLS - 2012



**Tony  
Carna**



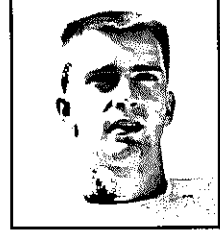
**Jim  
George**



**Carter  
Howell**



**Dave  
Jones**



**Kenny  
Mikes**

*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.*

**Tony Carna** (Caldwell High School, Class of 1987). He is one of only four boys to win three Ohio cross country championships and led the start of the most successful team program in state history. He captured individual Class A titles from 1984-86 and had a winning senior time of 15:44.2. The Redskins started a record run of eight straight state team titles, with Carna the main cog in the first two crowns of 1985 and 1986. The 1986 team went unbeaten with a 137-0 mark and was ranked No. 1 in the nation by The Harrier publication, with Carna as an All-American selection.

He was a nine-time All-Ohio in cross country and track, claiming two Ohio state crowns — the 1,600-meters as a junior and 3,200-meters as senior. His personal best times were 4:18 at 1,600; 8:38 at 3,000; 9:18 at 3,200; and 15:12 at 5,000 meters. He also set a national meet record in the 5,000-meter run in the 15-16 age group at The Athletics Congress (TAC) Junior Olympics in 1985.

Carna earned a scholarship to the University of Michigan where he won eight varsity letters in track and cross country and was an All-Big Ten and All-America honoree. He led the Wolverines to sixth place in the 1991 NCAA Division I National Cross Country Meet, where he finished 21st in individual competition. He resides in Jersey City, New Jersey.

**Jim George** (Smithfield High School, Class of 1950). A three-sport Spartan, he was a 190-pound fullback-tackle-end who was selected to the first All-Ohio Associated Press Class B team in 1949 and also was an All-Ohio Class B honorable mention basketball honoree as well as a baseball standout. The two-time All-Eastern Ohio football player led the Spartans to a school record 22-game win streak with a 22-1-1 record from 1947-48 including unbeaten seasons in 1947-48. As a senior, the Spartans opened the season with a 40-6 victory over the Massillon reserve team before playing their regular varsity schedule. He also started for the winning Ohio team in the 1950 Ohio-West Virginia All-Star Game.

In basketball, he led the Spartans to a 22-3 record — second best in school history — and the Jefferson County title. He accepted a football scholarship to Syracuse University, where he was a three-year letterman and regular for the Orangemen. He became the only Smithfield product drafted by the National Football League when he was selected by the Detroit Lions. He opted to join the Air Force.

**Carter Howell** (Flushing High School, Class of 1955). The 6-foot-5 center led the Orioles to the two best seasons (43-3 combined record) in school history, including an unbeaten regular season in 1954 and an overall 21-2 mark in 1955. A four-year starter, he scored 905 points — second most in area history at the time — as a senior for a then Ohio Valley record 39.3 points per game norm after sporting a 40.2 average in regular season. He scored 74 points against New Athens — second best in Ohio Valley history at the time — and also had games of 58 and 55 points. In the 118-52 rout of New Athens, he hit 26 of 37 goals and 22 of 30 free throws.

A two-time All-Eastern Ohio selection, he also was honored on the 1955 five-player first team All-Ohio Class B selections by the three major wire services. The four-year basketball regular ended his career with what was then a Belmont County record 1,961 points including 905 and 513 his last two seasons.

Howell, who also played on the Orioles' six-man football team and baseball team, enrolled at West Virginia State before joining the armed services. He returned to Flushing where he served as mayor for two years before passing away in 1990.

**Dave Jones** (Jewett-Scio High School, Class of 1981). The 6-foot-2 basketball guard led the Ohio Valley in scoring his last two seasons with averages of 33.6 and 32.1 points and he scored a Harrison County record 1,885 career points. He had a game high 50 points twice and averaged 12 rebounds a game as a senior.

A two-time first team All-Valley captain, he was Ohio Class A player of the Year and first team All-Ohio as a senior and second team as a junior. His basketball jersey was retired by the school and is displayed in the Scio Museum. In 1982, he was selected to the All-Time Ohio Valley Post-1950 Team by The Intelligencer newspaper.

A three-sport, 11-letter winner, he was an All-Valley selection at end as a junior when he led the "Small Schools" with 51 receptions for 766 yards. In track, he cleared 6-foot-7 as a high jumper.

Jones accepted a basketball scholarship to Ohio State where he was a four-year letterman and one of three seniors featured on the cover of the 1984-85 OSU Media Guide. He was a full-time starter as a senior and part-time regular as a junior.

He resides in Manhattan Beach, Calif.

**Ken Mikes** (Sistersville High School, Class of 1954). The only Tiger to earn all-state recognition in football, basketball and baseball, he led the 1953 football team to a 10-0-1 record and the first state title (Class B) in school history. Playing for OVAC Hall of Fame coach George Strager, he starred in the 27-12 state title game victory over Romney. He was selected first team Class B All-State as well as co-captain of the All-Valley "Small School" team. He also started for West Virginia's winning team over Ohio in the annual Ohio-West Virginia All-Star Game. He was accorded National All-American High School Team honors.

In basketball, he led the Tigers to a 22-2 record as a senior, the school's best mark at the time, and he scored 582 points for a 23-point average. He had a game high of 44 points against Pine Grove. Mikes was selected the state Player of the Year at the Tri-State Independent Basketball Tournament in Sistersville.

In baseball, he was a pitcher-shortstop and helped the Tigers to their first ever one-class sectional championship. Recruited by numerous major colleges for football, he enrolled at Purdue and was a three-year letterman and two-year regular as a two-way back and punter. He led The Big Ten in punting as a senior and was fourth in the nation with a 41.2-yard average. He was featured in Sports Illustrated for a major role in Purdue's upset of No. 1 ranked Michigan State, 20-13 in 1957, and is also featured in a book entitled "The Greatest Moments in Purdue Football History."

Mikes played on the winning (21-20) North team in the North-South Shrine All-Star Game. He declined offers to try out for NFL teams and served in the armed forces. He resides in Parkersburg.

Lapel Pins Courtesy of

# **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.”***



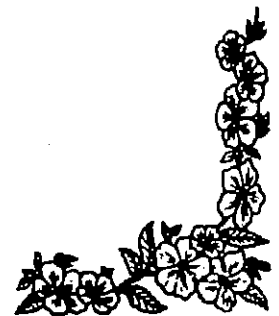
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# MINIMUM ENTRY LEVELS FOR OVAC HALL OF FAME



**1. MINIMUM ENTRY LEVEL REQUIREMENTS FOR COACHES:**

Cannot be inducted until you have been retired or are deceased  
Only wins achieved at OVAC schools counts in totals  
Wins/titles can be in boys and girls combined, but must be in the same sport.

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

**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





# OVAC Hall of Fame

## Gallery of Previous Inductees



Ken Alessi (Class of 2004)  
Tim Anderson (Class of 2009)  
Sam Andy (Class of 2007)  
Wendy Baker (Class of 2006)  
Ashley Battle (Class of 2011)  
Frank Baxter (Class of 2010)  
Nick Bedway (Class of 2007)  
Joanna Bernabei (Class of 2010)  
Paul 'Bud' Billiard (Class of 2006)  
Rick Boron (Class of 2011)  
David Bosley (Class of 2009)  
Less Browne (Class of 2010)  
Fred Bruney (Class of 2010)  
Ed Burgy (Class of 2006)  
Bob Burton (Class of 2005)  
Gene Cattane (Class of 2007)  
Mark Cisar (Class of 2008)  
Willie Clay (Class of 2011)  
Plennie Clutter (Class of 2011)  
Marty Coyne (Class of 2009)  
John Craig (Class of 2008)  
Suzie Dailer (Class of 2008)  
Harold 'Doc' Daugherty (Class of 2009)  
Bill Davies (Class of 2010)  
Dee Davis (Class of 2005)  
Jose Davis (Class of 2007)  
Mike Dawson (Class of 2009)  
C.R. (Dick) Dei (Class of 2011)  
Rick DeLuca (Class of 2010)  
Randy Donahue (Class of 2011)  
Doug Donley (Class of 2004)  
Bobby Douglas (Class of 2004)  
Connie Doult (Class of 2008)  
Larry Duck (Class of 2010)  
Richard 'Dick' Edge (Class of 2009)  
Chris Enochs (Class of 2007)  
John 'Fuzzy' Filliez (Class of 2005)  
Don Fleming (Class of 2007)  
Gene Ford (Class of 2009)  
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)  
John 'Streaky' Haloszka (Class of 2010)  
Melissa Hammond (Class of 2010)  
Jim Hanna (Class of 2009)  
Mitch Hannahs (Class of 2004)  
T.J. Hannig (Class of 2011)  
John Havlicek (Class of 2004)  
Bob Hedmond (Class of 2008)  
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)  
Bob Jeter (Class of 2011)  
Bill Jobko (Class of 2009)  
Henry Josefezyk (Class of 2010)  
Donna Joseph (Class of 2007)  
Tom Keane (Class of 2008)  
Charlie Keenan (Class of 2009)  
Bob Kettlewell (Class of 2008)  
John Kirker (Class of 2011)  
George Kovalick (Class of 2004)  
Mike Kovalick (Class of 2008)  
Bob Kelley (Class of 2007)  
Bill Kennedy (Class of 2008)  
Earl Klevins (Class of 2007)  
Henry 'Hank' Lazasz (Class of 2009)  
John Leon (Class of 2007)  
Edgar Martin (Class of 2011)  
Ron Mauck (Class of 2006)  
Bill Mazeroski (Class of 2004)  
Bo McConaughy (Class of 2007)  
Jim McCormick (Class of 2011)  
Lance Mehl (Class of 2005)  
Craig Miller (Class of 2011)  
Dick Miller (Class of 2005)  
Pat Miller (Class of 2011)  
Dr. Vince Monseau (Class of 2009)  
Tim Moxley (Class of 2009)  
Nick Mumley (Class of 2008)  
Rudy Mumley (Class of 2005)  
Samuel A. Mumley (Class of 2004)  
A. Wilson Murrary (Class of 2004)  
Boyd Nelson (Class of 2006)  
Joe Niekro (Class of 2010)  
Phil Niekro (Class of 2006)  
Bill Paolisso (Class of 2009)  
Lee Patrone (Class of 2006)  
Stephanie Petho (Class of 2004)  
Jay Peterson (Class of 2008)  
Joe Pettini (Class of 2008)  
Charles E. Petty (Class of 2011)  
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)  
Bob Rieves (Class of 2008)  
Kyle Rose (Class of 2010)  
Larry Shaw (Class of 2011)  
Mike Sherwood (Class of 2005)  
Bruce Smith (Class of 2006)  
Jeff Snedegar (Class of 2006)  
Terry Snively (Class of 2005)  
John Sorrenti (Class of 2009)  
Tim Spencer (Class of 2004)  
John Stephenson (Class of 2010)  
Jimmy Stewart (Class of 2008)  
George Strager (Class of 2005)  
Don Sutherin (Class of 2010)  
Dennis Swearingen (Class of 2006)  
Jeff Sweitzer (Class of 2010)  
Brian Swisher (Class of 2005)  
Bill Thomas (Class of 2008)  
Mark Thompson (Class of 2009)  
Richard (Dick) Thurnes (Class of 2011)  
Agnes Timmons (Class of 2005)  
Bill Van Horne (Class of 2004)  
Sharon Vincent (Class of 2011)  
John Vrotsos (Class of 2005)  
Charles 'Chuck' Watt (Class of 2010)  
Billy West (Class of 2006)  
Ron 'Fritz' Williams (Class of 2004)  
Harry Wilson (Class of 2006)  
Quincy Wilson (Class of 2011)  
Otis Winston (Class of 2009)  
Mike Wright (Class of 2010)  
Tom Yakubowski (Class of 2008)



# PREVIOUS OVAC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



## Class of 2004

### OVAC Hall of Fame

Sponsored by Robinson Auto Group

#### 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.

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.

#### 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 Lincolns 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 Excess, was a member of the St. Clairsville Board of Education and a special liaison for the Mental Retardation Board and School of Hope.

#### Bill Van Horne (Media)



Bill Van Horne (Martins Ferry High School), was the dean of Ohio Valley 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.

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

Numerous awards and honors were bestowed on Van Horne. The Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Club named him Man of the Year in 1993; he was selected as the West Virginia Sportswriter of the Year three times; received the Gene Morehouse Memorial Award for contributions in sportswriting throughout the Mountain State; and he was inducted into numerous halls of fame. Among those were the Wheeling Hall of Fame; the Lou Holtz Upper Ohio Valley Hall of Fame; Ohio Baseball Hall of Fame; Minor League Pro Football Hall of Fame and the Wheeling-Oglebay Tennis Club Hall of Fame. He served as president of the West Virginia Sports Writers Association and was a member of the Football Writers of America. Bill was the first 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 Clarity Football All-Star Classic, along with compiling standings for the football and basketball championship races. He also served on a media relations committee for the bi-state league.

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

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

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

#### Richard L. 'Dick' Potts (Coaches)



Richard L. "Dick" Potts finished his career as the Ohio Valley's all-time winningest basketball coach with 589 career victories.

Inducted into the Ohio High School Hall of Fame in 1983 by the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association, Potts coached a total of 40 seasons, all of which were spent in Monroe County. He began in 1951 at Bethel High School. His 1957 Blackhawk came out of the Monroe County hills at tournament time and advanced all the way to the Ohio Class A state finals where they lost by a single point. At the time the school had just 13 boys in grades nine through 12 and all but one of the male students was on the basketball team.

In seven years at Bethel, his teams won more than 20 games five times, including the 27-2 miracle team that played in the state tournament.

When the school was taken into the Skyvue consolidation after the '58 campaign, Potts was named coach of the Golden Hawks where he spent four years before moving on to River High in 1963. He remained at the Pilots' helm through the 1991 season.

The former Hannibal High School athlete was named in 1981 as the recipient of the prestigious Ohio Paul Walker Award, given in memory of Jerry Lucas' high school coach at Middletown, Ohio. Walker was the Buckeye State's all-time winningest coach.

The navy veteran, Potts was the first OVAC coach to reach the 500-win plateau in basketball, reaching that goal with a win over Monroe County rival Woodsfield in 1983.

Considered a master strategist and teacher of the game, Potts may have been at his best during critical situations in post-season play. His teams won seven overtime tournament games, including a nine-OT win achieved by River against Morgan in Class AA sectional play.

#### Jim Foti (Coaches)



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

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

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

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

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

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

#### Evan Reese (Officials)



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

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

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

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





# PREVIOUS OVAC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

## A. Wilson Murray (Official)



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

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

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

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

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

## Ken Alessi (Athlete - 1940s)



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## John Havlicek (Athlete - 1950s)



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Bill Mazerowski (Athlete - 1950s)



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Bobby Douglas (Athlete - 1960s)



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

An All-OVAC football player and the conference Class AA captain as a 140-pound running back in 1960, Douglas also was 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 (1953). 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-296 free throws.

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

He scored at least 50 points in a game 14 times and ended his 80-game career with a then OVAC record 2,385 points. The Irish won back-to-back OVAC Class AA basketball titles including a 20-2 overall record in 1969.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

## Doug Donley (Athlete - 1970s)



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

On the gridiron, Donley was a three-year letterman at running back for the Bobcats, finishing with a career total of 2,572 rushing yards. He also had 226 yards receiving and 1,028 yards in kick returns for a career all-purpose yardage total of 3,826 yards to go with 31 TDs.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# PREVIOUS OVAC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

## Chuck Howley (Athlete - 1950s)



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

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

He was an NFL first-round draft choice (1958) of the Chicago Bears — only the third Mountaineer selected in the opening round. He played a year and a half in Chicago before being sidelined by a serious knee injury. Howley was back home in Wheeling working at a gas station in 1961 when the expansion Dallas Cowboys traded two draft picks for him. The ex-Bear decided to give it one more try and wound up starting at outside linebacker 12 years for the Cowboys, earning all-pro laurels six times. He started in two Super Bowls. The 1971 game saw Howley intercept two passes and recover a fumble to earn MVP honors in a 16-13 loss to the Baltimore Colts. He remains the only player on a losing team to be selected as the Super Bowl's most valuable player. In 1972, he helped the Cowboys win Super Bowl VI over the Miami Dolphins by intercepting a Bob Griese pass to set up a touchdown.

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

## Dick Miller (Athlete - 1950s)



**Dick Miller** (Wheeling Central Catholic High School, Class 1952) was a first-team all-state and all-OVAC performer in basketball three straight years while performing for the Maroon Knights. Miller led Central Catholic to the conference and West Virginia Catholic championships all three seasons, scoring 1,593 points during a stellar high school career. His three-year scoring average was 21.4 points per game. His career point total stood for 51 years until it was 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 two a senior and the Phillips Oilers in the National Industrial Basketball League and one season in the Tidewater Basketball Association where he averaged 22 points per game and was voted the league's MVP for the 1962-63 season.

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

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

## Mike Sherwood (Athlete - 1960s)



**Mike Sherwood** (Bellaire High School, Class of 1967). This soft-spoken athletic great 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 coach Don Auti. It remains arguably one of the best prep grid teams in Ohio Valley history. Sherwood led the OVAC with 20 TD passes that fall as he completed 73 of 110 passes for a 66.4 percentage and amassed more than 1,400 yards with only four interceptions.

He was just as impressive on the hardwood for legendary coach Claire Cribbs. The sweet-shooting 6-1 guard was a two-year starter for the Big Reds and surpassed the 1,000-point plateau while earning All-Ohio honors. He averaged 25.3 points a game in leading the Big Reds to a 17-4 record. As a junior, he averaged 25 points per game. He poured in a career-high, and school-record, 59 points against Guemsey 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 2,800 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 Auti. 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 55 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 was also 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 first team All-OVAC as a junior and senior.

Springtime at Powhatan saw Snively do double duty, starting in baseball and track. He was a talented pitcher and outfielder in the diamond sport for four years. He helped the Indians to a pair of Ohio state tournament berths, including winning the state Class A crown in his freshman season when he batted .313 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 10-0 and won an OVAC title while his teams made the Ohio playoffs in 1993 and 1997. Snively coached in the OVAC All-Star Game twice while also coaching the Ohio North-South Game in 1994. In 2004, Snively received the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Carl Hamill Award.

## John 'Fuzzy' Filliez (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 runner-up 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" runner-up 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 for the Kennedy Award as state player of the year and was accorded the Hunt Award as state Lineman of the Year.

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

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

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

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

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

Swisher currently resides in Lewis Center, Ohio.

# PREVIOUS OVAC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

## Joey Galloway (Athlete - 1990s)



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

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

Galloway rewrote the Ohio Valley record books for pass receiving yards with 2,332 and touchdown receptions with 27. He ended with 108 career catches. The 5-9 explosive 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 3 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 Amunireau. 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 Bulld then took his amazing athletic skills to Columbus, starring for John Cooper on the gridiron. He was honored as an All-Big Ten wide receiver as a junior—a season in which he grabbed 47 passes for 946 yards. His career totals at Ohio State were 108 receptions for 1,894 yards and 19 TDs. Galloway finished with 2,754 all-purpose yards and was the team's co-captain in 1994. He was an All-Big Ten Academic honoree in 1991, 1993 and 1994 while earned the National Football Foundation Scholarship in 1994. He earned a degree in business/marketing.

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

## 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

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## Ron Mauck (OVAC 'Family')



Ron Mauck (Bridgeport High School, Class of 1958). Educator, administrator, community leader, Mauck has been director of the OVAC Wrestling Tournament, one of the largest high school events of its kind in the entire country, since 1979. This highly-regarded championship was renamed as the Ron Mauck OVAC Wrestling Tournament in 2006.

A pupil of the late George Kovaleck, an OVAC Hall of Famer and considered to be the patriarch of high school wrestling in the Ohio Valley, Mauck also established the conference's dual meet championship standings in 1971 and directed five W.Va. state tournaments at the Wheeling Civic Center (now WesBanco Arena). Three times, he served as a volunteer on the staff for NAIA and NCAA Division II championships (hosted by West Liberty State College) held in Wheeling. In addition to his duties with the conference mat tournament, Mauck was a long-time member of the Rudy Mumley OVAC Charity All-Star Football Classic. He was assistant game director and later served as game director from 1993 through 1998.

The Bridgeport High and West Liberty State College graduate, who earned his master's in safety education, began his teaching and coaching career in 1965 at Follansbee High School where he started the school's varsity wrestling program and coached the school's only individual state champion (Lou Daly). While at Follansbee, Mauck coached John Craig, a first-time wrestler as a senior in 1965 who went on to become an All-American at West Liberty and later was one of the area's outstanding coaches before becoming an administrator. When the consolidated Brooke High School opened in 1968, Ron was named to coach the wrestling team where he tutored the Bruins' first West Virginia mat champ in Jim Suddoth. Before retiring after a 34-year career in education, Mauck served Brooke as director of the school's Driver's Education Department, Physical Plant Director, Assistant Athletic Director and Athletic Director. In addition to having the OVAC Wrestling Tournament named 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 Walk of Fame (2006). He is past president of the W. Va. Safety Association, the Bridgeport Alumni and Warwood Junior High Athletic Association.

## Boyd Nelson (Media)



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

Nelson, a quiet, unassuming man, let his camera do his talking for him. No assignment was too big nor too menial for Nelson, who had the opportunity to take pictures of seven U.S. presidents from Harry Truman through Ronald Reagan. Nelson chronicled nearly every major happening throughout the Ohio Valley and was a familiar and much-welcome face at high school, college and professional games and matches from the start of his career in the late 1940s until his retirement in 1988. As was pointed out at the time of his death in 2003, there wasn't a gymnasium, football field or baseball diamond in *The Times Leader's* coverage area where Nelson didn't capture the exploits of athletes of all ages and abilities. Among the future professional greats he covered included baseball hall of famers Phil Niekro and Bill Mazeroski; basketball hall of famer John Havlicek, Joe Niekro, Tim Spencer, Olympic wrestler and coach Bobby Douglas and Allan Hornyak, just to mention a few.

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

## Paul 'Bud' Billiard (Coaches)



Paul "Bud" Billiard (Wellsburg High School, Class of 1959). Head coach at Brooke High School for 23 seasons (1979-2001) where he compiled a record of 185 wins, 79 defeats and 1 tie. During this span, Billiard's Bruins won three West Virginia Class AAA state championships — 1985, 1987 and 1990. His 1987 and '90 powerhouses recorded perfect record seasons and both were nationally ranked. The 1987 team finished 25th in the country while the 1990 squad ended up in 23rd place. In 1994, Brooke also ended the campaign with a 10-0 record but lost in the state playoffs. Fifteen of his 23 Bruin teams participated in the post-season playoffs and seven made the state championship game. Also, Billiard coached the green and gold to seven OVAC Class AAAA Division championships. He coached in two Rudy Mumley OVAC Charity All-Star Football games and in three West Virginia North-South Games. He was among the founding members and past president of the Ohio Valley Football Coaches Association for whom he also was chairman of the group's annual awards dinner. He also assisted in organizing the OVPCA's Clinics and Prospect Nights.

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

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

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

## Richard 'Lefty' Hall (Coaches)



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# PREVIOUS OVAC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

## Warren Pugh (Officials)



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

As an official, Pugh served as a football and basketball referee for over 40 years. In football, he worked in both high school and college, including the West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and West Virginia University, Pitt and Penn State. A basketball official for more than 40 years, Pugh officiated high school and college contests. In 1933 and 1934, he worked the entire West Virginia state high school basketball tournament, his partners being Judge Paul Camilletti the first year and Dink Westfall the second year. Pugh and John Goff of Bluefield blew the whistle for all 11 games of the first WVAC tournament held in 1935 at Fairmont. Pugh served as president of both the Ohio Valley Board of Football and Basketball Officials. He also was the referee of the famed Bellaire Relays for many years and was later named as the meet's honorary referee. He was also honored for his service by the Shadyside Relays and the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission. Pugh conducted officials' clinics in several sports and wrote a newspaper series on officiating. Pugh also was a Red Cross instructor in water safety and life-saving for over 50 years. In his youth, he was recognized as a tri-state diving champion and was known to many people in Wheeling for diving off the Suspension Bridge into the Ohio River. He performed that feat for the first time on Labor Day during the state fair held when he was a teenager. He repeated that dive on several other occasions during his youth. He coached swimming at his alma mater The Linsly School for nearly three decades, guiding the Cadets to 26 OVAC championships, including 25 in a row.

Pugh was also a tremendous athlete, especially as a football player. He attended Alderson-Brouddes College in Philippi for two years and played football before transferring to Davis & Elkins College where was a stellar fullback and center for Hall of Fame Coach Cam Henderson. Since eligibility rules never really existed in those days, Pugh played four years at D&E. His community service included 15 years as Wheeling's Recreation Director, two terms as Ohio County Sheriff and six years as an Ohio County Commissioner. Pugh was inducted into the West Virginia Sports Hall of Fame (1981), the Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Hall of Fame (1984) and now the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Hall of Fame.

## Bob Gain (Athlete - 1940s)



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

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

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

Gain is regarded as the greatest lineman in University of Kentucky, where he was a three-time All-Southeastern Conference honoree and a two-time first team All-America choice in 1949 and 1950. As a senior, he won the Outland Trophy as the nation's outstanding lineman, the first from the SEC so honored, and one of only two from the Ohio Valley. The other Outland Trophy honoree was the University of Iowa's Calvin Jones from Steubenville High. Playing for the legendary Paul "Bear" Bryant at Kentucky, the Wildcats were 33-10-2 in Gain's four seasons and he was co-captain of the 10-1 record team that upset national champion Oklahoma in the 1951 Sugar Bowl. Gain was the No. 5 choice — the highest ever for an OVAC athlete — in the first round of the 1951 NFL Draft by the Green Bay Packers. However, he opted for Ottawa in the CFL before starting a 12-year NFL career with the Cleveland Browns. The five-time Pro Bowler was a starter on three NFL championship teams under legendary coach Paul Brown in 1954, 1955 and 1964.

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

## Phil Niekro (Athlete - 1950s)



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

Nicknamed "Knuckstie" because of his staple pitch, the knuckleball, which he learned from his father, Niekro was a four-year Bulldog pitcher with a 17-1 career record. His only loss was 1-0 to Tiltonsville in 1954, his freshman year, when fellow Baseball and OVAC Hall of Famer Bill Mazeroski hit the game-winning home run. The 1955 Bulldog team shared the East Ohio League title with Martins Ferry. In a 9-4 Ohio sectional tournament win over St. John's, Niekro won the game in relief and belted a two-run single. Bridgeport, however, was halted in the finals by Shadyside, a team twice defeated by the Bulldogs. In 1956, Niekro and the Bulldogs defeated Steubenville Central, 7-1, in the Class A district tournament after sectional wins over Barnesville and St. Clairsville. Bridgeport bowed to East Liverpool in the district finals. As a senior, Niekro tossed a four-hitter and struck out 10 in a 4-2 win over Steubenville Central for the OVAC Ohio-side title. He earlier hurled an 8-2 win over East Liverpool in the Class AA district semifinals. Unbeaten Steubenville Central halted Bridgeport, 6-1 in the finals.

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

In 1964, he started a 24-year major league career with the Braves, New York Yankees, Cleveland Indians and Toronto Blue Jays. He had a 318-274 career record while appearing in 864 games and striking out 3,342 batters, eighth on the all-time charts. He hurled a no-hitter and won five Gold Gloves and was named to five All-Star teams. The Braves honored him by erecting a bronze statue in front of their home stadium and, in 1997, he was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. He resides in the Atlanta area.

## Lee Patrone (Athlete - 1950s)



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

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

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

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

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

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

## Bob Hummel (Athlete - 1960s)



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

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

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

Moreover, his scoring antics translated into team success as Moundsville finished as state runnerup in Class AAA, the school's first state final since 1920. Hummel torched Richwood for 45 markers in the state semifinal game. He established the Moundsville single-game scoring mark with 53 points in a win against Follansbee. Hummel was chosen as the West Virginia "Player of the Year" by the Morgantown Touchdown Club while also being named captain of the Class AAA all-state team, all-OVAC and Scholastic Coach All-America. He also was a top-notch baseball player for Moundsville, earning second-team all-state honors as a pitcher.

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

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

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

## Harry Wilson (Athlete - 1960s)



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

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

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

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

His achievements garnered him Ohio "Back of the Year" designation by both the AP and UPI in Class AA, which was the largest class back then. He was named first team all-Ohio and a Scholastic Coach All-American. Wilson was almost as dominating his junior year. The "Steubenville Stomper" rushed for 1,586 yards and scored 28 touchdowns and 168 points in 10 games. He was selected first team all-Ohio by AP as a safety while also earning all-OVAC and all-Valley laurels.

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

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

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

## Ed Burgy (Athlete - 1970s)



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

While also starring in football and basketball at the Guernsey Street school, Burgy distinguished himself as arguably the premier prep baseball player in OVAC annals. While his baseball statistics are staggering, he accomplished them in just three seasons as Bellaire High did not start a baseball program until Burgy's sophomore season. Known for his overpowering pitching prowess, Burgy was also a tremendous shortstop and powerful hitter. Burgy etched his name in Bellaire High, Ohio Valley and OHSA record books. The three-year All-Valley first-team honoree completed his prep career with a 20-5 record, still the most wins ever by a Big Reds' pitcher. He owns the career strikeout mark with 326 (in just 175 innings) and the single-season strikeout standard of 128. While possessing nearly-unhittable heat, he also owned great control. The talented right-hander walked just 31 batters in his career and went eight straight games without issuing a base on balls. He carved out state records with a minuscule 0.13 ERA for a season and a 0.63 ERA for a career. His third OHSA record was for hurling 16 shutouts. Burgy also set an Ohio Valley mark with 23 strikeouts in a 10-inning no-hitter versus River. He was also a deadly hitter. Burgy owns Bellaire High records for hits in a game (6), triples in a season (8) and career triples (12).

Burgy also was a stellar, four-year football performer for coaches Rudy Sharkey and Jake Olsavsky. He was a slashing running back until his senior season. Olsavsky opted to switch Burgy to quarterback, a move that paid big dividends. Burgy helped guide the Reds to an 8-1-1 season, losing only to Marietta (12-0) while tying Winterville (0-0). He was joined in the backfield by Ron Lee, who went on to fame with WVU and the Baltimore Colts. Burgy was a multi-talented hooper. Starting for three seasons, he poured in 1,197 points, a total that still ranks seventh on the all-time school scoring card. It was second only to legendary Lee Patrone when Burgy hung up the Big Red sneakers. He was a first-team All-Valley Big School honoree his sophomore and junior seasons. He exploded in his senior campaign for a 21.2 per game average.

Burgy was a sixth-round draft choice of the New York Mets and spent three years in the Mets' farm system, first in Virginia followed by a stop in Pompano (Fla.) and Memphis. He had 13 wins in one season and fanned 20 in one game.

## Bruce Smith (Athlete - 1970s)



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# 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 Putters, 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 McDonaki's All-Star Classic in Columbus. She was also OVAC Class 4-A, District 5, Division 1 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 890 yards rushing while leading the Purple Riders to a combined 21-9 record, including a spotless 10-0 mark in his sophomore season. Ferry's first perfect record in 20 years. On defense, he was credited with 123 tackles and had 11 pass interceptions. He was a two-time first team AP All-Ohio Class AA defensive back, earning second team all-star honors from UPI both years as well. He also garnered first team All-OVAC Class AAA, All-Eastern District Class AA and All-Valley honors twice. Following his senior season, Swearingen was named a Centenary Prep All-American, an Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Club special honoree and participated in the OVAC Charity All-Star Football Game.

In basketball, Swearingen was a three-year starter and 1,000-point career scorer and he was a key member of Ferry's squad which posted a 20-5 record and advanced to the Ohio Class AA regional finals in Athens in 1982. Scoring 14.7 points per game as a senior, he was named first team All-OVAC Class AAA (captain), All-District 12 and All-Valley as well as second team All-Eastern District Class AA. He played in both the OVAC and District 12 All-Star Games. As a junior, Swearingen averaged 18.9 points per game and was named first team All-OVAC Class AAA and All-District 12, second team All-Eastern District Class AA and third team All-Valley.

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

Swearingen went on to a stellar four-year football career at Ohio University, graduating in 1986 and positioning himself in the top five on the Bobcats' all-time passing list in 10 categories (through 2005). He is second in pass attempts in a game (57) and season (383); third in pass completions for a game (31) and season (195) as well as TD passes for a season (13); fourth in yards passing for a game (355), season (2,656) 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 Snedegar (Athlete - 1990s)

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

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

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

Snedegar was also a three-year letterman in basketball (he didn't play as a junior), finishing fourth on Trail's all-time scoring list with 834 points and third in career rebounding with 561. He averaged 16.1 points per game as a senior, earning special mention AP All-Ohio as well as first team All-Eastern District and All-OVAC.

The 2000 Buckeye Trail Hall of Fame inductee went on to a stellar career at the University of Kentucky (1996-99), earning four letters as an outside linebacker. As a freshman, he had 42 tackles, started three games and was named the outstanding special teams' player and he followed that up with 97 tackles as a sophomore. Snedegar had 63 tackles and four sacks as a junior, helping Kentucky to an Outback Bowl berth where he recorded 11 tackles in a loss to Penn State University. In his final year at UK, he had 84 tackles, four sacks and two interceptions, earning him defensive MVP honors. He was selected to the All-Southeast Conference squad and was named to the All-American Farm Football Team by Successful Farming Magazine.

Snedegar was signed by the Miami Dolphins of the NFL in 2000 as an undrafted free agent.



## Bill West (Athlete - 1990s)

**Bill 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

Sponsored by Robinson Auto Group

## Donna Joseph (OVAC 'Family')

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## 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 Intelligence staff as a sportswriter. In 1967, Bedway joined the News-Register staff headed by Bill Van Horne and was promoted to Associate Sports Editor in 1971. Bedway became N-R Sports Editor in 1995 and was named Executive Sports Editor of The Intelligence/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 Baseball Team, Oglebay Park Men's Golf Club, and the Ohio Valley Golf Association. A past member of the Wheeling Hall of Fame Committee and current member of the OVAC Hall of Fame Committee, Bedway also is active with the Wheeling Lions Club and received, in 2005, the Leonard Jarrett Award, the highest Lion honor bestowed in West Virginia. Currently the chapter secretary and Board of Directors' member, he has served as media relations director, chapter president, first vice-president and Tull Twitter. Married 45 years to the former Judy Katous, the Bedways had four children and have five grandchildren.



## Earl Kleivins (Officials)

**Earl Kleivins** (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.

Kleivins 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.

Kleivins 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, Kleivins 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, Kleivins 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.

Kleivins 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 Laran Mercer for doubles honors in their age group. Earl also won numerous Oglebay Park Tennis Club championships through his mid-80s at which time he retired from competitive tennis.

The committee for the Samuel A. Mumley OVAC Basketball Classic presented Kleivins 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

## Sam Andy (Coaches)



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

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

Second all-time for victories in West Virginia's big school class, Andy's teams won three Class AAA state championships (1976 at Wheeling High, 1980 and 1995 at Wheeling Park). The 1995 state final was one of the memorable championship games in W.Va. boys' basketball history as Andy's Patriots defeated Beckley Woodrow Wilson 99-96 in a triple-overtime masterpiece.

He also had one other Patriot squad finish as the state runner-up (1997) and four semifinalist teams (1988, 1990, 1998 and 2000). Andy coached in 922 games and his clubs experienced only three losing seasons. Under his direction, Wheeling High and Wheeling Park qualified for an OVAC record 20 state tournaments. In 37 years at the two Ohio County schools, Andy produced 31 sectional championship teams, 28 Region One titlists and six Ohio Valley Athletic Conference division pennant winners.

Through most of his career, the Wheeling Wildcats and Park Patriots dominated their rivals in the conference, winning 78 percent of their games against OVAC opponents. They also annually played a schedule that included many of the top basketball powers in the state. Andy coached four West Virginia Player of the Year standouts and had 31 players earn college scholarships, including several Division I stalwarts.

He twice was honored as the OVAC Coach of the Year (1975 and 1995). In 2004, he was selected as the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Club's Co-Man of the Year along with Monroe Central Coach Jay Circoia. In 2007 he was the recipient of the Earl Haberfeld Coaches' Award presented by the committee directing the annual Samuel A. Mumley OVAC Basketball Classic. A 1958 graduate of Wheeling High School, Andy graduated from West Liberty State College in 1963. He was a basketball starter and letterman at both schools.

## Bill Hinegardner (Coaches)



**Bill Hinegardner** (Meadow Bridge High School, Class of 1960). Referred to by the late Bill Van Home as W.Va. Wrestling's "Man of Character," Hinegardner received his bachelor's degree from Concord College in 1965 and master's degree from West Virginia University in 1968. The former Concord basketball and baseball player entered the Marshall County School System as a mathematics teacher in the 1964-65 school year. He served as an assistant coach in wrestling and football at Moundsville High for three years before taking over the head wrestling position when the consolidated John Marshall High School opened its doors at the outset of the 1968-69 school year. During his 14 years as head coach, the Monarch program became one of the most successful in the OVAC and also in the state of West Virginia. Hinegardner's teams won four W. Va. Class AAA championships (1972, 1973, 1974 and 1979). The Monarchs were also runners-up four times and finished lower than sixth place only once in the W. Va. State Tournament. The Ron Mauck OVAC Wrestling Tournament saw Hinegardner's John Marshall powerhouses take the overall team title four times (1972, '73, '74, '77) and finish second five times. The Monarchs also earned five OVAC Class 4-A titles and emerged as Class 4-A Dual Meet winners five times. From December of 1971 through December of 1976, Hinegardner's wrestlers went through 41 straight dual matches without a defeat. His overall dual meet record was 133-29-1. Hinegardner's program produced 20 individual state champions. In 1996, he was a member of the late Mike Linsky's staff that led John Marshall to the W. Va. Class AAA football title. He served as President or Director of the W. Va. Wrestling Coaches Assoc.; the Region One Coaches Association; Marshall County Coaches Association; Co-Director of the OVAC and W. Va. State Tournaments; Executive Board Member of the OVAC and the WVSSAC for Wrestling. His awards include National Wrestling Hall of Fame Lifetime Service in Wrestling Award (2004); National High School Coaches Association District 3 Coach of the Year (1976); OVAC Coach of the Year (1974); W. Va. Wrestling Coach of the Year (three times); Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Achievement Awards (two times); Mr. Mat Award for contributions to the sport of wrestling in the OVAC (1984); Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Carl R. Hamill Award (2000); Moundsville Area Junior Chamber of Commerce Jim Edge Award (1977) given for outstanding work in religious and youth activities; and the John Marshall High School Hall of Fame (First Class, 2005). After retiring from Marshall County in 1999, Bill went to work for the Switzerland of Ohio School District at River High as a Guidance Counselor until he retired in 2004.

## Joe Fortunato (Athlete - 1940s)



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

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

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

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

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

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

After his playing career, Fortunato spent two seasons on the Bears' staff, coaching the linebackers one year and then serving as defensive coordinator the next year.

Fortunato also is the only Ohio Valley athlete to be selected to the National Italian American Sports Hall of Fame. He was the leading vote-getter in The Intelligencer's 1970 All-Time Ohio Valley Team, which was selected by a vote of the area sports fans.

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

## Don Fleming (Athlete - 1950s)



**Don Fleming** (Shadyside High School, Class of 1955). The two-time All-Ohio Valley Athletic Conference first team honoree in football, Fleming was captain of the Tigers' undefeated conference champions in 1954. He also played center for the Shadyside squad that won an OVAC division title in basketball. This versatile athlete played in the Ohio East-West All-Star baseball game held in Columbus and performed in the Ohio-West Virginia All-Star Football Game held during the summer of 1955 at Wheeling Island Stadium. Fleming went on to the University of Florida on a football scholarship. He was a three-year starter and a two-way end performer for the Gators. He was elected captain of the 1958 team that played in the Gator Bowl and was a member of the All-Southeastern Conference team that same year. He was drafted by the Chicago Cardinals of the National Football League and the Boston Patriots of the American Football League. However, Fleming elected to remain in college to complete work on his degree and play baseball. As a senior, Fleming also was chosen captain of the Florida baseball team that won the SEC championship and earned a berth in the NCAA tournament. In the spring of 1959, Fleming earned a degree as a construction engineer. When Paul Brown, owner-coach of the Cleveland Browns, traded for Fleming's NFL rights, Fleming bypassed signing with the baseball Baltimore Orioles and decided to play professional football. Despite never having played defensive back, he started as a rookie with the Browns at safety and made the NFL All-Rookie team in 1960. After his third season with the Browns, Fleming was named to the All-NFL first team. In that off-season, while working on a construction job building at a bank in Florida, Fleming was killed in an electrical accident. Born June 11, 1937, Fleming was just 25 years old at the time of his passing. Despite having played just three seasons with the Browns, he had such an impact on the franchise that they named their practice field, Fleming Field, in his honor and retired No. 46, which was his number. The University of Florida named its intramural field, Fleming Field, and the Florida Alumni Association established an award in his name that is given annually to the senior in any sport exemplifying the best leadership qualities. He also was selected for induction into the University of Florida's Hall of Fame and is a member of the State of Florida's Athletic Hall of Fame. Shadyside High School retired his number (59) and named its athletic complex Fleming Field.

## John Reger (Athlete - 1950s)



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

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

Reger went on to the University of Pittsburgh on a football scholarship and his freshman team in 1950 went undefeated. After just three varsity games the following year, his collegiate career was ended by a knee injury. The Wheeling native returned home and was working in a gasoline station when his former high school coach, Ez Rine, arranged a tryout for him with the Pittsburgh Steelers even though he had not played football in three years. Displaying the same grit and determination he had shown in high school, Reger opened the 1955 season as one of the Steelers' starting linebackers. During his nine seasons in Pittsburgh, Reger earned three Pro Bowl invitations. He became captain of the Steelers' defensive unit and was voted as the team's MVP during the 1959 season. Reger played in his first Pro Bowl in 1960 and made two more appearances in 1961 and 1962.

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

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

## Bob Kelley (Athlete - 1960s)



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

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

In the 40-0 rout of Nitro in the state championship game, Kelley was a one-man wrecking crew. He tallied four TDs and passed for a fifth.

Kelley was also a two-way starter as a junior for the Red Riders. He was the second underclassman in state history to receive the Kennedy Award (1959), bestowed each year on the state's premier prep football player, and the first winner from the OVAC. The first-team all-West Virginia and all-OVAC honoree captured the Wigwag and Scholastic Magazine All-American honors as the Red Riders were ranked 11th nationally. He played in the OVAC All-Star Game and left with Most Valuable Player accolades.

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

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

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

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

## Robert 'Bo' McConaughy (Athlete - 1960s)



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Gene Cattane (Athlete - 1970s)



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

Some 30 years later, he still ranks in Ohio's top 10 in two statistical categories — No. 4 on the all-time career hit list with 172 and No. 7 in RBI with 145. In 109 varsity games, Cattane's career numbers also included a batting average of .431 with 127 runs scored, 29 home runs, 13 triples and 25 doubles. As a pitcher, he compiled a 14-11 career record.

He was a four-time all-Valley selection (second team as a freshman and first team the next three years, including serving as captain as a senior) and he was selected to participate in four Eastern Ohio Baseball League All-Star Games. Cattane was also tabbed for the Ohio All-Star Series in Columbus, equivalent to gaining all-state honors at that time.

As a senior, Cattane helped the Red Devils to the OVAC Class 3-A championship and a 23-9 overall record. He batted .478 (fifth in the valley) with valley-leading totals of 34 hits, 10 home runs, 38 RBI and 35 runs scored. He also had four triples, six doubles and 16 stolen bases. On the mound, he was 6-2 with a 1.73 E.R.A. in 52.2 innings, striking out 71 while walking 27 and allowing 31 hits. Cattane's junior numbers included a .455 average (fifth in the OVAC) with valley bests in home runs (8) and RBI (36) along with 40 hits, five doubles, three triples and 26 runs scored. As a sophomore, he hit .349 with valley highs in home runs (9) and RBI (46) along with 38 hits, four doubles, three triples and 32 runs scored. His freshman totals included a .449 average (fourth in the OVAC) and valley-leading marks in hits (40) and runs scored (34) along with 10 doubles, three triples, two home runs and 25 RBI.

In addition to his high school exploits, Cattane was also a standout American Legion player. He was named Ohio American Legion Player of the Year in 1976 after leading Maynard Post 666 to a state runner-up finish with a 28-7 record, batting .350 for the season including 433 in seven tournament games. He also played for more than 10 years with Maynard of the Ohio Valley Baseball League and was a perennial all-star.

Cattane, inducted into the St. C. Hall of Fame in 2006, died in a coal mining accident on Sept. 10, 1990 at the age of 31.

# 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 weightlifter 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. While as a senior, she won the 400 and 1600 relay and was second in the 100 and 200.

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

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

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

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

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

## 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** (Bellair 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 (Bellair 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 3,531 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 (66).

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

Also a three-year letterman in baseball at Bellair, 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, again in Central Florida and when he left KSU, he ranked 10th in M.C. 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.

## Bob Hedmond (OVAC 'Family')



**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, Steubenville and 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 from Dapper Dan. Before his passing, Hedmond was inducted into the Ohio Athletic Administrators Hall of Fame.

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 from Dapper Dan. Before his passing, Hedmond was inducted into the Ohio Athletic Administrators Hall of Fame.



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# PREVIOUS OVAC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

## James 'Jimmy' Stewart (Media)



**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.

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 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.

## John Craig (Coaches)



**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 Winterville.

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 1985.

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 NAIA 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 Hall 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 WVAC 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.

## Robert 'Bob' Kettlewell (Coaches)



**Robert S. "Bob" Kettlewell** (Linsly Military Institute, Class of 1947). During his 20 years as the head coach at Winterville 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). Winterville 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 equated a record held previously by Bellaire and Martins Ferry.

Kettlewell had three undefeated teams at Winterville — 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, Winterville scored in a record 140 straight games, ending with a scoreless tie against Bellaire in a contest that saw the God 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 Winterville 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.

## William 'Bill' Thomas (Officials)



**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 Sectionals 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 at 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.

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 (Athlete - 1940s)



**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 1949-52, 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.

## Nick Mumley (Athlete - 1950s)



**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 fore-runner of the Jets, as a defensive end-offensive tackle. He played in a total of 42 AFL games.

## Tom Yakubowski (Athlete - 1950s)



**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.

## Bill Kennedy (Athlete - 1960s)



**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-WVAC and all-tournament plaudits as a freshman.

His two years of impressive play with WLSC provided a springboard to a transfer to Arizona State University 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.



# PREVIOUS OVAC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

## Bob Rieves (Athlete - 1960s)



**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 uncatchable 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 (Athlete - 1970s)



**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 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 (Athlete - 1970s)



**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. Cardinal's 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.

## Connie Douth (Athlete - 1980s)



**Connie Douth** (Buckeye Trail High School, Class of 1981). At a time when girls' sports were starting to take hold in high school athletics, Douth 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 Douth 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 Douth named the state tournament MVP and again gaining honorable mention All-Ohio accolades. The team went 26-1 with Douth 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.

Douth 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 Douth'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.

Douth 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, Douth scored 415 points, had 267 rebounds and 170 assists.

## Jay Peterson (Athlete - 1980s)



**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 (Athlete - 1990s)



**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 pick.

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.

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".

## Suzie Dailer (Athlete - 1990s)



**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 gain 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 I and Region I 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.



# OVAC Hall of Fame

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# PREVIOUS OVAC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

## Melissa Hammond (Athlete 1980s)

*Melissa Hammond* (Shadyside High School, Class of 1989). This former Lady Tiger was a standout in three sports during her prep career, but it was basketball where she shined the brightest.

Hammond was a four-year letterwinner for the Lady Tigers who went onto a four-year career at West Liberty State College, etching her name into history at both schools.

At Shadyside, Hammond was a prolific shooter en route to her school-record 1,516 points. She drained 112 three-point goals. Her 46 points, as a junior, during in a game against Buckeye North is also tops in school history.

During her junior season, Hammond became just the second female in Ohio Valley history to average at least 30 points a game at 30.2. She was more than a scorer, however, as she averaged 9.1 rebounds, 6.2 assists, 5.0 steals and drilled 67 three-point goals.

As a senior, Hammond averaged 28.1 points a game and was named all-Ohio Division IV State Player of the Year by UPI. She also averaged 9.5 rebounds, 8.1 assists, 6.5 steals, shot 48 percent from the floor, 80.1 percent at the line and 58 percent from three-point range.

Hammond was named second-team all-Ohio by The Associated Press twice and was selected to the Ohio North-South All-Star Game. She was captain of the all-OVAC team twice.

Hammond also doubled as a softball player and thrower for the track team. She earned four letters in softball and three more in track. She was an all-OVAC first team selection three times in softball and once an all-Ohio.

In track, she was an all-Eastern District performer in the shot put and discus. At West Liberty, Hammond was a four-year basketball starter. She scored 2,150 points from 1990-93, which is still the West Liberty record and third-best in WVAC history. Hammond, who also starred in softball at WLSC, was the second female athlete to be inducted to the West Liberty Sports Hall of Fame.



## Jeff Sweitzer (Athlete 1980s)

*Jeff Sweitzer* (Brooke High School, Class of 1987). This former Bruin was once described by his high school coach, Paul "Bud" Billiard, as the best player he ever coached.

He's definitely one of the most decorated Bruins to come from the storied program when it was the Ohio Valley kingpin.

Sweitzer helped lead the Bruins to back-to-back appearances in the West Virginia state championship game as a quarterback during his junior and senior seasons. He was a four-year mainstay for the program, spending time as a running back, defensive back and kick returner before shifting to quarterback.

As a senior, when the Bruins finished 11-2 as the state runner-up, Sweitzer set an Ohio Valley record for total yardage with 3,399. He also accounted for 36 touchdowns. Of his yardage total, he had 2,203 passing; 674 rushing and 522 on kick returns.

After that senior season, Sweitzer, who also shined in baseball for the Bruins, repeated on the first team all-state squad and was named the captain of the offensive unit. He was also runner-up for the Kennedy Award that season. He was twice named all-OVAC and all-Valley and was the Gatorade State Player of the Year. He was also listed in the USA Today as West Virginia Player of the Year and an honorable mention to the paper's All-American Team.

Sweitzer then accepted a scholarship to the University of Akron. As was the case at Brooke, Sweitzer began as a kick returner and running back before becoming the quarterback for his final two seasons.

In two years, Sweitzer passed for 2,744 which is 10th on Akron's career listing. He passed for 1,599 yards as a junior.



## Joanna Bernabei (Athlete 1990s)

*Joanna Bernabei* (Weirton Madonna High School, Class of 1993). This former Lady Blue Don was one of the most prolific and unselfish basketball players from the Ohio Valley.

Bernabei helped to guide the Lady Blue Dons to three straight state tournament appearances and, during her senior season of 1992, Madonna brought home the school's second state championship with a brilliant 24-2 record.

During that 1992 campaign, Bernabei averaged 17.5 points, six rebounds, seven assists and five steals per game while surpassing the 1,000-point mark. All told, she finished her prep career with 1,002 points and more than 500 career assists.

After her senior season, Bernabei was named captain of the West Virginia Class A All-State team and captain of the OVAC Class A-AA West Virginia team when basketball was a fall sport. She also competed in both the OVAC and North-South all-star games. All told, Bernabei was a three-time all-star. She was a second team choice as a sophomore and a first team selection as a junior.

While basketball was where Bernabei made her mark, she also excelled for Madonna in track and field as well as tennis, earning letters in each sport. In 1993, Bernabei brought two gold medals home from the West Virginia state track meet. She was a part of the winning 4x200-meter relay as well as the winning shuttle hurdle relay. She ran a leg on the state runner-up 4x100-meter relay team. During the 1992 tennis season, Bernabei was a part of an OVAC-winning doubles team in tennis.

Bernabei completed her degree in 1997 from West Liberty State College. During her career with the Lady Hilltoppers, she scored 1,317 points and finished with 1,107 assists, which is the NCAA Division II record. During her senior season, Bernabei was named WVAC Player of the Year and Division II All-American after helping to lead WLSC to a NCAA Tournament appearance. She was named first team all-conference in the WVAC all four years and was inducted to the West Liberty Athletic Hall of Fame in 2002.

Bernabei entered the coaching ranks at West Virginia Wesleyan. She was there for a year and has also worked at Eastern Kentucky, West Virginia and the University of Maryland where she won a national championship ring as



## Kyle Rose (Athlete 1990s)

*Kyle Rose* (River High School, Class of 1990). This three-sport Pilot athlete was a standout on and off the field during his four years in Hannibal, earning four letters in baseball to go along with three letters each in wrestling and football.

Baseball was where Rose made his presence felt for the Pilots. He was a four-year mainstay at catcher and in the heart of the Pilots' batting order. He batted .366 as a freshman, .473 as a sophomore, .500 as a junior and .536 as a senior en route to two OVAC Player of the Year awards. As a sophomore, Rose had an on-base percentage of .695 and he was 40-of-42 stealing bases. That mark is still an Ohio Valley standard. All told, he hit 13 home runs and drove 76 runs, but missed 11 games as a senior after a bout with mono.

After his senior campaign, he was named first-team all-Ohio, all-Eastern District, all-OVAC and all-Valley. He played in both the Ohio and OVAC all-star games.

In football, Rose played tailback for the Pilots and racked up all sorts of yardage and a host of honors. As a senior, he was first team all-Eastern District, all-OVAC and all-Valley after rushing for 800 yards and scoring eight touchdowns. For his career, Rose amassed 1,532 yards and 14 touchdowns in three seasons. He was also a defensive standout with 183 total tackles, six sacks, four interceptions and seven fumble recoveries.

His wrestling career didn't begin until he was a sophomore, but he picked it up quickly. As a soph, he finished 15-12, but turned it on as a junior and went 27-8. He was fourth at the OVAC Wrestling Tournament and advanced to the Ohio District Tournament. He fully arrived in his grappling career as a senior. Posting a 36-3 record, Rose advanced to the OVAC finals before falling. He then won the sectional and district titles at 152 pounds to qualify to the state tournament where he advanced to the finals and settled for the silver medal. He finished with a 78-23 record.

While having plenty of options about continuing his athletic career at the collegiate level, Rose accepted a scholarship to Mercer College in Georgia to play baseball. Playing in every game as a freshman, Kyle batted .294 and was chosen as conference freshman of the year. However, his career and life underwent a cruel twist on Dec. 12, 1991 when he was involved in a car accident. Rose survived, but is confined to a wheelchair as a paraplegic. After spending six months in and out of surgeries and therapies, Rose went back to school at Ohio University Eastern for two years and then, in 1994, enrolled at West Liberty State College where he later earned his degree in secondary education in mathematics. In 1998, Rose was hired at his prep alma mater as a math teacher. He's also since earned his master's degree from Marygrove College. His handicap didn't prevent from staying involved in sports as he was named head baseball coach of his alma mater in 1998 and he held the post until 2007. He led the Pilots to the OVAC title in 2003.



# Class of 2011

## OVAC Hall of Fame

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## Richard (Dick) Thurnes (OVAC 'Contributor')

*Richard (Dick) Thurnes* (Benwood Union High School, Class of 1946). During a 17-year career as a head football coach at three different spots, Thurnes won an impressive 75 percent of his games (112-36-7). Even more impressive, however, was the fact that five Thurnes-coached teams posted undefeated records.

His first stop was Cameron High School, where he compiled a three-year mark of 18-6-1, highlighted by an unbeaten (7-0-1) team in 1956 which was ranked No. 2 among West Virginia small school teams.

Thurnes then moved on to Warren Consolidated High School, serving as head coach for 12 years (1958-69) and posting a 78-26-6 mark. His teams put together unbeaten seasons in 1961, '62, '64 and '67. The first three of those teams won OVAC Class A championships while all four were Eastern Ohio Athletic League kingpins.

After stepping aside for a couple of years, he returned to coach the newly-consolidated Buckeye South High in its first two seasons (1972-73), posting a combined 16-3-1 record.

He received several "Coach of the Year" awards - from the Wheeling Intelligencer in 1964; The Times Leader in 1967; and the Eastern Ohio Athletic League in 1961, '62, '65 and '67; and the AP Eastern District in 1964 and '67.

Thurnes was also the recipient of the Belmont Hills Country Club's 27th Annual Achievement Football Coaches Award in 1965 and the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Club's Outstanding Achievement Award in 1967. He was inducted into the Ohio Valley Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1985.

Thurnes was also a long-time assistant basketball coach to fellow OVAC Hall of Famer Henry Laszsz and he also coached baseball, track and golf at various times during his career.

In high school, Thurnes was a three-year letterman in football as a center-linebacker, gaining third team all-West Virginia recognition and first team all-OVAC honors.

He went on to play at West Liberty State College in the "Golden Era" of Coach Joe Bartell, starting at center on two undefeated teams and playing in the Python Bowl and the Smoky Mountain Bowl, both Hilltopper victories.



## Charles E. Petty (OVAC 'Family')

*Charles E. Petty* (Pomeroy High School). The entire Ohio Valley Athletic Conference owes a debt of gratitude to Petty and the other eight "Founding Fathers."

Little did that small group know back in 1943 when they brought together 20 schools from both sides of the Ohio River that they would establish what would become (as of 2011) a 50-school bi-state conference, regarded by most as the largest functional high school conference in the nation.

The original OVAC member schools included Bellaire, Follansbee, Linsly, Martins Ferry, Moundsville, Powhatan, Shadyside, St. John Central, Steubenville, Steubenville Catholic Central, Tiltonsville, Triadelphia, Union, Warwood, Weir, Wellsburg, West Liberty, Wheeling, Wheeling Central Catholic and Yorkville.

Petty was a key cog in the OVAC in its early years, serving as the first official executive secretary for 15 years from 1944-56, longer than anyone has been in that position except for Sam Mumley to this point.

Petty coached the pre-OVAC boys' track program at Triadelphia High School, winning the 1941 West Virginia one-class championship after finishing as runner-up four times and placing third twice.

After coaching and teaching mathematics at Triadelphia High, he served briefly as principal at Woodsdale Junior High. He then joined Linsly Military Institute in 1942-43, serving as athletic director and was the head basketball coach from 1944-51. His second team (1944-45) won the OVAC Class AA title with a 16-5 record. He also coached track and assisted in football at Linsly.

He served as Meet Director for several years at one of the Ohio Valley's premier high school track meets at Triadelphia - The Intelligencer Relays - which had a three decade run before ending in the 1950s.

Petty then moved to St. Petersburg, Florida in the summer of 1956 and taught in junior high until he passed away at age 57 in 1963.

Born in 1906 in Ripley, W. Va., he graduated from Pomeroy (Ohio) High School; attended the University of Florida for two years and graduated from the University of Illinois. He received a master's degree from the University of Pittsburgh.



## John Kirker (Media)

*John D. Kirker* (Wellsburg High School, Class of 1934). Born in Follansbee in 1913, Kirker's first taste of the newspaper business came at the old Wellsburg Daily Herald as a high school student. He wrote sports and was eventually the managing editor of the paper when he left for the Army Air Corps in 1942.

Upon his discharge from the service in 1946, he began a 29-year run (1946-74) as sports editor of The Herald-Star newspaper in Steubenville until moving into the news department as a district editor for the remainder of his career. He was the longest-serving sports editor in the newspaper's history, covering all high school sports as well as local college sports and summer events.

He was inducted into the University of Steubenville Sports Hall of Fame in 1981; the Ohio Prep Sports Writers Hall of Fame in 1988; and the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Hall of Fame in 1989.

Kirker was a member of several high school all-star selection committees, including those choosing the All-Eastern District and All-Ohio teams.

He also served as an emcee at numerous local sports functions and was a ring announcer at local boxing events.

For Kirker, harness racing was a personal passion. He owned and trained 17 horses for many years, regularly attending the Little Brown Jug event in Delaware, Ohio, and contributing numerous articles to various harness racing publications.



# PREVIOUS OVAC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

## C.R. (Dick) Dei (Coaches)

**C.R. (Dick) Dei** (Wheeling Central High School, Class of 1959). He was the architect of the OVAC's most dominant boys' track program at Wheeling Park High. During the school's first 13 years (1977-89), the Patriots won eight OVAC Class 4-A championships and finished second three times; won nine West Virginia Region titles and captured three West Virginia Class AAA state championships while finishing as the runner-up twice.

Under the guidance of Dei, who coached 22 All-America track honorees during his career, Park lost only two dual meets in 13 seasons.

He was named West Virginia Track Coach of the Year on two occasions and the Ohio Valley Track Coach of the Year by *The Intelligencer* twice.

The coach established one of the area's top invitational meets - the Pepsi Park Classic - which was later renamed the Dick Dei Track Classic. He designed Wheeling Park's all-weather track facility and is responsible for implementing the first photo-electric timing system at a West Virginia high school, with Park's system originally used at the West Virginia State meet in Charleston. He served as chairman of the OVAC Track Committee and the OVAC Track Championships; West Virginia Region Meet director; a member of the West Virginia State Track Meet Committee; and was a presenter at the WVU Track and Field Clinic.

Dei received the R.A. Thom Award in 1990 for West Virginia track service and contributions; and was named the OVAC Golf Official Track Coach of the Year in 1995. He was also honored by the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Club and the W.Va. Sports Writers Association.

Dei was inducted into the Wheeling Park Athletic Hall of Fame in 1998 and the West Liberty State College Hall of Fame in 2005.

Dei played football at Wheeling Central and West Liberty and earned a master's degree from West Virginia University. He began a 39-year teaching/coaching career in 1965 at Bellaire High, serving as head track coach and assistant in football. He also coached as a football assistant at Martins Ferry; head football coach at Adena; and head football and track coach at Wheeling High. He also served as defensive coordinator at Bethany College in 1990, helping the Bison to an NCAA Division III playoff berth. He passed away in 2007 at the age of 66.



## Larry Shaw (Coaches)

**Larry Shaw** (Shady Spring High School, Class of 1973). Mention wrestling in the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference or anywhere in the state of West Virginia and no doubt Shaw's name comes to mind in a hurry. After all, Shaw was a fixture in the mat sport for 31 years.

He led the Bears on an incredible run of 13 consecutive West Virginia Class AA-A state championships from 1977-2009, a feat unmatched by any OVAC or West Virginia program in any sport. Prior to Oak Glen dropping to the AA-A ranks, Shaw-led teams posted five straight Class AAA runner-up finishes (1987-91).

In OVAC Tournament action, Shaw's teams won nine class titles, including eight in a row from 2001-2008 in Class 3-A. The Bears won the overall title five times (1991, 2002, 2004, 2005 and 2007). During his tenure, Shaw's teams won 13 OVAC dual meet titles (Class 4-A in 1985, '90 and '98 and Class 3-A in 1999, 2000, '01, '03, '04, '05, '06, '07, '08 and '09) and he finished with a career dual meet record of 330-96-4. He coached 51 state champion wrestlers and more than 160 others who earned all-state honors.

Shaw was named the OVAC all-sport Coach of the Year twice - in 2002 and 2007 - and the OVAC Wrestling Coach of the Year on 13 occasions. He was the West Virginia Class AA-A Wrestling Coach of the Year six times and is the only wrestling coach to be selected the West Virginia all-sport Coach of the Year by the W. Va. Sports Writers Association (2000). He was named the 2008 National Wrestling Coach of the Year by *Wrestling USA Magazine* and was a finalist for the award in 2004.

Shaw, a 1977 graduate of Concord College who earned his master's degree from Marshall University, is a past president of the W. Va. Wrestling Coaches Association; a past vice-president of the West Virginia Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame; and a former member of the WVSSAC and OVAC Wrestling Committees. He assisted in producing an instructional video for wrestling officials for the NFHS Officiating Wrestling On-Line Methods Course and has worked at countless wrestling clinics. Shaw was the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Club's Co-Man of the Year in 2003; was inducted into the Raleigh County Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2000; the Lou Holtz Upper Ohio Valley Hall of Fame in 2009; the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2010 and earlier this year into the National High School Sports Hall of Fame by the National Federation of State High School Associations.



## Plennie Clutter (Officials)

**Plennie Clutter** (Wheeling High School, Class of 1943). He ranks among the best officials of all-time in the Ohio Valley, spending 30 years as a football referee and 25 years as a basketball official.

Clutter's officiating career began at the urging of the late A. Wilson Murray, a charter member of the OVAC Hall of Fame in the officials' category, and he worked his way up from junior varsity games to the top of the officiating world in both sports. He earned assignments to work four West Virginia state high school football championship games and three state basketball tournaments.

Clutter officiated numerous sectional and regional tournament games in West Virginia and worked several OVAC All-Star Football Games. He was also selected as the referee in the 1982 Ohio North-South All-Star Game.

He is an Honorary Life Member of both the Ohio Valley Basketball Officials and Ohio Valley Football Officials organizations. He was the recipient of the Robert Dawson Officials Award at the OVAC Basketball Classic in 2005.

Clutter also worked football and basketball games in the West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

As an athlete, Clutter was an all-West Virginia selection in football and basketball at Wheeling High. As a senior, he was named the all-state captain and led the Wildcats to the state basketball championship under coach V. Everett Brinkman.

He was offered a football scholarship to the University of Alabama, he entered the Navy during World War II. He played one year with the Philadelphia Naval Base team, and then after fulfilling his military obligation, he played professional basketball in England. When he returned home, he was selected to play in the 1946 OVAC All-Star Football Game.



## Edgar Martin (Athlete - 1940s)

**Edgar Martin** (Warwood High School, Class of 1945). A multi-sport high school and college standout despite his size of 5-foot-4 and weighing between 130-145 pounds, he left his mark on the OVAC and Ohio Valley sports.

A three-time All-OVAC honoree in basketball (1944 and 1945) and football (1944), he helped the Vikings win the first OVAC Class A title and five-school City of Wheeling crown with a 9-1 record in 1944. In basketball, he was the leader of two OVAC title teams which went 14-6 and 22-3. The 1945 City of Wheeling title team also won the W. Va. section and region crowns and advanced to the one-class state tournament before bowing to Beckley Woodrow Wilson. As a senior on a 9-1 record football team, he returned a kickoff 85 yards to score in the team's only loss to Follensbee, 21-13. He was a third team all-state one-class selection. In basketball, he earned second team one-class all-state as a senior and scored 42 points - a rare total at the time - in a 100-68 win over Follensbee.

At Bethany College, he was a three-sport standout (football, basketball, baseball) and was a two-time All-West Virginia Conference basketball tournament honoree. As a senior, he averaged 22.5 points a game. After coaching in high school at Jefferson Union and Linsley, he coached alma mater Bethany College for 11 years from 1956-66, including a 17-1 record Presidents' Athletic Conference title team in 1962 and an unbeaten 18-0 PAC championship club in 1964.

He finished his career at West Liberty State as athletic director from 1973-88 and also coached basketball from 1969-74. He was one of the original organizers of the current Beast of the East summer baseball tournament named in his honor. Martin died in 1989.



## Bob Jeter (Athlete - 1950s)

**Bob Jeter** (Weir High School, Class of 1956). Possibly the most prominent name to bridge the transition from segregated schools into integrated education in the Ohio Valley. He was a multi-sport standout at segregated Dunbar High School in Weirton through his junior season of 1955. With integration in West Virginia, he finished at Weir High School and became the first black athlete to be recognized on the All-State football selections by the W. Va. Sports Writers Association. A two-way back, he was a third team choice.

In his one season at Weir High, he helped the Red Riders to an 8-1-1 record and the OVAC Class AA title.

Recruited by the University of Iowa, he became a three-season two-way regular. As a senior, the All-Big Ten honoree set a Rose Bowl rushing record in 1959 which lasted two decades before broken by USC's Marcus Allen. Jeter rushed for 191 yards on only nine carries and scored on a record 81-yard TD run in a 39-14 win over California.

After being selected to play in the East-West Shrine Game, he was the No. 2 draft choice of the Green Bay Packers in 1960 but opted to play in the Canadian Football League with the Vancouver B.C. Lions and the Hamilton Tiger Cats for two seasons. He then joined the Packers as a defensive back-wide receiver and played in three straight NFL winning championship games and started the first two Super Bowl games for the winning Packers in 1966 and 1967. An All-Pro twice and a Pro Bowl selection, he played eight NFL seasons and finished his career by playing three seasons with the Chicago Bears.

A member of the W. Va. Sports Hall of Fame and Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Hall of Fame, he was the 1970 Dapper Dan Man of the Year. Jeter died in 2008.



## Jim McCormick (Athlete - 1950s)

**Jim McCormick** (Magnolia High School, Class of 1958). Arguably the No. 1 Blue Eagle basketball product, he set or tied 53 school records while playing only two varsity seasons.

As a senior, he earned All-OVAC Class A honors and All-W.Va. mention when he scored 613 points for a 29.2 per game average, both school records which lasted 45 years. He also scored 51 points in a game which has been tied, but not broken after five decades. He averaged 22.1 points for his career. He also played baseball for the Blue Eagles.

After high school, the 6-foot-3 guard prepped for a year at old Greenbrier Military in Lewisburg, W.Va., where he started on an unbeaten post-graduate team composed of several high school all-stars.

He enrolled at West Virginia University as an invited walk-on and was the second-leading scorer behind future All-American Rod Thorn on WVU's second-ever unbeaten freshman team.

In the third game of his sophomore season, he became a varsity starter for the rest of his career and, with Thorn, formed a top backcourt which led WVU to three Southern Conference titles and a pair of NCAA Tournament berths. He averaged double figures all three years and scored 1,156 career points which, at the time, was fifth all-time in WVU history behind four All-Americans - Jerry West, Rod Hundley, Mark Workman and Thorn. McCormick and Thorn were featured on the cover of the 1962 WVU Basketball Media Guide.

After twice earning All-Southern Conference second team and honorable mention All-America, he became Magnolia's only NBA draftee in the sixth round by the Cincinnati Royals, but a foot injury halted his pro career.

McCormick is a member of the WVU Sports Hall of Fame and was selected on the six-player 1956-65 All-Time WVU Team.



## Rick Boron (Athlete - 1960s)

**Richard L. Boron** (St. John Central High School, Class of 1965). He was a three-sport performer for the Fighting Irish, but it was on the gridiron where he gained national recognition.

Boron blossomed under the tutelage of Coach Dan McGrew into a two-way star as a senior. The multi-talented gridder scored 126 points as a senior while rushing for 698 yards on just 91 carries. He also hauled in 28 passes for 563 additional stripes.

While Boron was an offensive dynamo, he was just as highly-regarded for his prowess at defensive back. As a senior, he intercepted three enemy passes and also returned a punt 88 yards for a TD. McGrew, a former Purdue and professional gridder, called Boron "the best defensive back I ever saw."

For his senior exploits, Boron was named to the prestigious *Parade Magazine* All-America High School Football Team. He was also a first team all-OVAC, all-Eastern Ohio and AP all-Ohio honoree. Boron also lettered four years in baseball at SJC and two seasons in basketball.

He turned down an offer to play at Notre Dame and instead accepted a scholarship from Coach Bo Schembechler to play at Miami of Ohio. It was a decision Boron never regretted. He was a three-year regular for the Redskins as a defensive back. He was awarded second team all-Mid-American Conference honors as a junior and first team plaudits as a senior. He left the Oxford-based campus with several grid records, including most interceptions in a season (7) and freshman record for interceptions (5). Boron finished his Miami career in third place on the career interception list (14).

Boron distinguished himself in the prep coaching ranks as well. He served as head coach at Wadsworth High for five seasons, compiling a 35-9 mark. During that tenure, he received a host of coach of the year awards, including the Cleveland Plain Dealer and the *Akron Beacon Journal*. Boron left Wadsworth to serve as an assistant at Miami before heading into private business.



## Randy Donahue (Athlete - 1960s)

**Randy Donahue** (Warren Consolidated High School, Class of 1965). The area that makes up the Backeye Local School District has had countless stellar football players in its annals. Few, if any, enjoyed the success that Donahue did, however.

The 6 ft. 1, 235-pounder is regarded as one of the best linemen in Ohio Valley history, and that lofty designation is well supported. Donahue was the first OVAC player to be accorded first team *Parade Magazine* All-America honors (1964). In the 1960s, Ohio was divided into just two classes in football, but he still managed the respect and admiration of coaches throughout the state as he was voted a three-time first-team AP all-Ohio Class A selection (defensive tackle as a sophomore and junior and offensive tackle as a senior).

The line great was a four-year starter for Coach Dick Thomas' Blue Ramblers. Thomas, also a 2011 OVAC Hall of Fame inductee, put together an amazing string of success in the early '60s and Donahue was a major cog in that machine. Donahue tasted defeat just once in four years as the Ramblers went 9-0-1, 9-0, 7-1-1 and 9-0 in that span. Three of those grid juggernauts captured OVAC Class A championships.

Donahue, who also excelled on the baseball diamond, spearheaded a Warren Consolidated defense which recorded seven shutouts in his senior campaign. He recorded 64 tackles and 28 assists that season. His defensive stats as a sophomore are striking. In just nine games, the two-way terror registered 112 tackles and 52 assists.

After such a stellar prep career and with ideal size, it is no wonder Donahue was showered with college football scholarship offers. He eventually signed a grant-in-aid with West Virginia University. Fate dealt him a cruel blow, however, as in the summer before he left for Morgantown, Donahue lost the vision in one of his eyes in a freak wood-cutting accident. Much to his credit, he still attempted to play for the Mountaineers, but the handicap was too much to overcome. He returned home and took a job with Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel and he also served many years as a Warren Township trustee. Donahue passed away several years ago.



# PREVIOUS OVAC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

## Crag Miller (Athlete - 1970s)

**Crag Miller** (Bridgeport High School, Class of 1979). He was an all-star football player and standout basketball player for the Bulldogs, but it was in track and field where Miller is remembered as one of the best to ever perform in the Ohio Valley.

Miller had superb size at 6 ft. 3 and 200 pounds to be the punishing fullback-linebacker and the rugged post in basketball that he was, but that size was combined with great speed which he utilized to excel in three distinct events in track. His all-around versatility drew him the tag as the Bulldogs' most versatile athlete since John Havlicek.

Miller was the greatest discus thrower of his era. He used his elongated frame and superb athleticism to become the first Ohio Valley prepster to twirl the platter more than 170 feet, establishing a new valley standard with his 172-10 toss in the district meet as a senior. In the 32 years since, only two discus throwers have bettered that mark. Miller was state runner-up in the discus as a senior while also placing second in the Bellaire Relays as a junior and senior. The powerful Bulldog also ranked with the premier shotputters during that time, owning a best of 52 feet. Miller was equally adept on the track where he was a prime-time high hurdler, recording the best time in the Ohio Valley as a senior with a scorching 14.7 clocking.

Miller was also a three-year letterman at Bridgeport in basketball where he was the leading rebounder for Coach Frank Baxter each season. Miller averaged 15.4 points a game as a senior.

In football, he earned all-Ohio, all-OVAC and all-Valley honors after a senior year which saw him total 105 points, which included three field goals and 21 kicking PATs, another sign of his all-around talents. He was a blocking fullback, but still managed 422 yards on just 90 totes for the 9-1 Bulldogs of Coach Dave Bruney. He also averaged 40 yards per punt.

He opted to accept a football scholarship to Miami of Ohio University, where he lettered four years as a tight end and was accorded all-MAC honors as a junior.



## Pat Miller (Athlete - 1970s)

**Pat Miller III** (Shadyside High School, Class of 1979). He was able to do what few athletes can do, that being a star in two sports during the same season.

Miller was nothing short of sensational for the Tigers in baseball, lettering four times. His tremendous diamond time did nothing to adversely impact his track career where he was equally as exceptional.

The talented Tiger was also a stellar grinder and also possessed the prowess to graduate with a 3.94 GPA.

Miller captained the Tiger baseball team both as a junior and a senior, the latter season one in which he hit for a sizzling .431 average. That proved a springboard to be selected to participate in the All-Ohio Baseball Series.

He was selected an EOBL all-star all four seasons and all-Eastern District three seasons. Miller's diamond exploits earned him a baseball scholarship to Ohio University.

While his prep baseball resume is quite glittering, it may take a backseat to his track and field accomplishments. Miller achieved the ultimate by winning the state pole vault title in 1979. He also finished sixth in the high hurdles in the same state meet. He won virtually every pole vault competition as a senior, except for the Bellaire Relays which was in its heyday. Miller was third in the pole vault and third in the high hurdles in that meet, finishing as the top local scorer in the state's second-largest meet at the time.

The terrific Tiger was a two-time all-Valley honoree and was selected to The Intelligencer's all-Decade Track Team.

He enjoyed much gridiron success as well. The hard-running Tiger earned all-Ohio honors both his junior and senior campaigns. The three-year grid letterman was first team all-OVAC, all-Valley and all-Eastern District his last two seasons.

Miller, who served as the Tigers' captain as a senior, followed in his father's footsteps and played in the OVAC All-Star Game.



## Willie Clay (Athlete - 1980s)

**Willie Clay** (Linsly School, Class of 1988). This former Cadet did it all during his four years on the Wheeling campus. While earning letters in three sports, it was on the football field where he made his biggest impact to the Cadets' program.

Clay was the unquestioned leader and most recognized player on teams which won 23 consecutive games and recorded the first two undefeated seasons in the school's history when it finished 10-0 in 1986 and 9-0 in 1987. Excelling as a defensive back, wide receiver and kick returner, Clay earned numerous postseason honors during his career. As a senior, despite the Cadets' run-first offensive schemes, Clay managed to catch 30 passes for 428 yards and five touchdowns. He also took two kickoff backs for touchdowns and had five interceptions. He was named all-State, all-OVAC and all-Valley. He was the captain of the big-school team after his senior season.

On the basketball court, Clay led the Cadets in his senior season with a 17.5 points per game average while shooting 48 percent from the floor. He also passed out 170 assists en route to earning all-OVAC and all-Valley.

In the spring, Clay lit up area baseball diamonds. He batted .423 as a senior and was named all-OVAC and all-Valley.

Despite his success on so many surfaces, it was football that was his calling at the next level. Clay accepted a scholarship to attend Georgia Tech University where he earned all-ACC honors twice. At one time, Clay held the Yellow Jackets' school record for interceptions (16) after starting in the defensive backfield for three seasons.

In 1992, Clay was drafted in the eighth round by the Detroit Lions and played eight seasons in the NFL. He also played for the New England Patriots for three seasons and one with the New Orleans Saints. All told, he played in 118 NFL games and started 90.



## Sharon Vincent (Athlete - 1980s)

**Sharon Vincent** (St. Clairsville High School, Class of 1981). This Lady Red Devil was easily one of the most decorated and successful sprinters ever to grace the ovals in the Ohio Valley.

Vincent finished her prep career with eight state medals and led St. C. to its only state championship in school history in June of 1981. In that state meet her senior season, Vincent capped an undefeated campaign in both the 100 and 200-meter dashes by sprinting to the OHSAA state championships in both events in 12.18 and 24.79, respectively.

Vincent won a state gold as a sophomore as well as a member of the Lady Red Devils' 440-yard relay team. She was the state runner-up in the 200 and placed fifth in the 100 that season. Prior to breaking through in Columbus as a senior, Vincent was the state runner-up in the 100 and bronze medalist in the 200 as a junior.

The only individual loss Vincent suffered as a senior came in the 400-meter dash at the district meet where she took third, but still ran an impressive 58.7. En route to her state meet performances, athletes competed in sectionals and districts where she won 19 championships. She was a three-time sectional and district 100 and 200-meter champion.

At the OVAC meet, Vincent won a total of 12 conference championships. She was a three-time champion in both the 100 and 200. At the time of her graduation, Vincent held eight meet records and three all-time Ohio Valley records.

Vincent, who still holds the 100, 200 and 400-meter dash school records, was named St. Clairsville's Most Valuable Athlete four times and was also named all-District Athlete of the Year. She also competed in the prestigious Midwest Meet of Champions in the 100-meter dash in 1981.

After her prep career, Vincent accepted a scholarship to Eastern Kentucky University. She competed there for two seasons before transferring to The Ohio State University where she completed her bachelor of arts degree in economics.

Vincent, who was inducted to the St. Clairsville Athletic Hall of Fame as a member of the 1981 state championship team and then in 2007 as an individual athlete, later earned a master's degree from Otterbein.



## T.J. Hannig (Athlete - 1990s)

**T.J. Hannig** (Linsly School, Class of 1996). This three-sport Cadet standout excelled as an all-around athlete, but it was on the soccer field where he made his biggest impact.

Hannig earned four letters for the Cadets as their starting goalkeeper for teams which posted a 70-13-10 record. Included in those seasons were two OVAC all-class titles in 1992 and 1994. The Cadets were winning these titles because opposing teams just couldn't get the ball past Hannig, who set the Ohio Valley record with 41 career shutouts. Overall, he owned a 0.88 goals against average. His exploits didn't go unnoticed. He was twice named all-OVAC and captained the all-Valley team as a senior. He was also named Gatorade Player of the Year and a Parade All-American.

On the basketball court, Hannig blossomed as a senior, scoring nearly 17 points a game and grabbing eight rebounds en route to all-OVAC and all-Valley accolades. In track and field, Hannig competed in a bevy of events, but it was in the long jump where he stood out. He set the OVAC record with a mark of 21 feet, 7 3/4 inches and won three conference titles (high hurdles, high jump and long jump).

Hannig accepted a scholarship for soccer to the University of Indiana where he started in net from 1997-2000 and finished No. 1 in IU history with 42 shutouts and second in victories (63). The Hoosiers played in four consecutive NCAA Final Fours, winning the NCAA titles in 1998 and 1999, defeating Stanford (3-1) and Santa Clara (1-0), respectively. Hannig and OVAC and NBA Hall of Famer John Havlicek (Bridgeport High) are the only two OVAC products to play in three consecutive NCAA title games. Hannig's name is all over the Indiana University record book. He ranks seventh at IU with 176 saves, and the 23 victories in 1998 are tied for the most in a season.

After his collegiate career, Hannig was selected in the MLS Draft and spent time with D.C. United. He also played for the Pittsburgh Riverhounds.



## Quincy Wilson (Athlete - 1990s)

**Quincy Wilson** (Weir High, Class of 1999). This former Red Rider was a multi-sport standout, but it was on the football field where he earned his highest acclaim.

Wilson rewrote Ohio Valley and West Virginia record books as he helped lead the Red Riders to the 1998 West Virginia Class AA state championship.

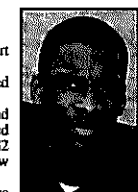
As a senior on the state championship squad, Wilson became the first Ohio Valley and West Virginia prep athlete to accumulate 3,000 yards in a season. All told, Wilson rushed for 3,262 yards. He scored an Ohio Valley record 47 touchdowns and finished with 282 points, which is second best all-time in the Ohio Valley, trailing only Jack Simons of New Cumberland, who scored 288 points in 1919.

Wilson, a four-year letterman, finished his prep career with 6,162 yards, but 5,624 of those came during his junior and senior seasons since he played primarily on defensive during his first two seasons. For his career, he scored 93 touchdowns and 564 points, with all but seven TDs and 44 points came during his junior and senior seasons. Wilson took his play to another level when the postseason rolled around. He set all-time West Virginia records with 1,671 yards and 23 touchdowns in seven playoff games. Included is a single-game record of 327 yards. In 1998 state title game against Dupont, Wilson ran for 250 yards and two scores.

Wilson won nearly every postseason award imaginable. He was named Gatorade State Player of the Year and shared the Kennedy Award with Nitro's J.R. House after he finished fourth in the balloting as a junior. He was named first-team all-State twice and captained the All-Valley team and was twice named all-OVAC. He also played basketball at Weir High.

After accepting a scholarship to West Virginia University, Wilson fought his way up the depth chart and through a medical redshirt before bursting onto the scene in a big way in 2003. He ran for 1,380 yards and 12 touchdowns en route to being named WVU's Offensive MVP and won the team's award for all-around excellence. Wilson played in 44 games at WVU, running for 2,608 yards and 20 TDs. He also caught 20 balls.

Wilson was then selected in the seventh round as the 219th player taken by the Atlanta Falcons. He was released and eventually signed with the Cincinnati Bengals, with whom he spent parts of four seasons. He was also drafted in the inaugural UFL Draft by the Florida Tuskers.



## Ashley Battle (Athlete - 2000s)

**Ashley Battle** (Linsly School, Class of 2000). When asked to name the greatest girls' basketball players in Ohio Valley history, this former Lady Cadets' name is always one of the first mentioned. And for good reason.

Battle arrived on the Linsly campus at the urging of some of her family and friends to get her away from the rough section of her hometown of Pittsburgh. She went to Linsly to take an admissions test prior to entering high school and seemingly the rest was history.

When she arrived at Linsly, the girls' basketball team was struggling, but she helped turn that around quickly and eventually led Linsly to an undefeated season in 1998-99.

At Linsly, she became the school's all-time leader in numerous statistical categories, including points (1,532), rebounds (823), assists (385) and steals (371).

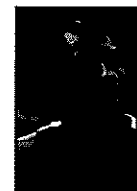
She was named OVAC Class A Player of the Year four consecutive seasons and was a three-time all-State pick in West Virginia.

After receiving countless recruiting letters, Battle eventually chose to continue her career at the University of Connecticut over the likes of Duke, Penn State and Stanford.

At UConn, she joined with Dianna Taurasi and Maria Condon and helped lead the Lady Huskies to three NCAA National Championships, including an undefeated season in 2003.

Battle was a standout on the defensive end of the floor as evidenced by the fact that she won the Big East Defensive Player of the Year award, but she also scored 1,000 career points.

Battle, who owns a degree in marketing and economics from UConn, was drafted by Seattle in the second round of the 2005 WNBA Draft. She then signed with the New York Liberty of the WNBA in 2006 and she also spent time playing for Seattle and San Antonio. All told, she appeared in 142 WNBA Games and averaged five points per game. She also played professionally in Spain in 2007 and 2008.



## OVAC Hall of Fame

Sponsored by Robinson Auto Group

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



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### *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.







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

### *OVAC Hall of Fame Class of 2008*

Members of the OVAC Hall of Fame Class of 2008 or their representatives include, front row left to right, Rob and Chip Hedmond (accepting for the late Bob Hedmond), Doug Huff (accepting for the late Jimmy Stewart), Bill Thomas, John Craig and Larry Kettlewell (accepting for the late Bob Kettlewell); second row, Tom Keane (accepting for the late Tom Keane), Nick Mumley, Tom Yakubowski, Bill Kennedy, Bob Rieves and Mike Kovalck; back row, Joseph Pettini (accepting for Joe Pettini), Connie Douth, Eric Peterson (accepting for Jay Peterson), Mark Cisar and Suzie Daller.



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### *OVAC Hall of Fame Class of 2009*

Members of the OVAC Hall of Fame Class of 2009 or their representatives include, front row left to right, Richard "Dick" Edge, Dr. Vince Monseau, John Sorrenti, Gene Ford, Henry Lasasz and Bill Paolisso; second row, Harold "Doc" Daugherty, Jim Hanna, Ken Jobko (accepting for the late Bill Jobko), Tim Anderson and Mark Thompson; third row, Marty Coyne, Mike Dawson, Charlie Keenan, Tim Moxley, David Bosley and Otis Winston.



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# A look back at past OVAC Hall of Fame Banquets

## *OVAC Hall of Fame Class of 2010*

Members of the OVAC Hall of Fame Class of 2010 or their representatives include, front row left to right, Rick DeLuca, Frank Baxter, Jean Davies (representing Bill Davies), John Stephenson and Kyle Rose; second row, Tom Cusick (representing Chuck Watt), John "Streaky" Haloszka, Dave Bruney (representing Fred Bruney), Henry Josefczyk, Don Sutherin, Larry Duck; third row, Phil Niekro (representing Joe Niekro), Less Browne, Mike Wright, Melissa Hammond and Jeff Sweitzer.



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## *OVAC Hall of Fame Class of 2011*

Members of the OVAC Hall of Fame Class of 2011 or their representatives include, front row left to right, Chuck Petty (accepting for the late Charles E. Petty), Dick Thurnes, Ross Gallabrese (accepting for the late John Kirker), Patty Dei (accepting for the late Dick Dei) and Larry Shaw. Second row, Plennie Clutter, Gary Martin (accepting for the late Edgar Martin), Carol Hudson (accepting for the late Bob Jeter), Jim McCormick, Richard Boron, John Donahue (accepting for the late Randy Donahue). Third row, Craig Miller, Pat Miller, Marsha Clay (accepting for Willie Clay), Sharon Vincent, Reno DiOrio (accepting for T.J. Hannig), Quincy Wilson and Ashley Battle.







# 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 Daps.

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.



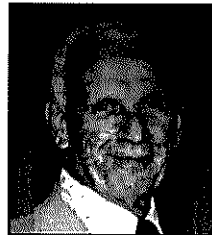
# LEGENDS OF OVAC SCHOOLS - 2006



**Bernie Allen**



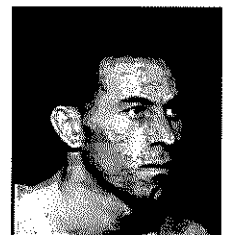
**Russ Craft**



**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** (Trindelpia 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.

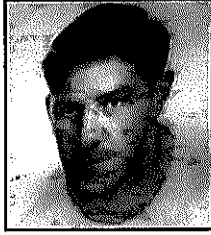
He was a 1980 charter inductee into the City of Wheeling Hall of Fame and is a member of four other halls of fame, including W. Va. Sports, Marshall and Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan.



# LEGENDS OF OVAC SCHOOLS - 2007



**Rudy Baric**



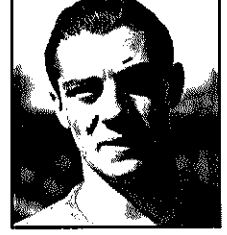
**Mike Basrak**



**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 "Yow 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.



# LEGENDS OF OVAC SCHOOLS - 2008



**Ernie Bell**



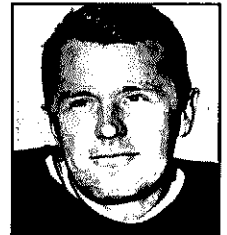
**John Blatnik**



**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-Broaddus 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-Broaddus 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.

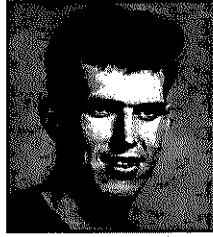
His seven-year, 81-game NFL career included 224 pass receptions for 3,222 yards and 24 touchdowns.



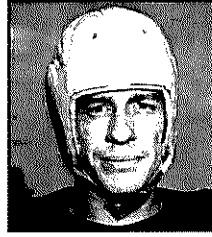
# LEGENDS OF OVAC SCHOOLS - 2009



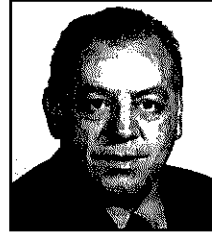
**Tom Kinkade**



**Fred Negus**



**Charley Seabright**



**Nick Skorich**



**Moffat Storer**

*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.*

## **Tom Kinkade** (Toronto High School, Class of 1938)

He was a football and basketball standout for the Red Knights before excelling in football at Ohio State University.

As a senior in high school, he led Toronto to a school record 19-2 record with only a regular season split with Weir High marring an unbeaten season. The 1938 team advanced to the regional tournament finals, the farthest in school history, before bowing, 50-49 to state tournament-bound Bridgeport.

The 6-foot-1, 190-pound Kinkade was selected All-Ohio by The Associated Press and led all scorers with a 25-point average. Toronto averaged 53 points a game.

In a 82-31 rout of Midland, Pa., Kinkade scored a school record 52 points on 23 goals and six free throws. It was the second highest Ohio Valley effort at the time and lasted as a school record for 30 years.

A quarterback in football, he was recruited by Ohio State and was a three-year letterman and two-way regular as a running back-linebacker on teams which finished 6-2 and Big Ten Conference champions in 1939 and 6-1-1 in 1941 under first-year coach Paul Brown. He was drafted by the Green Bay Packers in 1942, but opted not to play pro football.

## **Fred Negus** (Martins Ferry High School, Class of 1940)

He was a three-sport, three-year Purple Rider athlete in football, basketball and baseball and earned All-Valley honors as a junior center and senior full-back while serving as team captain in two sports.

After a year in prep school, he played football two years at the University of Wisconsin and earned All-Big Ten as a sophomore center on an 8-1-1 record team ranked No. 3 in the nation. After enlisting in the Marine Corp Reserve, he earned All-Big Ten center as a junior at the University of Michigan and also lettered in track. After a year in the active U.S. Marine Corp where he competed on the Marines' football team, he was drafted by the NFL's Cleveland Rams, but opted to return to the University of Wisconsin. He earned his third All-Big Ten first center honors and competed for the College All-Star team against the Chicago Bears.

After college, he played three seasons in Chicago in the All-American Football Conference and the 1950 season with the Chicago Bears.

In 1998, he was inducted into the University of Wisconsin Athletic Hall of Fame. In 2005, he died at age 83 in Fort Atkinson, Wis.

## **Charley Seabright** (Benwood Union High School, Class of 1937)

He was a three-sport standout in football, basketball and baseball at old Benwood Union High, earning All-West Virginia one-class honors in football and basketball and was All-Valley in football. As a senior, he led the Ironmen to a school-best 23-2 basketball record and sectional and regional titles plus a state tournament berth. During that run, the Ironmen ended a 33-game winning streak of defending state champion Wheeling.

At West Virginia University, he earned seven letters and is one of only 12 athletes in school history to earned letters in football, basketball and baseball. A three-year starter as blocking back, single-wing quarterback and linebacker, he also batted .300 as a left-handed baseball first baseman and played guard in basketball.

He was selected to the WVU football all-time decade team (1940-49) and was a 2004 inductee into the WVU Sports Hall of Fame. In 1977, he was inducted into the West Virginia Sports Hall of Fame.

In 1941, Seabright played with the NFL's Cleveland Rams before serving in the U.S. Army. After the war, he played five seasons (1946-50) as one of the last two-way offensive-defensive players in the NFL as blocking back-linebacker with the Pittsburgh Steelers. He started on the 8-4 record 1947 team regarded as the best in team history prior to the 1970s. He was selected in the 1970s on an All-Time Steeler Defensive Team.

After residing and working in the Ohio Valley for three decades, he died in 1981.

## **Nick Skorich** (Bellair High School, Class of 1939)

He was a three-sport Big Reds' athlete in football, basketball and track and earned All-Valley honors as a football center while playing on three teams which won titles in the OVAA, the forerunner of the OVAC. The three teams had records of 9-1, 8-2 and 9-1.

He earned a football scholarship to the University of Cincinnati where he was team captain as a senior and earned honors on the All-Ohio college selections. Skorich was drafted by the Pittsburgh Steelers in 1943 before serving in the U.S. Navy. After military service, he played three seasons as guard for the Steelers before turning to coaching — first in high school before serving as an assistant with the Steelers, Green Bay and Philadelphia before becoming Eagles' head coach for three seasons. He then joined the Cleveland Browns' staff and became the Browns' head coach from 1971-74. After leaving Cleveland, he capped his career as supervisor of officials for the National Football League. He died in 2004.

## **Moffat Storer** (The Linsly School, Class of 1939)

He was a three-sport Cadet standout in football, basketball and track where he set the longest-lasting Ohio Valley and W. Va. record in the 100-yard dash.

An All-Valley fullback, he helped Linsly to 7-2 and 9-2 records as a sophomore and junior but is best known for his record-setting first place finish in the 1939 Intelligencer Tri-State Track Meet, the most prestigious meet in the area at the time. He clocked 9.7 seconds for 100 yards which remained on the OV record books for four decades and was the best-ever in West Virginia until 1972.

He continued his football and track career at Duke University where he was a starting back in the 1942 Rose Bowl game against Oregon State. It was played in Durham, N.C., the only time outside Pasadena, Calif., because of World War II in the Pacific. He also starred on the Blue Devils' track team and led the sprint relay unit to a victory in the prestigious Penn Relays.

Storer was drafted by the NFL Chicago Cardinals but, after graduation, served in the armed forces.

He lived in Chattanooga, Tenn., for several years, and is deceased.



# LEGENDS OF OVAC SCHOOLS - 2010



**Floyd Baker**



**Carl Hoppel**



**Dick Mehen**



**Will Robinson**



**Jack Simons**

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## **Floyd Baker**

— The graduate of Wittenberg University left his boys' basketball coaching imprint on the Ohio Valley from 1932-45. He put Bridgeport High on the roundball map during a golden era from 1934-40 when the Bulldogs had three straight 20-win seasons (20-5, 27-4 and 23-3, all by Baker), five sectional crowns (three by Baker), and four straight Ohio state tournament berths (three by Baker), reaching the semifinals in 1936 and 1938, a team that included OVAC Legend John Blatnik. His seven-year Bulldog coaching record was 118-56.

Baker then moved over to rival Martins Ferry, where he enjoyed even more success and became the only area coach to guide two different schools to the Ohio state tournament, highlighted by the 1941 Ohio championship squad.

He started the Purple Riders' golden era in basketball, which lasted from 1939-54 and included 12 sectional titles, six by Baker-coached teams.

His final six Ferry teams won more than 20 games. From 1941-45, his teams went 122-9. That included the 29-2 record title team of 1941, led by Hall of Famer Lou Groza, and followed by records of 22-3, 24-1, 25-1 and 21-2. A 33-game winning streak ended in 1942. The 1944 team (26-1), led by Hall of Famer Alex Groza, won the first OVAC Class AA title. His seven-year Ferry record was 159-21.

Baker's 14-year Ohio Valley coaching record was 277-77, with seven Ohio state tournament berths and the 1941 Ohio largest Class A championship. He left Ferry for a job in Richmond, Ind.

## **Carl Hoppel**

(Beaver Local High School, Class of 1962). The youngest of five sons to Everett and Lee Hoppel, a famous wrestling family known throughout Ohio, he became the first freshman to win an Ohio wrestling championship in 1959. Had it not been for a highly-disputed takedown in the last few seconds of his semifinal match as a sophomore, where he placed third, he could have been a four-time state champion. He went on to win Ohio titles as a junior and senior to become a three-time champion.

Hoppel, who also played football at Beaver, was never pinned in four years and finished his career with a 99-2 won-loss record and three state championships. He was honored at the 2000 Ohio State Wrestling Tournament as one of the Top 15 "Greatest Ohio High School Wrestlers."

For 10 straight years, from 1953-62, the five Hoppel brothers competed in the Ohio State Tournament and had 12 state placers including six champions — three by the youngest son, Carl. The four oldest sons competed for East Liverpool High.

Carl Hoppel, a retired businessman, was once owner of Hoppel Enterprises, Hoppel Block and Brick and co-owner of West Point Electric.

## **Dick Mehen**

(Wheeling High School, Class of 1940). He and older brother Bernie Mehen, who was honored as an OVAC Legend in 2006, became the first two West Virginia basketball players to earn all-class, first team all-state basketball honors three times. The 6-foot-5 center was honored as all-state captain in 1940 when the Wildcats went 23-1 and won the second state title in three years and also claimed the OVAA championship. The OVAA was a conference forerunner of the OVAC.

In 1938, when both Dick and Bernie Mehen started for the Wildcats, Wheeling High went 24-0 and won a state title for Coach Everett Brinkman, an OVAC Legends charter selection. The Wildcats went 64-3 in the three years that Dick Mehen was a starter.

As a senior, Mehen scored 556 points to lead the Ohio Valley, and probably the state of West Virginia, and ended his prep career with more than 1,300 points, a high total for that era.

Dick joined Bernie at the University of Tennessee and earned two first team All-Southeastern Conference honors and was second team All-America. He then played five years of pro basketball in the pre-NBA era, including the Toledo Jeeps coached by Triadelphia High product and OVAC Legend, Jule Rivlin.

## **Will Robinson**

(Steubenville High School, Class of 1933). A five-sport Big Red letterman in football, basketball, baseball and track, he was the "T" quarterback on the 1930 9-0 record football team which was unbeaten, untied and unscored-upon and also featured OVAC Legend George (Puck) Burgwin. Big Red went 26-1 in his three years at quarterback.

He was also a fine golfer, placing second in the Ohio state tournament.

At West Virginia State, Robinson captained three teams in three sports, won 12 varsity letters, and quarterbacked the 1936 national Negro championship team.

He became a legendary high school coach in Detroit where his 28 teams won 85 percent of their games while producing numerous college and pro athletes at Cass Tech and Pershing High School.

In 1970, he became the first black to become head basketball coach at a major university — Illinois State — where he coached Olympian and NBA player Doug Collins. After five winning seasons, he returned to Detroit to join the NBA Pistons' staff as a scout.

He's also a member of several Halls of Fame including W. Va. State, Illinois State, Michigan Sports Hall, and Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dans. He died, at age 96, in 2008.

## **Jack Simons**

(New Cumberland High School, Class of 1920). He has held the Ohio Valley single-season football scoring record for 90 years. In 1919, he scored 38 touchdowns and 60 extra points for a record 288 points. He was a four-year, four-sport (football, basketball, baseball, track) performer at the school which was merged, along with Chester and Newell, into the current Oak Glen High School. He became the first New Cumberland athlete, in 1919, to earn first team all-state football honors.

At West Virginia University, he was a four-year starter (1920-23) at halfback and fullback as well as linebacker. He started on the 10-0-1 record 1922 team, the only unbeaten team in school history. He was captain of the 7-1-1 record 1923 team and is a member of the 1919-29 all-time WVU decade team.

In 1924, he spent one year as player-coach of the professional Steubenville Pros. He also became athletic director and started the football program at old St. Francis High School in 1931 and coached until 1938 including two 9-0 record teams. Simons has been inducted into the WVU Sports Hall of Fame and the W. Va. State Sports Hall of Fame. He died, at age 96, in 1997 in Morgantown, where he operated an insurance agency.





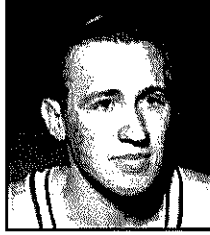
# LEGENDS OF OVAC SCHOOLS - 2011



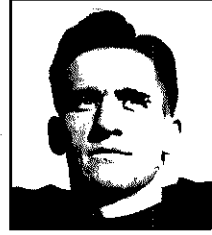
**Bob Bentz**



**Punque Cartledge**



**Jim Jordan**



**Cas Myslinski**



**Norman Willey**

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**Bob Bentz** (Beaver Local High School, Class of 1972). In high school, he dominated the area and Ohio distance running scene while setting school 1,600- and 3,200-meter school records which remain on the books.

He became the first sub-nine minute 3,200-meter runner in Ohio history (8:58) and his 4:20 time in the 1,600 remains on the school record books. As a junior, he won the Ohio Class AA cross country title and placed second in the state meet 2-mile run.

As a senior, Bentz was undefeated in cross country and track while setting an Ohio two-mile record. He earned All-America status by placing third with a time of 8:58.4 for two miles at the High School Track & Field National Meet in Baton Rouge, La.

Recruited by the University of Tennessee, he led the Vols to four unbeaten cross country seasons, four Southeastern Conference titles and the 1972 NCAA title. In track, his teams won three SEC crowns and the 1974 NCAA championship. He contributed to 11 SEC titles in four cross country and track seasons while earning All-SEC honors.

**Charles (Punque) Cartledge** (Steubenville High School, Class of 1912). The first area inductee into the Ohio Football Coaches Hall of Fame and the initial honoree in the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Hall of Fame, he put Big Red football on the area and Ohio maps with a 22-year record of 140-38-11 from 1916-40.

His teams outscored foes by 3,772-870 and dealt famed Massillon its worst loss ever, 68-0, in 1931. That team was led by OVAC Hall of Fame Legends George (Puck) Burgwin and Will Robinson. The Big Red schedule during that era included top team from around Ohio and western Pennsylvania.

In a pre-playoff era, his Big Red teams were acclaimed Ohio state champions five times (1925, 1926, 1930, 1931, 1935). He coached seven unbeaten teams and three one-loss squads.

From 1922-26, Big Red was unbeaten in 45 games against high school teams, with a lone defeat in 1924 to the Carnegie College freshmen. They had 35 shutouts in 46 games. In 1930-31 seasons, they had an Ohio Valley record 17 straight shutouts.

He also coached Big Red basketball to a 181-139 record from 1919-39 and also coached the tennis team.

As a high school senior (1911-12), he captained Big Red football, basketball and baseball teams and was a football quarterback. He died in 1978.

**Jim Jordan** (Chester High School, Class of 1943). A 6-foot-3, 195-pound basketball center, he was selected captain of the 1943 one-class West Virginia All-State team after leading Chester to a 20-4 record. Two of the losses, including the regional tournament, were to 26-1 record state champion Wheeling High.

In five years of college play, Jordan competed for four conference championship teams. Enrolled in the Navy V-12 program at Mount St. Marys (Md.) College, he was the leading scorer in the Mason-Dixon Conference.

He enrolled at the University of North Carolina in the Naval ROTC program and earned second team and first team All-America honors in two seasons with the Tar Heels. The 1946 UNC team finished as NCAA runner-up to Oklahoma A&M. He was the only unanimous choice for All-Southern Conference and led the league in scoring. Featured on a Tar Heel trading card of basketball legends, his jersey No. 8 hangs from the rafters of the Dean Smith Center.

Jordan finished his college career with two seasons at the University of Kentucky and played on the Wildcats' 1947 NIT title team and the 1948 NCAA championship squad led by fellow OVAC Hall of Famer and All-American, Alex Groza of Martins Ferry. Both Groza and Jordan were later selected to the All-Time Ohio Valley Pre-1950 team by The Intelligencer.

Jordan, who died in 1999, was an attorney in Chester for 35 years.

**Casimir Myslinski** (Steubenville High School, Class of 1941). In high school, he was a football running back and captain of the 1940 Big Red team, the final one for fellow OVAC Legend honoree Charles (Punque) Cartledge.

He entered West Point in the last pre-World War II class and under the stepped-up wartime program, he graduated in three years with a B.S. in engineering.

He served as captain of the 1943 Army team and earned the Most Valuable Player award while being named to every first team All-America selection as a 6-foot, 195-pound center. He also received the Knute Rockne Award as the nation's outstanding lineman in 1943.

After graduation in 1944, Myslinski entered the Air Force and returned to West Point in administration in 1952. In 1956, he became head of the Physical Education Department at the Air Force Academy and from 1968-82, he served as Athletic Director at the University of Pittsburgh.

He was selected Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Man of the Year in 1977.

Myslinski died in 1993.

**Norman (Wild Man) Willey** (Pine Grove High School, Class of 1945). He is the Ohio Valley's most prominent product of the old six-man football teams at the smaller enrollment schools.

The 6-foot-2, 225-pound athlete played football, basketball and baseball for the Tornados.

After high school, he enrolled for one year in the U.S. Navy and briefly attended Salem College before enrolling at Marshall College, where he played football and basketball.

A fullback-defensive end in football, he was drafted in the 13th round by the NFL's Philadelphia Eagles, where he played eight seasons from 1950-57. He was a two-time Pro Bowl selection and is a member, along with Reggie White, as a defensive end on the All-Time Eagles' honor roll.

Willey is credited as the reason the NFL started charting defensive sacks after it was reported he was unofficially credited with 17 sacks against New York Giants' quarterback Charley Conerly on Oct. 26, 1952. He earned the nickname "Wild Man" from his pass rushing resulting in opponents' yardage losses.

An inductee into the Marshall and West Virginia State Sports Halls of Fame, he was honored in Pine Grove with a "Norman Willey Day" on Sept. 15, 2006. Signs proclaiming "Home of Wild Man Willey" were erected at the entrance to the town as well as at Valley High School.

# Ohio Valley Athletic Conference

## Embarks on 70th 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 50 schools supply the upper Ohio Valley with more than 17,000 athletes in the various competitive athletic areas.

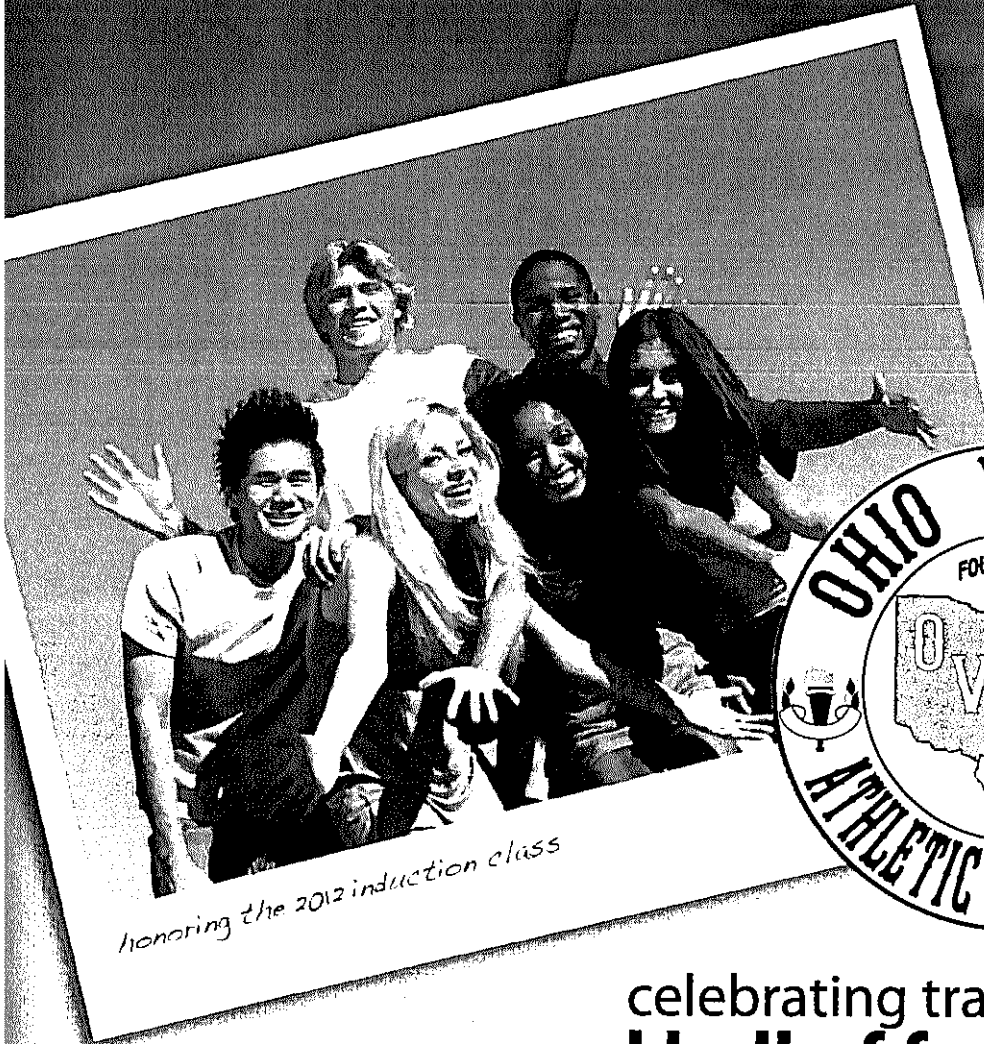
It is the basic objective of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference to continue the promotion of all high school athletics and to serve in the overall development of proper school relationship, scholarship, and sportsmanship within the conference.

### Current OVAC Member Schools

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



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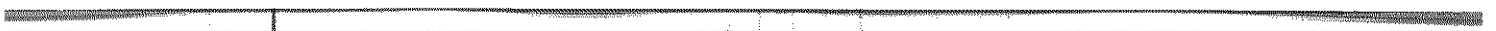
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