

BELLAIRE HIGH SCHOOL'S



HALL OF FAME AND WALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

**Compiled by
Thomas E. Rataiczak
December 18, 2025**

READ THIS FIRST!

Before you begin to explore these biographies, please allow me to explain their existence. **THIS IS A WORK IN PROGRESS.**

I wanted to make this file of all those people who were inducted into the Bellaire High School Hall of Fame/Wall of Fame. These are two separate but equal entities. An explanation as to the criteria is on the next page that differentiates the two.

Started back in 1983, the problem was that no one bothered to create a file such as this to add on to each year. While the pictures are in the high school gymnasium/cafeteria, the public couldn't access them. In addition, the biographies were usually printed in the football program and, over the years, these have been lost. Many of the files relating to the inductee's biography were handwritten notes that were difficult to translate.

So what you'll see:

1. The headings of each inductee are correct regarding their year of graduation and induction.
2. The pictures are copies taken from the wall itself. Since these have to be copied, it requires a good bit of time to remove the glass from each board, photograph the pictures, and copy/download them into this file. So those that are missing will eventually get there. But it's just me. Please be patient.
3. Most of the biographies are copied from the football programs or notes from the principal. Nothing has been updated or added since their induction. In cases where you might see just a listing of random information of the inductee, it has been taken from a bio sheet they submitted. Capitalization and punctuation are as they were in the program. ***Granted, one could research each individual and write a complete biography, but my purpose was to get something like this together so that it could be improved upon over time.***

So please be understanding. Should you have additional information to add, please submit it to tom@theratsnest.org and I will be happy to add it as I have time.

A SPECIAL SALUTE AND THANK YOU TO SEAN KENNEDY

As you go through this file, you will notice paragraphs added after the material found on the Bellaire High School WOF/HOF biographies. This material has been provided by Sean Kennedy who graduated in 2003, LONG after most of these athletes were inducted.

Sean has a passion like no one I have ever come in contact with, being fueled by his grandfather, Ralph Hadley, a long time Big Reds' supporter, who had a dream of writing a book regarding Big Reds football. But the dream died when he passed away.

Until Sean decided to pick up the loose pieces and give it a try. While the book is still in production, he has discovered, due to his voluminous research, that it will have to be multiple volumes. And trust me when I say, without even seeing a copy, it will be worth the wait.

Sean is a meticulous young man, spending years going through microfilm, archives, internet, books, and film tracking down the most minute detail on these athletes. And for many of them, what he has found is all that exists. Thanks to his efforts, they will be remembered.

Sean has also been invaluable in uncovering football records that date back to the early 1900's and has helped me recognize the efforts of these players before anyone else ever kept stats. And should you question whether his research is accurate, he has copies of articles to support them. In my fifty plus years of keeping records for BHS, I have never come across an individual, especially one so young, quite like him.

I truly appreciate Sean's help in recognizing the greats from our past and hope that when his book(s) are ready, you will support his efforts by purchasing one. You won't be disappointed.

Thank you, Sean.

HALL OF FAME GUIDELINES:

CRITERIA

1. A member must have been a Bellaire High School graduate.
2. Induction cannot occur until ten (10) years after graduation from Bellaire High School.

The following are guidelines used in determining selection into the Hall of Fame. The decision for the selection is solely left up to the committee.

1. Any individual or team winning a State championship.
2. Any "First Team" All-American selection. This will include all NCAA or NAIA divisions.
3. Any top six place winners (tournaments). This will include all NCAA divisions, including NAIA.
4. Any individual who rates in the top six places of a statistical category of the NCAA or NAIA at the conclusion of the season. This criteria is left to the discretion of the committee to determine the validity of the category.
5. Any member (athlete or coach) of the United States Olympic team.
6. Any member (athlete or coach) of a major United States professional team.
7. Any athlete who earns first team status on a NCAA Division I team.

NOTE: Members of the Wall of Fame not meeting the above guidelines may be elevated to the Hall of Fame by a **unanimous vote** of the committee.

WALL OF FAME GUIDELINES:

CRITERIA

1. A member does not have to be a Bellaire High School graduate.
2. Induction cannot occur until ten (10) years after graduation from Bellaire High School.

The following are guidelines used in determining selection into the Wall of Fame. The decision for the selection is solely left up to the committee.

1. All Regional, District, and OVAC championship teams.
2. All athletes who made All-Ohio, First Team.
3. An athlete who has distinguished himself/herself in some area of athletics and has brought credit to Bellaire High School.
4. Consideration will be given to non-Bellaire High School graduates who have distinguished themselves in some area of athletics which has brought credit to Bellaire High School.
5. The Wall of Fame can include persons from any area of service to Bellaire High School athletics: booster, coach, newspaper writer, etc.

Committee Members: Chris Arno, Casey Davis, Ben Doyle, Gay Lucci, Tom Rataiczak, Mike Sherwood, Bruce Young

**JOSEPH ACCROCCO
(1939)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1988**



Joseph "Fosh" Accrocco graduated from Bellaire High School in 1939 and was a three -year member of the football team, serving as captain his junior and senior years.

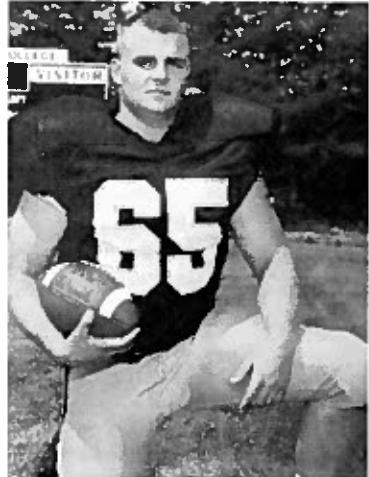
He was chosen to the Ohio Valley Football First Team two years, was named to the Third Team All-Ohio in his junior year, and received the H. Gilbert Sportsmanhip Trophy Award his senior season

BRIAN ADAMS

(1992)

HALL OF FAME

Class of 2007



Brian Adams was an outstanding baseball and football player while attending Bellaire High School, where he earned four letters in baseball and three in football.

Brian lettered in baseball as a freshman and played on the freshman football team. As a sophomore, he lettered in both sports and received Honorable Mention on the All-Valley team. During his junior year, Brian was elected Honorable Mention in football on the All-OVAC, All-Valley, and All-Eastern Ohio teams. After his senior football season, in which he served as captain, Brian was Honorable Mention All-OVAC, Second Team All-Valley, and Special Mention All-Eastern Ohio.

Adams went from Bellaire High School to Allegheny College where he had an outstanding football career. He was a four-year letterman on one of the top teams in NCAA Division II. While at Allegheny, he was a two-time All-Conference selection: as a guard his junior year and as a center his senior year. Brian capped his career by being selected as First Team All-American on the Hewlett-Packard and Football Quarterly All-American teams as well as being named to the Second Team on the Football Gazette All-American team. Brian was also named to the GTE Academic All-District Team. During his career, Allegheny posted a 36-6 record and won two Conference championships.

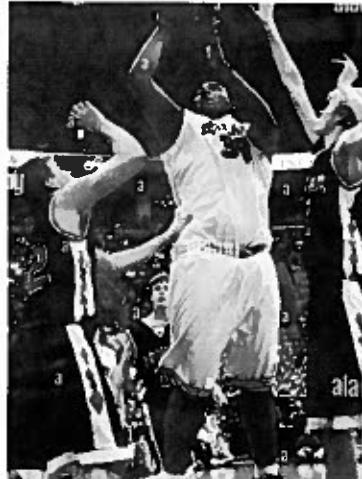
Brian currently lives in Powell, Ohio, with his wife, Kelly Moran Adams and works as Regional Operations for USF Holland.

AARON AGNEW

(2004)

Wall of Fame

Class of 2025



Standing tall in Bellaire basketball history, Aaron Agnew was a four-year letterman who earned All-OVAC, All-State, and All-American recognition. A McDonald's All-American nominee, he competed in prestigious national camps and was widely regarded as one of the country's top centers during his time. He holds overall basketball records for field goals made and blocked shots. He ended his career with 1,720 points.

Agnew also lettered in track, placing at the OVAC and state level.

His basketball career continued at Iowa State University, where he played as a freshman.

He is the proud parent of Avelyn Agnew.

Still holds record in basketball (as of 2025) for:

Field goals made in career: 716 (2001-04)

Offensive rebounds in a game: 16 v. Union Local (1/9/04)

Offensive rebounds in a career: 298 (2001-04)

Total rebounds in a game: 27 v. Union Local (1/9/04)

Blocked shots in a game: 10 v. Shaker Heights (1/18/03)

Blocked shots in a season: 87 (2003)

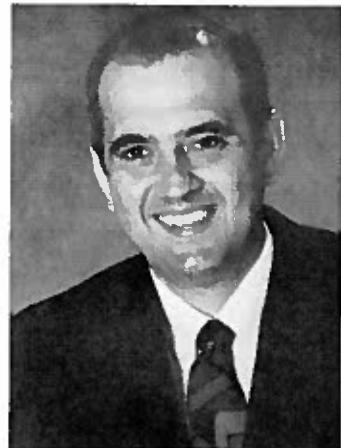
Blocked shots in a career: 314 (2001-04)

GENE AMMIRANTE

(Wheeling Central HS-1969)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1993



A graduate of Wheeling Central High School in 1969 and West Liberty State College in 1973 with a Master's Degree from West Virginia University, Gene Ammirante arrived on the Bellaire scene in 1976 as an English teacher and boys' reserve basketball coach.

After coaching the reserves and junior high football for five years, Ammirante assumed the head basketball job when Coach Mark Matz resigned. During his tenure, Bellaire has enjoyed much success on the hardcourt. His record stands at 183-86 (end of 1993) for an average of 15 wins per year.

His teams have captured five Ohio Valley Athletic Conference crowns (which include 4 consecutive and five of the last 6), 1 Eastern Buckeye League championship, 8 Sectional championships, 2 District championships, and made 2 Regional tournament appearances. These are only the second and third appearances in Bellaire's illustrious history.

Ammirante's teams have been ranked in Ohio's Top Twenty on four different occasions. His teams have twice tied the school record for wins in a season (20). He is second only to the legendary Claire Cribbs for wins in Bellaire High School history.

But more important are the numerous programs he has originated and directed, such as Bellaire's Basketball Camp, a 5th-6th Grade Future Big Reds' League, a Saturday morning fundamental program, and various AAU-summer basketball programs.

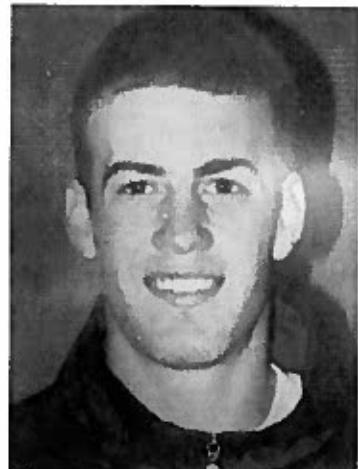
He has directed the West Virginia-Ohio OVAC All-Star Basketball Classic for seven years and has won numerous Coach-of-the-Year honors. He has also had several articles published in national publications such as **Scholastic Coach**, **OHSAA Athlete**, and **Ohio Hoop Lines**.

JERRY AMMIRANTE

(1996)

Wall of Fame

Class of 2006



They painted the three-point arc on the Big Reds' basketball court for Jerry Ammirante, and he quickly went to work as a freshman in showing the Valley his long-range skills. A four-year player and letterman in basketball, Ammirante grew up in the Bellaire gym with his dad and learned the game by playing against some of the greats in practices.

He quickly established himself by earning first-team post-season honors for OVAC and All-Eastern Ohio, second team All-Valley, and third team All-State at the end of his sophomore year.

By the end of his junior season, Ammirante garnered first team honors in everything but All-State (3rd), and repeated the awards his senior year, moving up to the second-team All-State.

As a team, Jerry guided the Big Reds to four straight OVAC championships, sectional and district championships in 1993 and 1996, and a regional runner-up in 1996. He was instrumental in giving the Reds their first perfect 20-0 season, and saw them win 20+ games in all but his junior year. He ended his career as the all-time three pointer shooter with 280 goals, enough to keep him as the fourth all-time in the State even today.

During his junior year, Jerry went out for football, playing and lettering two years.

Ammirante went on to play and letter four years at West Liberty State College, serving as team captain his senior year. He is currently a teacher in the Bellaire Local Schools and serves as a varsity assistant in basketball.

Still holds record in basketball (as of 2025) for:

Three point field goals made in a season: 77 (1996)

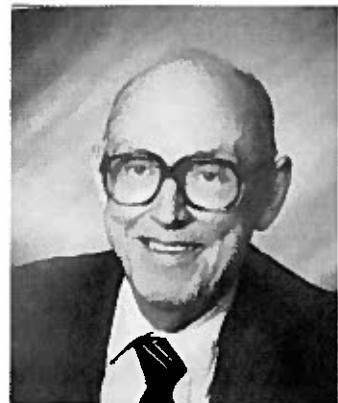
Three point field goals made in a career: 272 (1993-96)

KELLEY ARCHER

(1940)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1992



Those faithful who have attended Big Reds' football games over the past years know they can always expect to see certain things: hard-nosed football, exciting action, and Kelley Archer sitting in the stands. A long time supporter of BHS football, Archer, since his graduation from law school in 1950, he has only missed **FOUR** Bellaire games.

A 1940 graduate, he is a virtual encyclopedia of Bellaire's gridiron history, being able to recall plays, players, fields, and conditions. His keen knowledge of the sport made him one of the first members of the Hall of Fame/Wall of Fame Committee, and his memory has assisted many former grid greats receive their just induction. After law school and three years in the US Army during World War II, Archer returned to the Valley where he has been an attorney in Bridgeport since the early fifties.

A longtime member of the Big Reds Touchdown Club, he has served for years on the organization's scholarship committee. But perhaps Archer's greatest service to the Big Reds was his dedication to the Bippus Banquet. For 31 years, he saw the wishes of Howard and Jess Bippus carried out as squad after squad of Big Reds were served a meal topped off with all the ice cream they could eat. Carrying the banquet through some lean times, he saw that each year a former Big Red who had made a name for himself return to speak to that year's team, encouraging them to make something out of their lives. This is easily seen today as former Bippus attendees are eager to return to repay the favor.

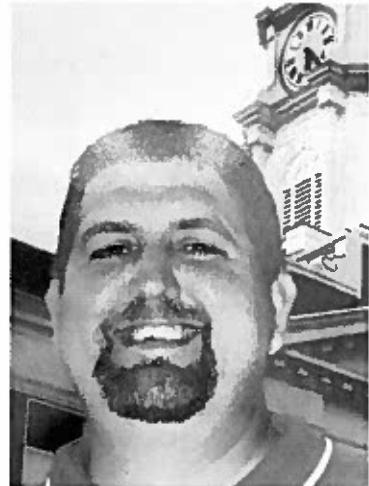
Although he has "retired" from the Bippus scene, Archer still practices law, and still follows the Big Reds.

CHRIS ARNO

(1990)

Wall of Fame

Class of 2013



Although Chris Arno was not a standout athlete by the time he graduated from Bellaire in 1990, he quickly made an impact on cross country and track when he returned after graduating from Ohio University.

From 1996, he has served as cross country coach and has been an assistant/junior high track for eighteen years. As coach of girls' cross country, Arno made five Regional appearances, placing third (2002), runner-up (2003,2004), and winning the championship in 2005. His teams qualified for the State from 2002-2005, earning sixth place in 2005.

He coached fifteen individual Regional qualifiers and had eight State qualifiers. He coached one two-time All-Ohio performer in Katie Antonik in 2004 and 2005. His girls won OVAC championships in 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005.

His boys' teams won the District championship five times and made five Regional appearances, earning runner-up honors in 2001 and 2002. Twice his teams made an appearance at the State meet.

He coached 12 individual Regional qualifiers, five State meet qualifiers, and had one All-Ohio performer in Jed Perko in 2002. His boys won the OVAC championship in 2001, 2002, 2004, and 2005.

His 2011 girls' squad was named the OHSAA Sportsmanship, Ethics, and Integrity Award winner. Arno also received the Eastern District Coaches Award in 2003, 2004, and 2005, while winning the same award for boys in 2001 and 2002.

In track, he was part of the staff that captured five OVAC boys' titles, six OVAC girls' titles, as well as both a boys and girls Regional track title. He coached the first female pole vaulter in BHS history to qualify for the State meet, as well as the first 4 x 800 relay team and the first female 3200 runner.

Currently employed at the Bellaire Middle School, Chris is married to Bellaire alumni Ann Beck. He is the son of Bill and Janis Arno.

DON AULT
(1947)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1987



Two year letterman in football: All-Valley, All-Eastern Ohio
One year letterman in track

Graduated from West Liberty State College in 1952
Three year letterman in football: captain, All-Conference

Coaching Stints:

Bellaire High School (1959-1966) (50-25-6)
Barberton High School
Slippery Rock College
Waynesburg University
Bethany College

JOE AULT

(1953)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1993



From the initial look, Joe Ault was just another end who performed for Coach Bud Bonar's football teams. Three years played; three years lettered.

After a brief stint at Kent State University, Ault returned home to West Liberty State College and repeated the scenario again: three years played; three years lettered. Although some post-season honors were awarded him at both levels, they didn't play a significant role in his athletic career.

Then Ault became a coach, following in the footsteps of his brother, Don (1987 WOF). Over the past thirty years, he has amassed 148 wins against 45 losses and 6 ties for a 74% coaching record. On six occasions, he was named League "Coach-of-the-Year." And during his last nine years at Watkins Memorial High School in Pataskala, Ohio, he has compiled a 59-9 record for a 87% win factor.

But the most impressive statistic about Ault is that he coached **SEVEN** undefeated squads! That's more years than most coaches get to coach! Two seasons came at Bridgeport High School in 1965 and 1970. In 1975, he coached Salem College to a perfect season, advancing to the NAIA Division I finals before bowing to powerful Texas A&I. Moving to Pataskala, Ault enjoyed unblemished years in 1980, 1981, 1982, and 1984.

Ault was also honored by his alma mater in 1982 when he received the Alumni Association's Outstanding Alumnus Award.

**JIM AUSTIN
(1951)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1997**



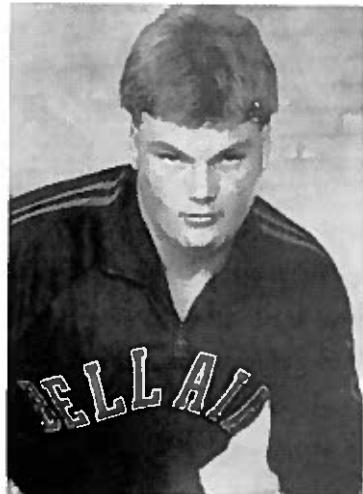
Jim Austin earned ten letters in football, basketball, and track at Bellaire High School. During his freshman year, he lettered in track. The following three years saw Jim letter each year in football, basketball, and track. From Bellaire High School, Jim went to Central State College (OH) where he was a three-year letter winner in football. In 1964, Dr. Austin graduated Magna Cum Laude from Meharry Medical College, School of Dentistry. From 1964 to 1967, he completed a post-Doctorate Research Fellowship from the National Institute of Dental Research. In 1967, he graduated from Boston University School of Graduate Dentistry with a specialty in periodontics and oral pathology. He served as chairman of the Department of Periodontics and Director of Post Graduate Education at the School of Dentistry at the University of Detroit from 1967 to 1980. Dr. Austin is an Army veteran, having been a sergeant in the United States Army, 11th Airborne Division. He is a self-employed periodontist in Bloomfield Hill, Michigan.

NORMAN AYERS

(1992)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1997



Norman Ayers was a standout wrestler and offensive lineman for Bellaire High School. As a freshman, he lettered in wrestling, adding football his sophomore year. While Norman was All-Valley, All-Eastern Ohio, and All-State in football during his last two years, it was as a wrestler that he had his greatest impact.

As a heavyweight, Norman was a two-time OVAC champion, a three-time Sectional champion, a two-time District champion, and a three-time State qualifier. In his junior season, Norman finished as runner-up in the State championship and followed this his senior season with a third-place finish. His career mark of 128-19 represents the most wins ever by the Big Reds wrestler. Norman set school records for most takedowns in a career (246) and most points in a season (213) during the 1990-1991 season when he posted a 36-1 record. Ayers was a two-time selection to the Ohio/Pennsylvania All-Star match and is Bellaire's only back-to-back OVAC champion. Prior to his early death in 1994, Norman served as a junior high wrestling coach at BHS, having coached Bubba Sechrest to an OVAC Junior High championship.

SPENCER BADIA

(2014)

Wall of Fame

Class of 2025



A record-setting quarterback for the Big Reds, Spencer Badia rewrote the record books, setting marks in passing yards, touchdowns, completions, and career totals that still stand as BHS and OVAC records. He was a multi-time All-State, All-Conference, and championship-winning leader in football.

On the baseball diamond, Badia was a four-year letterman, earning All-Conference and All-State honors while helping secure OVAC and District titles.

At Baldwin Wallace University, he continued his baseball career as a four-year letterman, two-time captain, and Academic All-American-of-the-Year. Badia graduated as valedictorian and left his mark both academically and athletically.

He and his wife, Megan, have two daughters, Mila and Cara.

Still holds record in football (as of 2025) for:

Most plays in a game: 74 v. Steubenville Catholic (2012)

Most yards gained in a game: 495 v. Steubenville Catholic (2012)

Most yards gained in a career: 8,073 (2010-13)

Most touchdowns responsible for: 7 v. Steubenville Catholic (2012)

Most passes attempted in a game: 65 v. Steubenville Catholic (2012)

Most passes attempted in a career: 960 (2010-13)

Most passes completed in a game: 38 v. Steubenville Catholic (2012)

Most passes completed in a career: 560 (2010-13)

Most passes had intercepted in a career: 37 (2010-13)

Most yards gained passing in a game: 505 v. Steubenville Catholic (2012)

Most yards gained passing in a career: 7,612 (2010-13)

Most touchdown passes in a game: 7 v. Steubenville Catholic (2012)

TRACIE BALSEI

(1990)

Wall of Fame

Class of 2000



An extremely versatile athlete would be one way to describe Tracie Balsei Hughes, a 1990 graduate of Bellaire High School. Tracie earned 10 letters in her three sports while wearing the red and black uniform.

In volleyball, Tracie lettered in 1987, 1988, and 1989, serving as captain in 1989. In basketball, Balsei also earned three letters in 1988, 1989, and 1990, and again was selected captain. In softball, Tracie earned four letters, lettering in 1987, 1988, 1989, and 1990. Balsei was selected softball captain in 1990.

Tracie received numerous honors for her outstanding athletic ability including: volleyball: MVP 1989, All-OVAC 1989, District 12 First Team 1989; basketball: Eastern Buckeye League All-Star 1989, All-District 1988, 1989, and 1990, Division II Honorable Mention, All-State 1990, and First Team OVAC 3A-4A 1990; softball: MVP 1989, All-District Honorable Mention 1989, All-District 1990, and All -OVAC 1990.

Noteworthy statistics include: Volleyball: 151 service points, 40 aces, 39 blocks, 282 spikes, 114 kills, 112 sets. Records: save receptions (29), perfect serve receptions game (20), season (141), career (269), perfect passing match - (27).

Basketball: 799 career points, 357 career rebounds, 80 career assists; 3 point goals - season (60), 3 point goal game (7).

Softball: career batting average - .387.

Tracie is a 1993 graduate of Ohio University with a degree in elementary education. Tracie is employed as an elementary teacher in the Bellaire School District.

Still holds record in basketball (as of 2025) for:

Three point field goals made in a game: 7 v. Buckeye SouthWest (2/19/90)

Three point field goals made in a season: 61 (1990)

Three point field goal percentage for a career: 38% (74/193) (1988-90)

MIKE BASRAK

(1931)

HALL OF FAME

Class of 1983



Mike Basrak was born in Bellaire in 1912 to Slovak immigrant parents, the oldest brother of the family (younger sibling Roger played football for the Big Reds and John Carroll University). He led the Reds to two conference titles on the field.

He went on to have a great college career at Duquesne University, becoming its initial First Team All-American Selection by the Associated Press. Basrak was captain of the 1936 squad that pulled a dramatic upset over the #1 Pitt Panthers to end the national title hopes of its big brother in the city. That Duquesne team finished 8-2 and won the Orange Bowl over Mississippi State, 13-12, where he earned the game Most Valuable Player award. They achieved a final national ranking of 14th.

With the later split in college divisions, Basrak will forever rank as the highest awarded player in the school's history. In December 1937, Basrak was the guest speaker for the St. John Central Booster Banquet where he talked about the importance of higher education. "Should you have the opportunity to secure a college education, set your eyes on the stars and never deviate from the search for higher knowledge. Make your college career productive of a profession in life, and set football and athletics in their proper places, secondary to education . . . An All-American rating lasts for only a year while the things you learn in college will be with you a lifetime."

In the National Football League's 1937 draft, Basrak was selected fifth overall by the Pittsburgh Pirates (Steelers). The December before the draft, Pirates owner Art Rooney stated at the league meeting that, "Basrak's the man we want above all others... and we must get him. It's better to make certain of one outstanding player whom we know will make the grade than to shop around for four or five college stars on whom we have to gamble on their ability to make good."

With Pittsburgh, Basrak received the highest pay on the squad at \$250 per game, which was \$2,500 for the season. The draftee practiced with the club in the mornings, spent the afternoon as a professor at Duquesne's prep school in the typewriting class, and then performed his duties as an assistant coach for the Dukes gridiron team. He efforts on the field during his rookie season landed him on the First Team All-Pro list. Basrak played two seasons with the Pirates when he suffered a devastating knee injury while attempting to recover a fumble in a pile

against the Dodgers. It proved a career-ending wound as he retired.

Basrak enlisted in the U.S. Navy during the Second World War. After his duties concluded, he entered the coaching ranks spending two years as the head-man at Marietta High School in 1946 and 1947, with his teams going 5-3-1 and 3-5-1. He went south to coach Manual High School in Louisville, Kentucky and won the state championship in 1948 going 11-0 and received the state's Coach-of-the-Year honors. He posted a 40-21-3 record.

He later relocated to Skokie, Illinois, in suburban Chicago where he coached football at Niles East from 1954-62 and at Niles West from 1963-73. Basrak passed away in December 1973 and was honored by Niles West with the renaming of its stadium to Mike Basrak Field.

He was inducted into the Bellaire and Duquesne athletic halls of fame.

Researched by Sean Kennedy '03

ROGER BASRAK
(1929)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1984



Graduated from Bellaire in 1929

Attended Liberty for one year

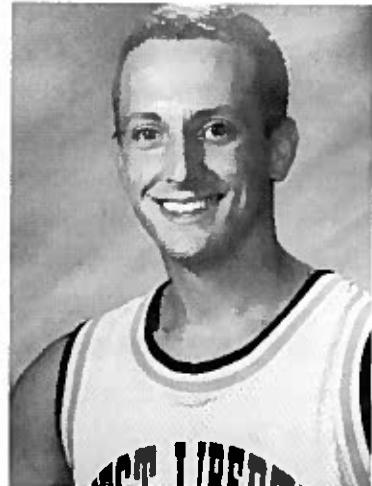
Went to John Carroll College (Cleveland)
Played tackle on team
Graduated in 1935

J. R. BATTISTA

(1992)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1997



J.R. Battista played basketball only two years at Bellaire High School after transferring from Wheeling Central. During this time, Bellaire was 39-9 with one OVAC Championship and a berth in the Regional tournament.

As a junior and senior, J.R. was selected as captain of the All-OVAC 1st Team, All-Valley 1st Team, and District 12 All-Star Team. During his junior year, he was voted to the All-State 2nd Team and to the 1st Team All-State Team as a senior. J.R. was the Eastern District Player-of-the-Year in 1992.

He was selected to play in the North/South Basketball Classic in Columbus, one of only three Bellaire players to ever be chosen. He was nominated to be a McDonald's All-American from the state of Ohio and was listed in Who's Who Among High School Players in the United States. J.R. was also a member of the Bellaire High School National Honor Society.

Battista scored 1,114 points in his career and was among the Valley's leading scorers both years. From Bellaire High School, J.R., enrolled at West Liberty State College where he was a 4-year letterman. He was among the league leaders in assists, 3 point field goal, and free throw percentage during his junior and senior years. J.R. helped the Hilltoppers to a second place finish as a senior. As a senior, he was named to the 3rd Team All-Conference Team and was 1st Team All-Valley.

During the past summer, J.R. was Director of the Wheeling Recreational College, High School and Junior-High Summer Basketball Leagues. He is presently employed by Belmont County as a Multiple Handicapped teacher and is coaching at Bellaire with his uncle, Gene Ammirante.

Still holds record in basketball (as of 2025) for:

Field goal percentage for a career: 66% (386/582) (1991-92)

ERNIE BECK

(1915)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1985



Beck was the signal caller for the Red and Black in 1913 and 1914 leading his team to claim the Ohio state championship his senior season.

He became the first person to qualify for the Career Scoring List with 129 points and led his units to a 13-1-3 mark as the signal caller. This included a 75-yard fumble return for TD in 1914 against Marietta, which was the record for the longest return until 1919. Beck's 80-yard touchdown run in 1914 versus Steubenville was the longest confirmed run on record until 1941. His 75-yard fumble recovery for a score in 1914 against Marietta was the school record until 1919 and is still in the top 3 longest returns. He was the starting guard for the Red and Black on the basketball court in 1913 and 1914.

Beck made the first West Virginia All-State team at West Virginia Wesleyan as a freshmen in 1915. He was a captain in his third year and played with his schoolmate, John Tschappat, when they defeated WVU, 20-0, in 1917. That year, he also received the captaincy of the varsity basketball team. His success on the baseball diamond made him one of the greatest athletes produced in the early years at the college.

Beck received a draft notice for the U.S. Army when World War I broke out and served until the end.

Later, he became the first head football coach at Benwood Union in 1922. He remained in place for three seasons. In two games against his alma mater, Union went 0-2 being outscored 63-6. From 1927-1929, he was athletic director at West Union High School in Adams County, Ohio. In 1932, he spent one year as the head man of the St. John Central football team.

For many years, he refereed football games throughout Ohio while working for Weirton Steel.

Researched by Sean Kennedy '03

DEBBIE BLAZEK

(1991)

HALL OF FAME

Class of 1996



Although she played volleyball and softball while at Bellaire High School, Debbie Blazek earned her reputation in girls' basketball. For those who have followed the sport since it became State-recognized in 1976, there have been several girls who have helped move the sport forward, but no one has defined the game as well as Blazek.

A three-year starter and a four-year letterwinner, Debbie started getting Valley recognition her sophomore year when she was named 2nd team OVAC, Special Mention All-Valley, and Honorable Mention All-Eastern Ohio. Her junior year saw her capturing First Team spots on all three teams, as well as being named Player-of-the-Year in All-Eastern Ohio and 3rd Team All-State UPI. Blazek also set the pace for the Ohio Valley by leading them in free throw shooting, a feat she duplicated her senior year.

But her senior year was the best of all. In addition to being the captain of the Lady Reds, Blazek earned captaincies on the All-OVAC and All-Valley squads while moving up to 2nd team All-State UPI. One of the highlights of her senior year was fashioning a perfect 20-0 regular season record, the first in BHS girls' history. By the time she graduated, she had been the major contributor to a 74-16 record, two OVAC championships, three Sectional championships, and two State-ranked teams.

With all these skills, Blazek drew the attention of many colleges, but selected to attend West Virginia University, making her the first female Big Reds' athlete to attend a Division I college on a full athletic scholarship. And she wasted no time making her presence felt, as she lettered her freshman year on the NCAA Division I "Sweet 16" team. Blazek played all four years at WVU and lettered all four years. In addition, she was named WVU "Athlete-of-the-Week" her sophomore year and captain for both her junior and senior years.

Blazek has probably done more for women's athletics at BHS than any other single athlete, inspiring others with her work ethic and dedication and paving the way on the collegiate level for generations to come.

Debbie is an insurance saleswoman for Combined Insurance Company of America.

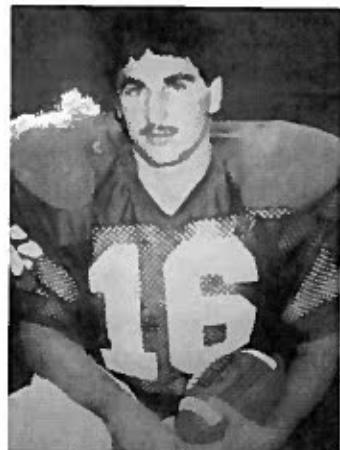
Still holds record in basketball (as of 2025) for:
Assists in a career: 335 (1988-91)

ERNIE BLAZEK

(1982)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1991



Ernie Blazek was an outstanding athlete in baseball, football, and wrestling while attending Bellaire High.

In baseball, Blazek was a four-year performer and letter winner. During his senior year, he was selected to the All-OVAC, All-Valley, All-Eastern Ohio, and All-District Teams. He established records for the most triples in a game and the most hit by pitches for a season and career.

As a football player, Blazek was a three-year performer and letter winner. In addition to being chosen his senior year to the All-OVAC, All-Valley, and All-Eastern Ohio squads, he was also selected to play in the OVAC All-Star game. Blazek holds the school records for most fair catches on punts for a game, season, and career.

He also wrestled and lettered for three years (earning a total of ten varsity letters) and was selected captain of the 1982 squad. In 1981, he received third place honors in the OVAC Tournament (155 pounds), second place honors at the Barnesville Invitational (167 pounds), and was AAA District runner-up. During his senior year, Blazek wrestled to a 2nd place finish in the OVAC Tournament (155 pounds) and was selected Big Reds' Touchdown Club Most Valuable Wrestler.

Upon graduation, he entered Ohio Wesleyan University, where he played football and baseball, lettering in football. He later transferred to Ohio University where he played football his junior year.

Blazek presently resides in Westerville, Ohio, where he is a business analyst programmer for ABB Process Automation.

Still holds record in football (as of 2025) for:

Fair catches on punts in a game: 3 v. Brooke (1980, 1981)

Still holds record in baseball (as of 2025) for:

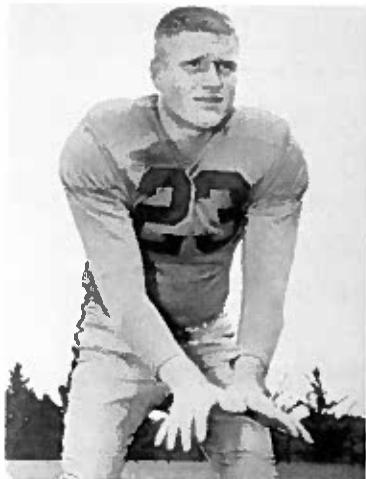
Triples in a game: 3 v. Frontier (1982)

BILL BONAR

(1947)

HALL OF FAME

Class of 2005



Bonar was a two-year letterman in football where he was selected All-OVAC, All-Eastern Ohio, and Honorable Mention All-State. He also lettered three years in basketball and one year in track.

Upon graduation, he went to Tulane University where he lettered in football and baseball for three years. In football, he served as the quarterback and punter. In one game against Notre Dame, he threw a 77-yard touchdown pass, a record that stood for over sixty years. In baseball, he served as catcher.

In the summer of 1951, he was drafted by the Pittsburgh Pirates and played for the Sulsberry Pirates in North Carolina.

He enlisted in the navy in 1952, participating again in football and baseball. He garnered several MVP awards on these teams.

In 1956, he signed a contract with the Baltimore Colts, but decided to enter the teaching profession instead.

He served as head football coach at Marietta High School from 1962 to 1973. In 1973, he resigned to become the Tigers' athletic director, a position he held until 1985.

Bill still resides in Marietta. He is married to the former Mavourneen Hartley and has three children: Bill Bonar, Lisa Burkhart, and Amy Potter. The couple also enjoys six grandchildren and one great grandchild.

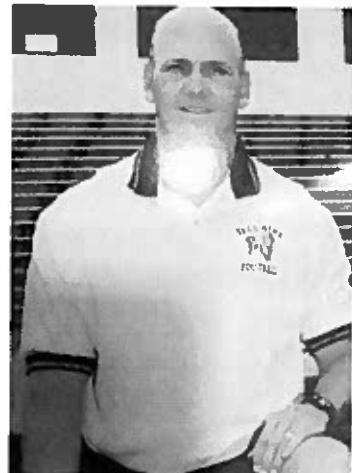
Bill also has strong Bellaire ties. His uncle, Reyman "Bud" Bonar, was an All-American quarterback at Notre Dame and served as the head coach of the Big Reds from 1949-1958, racking up 61 victories, a record that stood until 1994 when it was eclipsed by John Magistro. Nephew Mark served the Big Reds in coaching football and baseball, while nephew Gregg currently coaches football and was the former girls' basketball coach.

GREGG BONAR

(Shadyside, 1978)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1998



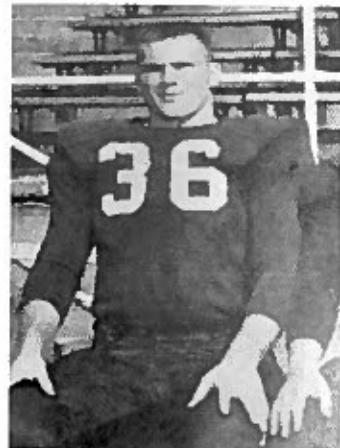
Gregg is a 1978 graduate of Shadyside High School where he was an All-Valley and All-OVAC first teamer in football as a quarterback and scored in the State track meet as a member of relay teams. After graduation, Gregg attended West Liberty where he was a four-year letterwinner in football.

In 1985, Bonar came to Bellaire and took over the girls' basketball program as the head coach. He faced a huge task since the program had suffered through several losing seasons. After working his way through years of building a foundation, the 1987-1988 season saw the beginning of what has become one of the Ohio Valley's premier programs. Since that time, Gregg has compiled a record of 203 wins against 87 losses. His teams have won six OVAC titles, six Sectional titles, and one District title. His 1991 team was the first to go undefeated during the regular season with a 20-0 record. The success of his program has resulted in several of his players receiving college scholarships.

In addition to his basketball duties, Gregg has been a varsity assistant in football, with this year being his 14th season. Last year, he assumed the duties of offensive co-ordinator. His 1997 offensive team set a school record for points scored in a season.

Gregg is married to the former Rosemary Marling, and they have three children: Mary Beth, Carrie, and David.

JOE BONAR
(1959)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1987



Earned three letters in both football and track

Co-Captain of 1958 team

All-Valley, All-Eastern Ohio, All-Ohio, All-American

OVAC All-Star Game - co-captain

Purdue University - Captain of freshman team

Graduated from Purdue in 1963

Graduated from University of Pittsburgh in physical therapy in 1965

MARCI BONAR

(2000)

Wall of Fame

Class of 2008



Marci Bonar was destined for greatness the minute she stepped foot on Bellaire's basketball court, particularly on the three-point line.

A four-year letterwinner, Bonar started racking up post-season plaudits from her freshman season, progressing from third team status to first team status in All-Eastern District, All-OVAC, and All-Valley.

By the end of her senior year, she was the all-time leader in steals, was second in assists, and led the Valley from the three-point arc. She also ranked second in the state in three-point buckets. She is still found in the top five in six categories.

In addition, she played softball for two years, volleyball for two years, and ran track for two years, lettering in all three.

Upon graduating, she attended Wheeling Jesuit University, playing and lettering all four years. As a sophomore, she was named Defensive Player-of-the-Year, and served as captain of the 2004 Lady Cardinals. At WJU, Bonar held records in three point percentage for a season and most three-pointers in a game.

Bonar currently teaches at Bellaire Elementary School.

Still holds record in basketball (as of 2025) for:

Three point field goals attempted in a career: 728 (1997-2000)

Three point field goals made in a game: 7 v. Southern Local (12/1/97)

Three point field goals made in a season: 61 (2000)

Three point field goals made in a career: 212 (1997-2000)

MARK BONAR

(Shadyside, 1972)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1998



Mark is a 1972 graduate of Shadyside High School, participating in both football and baseball. Following graduation, he attended Bethany College, earning All-Conference honors as a pitcher. He recorded more than 200 wins in twenty years of sandlot ball, pitching with teams from Warwood, Shadyside, Bellaire, Maynard, and Dilles Bottom.

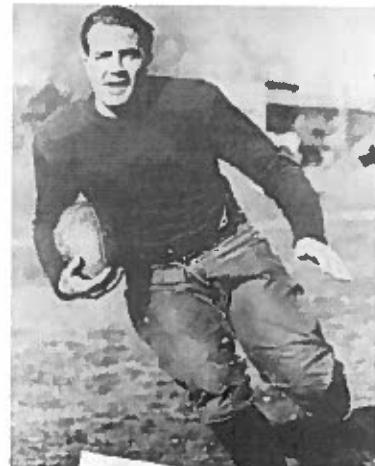
In 1976, he began a twenty-one year association with Bellaire High School as a varsity assistant in football and baseball. He became head baseball coach in 1979, a position he held through the 1995 season. During this time, he established a solid program that was respected throughout the Ohio Valley. He is Bellaire's all-time winningest baseball coach with 238 wins. His teams won four OVAC championships and one District championship. The success of his program resulted in several players getting the opportunity to play at the collegiate level.

Mark's success was not restricted to baseball. In 1984, he became the offensive co-ordinator in football, becoming the architect of one of the State's premier passing game. His offensive teams set numerous school and Valley records.

Prior to leaving Bellaire to become the head football coach at St. Clairsville, he served as athletic director for one year.

Mark and his wife, Kathy, are the parents of three children: Marci, Bart, and Karli.

REYMAN “BUD” BONAR
(1927)
HALL OF FAME
Class of 1987



5'8", 170 pound quarterback; All-Valley honoree
OVAA champion two straight years
Also played baseball

Originally committed to Princeton before enrolling at Georgia Tech for one year (1929)

Transferred to Notre Dame in 1933 and 1934 - starting quarterback

One of last players to drop kick extra points. In 1934 he drop kicked the extra point which led the Irish to a 13-12 upset of previously unbeaten and top-ranked Army

Served as football coach at Bellaire High School 1949-1958 (62-29-6), the winningest in school history to that time; won OVAC titles in 1950 and 1954

Served as athletic director until his death in 1970

Frances Wallace nicknamed Bellaire “The All-American Town” as it had three Big Reds serving as starting quarterback at three universities: Katz Kadlic (Princeton), Miller Munjas (Pitt), and Bud Bonar (Notre Dame)

During his career in the Red and Black, Bonar transformed the signal-caller position not just for Bellaire but the entire valley. He led his team to three-straight OVAA titles and a 27-1-2 record. Bonar also reached the Career Best Rushing and Scoring Lists with 1,056+ rushing yards and 220 points. He had 25 touchdowns, nine field goals, and 43 extra points. He earned First Team honors from the valley and East Ohio lists. His stellar Red and Black career finished with a combined 6-0 record against his archrivals Wheeling and Martins Ferry.

Bonar spent the 1927 season playing for the Hunt School, a feeder institution for the Princeton University. He led the squad at quarterback with his efforts including racking up over 100 rushing yards against the Yale freshmen.

In 1928 he played the same position for Georgia Tech, leading its reserve unit to victories with touchdowns and his drop-kicks.

Bonar later entered the University of Notre Dame and broke a record on the reserve unit sprinting 95 yards for a score. He led the varsity squad at quarterback in 1933. Working through a rough season, he upset #1 Army with his drop-kick field goal. In the match between the Irish and the Pitt Panthers, Bonar faced two former Big Reds in Miller Munjas and Stan Olejniczak. Splitting time at the position in 1934, the Irish went 6-3 while Bonar spent most of the season playing with his leg in splints.

He became the head coach at Clarksburg St. Marys in West Virginia in 1936. The next year he was an assistant at Belmont Abbey College in South Carolina. He moved up to assistant coach at the University of Cincinnati in 1938 as other Bellaire alumni, including Nick Skorich and Dean Giacometti, began their collegiate careers.

In 1949 Bonar took over as the headman for Bellaire High School rolling up a 62-29-6 record until he stopped after the 1958 season to become the athletic director.

BOB BOSTANCIC
(1955)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1999



Bob is a 1955 graduate of Bellaire High School. He was a four-year letterman in both baseball and football. He performed as a defensive back and as a right and left halfback on offense. Following his senior season, he received special mention on the All-Eastern Ohio Team. On the baseball diamond, Bob played second base and pitched while hitting .300 for his high school career. As a junior and senior, he was an All-Valley selection in both football and baseball. In 1955, Bob was picked as the team's most valuable player in baseball and was selected to play in the first ever Ohio East-West All-Star Game in Columbus, Ohio. Bob also played six years of American Legion baseball and ten years with Neffs in the Times Leader League. He served for six years in the United States Marine Corps and Reserves. Currently, he is a loan officer with the Belmont Savings Bank. Bob is married to the former Carol Burkhart and they have one daughter, Chelsea.

**RED BRADY
(1915)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1985**



Brady played left end in football for 1913 and 1914, basketball in 1914, and track in 1914. He received Second Team All-Ohio Valley honors for football during his senior year.

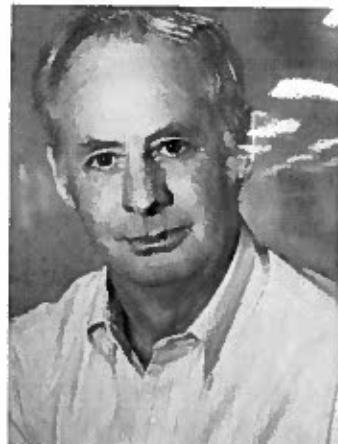
He continued his football and academic career at Franklin College with teammates Mike Foley and Arthur Lawrence.

DON BRINKER

(1951)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1988



Don Brinker is a 1951 graduate of Bellaire High School who lettered three years in football. He was chosen to the All-Eastern Ohio Team his junior and senior years and played in the Ohio-West Virginia All-Star Game in 1951.

Brinker lettered three years in basketball, serving as captain his junior and senior seasons, was chosen to the All-Eastern Ohio Team two years, as well as being chosen to play in the Ohio-West Virginia All-Star Game his senior season.

In track, he lettered four years and served as captain in his junior and senior years.

Still holds record in football (as of 2025) for:

Longest gain rushing in a game: 95 yards v. Shadyside (1950)

Most touchdowns on interception return in a season: 3 (1950)

Most touchdowns on interception return in a career: 4 (1949-50)

TERRY BRINKER

(1973)

Wall of Fame

Class 1990



An outstanding athlete in high school, Terry Brinker earned a total of eight varsity letters in four sports at BHS before graduating in 1973.

During his sophomore and junior years, Brinker lettered twice in football and track and once in basketball, but during his senior year he decided to try his hand at wrestling, a sport that would mean a lot to him later in life. In addition to lettering three times his final year, Brinker was selected team captain in football and track and saw post-season honors in both sports for All-OVAC, All-Valley, All-Eastern Ohio, and All-State.

He twice went to the State meets, first as a wrestler at 167 pounds, and then as a low and high hurdler. That summer, he was selected to play in the Ohio-West Virginia All-Star game where he was selected tri-captain.

Going to Waynesburg College upon graduation, Brinker lettered in football his freshman year, receiving NAIA Special Mention honors and being named NAIA Defensive Player-of-the-Week. He then transferred to West Liberty State College where he lettered in football and track for two years.

A two-time All-Conference hurdler in the intermediate hurdles, Brinker earned his third numeral in track before graduating from WLSC.

After graduation, Brinker got a teaching job at Shadyside High School. It was there that he returned to the mat sport, initiating not only the Tiger wrestling program but also the Shadyside Wrestling Invitational Tournament which is still being run today. He then returned to his alma mater where he has been teaching for the past twelve years.

In 1984, Brinker was selected to fill the vacancy of head wrestling coach when his cousin and Wall of Famer Jeff Stolz retired.

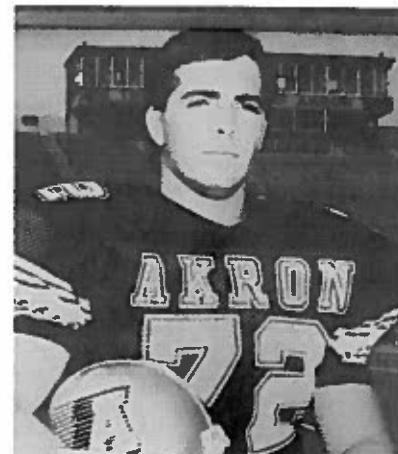
Brinker is married to the former Jill Perry and they have three children: Nathan, Andrea, and Michelle.

JOHN BUDDENBERG

(1984)

HALL OF FAME

Class of 1989



The most recent Big Red to make it into the professional ranks is 1984's John Buddenberg.

Drafted in the 10th round by the Cleveland Browns, Buddenberg is currently battling for a permanent berth with the NFL club.

At BHS, he participated in football and basketball for four years, lettering in both his last two years. Buddenberg still holds the school basketball records for most blocked shots in a game and a season.

Although he only received special mention All-State at the end of his senior year, Buddenberg went to Akron University and quickly made a name there as a rugged and intelligent lineman with a desire and heart to play the game.

Playing and lettering for four years, he was selected Sophomore-of-the Year and Senior-of-the-Year and served as captain his senior year.

Buddenberg was also an honoree of the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Club.

MIKE BUDDENBERG

(Kenton Ridge HS, OH)

(1994)

HALL OF FAME

Class of 2000



While Mike Buddenberg moved to Springfield, Ohio, before graduating, his exploits in cross country earned him a spot in the Bellaire High School HOF.

He quickly established himself as a freshman becoming a Regional qualifier in cross country and track, earning first team OVAC honors in CC and winning the OVAC championships in the 4x800M, 1600M, and 3200M races.

His sophomore year saw him becoming a Regional and State qualifier in both sports, being an OVAC CC champion, and adding a championship in the 1600M in track along with repeating the other three.

But it was in his junior year that he blossomed. In cross country he was the OVAC champion, District champion, Regional runner-up, and capped his season by winning the Division II State championship, setting a school record of 15:42. In the spring, he repeated as champion in the 4x800M, 800M, and 1600M, and was runner-up in the 3200M. He was a Regional and State qualifier in the 4x800M, and Regional champion in the 3200M, ending as the State runner-up.

Before his senior year, his dad was transferred to Springfield where he became a Regional and State qualifier for Kenton Ridge High School. He continued his running career at Morehead State University from 1994-1995.

His high school personal bests were:

800M - 1:59 (1994)

1600M - 4:21 (1994)

3200M - 9:27 (1993)

Cross Country - 15:42 (school record)

In college:

Cross Country 8K - 25:25

Track 1500M - 3:57

DALE BUMGARDNER
(1940)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1987



Lettered three years in football

All-Valley teams his junior and senior years

ED BURGY

(1971)

HALL OF FAME

Class of 1989



Ed Burgy 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 OHSAA record books. The three-year All-Valley first-team honoree completed his prep career with a 20-5 record, still the most wins ever by a Big Reds' pitcher. He owns the career strikeout mark with 326 (in just 175 innings) and the single-season strikeout standard of 128. While possessing nearly-unhittable heat, he also owned great control. The talented right-hander walked just 31 batters in his career and went eight straight games without issuing a base on balls. He carved out state records with a minuscule 0.13 ERA for a season and an 0.63 ERA for a career. His third OHSAA record was for hurling 16 shutouts.

Burgy also set an Ohio Valley mark with 23 strikeouts in a 10-inning no-hitter versus River. He was also a deadly hitter. Burgy owns 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 Wintersville (0-0). He was joined in the backfield by Ron Lee, who went on to fame with WVU and the Baltimore Colts.

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

Burgy 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.

Still holds record in baseball (as of 2025) for:

Hits in a game: 5 v. Shadyside (1970)

Triples in a season: 8 (1971)

Triples in a career: 12 (1969-71)

Strikeouts in a game: 23 v. River (1971)

Strikeouts in a season: 124 (1971)

Strikeouts in a career: 326 (1969-1971)

Earned run average in a season: 0.13 (1971)

Earned run average in a career: 0.63 (1969-71)

Shutouts in a career: 6 (1969-71)

MIKE BUSACK

(1967)

Wall of Fame

Class of 2025



Unlike his fellow inductees, Busack is being recognized for decades of service and dedication to Bellaire athletics. Since 1986, he has volunteered as a trainer, supporter, and steady presence on the sidelines for countless athletes and teams.

Known affectionately for always being ready with "ice and tape," Busack has spent nearly 40 years assisting athletes in every sport with care, humor, and unwavering loyalty.

His contributions embody the spirit of the Big Reds, and his induction celebrates the vital role of behind-the-scenes commitment that sustains athletic programs.

Mike and his wife, Kathy, have been longtime pillars of the Bellaire community.

RICHARD BUSBY

(1961)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1988



Rich Busby is a 1961 graduate of Bellaire High School, lettering in football three years. He served as co-captain his senior season and was chosen All-Conference, All-Valley, All-Eastern Ohio, All State, and was selected to play in the North-South All-Star Game in Canton, Ohio.

In addition, he lettered three years in basketball and four years in track. Busby participated in football and track at West Liberty State College where he was chosen as co-captain of the football team and chosen All-NAIA All-American, as well as All-Conference.

In track, he held the school record for the shot put for several years.

After leaving West Liberty State College, he had a brief pro career with the Cleveland Browns, the Wheeling Ironmen, and the Ohio Valley Panthers.

In addition, Busby served as an assistant football coach for two years at St. John Central High School.

JERRY BUTI

(1973)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1998



Jerry was a two-year letter winner as a defensive back while playing for the Big Reds. He was known for being a physical player despite his lack of size. After graduation, he attended the University of Findlay where he participated for four years and lettered for two.

In 1977, Jerry began what has become an outstanding coaching career at Van Wert High School as an assistant in football and head coach in wrestling and track. He took over as head football coach in 1982 and held that position for seven years. The 1985 season produced Van Wert's first winning season in ten years and the first playoff team in school history. His record at Van Wert was 42-19-1. Jerry moved to Findlay High School in 1989 and served for one year as head football coach and athletic director. He led them to a 6-4 record and their first winning season in four years.

In 1990, he took over as head football and head track coach at Defiance High School. Defiance at that time had the worst program in the Western Buckeye Conference. Since 1990, Jerry has led Defiance to more wins in eight seasons than they had in the previous twenty seasons. He produced the school's first play-off team in 1994. In 1996, they won the first conference championship in school history. This was followed by the 1997 team going undefeated (14-0) and winning the Division II State Championship.

Following that season, Jerry was honored as the Division II Ohio High School Coach-of-the-Year. With a career record of 110-50-1, five playoff teams, and one State championship, Jerry has established himself as one of the state's top coaches.

Jerry and his wife, Beth, reside in Defiance with their children, Brooke (14) and Vince (9).

DICK BUTTITA
(1924)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1986



Buttita lined up at left tackle and guard. He was named captain his senior year and selected All-Valley First Team.

He blocked four punts: two during his sophomore year, both in the 1921 game v. Washington, PA; two during his senior season, 1923.

Still holds record in football (as of 2025) for:
Punts blocked in a game: 2 v. Washington, PA (1921)

**JOJO CAMPBELL
(1979)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1987**



Lettered two years on football; played in OVAC All-Star game

Lettered three years in basketball:
First Team All-State,
Eastern District Class AA Player-of-the-Year,
All-Valley Big School First Team,
OVAC AAAA All-Star First Team,
District 12 All-Star Game

Served as co-captain of 1979 basketball team

JIM CAPITO

(1958)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1995



Most athletes dream of getting a school record; few do. But to establish a school record that still stands after 35 years after you graduate is phenomenal. Meet Jim Capito.

From the time he entered Bellaire High School as a freshman, Jim started to rewrite the track record books. In the frosh OVAC meet, he won the 100- and 200- yard dash, anchored the championship sprint relay team, and earned second place in the long jump, making him the individual high scorer. He moved up to the varsity after the championship meet and just missed scoring in the OVAC, Bellaire Relays, and District meets. He also played on the reserve basketball team as a freshman.

Repeating the same sports his sophomore year, Capito was named to the All-Valley track team and tied the 220-yard dash record in the Bellaire Relays (0:23.2).

His junior year, he added football to his agenda, but it was still track where he was outstanding. Setting the school record in the 880 sprint relay three times (1:33.8), he also set the OVAC 220 record, the Martins Ferry Relays 220 record, and established two standards in the Bellaire Relays. Named All-Valley in track in three events, Capito finished seventh in the State track meet in the 220-yard dash.

As a senior, Jim set OVAC records in the 100- and 220 yard dashes as well as the long jump. He won both dashes during the Bellaire Relays and set the school and meet standard in the 440 (0:51.25). He closed out his track career setting three BHS records: 220 (0:22.0), 440 (0:50.8), and the long jump (23'10 1/2"), the record that **STILL** stands as the high school and was a Valley record until 1988. Named individual high scorer in the Bellaire Relays, OVAC, and District meets, he was named All-Valley in four events.

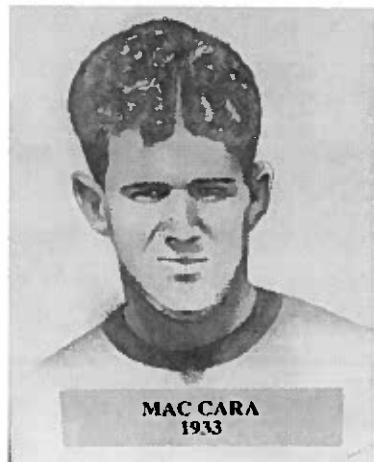
After graduation, he lived and worked in Washington, D.C. and Moundsville, before moving to Columbus.

MAC CARA

(1933)

HALL OF FAME

Class of 1983



Mac Cara is a native of Bellaire, Ohio. He graduated from Bellaire High School in 1933. After four years of all sports he enrolled at North Carolina State College on a Football Scholarship and graduated in 1937. He was captain of the 1936 football team and was selected on the All-Time N.C.State Team, All-State, All-Conference, All-South and All-American Squad.

After graduating he played end for the Pittsburgh Steelers in 1937 and 1938. A member of the 1938 Steelers was the present Supreme Court Justice, Byron "Whizzer" White.

He starting his coaching career at Powhatan High School in 1939, then eight years at Steubenville Catholic Central, one year as an assistant coach at Georgetown University, five years as end coach at Mississippi State, then six years at Florida University in the same capacity.

During his eight years at Steubenville Catholic his team won 50, lost 17 and tied 7 for a winning percentage of .747. During this same time he also coached a semi-pro team for three years called the Steubenville Pros. This team included such names as: John Stojack, Babe Hampton, Mike Paidousis, and the late Horace Hampton, Puck Burgwin, and Mike Rodak along with many other Valley ball players.

In 1961, he returned to Steubenville to build the present All-American Bowling Lanes. In 1962 he accepted a position as Juvenile Probation Officer under the Judge John R. Spon for a period of ten years. It was during this time that he also coached the Wheeling Ironmen semi-pro football team for four years where he was in complete charge of the offense teams. Four boys from those teams went to play in the National Football League for five years or more: Bob Brown, Green Bay Packers; Andy Rice, Kansas City; Chuck Hinton, Steelers; and Ed Beard, San Franciso.

In 1973 Mac accepted a position as Chief Probation Officer with Hon. Judge Dominick E. Olivito.

Mac prides himself with the fact that during his coaching career at Steubenville Catholic, many of his boys attended college on a football scholarship. Two of his players, Tom Duff, and John Baroni, were past coaches at Central and also the

past coach Dick Wilinski. He also says that the Ohio Valley was especially good to him since he was able to recruit 37 boys from this area to the three colleges where he coached. Two attended Georgetown University, 20 attended Mississippi State, and 15 attended Florida University.

He mentions two boys in particular: Joe Fortunato of Mingo and Mississippi State, who went to play for the Chicago Bears for thirteen years, and the late Don Fleming of Shadyside and the University of Florida. Don was electrocuted, by accident, begining his third year with the Cleveland Browns. The present practice field of the Browns is named "Fleming Field" in his honor.

Mac is married to Virginia Criss Cara. They have a son, Michael, who has been employed with Ceasars' Palace Casino in Las Vegas for the past eleven years. A daughter, Patricia, died at age 25 in 1975.

Dominic "Mac" Anthony Cara was born in 1914 in Reggio di Calabria, Italy. His family immigrated to Bellaire where he was a three-year letterwinner for the Big Reds under Coach Bartley Rutan. Making the All-Valley Third Team list as a senior, he also starred on the basketball and track teams for Bellaire.

After graduation Cara continued his academic and football career at North Carolina State University earning three letters and making captain in 1936. His dominating effort in a game versus Manhattan in 1935 saw him receive a great ovation from the opposing crowd for his performance. His college career ended with recognition as the greatest defender in school history.

Weighing in at 170 pounds, he entered the 1937 NFL Draft. The Washington Redskins picked Cara in the tenth round at number 96, but he signed with the Pittsburgh Pirates (changed to Steelers in 1938). Wearing number 10, he was the smallest lineman in the league and played alongside a Bellaire alum in Mike Basrak and Bryon "Whizzer" White (later a U.S. Supreme Court Justice). He played in 18 games, starting seven.

When his playing days finished, Cara became the head coach at Powhatan High School in 1939 leading the Indians football team to a 5-3 record. He also headed the basketball and baseball teams that year with the latter winning the Ohio Class B State Championship.

He then coached Steubenville Catholic from 1940-1947 with a 50-17-7 mark including two 9-0-1 records and another 9-1 season.

Cara moved on to the college ranks and was the wide receivers and tight ends assistant at Georgetown University in 1948 as well as the freshman basketball mentor. From 1949-53 he moved south to take the assistant job for Mississippi State University and served on the University of Florida staff from 1954-59. The summer of 1949 saw him coach the Ohio squad in the Ohio Valley All-Star Game at Wheeling. In his last year with Florida, the team ended the season in the Gator Bowl ranked 14th in the country.

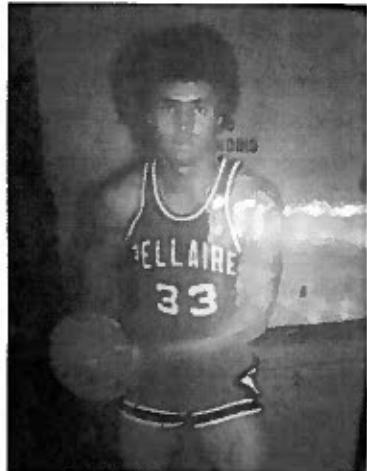
In 1962 he settled back in the Valley and took the linemen assistant spot for the UFL's Wheeling Ironmen under headman Tom Keane, a Bellaire native and Linsly alum. Cara was one of a few people to have success at the high school, college, and professional level as a player and a coach. He passed away in 1993 at the age of 78.

WAYNE CHASE

(1976)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1999



Wayne is a 1976 graduate of Bellaire High School. During his career at BHS he earned six varsity letters. In football, he was a three-year letter winner as a tight end. As a power forward in basketball, Bubba established himself as an outstanding rebounder while earning three letters.

As a junior, he was honored on the All-OVAC, All-Valley, and All-Eastern Ohio teams. He was also selected as honorable mention on the All-State team. Wayne served as co-captain during his senior season that saw him set a Bellaire High School record with 125 offensive rebounds. Once again that year he was named to the All-Valley, All-OVAC, and All-Eastern Ohio teams and honorable mention All-Ohio.

Following graduation, he attended Malone College where he played basketball for one year.

He continues to be active in athletics as the president of Bellaire Girls' Softball Association and as a bronco baseball coach with the Bellaire Junior Sports Program.

Wayne is employed as a certified pipefitter/welder at PPG Industries where he has served as a member of the emergency medical crew for seven years. He and his wife, the former Cindy Kimbro, have two children: a son, Phillip, and a daughter, Monica.

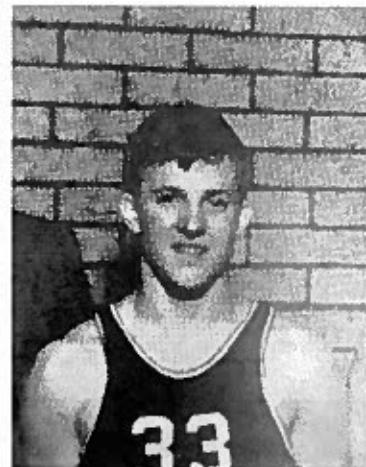
Still holds record in basketball (as of 2025) for:
Offensive rebounds in a season: 125 (1976)

DICK CHURCH

(1951)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1989



Dick Church, a 1951 graduate, earned 8 varsity letters in three sports at Bellaire.

In football, Church played and lettered his junior and senior years. During his senior year, he received various postseason honors including All-OVAC, All-Valley, All-Eastern Ohio, and played on the OVAC All-Star team.

Church was also a two-year performer and letterwinner in basketball. But his strength came on the track.

A four-year letterman in the cinder sport, he started out his career quickly by breaking the OVAC and Valley records for the pole vault and high jump. In his sophomore year, he again broke the OVAC record in the pole vault and earned a berth on the All-Valley, All-Eastern Ohio, and All-OVAC squads, holding those post-season honors until graduation.

During his senior year, Church broke the District record for the pole vault and high jump and advanced to participate and place in the State track meet.

Upon graduation, he attended Muskingum College where he played and lettered in football, basketball, and track. From 1964-1966, Church played semi-pro football for the Massillon Tiger Town All-Stars.

Presently Church is employed at General Tire and Rubber Company and resides in Mayfield, Kentucky.

JOHN CLARK
()
Wall of Fame
Class of 1988



John Clark was a charter member of the Bellaire Touchdown Club and the Bellaire Relays Committee.

He served as a track official for 35 years and received the Cal Giffin Track Award in 1985.

In addition, he was chosen as the Honorary Referee for the Bellaire Relays in 1982. Clark was well-known as a track official and served as head timer in the Ohio State Championships for fifteen years.

CARL COCHRAN
(1915)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1986

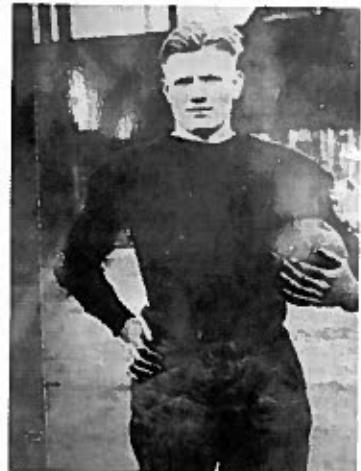


Born in 1895, Cochran had a fumble recovery for a TD in 1914 v. East Liverpool. He was named to the All-Valley Second Team for his senior season. He also played for the varsity basketball team.

He owned Cochran Electric store in Bellaire for decades, and was a U.S. Marine in World War I. He passed away on October 23, 1987, at the age of 92, possibly the last member of the 1914 state champion team.

DEWEY "TOOTS" CORBETT (1920)

Wall of Fame Class of 1985



As a junior, Corbett saw time in the backfield as the starting fullback in 1915. In 1916 Corbett was the kicker with success on extra points. He was one of the starting backs racking up yards against New Philadelphia and scoring on Bridgeport.

He later became mayor of Bellaire and a justice of the peace. He was a member of South Bellaire Methodist Church and a 63-year member of the Ionic Lodge No. 438 when he passed away in 1982.

Corbett played four years of football while adding three in both basketball and baseball for Bellaire. He was named captain for football and baseball during his time. In academics, he was assistant manager and athletic editor on the *Beljuan* staff.

After graduation, he played on semi-pro teams: Park Athletics for football, and the Bellaire Athletics for baseball. He worked for a time as the Bellaire news correspondent for the *Martins Ferry Times*, the *Bellaire Daily Leader*, the *Wheeling News* and *Intelligencer*.

Corbett had a short stint as clerk of courts, resigning to become the chief of police in Bellaire in 1923. He became the grand trustee for Ohio of the Grand Lodge Fraternal Order of Police three years later.

In 1930, he accepted a civil service position in the U.S. Air Force at Wright-Patterson Field in Dayton serving on the civil service board, the Incentive Awards Committee, Ground Safety Committee, and was civilian chief of the Warehouse Division of the Supply Division which he held until 1953.

Corbett joined the Bellaire Elks and was a founding member of the Bellaire Kiwanis Club. He passed away in November 1962.

**DON “NEMO” COYNE
(1953)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1987**



Basketball captain, 1953

All-Eastern Ohio and All-Valley two years, captain of both his senior year

All-Ohio, 1953; Bellaire's first All-Stater in basketball

OVAC champions in 1953, first basketball championship in school history

439 points as a junior (season record), 19.1 ppg

469 points as a senior (season record), 23.5 points

44 points against Shadyside (single game record)

Three years service ball: 2 at Fort Knox, 1 in Germany

1 year football in Germany

2 years baseball in Germany

SCOTT COYNE

(1994)

Wall of Fame

Class of 2000



Scott Coyne will be remembered as one of the finest athlete's to wear the red and black uniform. Look in the dictionary under the word "winner," and you might find Scott Coyne's name.

A stellar athlete in football, basketball, and track, Scott could do it all. He received 10 letters in three sports while at Bellaire High School. Scott was selected football captain in 1993, basketball captain in 1994 and track co-captain in 1994.

In football, he was one of the premier wide receivers in the state of Ohio and was named First Team All-Ohio Valley in 1992-1993. He was selected First Team All-Ohio in 1993 and Eastern District Player-of-the-Year in 1993.

In basketball Scott was also one of the premier point guards in the state of Ohio, receiving many honors including First Team All-Ohio, *Street and Smith* Pre-Season All-American Team, and the McDonald's All-American Team.

Scott holds the career football receiving record for the most passes caught in a game (12), and most passes caught in a season (61). Scott also amassed 1,764 total receiving yards during his BHS career.

Scott scored 1,051 points in his basketball career and is the eighth maleplayer in school history to score over 1,000 career points.

Scott attended Brigham Young University and Ashland College.

Still holds record in basketball (as of 2025) for:

Three point field goal percentage in a season: 50% (14/28) (1993)

CLAIRE CRIBBS

(19xx)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1986



Claire Cribbs, although not a graduate of Bellaire High School, has been identified with the school more than any other man to coach any sport.

Coming to Bellaire High in 1949 after a tenure at Warren Consolidated, Cribbs built, over the next 22 years, a virtual dynasty in basketball, accumulating over 400 wins before health conditions forced him into retirement.

Names like Nemo Coyne, Mike Sherwood, Duane Powell, Lee Patrone, Ed Burgy and a host of others saw their names etched in the record books and plastered in newspapers. But although those days slowly fade in memory, the lessons and messages delivered from Coach Cribbs still burn as strong as the day they were delivered.

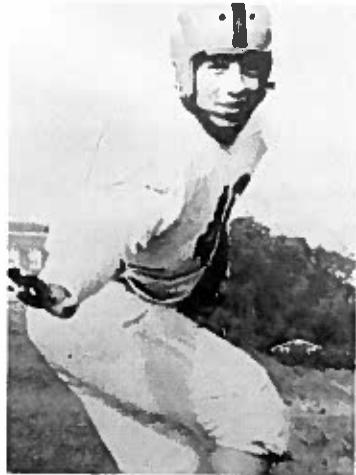
Cribbs died in 1985, but his name and memories will be part of BHS for years to come.

GENE CROSS

(1951)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1988



Gene Cross, a 1951 graduate of Bellaire High School, was a two-year letterman in football and a three-year letterman in basketball where he was chosen to the All-Eastern Ohio All-Star Team as a scoring leader.

He also participated in track at Bellaire High School and was an Ohio Valley Junior Independent Tennis Champion and American Legion baseball participant.

He went on to play at West Liberty State College where he was a running back in football for two years, participated in basketball for two years, and was a member of the All-Conference Championship Team during those two years.

Cross played one year of baseball professionally with the St. Louis Cardinals organization in Albany, Georgia, and played five years semi-pro baseball.

He has taught for eighteen years, coaching five years in football, basketball, baseball, and track.

KATHY CRUMBLEY

(1964)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1995



Going to high school in an era when girls' sports weren't organized or recognized, Kathy Crumbley played and lettered four years for Coach Lucille Fitch's girls' basketball team. A premier post player, Crumbley was partly responsible for Fitch's squads winning 55 straight contests, a record that remains impressive today. Being deprived of volleyball, softball, and track didn't prevent her from contributing in other ways. She served as the secretary of the Bellaire Relays Committee for ten years and was named Honorary Referee for the 1991 Girls' Track Invitational. She also served as secretary for the Bellaire Civics Baseball Team for three years.

After a few years as an insurance secretary, Crumbley utilized her athletic skills in a different way, becoming the first certified female deputy sheriff in Ohio in 1970. After brief stints with the Election Board (the first female deputy director) and the UMWA, she once again returned to law enforcement as the first elected female sheriff in Ohio, a position she held from 1977 to 1981. Because of this, she appeared on the Johnny Carson Show five times, and once on Mike Douglas and HeeHaw.

Leaving office in 1982, she has remained an active force in Belmont County, serving as Co-Sponsor for Fingerprinting Children for Safety Program, Certified Fraud Investigator III for the Belmont County Department of Human Services, and Private Investigator for Martel Investigative Services (both positions still held), and secretary for the Children Services Board. During her career, she has been active with the BHS Alumni Association, 4-H, MADD, Belmont County Insurance Women, Young Democrats, American Federation of Police, and a lecturer on molestation, self-defense, rape, and child abuse. She has been honored with the Liberty Through Law Spirit of '87 Award, Women of Achievement Award from the Black Diamond Girl Scout Council, and Ohio Council of Welfare Fraud.

Married to the late James Crumbley, she has one son, Joshua, and one grandson, Jедidiah.

MALCOLM CULBERTSON

(1919)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1985



Culbertson lined up at fullback for the Red and Black. He saw early action in 1916, scoring a second half touchdown in the 104-0 massacre of Barnesville. Against Marietta in 1917 he scored the deciding touchdown in a 14-7 victory. He scored and led the rushing and receiving attack in a 24-0 victory over Zanesville.

Named captain in 1918, he ran, passed, and caught balls on offense while holding down the place kicking duties on special teams. Against East Liverpool in 1918 he scored 20 points. He helped lead his team's offensive attack in a win over Wheeling as his team secured the OVAA championship during the 1918 Spanish Influenza season.

He captained the varsity basketball team his senior year as they finished 10-4.

BILL CUTSHAVER

(1921)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1986



A 1921 graduate of Bellaire High School, Bill Cutshaver earned four letters in football and served as captain of the 1920 team. He also played basketball and lettered two years in track, earning a silver medal in the shot put in the OVAA meet.

Progression of varsity awards:

Received letter in 1917
Sweater in 1918
Gold football in 1919
Loving cup in 1920

Many of the early inductees of the Wall of Fame were recommended from the memories of local townspeople. However when an attempt was made to document their accomplishments, little was found. Should anyone be able to add to what we do have, please e-mail tom@theratsnest.org.

CHET DANIELS

(1947)

HALL OF FAME

Class of 1990



Ask any Big Reds football aficionado who dates back to the 40's who the best lineman ever to play for Bellaire High School was and the unanimous name given will be that of Chet Daniels.

Chester Daniels, a member of the 1947 graduating class and captain of the 1946 OVAC Championship football team, earned seven letters in three sports at BHS: three each in football and basketball and one in track.

The rugged guard earned a lot of post-season honors two years running, including All-OVAC, All-Valley, All-Eastern Ohio, and All-State. Daniels was also selected to perform on Ohio's South All-Star squad. A leader in the classroom as well (he was a class officer during his freshman, sophomore, and senior years), Daniels was voted as the team MVP in 1944.

Upon graduation, Chet enrolled a long way from home - The University of Oregon - and quickly made his name known on the Duck's roster. After earning his freshman numeral, Daniels went on to play and letter three years. At 5'9", 195 pounds, number 69 was selected to The Saturday Evening Post 1948 All-Sophomore team and enjoyed a banner year, seeing his team capture the Pacific Coast Conference Championship and earn an invitation to perform in the 1949 Cotton Bowl in Dallas, Texas, against the Mustangs of Southern Methodist University. This marked the first time in the history of the PCC that a member school played in a major bowl game outside of the Rose Bowl. Another unique feature of this game was the fact that this was probably the first game in which blacks were permitted to play in the deep South. This Cotton Bowl team was inducted into the Oregon Hall of Fame in 1989.

In his junior year, Daniels received a first team berth on the U.P. All-Pacific Coast Conference football team and was named U.P. All-American Honorable Mention. During that year, he led the NCAA in place kicking, booting 46 points through the uprights (31 PAT's and 5 field goals). He was 9th in PAT's with 31, his PAT average was second with a .912 average (31/34), and was first in field goals with 5.

The following excerpt was taken from a game program describing Daniels:

"CHESTER DANIELS - (5'9", 193) Last season, "Cool Papa" Daniels, an all-coast guard, led the country in points scored by placekicking. In the ten games he pumped five field goals and 31 extra points through the uprights for a total of 46 points. His average was also sensational, missing only one field goal try and three extra point attempts. His batting average of .912 on extra points topped the PCC and ranked second only to G. Smith of Michigan State (.927) in the national standings. During the season he established numerous new Oregon records in both field goal and extra point kicking. Daniels picked up his nickname of "Cool Papa" from his habit of always plucking a blade of grass from the field and putting it in his mouth before looking at the uprights after trying a field goal or extra point. He started the system two seasons ago to aid his concentration on the kicking point. Daniels also rates as a fine guard on both offense and defense. As a sophomore he played regularly on defense for the co-championship team and last year ranked fifth in time played with 317 minutes of both offensive and defensive play. Daniels is majoring in Business Administration."

Daniels, a lifetime resident of the Oregon area, works for the Portland Development Company and visits his hometown on a regular basis to see family and friends. Last season, Chet, a 1984 Wall of Famer, saw his 1946 OVAC Championship team inducted into the Wall of Fame

Daniels was the Reds' star center, All-Ohio third team, and received a selection to the South roster of the Ohio All-Star Game. In his last two seasons he was a two-time All-OVAC largest Class AA, two-time All-Eastern Ohio, second team All-Ohio as a senior, and third team All-Ohio as a junior in the one-class Associated Press selections. He was team Most Valuable Player and team captain on the 9-1-1 record 1946 team

After collecting seven varsity letters – three in football and basketball with one in track -- Daniels earned a scholarship to play college football at the University of Oregon at the guard position wearing number 69. He played four years, made All-Pacific Coast Conference selection, and an All-American honorable mention.

Considered one of the top players on the greatest team for the Ducks in 1948, he played two-way guard and was the holder on kicks. Oregon finished 9-1, #9 in the AP poll. The Ducks suffered their only setback to national champion Michigan, 14-0. They watched the Rose Bowl invitation go to California, rolling on a 33-game win streak. The Cotton Bowl offered a spot to Oregon, but the host city, Dallas, tried to stop the Ducks from bringing their three black student-athletes, including Daniels. The entire Oregon football team voted unanimously to accept the bid only if the entire team played. The terms were met, a rarity in 1949, when many programs

could not schedule certain schools because of the segregation era. The Ducks played Heisman winner Doak Walker and SMU, their first bowl game since the 1920 Rose Bowl. The Ducks fell 21-13 as Daniels kicked the extra-point in the fourth quarter.

He was an All-Pacific Coast Conference selection that year. In 1949, Daniels led the NCAA in placekicking points with 46 and earned an All-American honorable mention selection.

After college he joined the U.S. Air Force. Daniels became a member of the Bellaire Hall of Fame, the OVAC Hall of Fame, and the state of Oregon Hall of Fame with the 1948 squad in 1990. After his military service, he resided in Portland until his passing in 2003.

**ED DAVIS
(1950)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1999**



Ed is a 1950 graduate of Bellaire High School. He was a one-year letterman in basketball as well as a two-year letterman in track where he was an outstanding sprinter.

During his senior season, Ed served as tri-captain of the track squad and was one of the Valley's top sprinters. He established a Nelson Field record of 23.2 in the 220 yard dash early in the 1950 season. Later that year, Ed set a new meet record in the 220 yard dash at the Wheeling Intell meet of 22.6, and in May of that year set a new school record of 22.3. As a result of his efforts, he was selected captain of the All-Valley track team in the 100 yard dash, the 220 yard dash, and the long jump.

After his outstanding track career ended, Ed remained a strong supporter of track and field serving as an official for many area meets including twenty-eight years as a clerk at the Bellaire Relays, and eleven years as a starter at the Shadyside Relays. In recognition of his many contributions to track, he received the Cal Giffin Award in 1990.

In addition to his track involvement, Ed was a member of the Big Reds Touchdown Club for thirty years and served for many years as an announcer for Bellaire football games.

Finally, Ed served at Martins Ferry High School as a cross country, track, and baseball coach. During his tenure as head baseball coach, Ed guided the Purple Riders to the District championship in 1976.

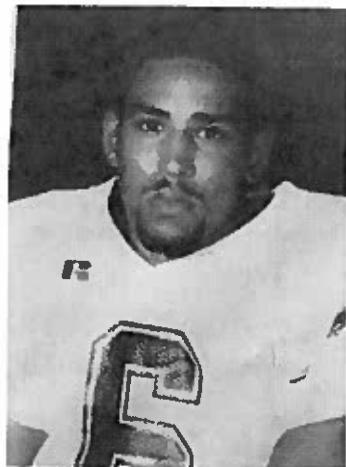
Ed is retired and presently resides in Phoenix, Arizona.

JOSE' DAVIS

(1996)

HALL OF FAME

Class of 2005



Davis played and lettered in three sports while attending Bellaire High School. In football, he was a three-year varsity starter and letterwinner, guiding the Reds to a 30-5 record. During his senior year, he quarterbacked the Big Reds to their third straight OVAC title, their first undefeated regular season, and their first appearance in the Ohio State championships, where they lost a double overtime thriller to Versailles, 44-50. During his three years, he established career records for most yards gained (7,306), most passes attempted (790), most passes completed (455), highest passing completion percentage (55.7%), most yards gained passing (6,769), most touchdown passes (60), and most plays (968).

In basketball, he was a four-year starter and letterwinner, finishing with 1,457 points. In baseball, he was a three-year letterwinner.

Going to Kent State University, Davis established game records for most passes attempted (59), most passes completed (34), and most touchdown passes (7). For the season, he set standards for most offensive yards (2,883), most passes attempted (365), most passes completed (194), most yards passing (2,707), and most touchdown passes (32). He also served as the starting point guard on the 1997 Golden Flashes team.

Upon leaving KSU, Davis enjoyed much success in the professional ranks. He played for the Winnipeg Blue Bombers of the Canadian Football League for the 2000 and 2001 seasons. Then he returned back home to quarterback the Ohio Valley Greyhounds of the INFL in 2002. In this position, he led them to the indoor national championship and was named MVP of that game. His exploits got him noticed in the AFL where, in 2003, he moved to the Indiana Firebirds, then to the Colorado Crush for 2004 and 2005. During the 2005 season, he helped the Crush win the Arena Bowl National Championship.

Davis can be seen at all the Big Reds games while he enjoys watching his brother, Nate, perform. Jose' and his wife, Amy, live in St. Clairsville and have one son, Javon.

Still holds record in football (as of 2025) for:

Most plays in a season: 508 (1995)

Most yards gained in a season: 3,858 (1995)

Most passes attempted in a season: 406 (1995)

Most passes completed in a season: 253 (1995)

Highest pass completion percentage in a season: 62.3% (253/406) (1995)

Highest pass completion percentage in a career: 57.6% (455/790) (1993-95)

Most yards gained in a season: 3,551 (1995)

Consecutive completed passes in a game: 11 v. Orrville (1995)

NATE DAVIS

(2006)

HALL OF FAME

Class of 2011



It didn't matter the sport or season because this former Big Reds' standout just got it done. A four-year letterman in basketball and a three-year letterman in football, Davis re-wrote the Big Reds record books in both sports.

As a basketball player, Davis did it both on the inside and outside for Gene Ammirante's team. After helping to get the Big Reds to the OHSAA Division III State Tournament in 2004, Davis led the Big Reds back to the regional in 2005 and to an undefeated regular season in 2006. He finished his prep career with 2,562 points, which ranks ninth in Ohio history. Davis did much more than score the ball, however, as he also grabbed 1,175 rebounds, which ranks seventh in the Buckeye State, and he passed out more than 500 assists. During his senior campaign, Davis averaged 38.9 points a contest en route to first-team All-Ohio accolades. He was a finalist for Mr. Basketball and was the Eastern District, District 12, and OVAC Class 3A player of the year. He took part in both the Ohio North-South and Ohio-Kentucky All-Star games.

On the football field, Davis was just as impressive for Coach John Magistro's team. In his career, Davis completed 454-of-925 passes for 7,345 yards and 81 touchdowns. As a sophomore, Davis guided the Big Reds to the Division IV state semifinals, throwing for 2,296 yards and 22 touchdowns. The Big Reds returned to the state semifinals in 2005 when Davis passed for 2,740 yards and 35 touchdowns. Davis was Ohio's Division IV Offensive Player of the Year as a senior. He was a first-team All-Ohioan as both a junior and senior and earned second-team accolades as a sophomore. He was first-team All-OVAC three times and took part in both the Ohio North-South and OVAC All-Star games.

Along with his football and basketball prowess, Davis also lettered in baseball. He helped lead the Big Reds to the regional championship in 2003 when he was the club's every day catcher.

As a senior, Davis went out for track and won the OVAC discus title with a toss of 140'9".

Davis inked a scholarship to Ball State University and won the starting quarterback job as a true freshman. All told, he spent three seasons as the Cardinals' starting quarterback before announcing he'd forego his senior season to enter the

NFL Draft. At Ball State, Davis passed for 9,233 yards and 74 touchdowns. He was named the Mid-American Conference's Offensive Player of the Year in 2008 and a first-team all-MAC selection. He was a finalist for the Manning Award and also the Ball State team MVP both as a sophomore and junior. As a junior, he led the Cardinals to a 12-0 record and berth in the MAC Championship Game.

After opting to enter the draft, Davis was selected in the fifth round by the San Francisco 49ers. He made the team as a rookie. He was released and later signed to the team's practice squad in 2010. He also signed contracts with the Colts and Seahawks, but has spent the last several seasons in an indoor league in Texas, playing for the Amarillo Venom.

Still holds record in football (as of 2025) for:

Most plays in a career: 1,160 (2002-05)

Most touchdowns responsible for in a career: 110 (2002-05)

Most touchdown passes in a career: 81 (2002-05)

Still holds record in basketball (as of 2025) for:

Field goals attempted in a career: 1,412 (2003-06)

Three point field goals attempted in a game: 22 v. Shaker Heights (1/18/03)

Three point field goals attempted in a season: 226 (2006)

Three point field goals attempted in a career: 755 (2003-06)

Free throws attempted in a season: 291 (2006)

Free throws attempted in a career: 806 (2003-06)

Free throws made in a season: 223 (2006)

Free throws made in a career: 608 (2003-06)

Defensive rebounds in a game: 20 v. Union Local (2/20/05)

Defensive rebounds in a season: 312 (2006)

Defensive rebounds in a career: 913 (2003-06)

Total rebounds in a season: 399 (2006)

Total rebounds in a career: 1,186 (2003-06)

Steals in a career: 265 (2003-06)

Assists in a game: 12 v. Oak Glen (1/8/06)

12 v. Barnesville (2/21/06)

Assists in a career: 391 (2003-06)

Consecutive points in a game: 25 v. East Liverpool (1/13/06)

Points in a season: 893 (2006)

Points in a career: 2,562 (2003-06)

Scoring average in a season: 37.2 (2006)

Most games over 20 points in a season: 23 (2006)

Best back-to-back games: 51 v. Wheeling Park (1/10/06)

53 v. East Liverpool (1/13/06)

Still holds record in baseball (as of 2025) for:

Batting average in a season: .519 (2004)

Home runs in a game: 2 v. Fort Frye (2004)

Home runs in a season: 9 (2004)

Home runs in a career: 14 (2003-04)

GEORGIA DAWSON

(1984)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1989



Believed to be the first girl in Bellaire High School athletics to play varsity sports for four years in college, Georgia Dawson, a 1984 graduate, had a very illustrious career.

In high school, she was a four-year performer and letterwinner in basketball, serving as captain her junior and senior years. She placed three years on the All-OVAC team, one year on the All-Valley team, two years on the District 12 All-Stars, and made special mention All-State her senior year. She is also the only girl performer to record 1000 points and 1000 rebounds.

Dawson also earned three varsity letters in volleyball, again serving as captain her junior and senior years. She was first-team All-OVAC for two years and also placed on the District 12 and Eastern Buckeye League post-season teams.

Collecting her ten varsity letters, Dawson attained three more in track, serving as captain her junior and senior years.

Upon graduation, she went to West Liberty State College, where she became a four-year performer and letterwinner in both volleyball and basketball.

She served as captain of the volleyball team her junior and senior years and was selected the floor leader in basketball her senior year. Dawson placed three years on the All-Conference team and was accorded Conference Volleyball Athlete-of-the-Year her senior year. She was also chosen All-Tournament Team her senior year.

The Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Club also honored her in 1988.

Presently, Georgia will return home to become an elementary school teacher for the Bellaire City Schools beginning in January.

Still holds record in basketball (as of 2025) for:

Total rebounds in a career: 1,162 (1981-84)

**JOHN DEAN
(1920)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1985**

This senior standout halfback played on the 1919 team coached by Gosnell Layman which posted a 5-2-2 record and captured the OVAA (Ohio Valley Athletic Association) championship.

The team outscored their opponents by a 150-21 margin.

Many of the early inductees of the Wall of Fame were recommended from the memories of local townspeople. However when an attempt was made to document their accomplishments, little was found. Should anyone be able to add to what we do have, please e-mail tom@theratsnest.org.

DENNIS DeBLASIS

(1961)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1989



Dennis Richard DeBlasis, 1961, started his freshman athletic career by participating in football, basketball, and track, but decided to concentrate on football and track for the next three years, lettering three years in football and two years in track.

Post-season honors started coming early for DeBlasis, who was selected All-OVAC and All-Valley for three years. He also made the All-Eastern Ohio team for two years, and was named to the All-State team his senior year. DeBlasis also served as football co-captain his senior year.

After graduation, DeBlasis went to Indiana University graduating in 1965. While there, he played football for four years, earning letters his junior and senior years.

Presently he resides in South Burlington, Vermont, where he is employed by Tamarac Services Restaurant Group.

TONY DeLORETTA

(1926)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1986



Three year letterman in football; All-Valley; punter and halfback
Three year letterman in baseball

Tony DeLoretta lined up at left halfback for the Red and Black and lettered for three seasons. His sophomore year, he finished with 28 carries for 173+ yards and four rushing scores. He made the Second Team All-Valley list in 1924 after having 48+ totes for 171+ yards and three scores rushing.

He ended his senior season with 52+carries and 179+ yards and five rushing touchdowns and again made the All-Valley Second Team.

He scored 96 career points with 16 touchdowns. He finished his career with 128+ carries, 523+ yards, and 12 touchdowns rushing. He added eight interceptions on defense with three going back for touchdowns, and had one punt return score.

COLUMBO DePAULIS

(1938)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1997



Columbo DePaulis was a 3-year letterman in football at Bellaire High School during the years of 1935-1937. After his senior season, Babe was selected by the Valley sports writers as the quarterback of the 1937 All-Valley Team. He also captained the All-Valley Team as chosen by the Home Talk Newspaper, (currently the Times Leader).

DePaulis was chosen Special Honorable Mention on the All-Ohio Team that same year.

After leaving Bellaire High School, he attended Chattanooga University for one year before receiving a scholarship to Penn State.

In 1942, he joined the United States Army as a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne. Babe DePaulis was killed in action in June of 1944. He was awarded a Presidential Citation and the Purple Heart for his service.

DePaulis starred in the backfield for the Big Reds from 1935-37. He finished his career with 184+ carries for 954 yards and eight touchdowns.

After graduating from Bellaire, DePaulis attended the University of Chattanooga where he played on the freshmen football team before being elevated to the varsity squad. He left and took a job at the Rail & River Coal Company at the Big Run mine.

He was an avid boxer in his teen years winning his first fight in the Big Reds Booster Club auditorium in the old City Building. He also won a Golden Glove and the fly-weight championship of West Virginia.

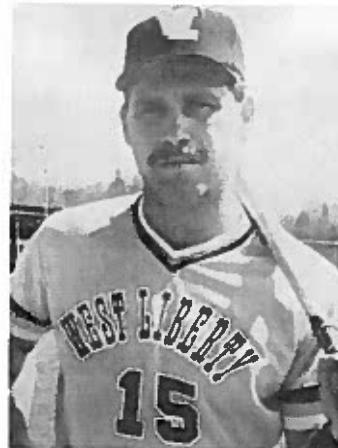
When the Second World War broke out, DePaulis entered the service on November 6, 1942, and volunteered as a paratrooper. Making the rank of sergeant, he found himself landing in France during the Battle of Normandy. He sent his last letter home just three days before he died in action on June 14, 1944.

PAUL DePAULIS

(1982)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1989



The name of Paul DePaulis, Class of 1982, is a very familiar one on the baseball diamond, as he played and lettered for four years in high school.

Although he only made the All-Eastern Ohio Team his junior year, during his senior year he was elected to the team captaincy and made post season honors on the All-OVAC, All-Valley, and All-Eastern Ohio squads on his way to a first team berth on the All-State team, the first performer to receive this diamond honor at BHS.

During his senior year, De Paulis also was named MVP and District Co-Player-of-the-Year. DePaulis still holds over five school records in baseball.

DePaulis also played and lettered in football for three years, serving as captain his senior year and earning Player-of-the-Week honors and the Randy Meek Memorial Award for Co-Most Valuable Defensive Player. Post-season grid honors his senior year included All-OVAC, All-Valley, and All-Conference berths.

DePaulis continued his baseball career by playing and lettering for four years at West Liberty State College, serving as captain his senior year. In addition to being named All-Conference his sophomore, junior, and senior years, De Paulis was also twice honored by the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan in 1982 and 1987 for outstanding achievement.

DePaulis also played two years for the Warwood Reds in the OVBL and one year for the Bellaire/Muxie team.

At present, DePaulis resides in Dallas, Texas, where he works for All-Tell Communications.

Still holds record in baseball (as of 2025) for:

Singles in a game: 4 v. Shadyside (1982)

Doubles in a game: 3 v. Wheeling Park (1982)

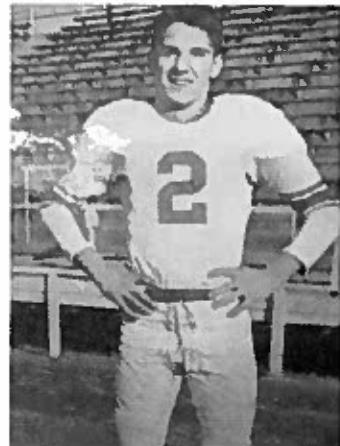
Innings pitched in a game: 10 2/3 v. Steubenville (1981)

ANDREW DESTIFANES

(1956)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1991



Andrew "Dusty" Destifanes was a four-year performer and letter winner in football and a three-year performer and letter winner in track.

As a junior, he scored eleven touchdowns and earned a second team berth on the All-Eastern Ohio Team and a third team spot on the All-Valley squad. Selected as captain his senior year, Destifanes recorded another twelve touchdowns and was accorded first team honors All-Valley and All-Eastern Ohio. He was also chosen Honorable Mention All-State.

As a track performer, Destifanes set the school record for the shuttle hurdle team in 1955.

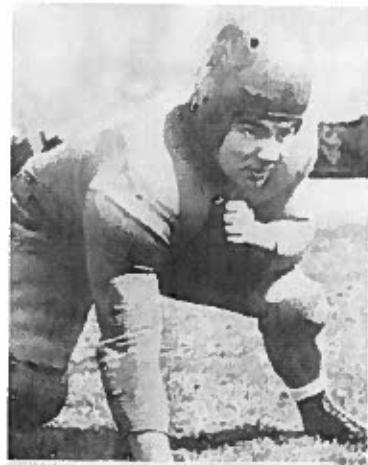
A member of Bricklayers' Local #9, he resides in Bellaire

DELMAS DICKERHOOF

(1937)

HALL OF FAME

Class of 1988



Delmas "Demmy" Dickerhoof is a 1937 graduate of Bellaire High School where he lettered three years in football and was chosen to the All-Ohio Valley team in 1937.

He was a swimming team member for three years at Bellaire High School.

He attended the State University of Iowa where he served as Captain on the 1942 team, graduating in 1943. Dickerhoof was a two-year honorable mention All-American in football and was selected by the late Horry Struhder to play in the CHICAGO TRIBUNE All-Star game of 1943.

Delmas "Del" James Dickerhoof was born in 1918. He had a stellar high school career for the Big Reds spending three seasons on the line.

He continued playing football for the University of Iowa wearing number 10. He lettered as a starter for two seasons and was named captain during his senior year.

He played professional football in 1946 with the newly created Cleveland Browns. He entered the U.S. Army Air Corp in World War II serving as a captain in the Pacific.

He became head coach at Powhatan for two years from 1947-48 going 9-1 and 6-2-1. Dickerhoof also spent time teaching at Wellsburg and Moundsville High School. He was a science teacher at Austintown-Fitch and the head baseball and football coach from 1953-55.

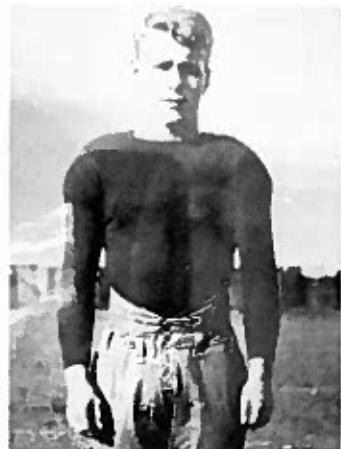
Inducted into the Bellaire High School Hall of Fame in 1988, he passed away in December 1989.

GILBERT DICKERHOOF

(1933)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1989



Gilbert Dickerhoof, M.D., Class of 1933, has the honor of joining his brother, Demmy Dickerhoof, in the Hall of Fame/Wall of Fame.

Dickerhoof only lettered one year in football at BHS, although he participated three years in the sport. He quarterbacked the 1932 undefeated Ohio Valley Championship team and earned Honorable Mention All-Valley his senior year.

However Dickerhoof's late-blossoming athletic talents became apparent when he entered Wittenberg College. At a time when freshmen were not allowed to participate in varsity sports, he went on to earn 11 varsity letters before graduating in 1938. Earning a letter every year he participated, Dickerhoof earned four letters in swimming, three in football and track, and one in wrestling (wrestling at 150 pounds, he participated on Wittenberg's first wrestling team).

As a swimmer, Dickerhoof took part in the 50-yard freestyle and 200-yard freestyle relay. An undefeated Ohio Conference diving champion, he gave numerous diving exhibitions in the Valley area at Bellaire, Barnesville, Oglebay, Wheeling Island, and Canonsburg, Pa.

In track, he was the anchor man on the mile relay team, setting a track record for the Big Six meet. He also took part in the 100-and 220-yard dashes, 220-yard low hurdles, and the broad jump.

In the age when everybody played the full 60 minutes in football, Dickerhoof missed only one game due to an injury. He earned Honorable Mention All-Ohio Conference as a halfback and also played defensive outside linebacker.

A retired physician, Dickerhoof graduated from The Ohio State University and is the retired director of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at St. John Hospital, Cleveland.

He presently resides in Bay Village, Ohio.

JAMES A. DIXON

(St. Clairsville, 1926)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1989



Although he graduated from St. Clairsville High School in 1926, few people who attended Bellaire High School from the 1930's to the 1970's don't recognize the name of James A. Dixon.

At St. Clairsville, Dixon played and lettered in football, basketball, and track all three years. He served as football captain his senior year while earning Honorable Mention All-Valley honors.

Upon graduation he enrolled at Wittenberg College, where he participated and lettered in football for three years and track two years. Once again, he served as captain of the football squad his senior year and earned a spot on the All-Opponent team.

Dixon also had three years experience on Ohio Valley semi-pro teams and served two years in the Air Force. And then Bellaire High School acquired his services. From 1933 to 1942, Dixon served as an eighth grade or assistant football coach. He assumed head football coaching duties in 1943, 1946, and 1947, and directed the 1946 OVAC Champion team being inducted today.

He also coached track (1935), eighth grade basketball (1933-1935), and boys' softball from 1934-1936. During this three-year period, his softball team was undefeated and untied and reigned as Valley Champions.

A track official from 1934 to 1955, Dixon was responsible for bringing the Eastern Ohio District Track Meet to Bellaire for the first time and served as director its first year. Dixon also worked as a football and basketball official from 1926 to 1955, working six basketball tournaments and serving as president of the Ohio Valley Football Officials Association.

In 1958, Dixon became the fifteenth president of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference. Dixon spent over 40 years in the Bellaire School System as a teacher, coach, principal, and superintendent.

A resident of Bellaire, Dixon has also been honored as a member of the Dapper Dan Hall of Fame.

ANDY DORRIS
(1969)
HALL OF FAME
Class of 1983



A 1969 graduate of Bellaire High School, Andy Dorris was a three-sport standout, lettering in football, basketball, and track. The excellence he achieved as an athlete earned him a football scholarship to New Mexico State where he starred for three years as a linebacker. One of his many highlights was achieving four quarterback sacks in one game. Voted MVP his senior year, he also received All-Missouri Valley honors.

At the end of his senior year, he was a fourth round draft pick of the Cleveland Browns, but prior to the start of the 1973 season he was traded to the New Orleans Saints where he was a starter for the 1975 and 1976 seasons, recording 116 tackles.

In 1977, Dorris was traded to the Seattle Seahawks but was released after only a month. He was then picked up by the Houston Oilers as a free agent. During the Oilers 1977 and 1978 seasons, he was responsible for four key sacks, 22 tackles, and 19 assists. In 1979, when the Oilers had an outstanding season, Dorris ranked second on the team with 9 1/2 sacks. Due to his impressive performance in the 1979 playoffs, Dorris received recognition as the most improved lineman in the NFL.

In 1981, he was named the Dapper Dan Man-of-the-Year.

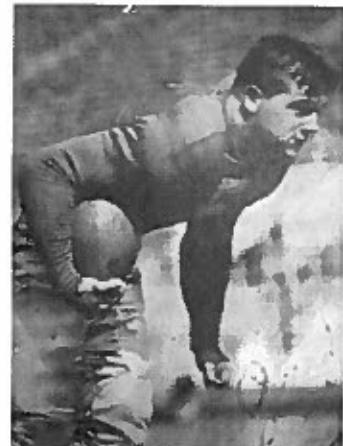
After appearing in over 100 NFL games over eight seasons, Dorris retired to his current home in Conroe, Texas.

VICTOR “BOBO” DORRIS

(1933)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1984



Football letterman - four years; Captain junior and senior years
All-Valley: sophomore, junior, and senior years; All-State: senior
All-American Team

Four year letterman in track

Lettered in football at The Ohio State University: 1934-1937

Lettered in baseball: 1935-1938

Coached freshman football at OSU, 1938

Born in Warsaw under the Russian Empire before the outbreak of the First World War, Victor Dorris's family immigrated to the states and settled on West 23rd Street in Bellaire. He grew up playing sports at the ballfield along McMahon's Creek at the end of Brooks Run Road and the Klee Bridge in West Bellaire.

He was a captain for the Big Reds in his second year. He ended his Bellaire career with 1,366+ yards on over 297 carries for 28 touchdowns while finishing second on the scoring list with 180 points. He added eight interceptions and 88 punts; the 54 punts in the 1932 season is still the record.

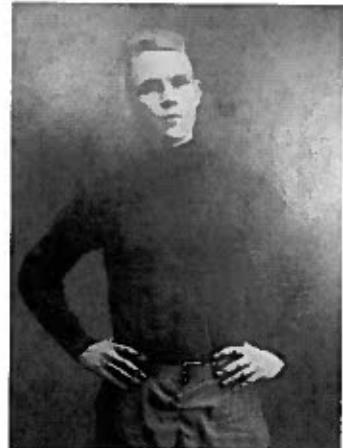
He later played football for Coach Francis Schmidt at The Ohio State University and wore number five. In 1934 and 1935 he was listed at fullback for the Buckeyes including in the 1935 Game of the Century against Notre Dame. In his junior year, 1936, he was a right halfback while moving back to fullback for his senior season.

He also found time to coach the local West 23rd Street football team in his neighborhood. He later became head football coach at Granville High School from 1940-41 going 8-5-3. Dorris spent the 1942 and 1943 season as the mentor at Marion Harding going 14-2-1 before taking the same position at Kenton.

He also served his country in the Armed Forces in the latter stages of World War II. Afterwards, he became an assistant at Kenyon College. His coaching and teaching career also took him to Bowling Green State University and back to Ohio State where he was the head baseball coach for the freshman team. He spent his later years fishing and watching his nephew, Andy, take his career to the NFL.

Still holds record in football (as of 2025) for:
Most punts in a season: 54, 1932

CLYDE DUFFY
(1915)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1985



Captain of 1913 football team

Attended Swarthmore for one year

Served in World War I

Worked for the Bellaire City Schools until his retirement in 1964

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PAUL “TREY” DUFFY
(1981)
HALL OF FAME
Class of 1986



A 1981 graduate of Bellaire High School, Paul “Trey” Duffy had an outstanding athletic career. Participating in both football and baseball, he earned seven varsity letters, four in baseball and three in football. Duffy was captain of the football team his senior year and was selected third team All-Valley his junior year and second team his senior year.

On the baseball field, playing shortstop, he had an outstanding .460 batting average his senior year.

He earned a football scholarship to Marshall University lettering three times. Prior to his senior year, a knee injury forced him to quit playing. However, he decided to play baseball and lettered two years. Batting .300 his senior year, he was also selected as captain.

Still holds record in baseball (as of 2025) for:
Hit by pitch in a game: 3 v. Shadyside (1981)

ALLEN DUGA
(1917)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1985



Played football all four years, lettering and serving as captain all four years.

Member of various all-star teams

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MIKE DUNFEE

(1993)

Wall of Fame

Class of 2012



A three-sport standout at BHS, Dunfee earned nine letters in football, basketball, and baseball. A three-year letterwinner in football, Dunfee served as captain his senior year. He also earned two letters performing on the basketball team for Gene Ammirante.

But it was baseball where he excelled, playing and lettering all four years. His senior year he earned All-OVAC, All-Valley, and All-Eastern Ohio honors.

Upon graduation, Dunfee headed to Jefferson City, Tennessee, where he enrolled at Carson-Newman College. He made an instant impression on the diamond and played and lettered all four years, serving as captain his junior and senior year. His senior year, he earned All-Conference honors.

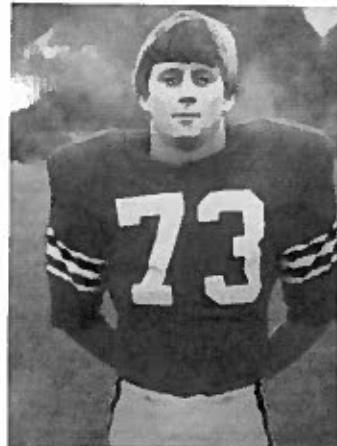
Dunfee currently teaches and coaches at Gordon Lee High School (Chickamauga City Schools) and lives in Ringgold, Georgia, with his wife, Stacy Lynn, and two children: Abbey Grace (9) and Nathan Oliver (7).

BRUCE DUNLAP III

(1978)

Wall of Fame

Class 1990



Another stellar BHS athlete earning eight varsity letters in three sports is Bruce Dunlap, Class of 1978.

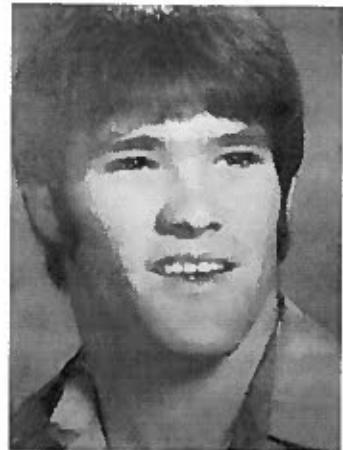
Lettering in football and track for three years and wrestling for two, Dunlap was a three-sport performer throughout high school. He was selected to the All-OVAC squads in all three sports his junior and senior years and made All-Eastern Ohio honors three times his senior year.

He also represented BHS in Columbus as the heavyweight representative at the State Tournament. Dunlap was chosen to play in the Ohio-West Virginia All-Star Football Game after graduating and served as a captain of the game. He also recorded the fastest pin for a heavyweight wrestler at 0: 13 seconds, a record that still stands today.

Enrolling at Waynesburg College, Dunlap played and lettered in football all four years before being chosen All-Conference his senior year.

Presently working for Stone and Thomas, Dunlap is married to the former Brenda Palkovich and has two children: Brice and Bridget.

**JEFF DYE
(1977)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1991**



Jeff Dye was a three-performer and letter winner in both football and track, and a two-year performer in basketball.

As a sophomore, Dye received honorable mention honors on both the All-OVAC and All-Valley squads, and held first team honors on these same squads his junior and senior years. His junior year, he was accorded a second team berth on the All-Eastern Ohio team and was named honorable mention All-State.

As a senior, Dye was named Tri-Captain, and received a first team berth on the All-Eastern Ohio team and a second team berth All-State. In addition, he was honored on the High School All-American team and chosen to play in the OVAC All-Star Game.

Dye, who also captained the track team his senior year, held school standards for most career rushing yardage (2,040 yards), most career touchdowns (26), and most touchdowns on punt returns for both a season and career (2).

Dye is employed by Victory Express Inc. and resides in Shadyside.

Still holds record in football (as of 2025) for:

Most touchdowns on punt returns in a season: 2 (1976)

ANDY EDWARDS
(1960)
HALL OF FAME
Class of 1983



Captain of football and basketball teams

All-OVAC, All-Eastern District in football

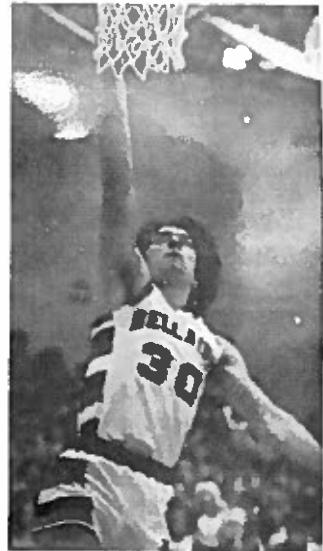
State champion in discus, 1960

DARRELL EWART

(1974)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1988



Darrell Ewart is a 1974 Bellaire High School graduate who was a three-year letterman in basketball, football, and track, serving as co-captain in basketball.

He was a member of the 880 and 440 yard sprint relay teams, holding school records in each relay.

He was a member of the Class AA District Track Championship Team and in football was a member of the Region 12 All-Star Team.

In basketball he was All-OVAC First-Team during his junior and senior years, All-Valley Big School First-Team his junior and senior years, selected to the Ohio All-Stars and Eastern District Team All-Stars, and was chosen as Honorable Mention All-American.

After graduation from Bellaire High School, he attended Dawson College on a full scholarship where he lettered two years in basketball and was a member of the Big Sky Empire Conference Championship Team before he was sidelined by an injury.

Ewart went on to graduate from West Liberty State College in 1980 with a Business Administration Degree.

WAYNE FARMER

(1955)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1988



Wayne Farmer, a 1955 graduate of Bellaire High School, lettered two years in football and two years in track, being chosen to numerous All-Star Teams in football.

He graduated from Purdue University in 1960 where he was a three-year letterman in football and was chosen to many All-Opponent Teams in the Big Ten. He was a First-Team All-Big Ten Honoree, and was selected as an Honorable Mention All-American.

The 240-pounder played tackle for the Purdue Boilermakers (wearing #75) from 1956-58 with his classmate Jim Nemec. He started his sophomore year and helped beat #18 Notre Dame 28-14 at South Bend while falling at #4 Michigan State 12-9. He was sidelined for part of his junior year due to a thyroid operation.

He and Nemec were part of the team which upset #1 Michigan State 20-13 at Spartan Stadium on October 19, 1957, while coming up short at #6 Ohio State (20-7) and at #3 Minnesota (21-17). Their senior year they went 6-2-1 with wins over #5 Michigan State (14-6), at #11 Notre Dame (29-22), at #13 Northwestern (23-6) while tying at #16 Ohio State (14-14).

Farmer entered the NFL draft in 1959 and was selected by the Pittsburgh Steelers.

GERALD FARNARIO

(1955)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1988



Jerry Farnario, a 1955 graduate of Bellaire High School, was a three-year letterman in football. He was chosen as an All-Eastern Ohio Honoree, chosen to the All-State Team, and was captain of the 1954 OVAC championship football team.

He also captained the Ohio All-Stars in the Ohio-West Virginia All-Star game and was chosen as the Most Valuable Player In that game.

Farnario attended the University of Kentucky for one year.

LOU “BULL” FERRANTE

(1941)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1993



Lou “Bull” Ferrante played football for BHS for four years, lettering three years and serving as game captain his senior year.

Playing at the quarterback spot for John “Butch” Niemiec, Ferrante had the highlight of his career in 1940 against Wheeling when he scrambled and juked 100 yards for a 30-yard touchdown en route to beating Wheeling 19-0 and capping an 8-1-0 season.

Ferrante also holds another “unique” honor in BHS athletics. During his senior year, all the members of the basketball team became sick and the coach picked up five football players to “fill-in” for them. He played on a undefeated team that went 3-0!

Named All-Valley for the WWVA All-Star Squad and playing in the Ohio-West Virginia All-Star Football Game, Ferrante was recruited by Notre Dame, Duquesne, Ohio State, North Carolina State, and Wittenburg before deciding to accept a scholarship with the University of Miami in Florida. He played and lettered three years before being forced to sit out his senior year with a knee injury.

Enlisting in the Marine Corps, Ferrante played on the Marines’ football team and served as captain. After the war, he tried out and made the semi-pro football team in Weirton, but his knees were too bad to allow him to continue.

Spending most of his life in Florida, Ferrante taught and coached at Columbus High School in Miami, Florida, from 1960 to 1969.

**JERRY FISHER
(1955)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1997**



Jerry Fisher earned 5 letters in football and track at Bellaire High School. As a sophomore, Fisher competed in football and track, earning a letter as a sprinter in track.

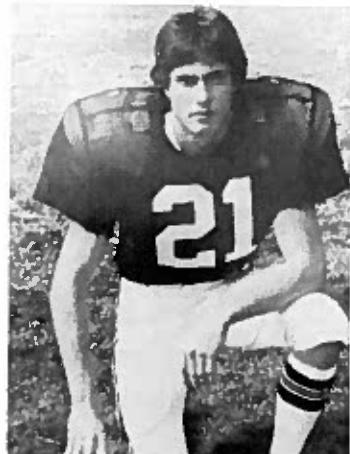
The following season, Jerry lettered in both football and track. During his senior season, he captained the Bellaire High School track team and earned OVAC and All-Valley honors.

Following his graduation, Jerry enrolled at West Liberty State College where he played one year of football.

He served on the Bellaire Board of Education for twelve years as a member and as president. The Bellaire Alumni Association presented Jerry with an Achievement Award for his civic/government service this past year.

Retired from Ohio Power as Personnel Director, Jerry presently serves as the Mayor of the City of Bellaire.

LOU FISHER
(1981)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1995



A rare three-sports standout, Lou Fisher lettered three times in track and twice in basketball and football. During his junior year, Fisher served as a member of the school record-setting 1600-meter relay team, earning post-season honors as All-OVAC, All-Valley, and All-Eastern Ohio. He was also selected to the All-Tournament Basketball Team during the Holiday Classic at the Wheeling Civic Center.

After earning honorable mention All-Valley in football, he went on to captain the basketball team and was chosen to the All-Valley, All-Eastern Ohio, and All-OVAC squads. He also was selected to play in both the District 12 All-Star Game and the OVAC All-Star Basketball Game.

During his first track meet of his senior year, a dual meet with St. Clairsville, Fisher came out strong, winning the 110M high hurdles and the 300M low hurdles. But later in the meet, as he was anchoring the shuttle hurdle relay team, he suffered a severe tear of the hamstring and was sidelined for the rest of the season.

Upon graduation, he attended Akron University before returning home where he started work for the Columbia Gas Company. Married to the former Jacquallyn Traversa, he has two sons, Joshua, 10, and Mikel, 9.

MIKEL FISHER

(2005)

Wall of Fame

Class of 2025



A standout in three sports, Fisher's impact at Bellaire was felt on the basketball court, football field, and baseball diamond.

In basketball, he was a four-year letterman, team captain, and multi-time All-District and All-State honoree. He ended his career with 1,420 points.

On the football field, Fisher earned First Team All-District and All-State honors while serving as team captain.

In baseball, he was a four-year letterman and multi-time All-Conference selection.

His leadership and versatility made him one of the most well-rounded athletes of his era.

Still holds record in baseball (as of 2025) for:

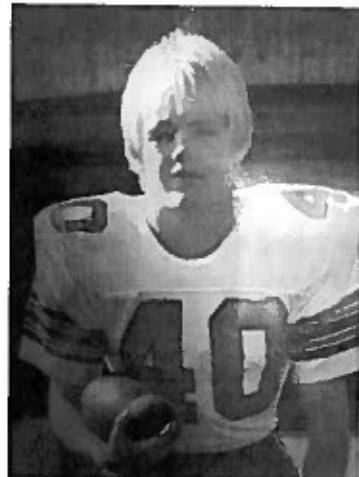
Runs scored: 5 v. St. Clairsville (2002)

DIRK FITCH

(1979)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1999



Dirk graduated from Bellaire High School in 1979. He was a three-year varsity performer in football and track, earning three letters in track and two in football.

As a sophomore, he was a member of the OVAC winning mile relay team. This team was also elected to the All-Valley team. As a junior, Dirk was honorable mention OVAC in football as a running back and in track was named to the OVAC, All-Valley, and All-Eastern Ohio teams as a sprinter and a member of the 880-yard and mile relay teams. He was selected to run in the Cal Giffin All-Star Track Meet and participated in the State meet on the 880-yard and mile relay teams.

During his senior year, he was named first team on the OVAC, All-Valley, and All-Eastern Ohio teams in both football and track. Dirk was also named MVP in football and track as well as MVP in the Bellaire-St. John game. Following his senior year, he was selected to play in the Ohio-West Virginia All-Star Football Game.

After graduation, Dirk went to Bowling Green State University where he was a three-year member of the football team.

In 1984, he served as head track coach at Frontier High School. The following year, he began coaching as an assistant in football, wrestling, and track at Martins Ferry High School. Since 1992, he has been the head track coach and an assistant in football at Martins Ferry. His track teams have won six OVAC team titles and four District team championships. Last year, he coached his 4 x 100 meter relay team to the State championship.

Dirk has been rewarded for his coaching efforts by being named District Track Coach-of-the-Year four times and the Wheeling Intelligencer Track-Coach-of-the-Year in 1999.

Dirk and his wife, the former Mary Beth Lyden, have two children: a daughter, Kyle, and a son, Jack.

Still holds record in football (as of 2025) for:

Most kickoff return yardage in a game: 143 v. St. Clairsille (1978)

Best kickoff return average in a game: 66.0 yards v. Cambridge (1977)

Most opponent's fumbles recovered in a season: 7 (1978)

GLENN FITCH

(1956)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1994



A four-year performer in football and a three-year member of the track team, Glenn Fitch earned three varsity letters in football and one in track.

As a junior, he was instrumental in helping the Big Reds, coached by the legendary Reyman "Bud" Bonar, earn an OVAC championship.

Earning numerous post-season accolades from his end position, Fitch earned a full ride to Bowling Green State University where he performed all four years, earning three letters. Although he was recruited as an end, during his sophomore year, after three centers went down, he was moved to the center spot and remained there for his career.

In an era which was redefining college football, Fitch was also the team's punter his senior year. Having to play both ways, he found himself utilized in several different positions on defense.

During his senior year, the BGSU squad won the Mid-American Conference Championship and was also crowned National Champions in the small college division.

Moving to Dundee, Michigan, in 1960, Fitch coached five consecutive high school league championship teams at Dundee High School from 1963-1967. He left coaching in 1968 and returned to the Valley to work at Ormet Corporation. He was recently promoted to Division Manager of Ormet's Reduction Facility at Hannibal, Ohio.

Fitch has three sons, all who played football for BHS from 1974-1981: Rory, Dirk (who coaches football and track at Martins Ferry), and Todd.

LUCILLE FITCH
(1945)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1988



Lucille Fitch is a 1945 graduate of Bellaire High School who coached girls' basketball from 1953-1976 and also in 1982.

Fitch taught at Bellaire High School from 1953-1982. Her girls' basketball-team, both varsity and reserve, remained undefeated during on 8 1/2 year period from 1961 to 1968.

During a period of time in which no Ohio state girl's championship existed, her teams were ranked annually as some of the best in Ohio.

Fitch is a graduate of Bethany College.

TODD FITCH

(1982)

Wall of Fame

Class of 2013



Todd Fitch a 1982 BHS graduate, joins his father, Glenn '56 (Wall of Fame, 1994), and brother, Dirk '79 (Wall of Fame, 1999), in the Bellaire Wall of Fame. A standout performer in football and track at Bellaire, Fitch moved on to Ohio Wesleyan where he was a three-year starter as defensive back, earning All-League honors in 1985.

Following his playing days, he moved into the college coaching ranks and over the last twenty-seven years, has worked on some of the premier college staffs in the nation. After a brief period as a graduate assistant at Bowling Green in 1986, he moved into Division I schools where he has spent his entire career.

He has had coaching stints at West Virginia University, Bowling Green, Colorado State, University of Connecticut, South Carolina, Iowa State, East Carolina, and South Florida. He has spent the bulk of his career on the offensive side of the ball, coaching quarterbacks, wide receivers, and running backs. Todd has been the Offensive Co-Ordinator at UConn, Iowa State, East Carolina, and South Florida watching many of his players go on to play in the NFL.

Fitch enjoyed huge bowl victories, including two Outback Bowl wins over Ohio State while at South Carolina. While at South Florida, his South Florida Bulls travelled to Notre Dame and defeated the Irish for one of the schools most exciting victories in their history.

During his twenty-seven years of Division I college experience, Fitch has had the opportunity to work with legendary head coaches Don Nehlen, Earl Bruce, Lou Holtz, and Skip Holtz. Todd just recently made the move to the Atlantic Coast Conference as he was hired to coach receivers at Boston College.

Todd and his wife, Julie, have two sons: Curtis and Peyton.

**MIKE FOLEY
(1915)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1985**



Mike Foley lettered in football in 1914 as an offensive back. He was also a standout in the independent football leagues.

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TOM FORBES
(1954)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1995



Considered by many basketball aficionados as the classic point guard, Tom Forbes served as the starting guard on Bellaire High's first OVAC champion basketball team. Playing both football and basketball, Forbes excelled on the hardwood, earning All-Valley, All-Eastern Ohio, and All-OVAC honors both his junior and senior years. In addition to being captain of the 1954 Reds' squad, he also was elected to lead the All-Eastern Ohio All-Stars. Elected honorable mention All-State, Forbes was selected player and captain of the Ohio OVAC All-Star Basketball Team.

After graduating from Bellaire, he attended Kenyon College, where he stepped into a starting position as a freshman. Playing and lettering two years, he was selected honorable mention All-Conference his sophomore year.

Returning to the Valley, he served for four years in the Air Force, rising to the rank of First Lieutenant. During the time when the Wheeling Recreation Department had outstanding outdoor leagues, Forbes continued his career for six years, playing with some of the biggest names in Valley basketball history.

Employed by Triangle Wire and Cable Inc. as Operations Manager, Tom and his wife, Adrienne, have four sons: Tom, Michael, Greg, and Jon, all graduates of St. John Central.

WILLIE FORD SR.
(1945)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1987



Three year letterman in football

One of Valley's top sprinters

Selected to several all-star teams in football

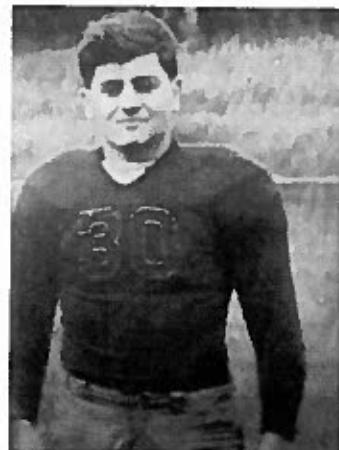
Attended Wilberforce College and played football for two years

DAN FRIZZI SR.

(1945)

Wall of Fame

Class 1990



A graduate of Bellaire High School in 1945, Dan Frizzi Sr. was a three-year football performer and letter winner for the Big Reds, serving as captain his senior year.

After the conclusion of the 1944 season, Frizzi received many honors, including first team center on the WWVA All-Valley football team, All-OVAC, All-Eastern Ohio, and was selected to Shadyside High School's All-Opponent Club.

A lifelong resident of Bellaire, Frizzi has been a pillar of the community, operating Frizzi's Market in West Bellaire. He has also served for years on the Board of Education, representing it as president several times and serving as a delegate to numerous State and National Conferences.

Frizzi was instrumental in instituting the Hall of Fame/Wall of Fame at Bellaire High School and has served on its board since its inception.

Like their father, Frizzi's five sons - Dan, Dick, Dave, Doug, and Dean - are all established members of the Bellaire community.

DICK FRIZZI

(1972)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1992



Although he participated in varsity football and basketball during his sophomore, junior, and senior years, earning three football letters and two basketball letters, Dick Frizzi will be remembered for his exploits on the gridiron.

Frizzi was a two-way starter both his junior and senior years, captained the Big Reds his senior year, and earned numerous post-season honors his final year. He was selected First Team All-OVAC, All-Valley, and All-Eastern Ohio, and made Special Mention All-State. Frizzi also made the *Intelligencer* "Honor Roll" First Team Ohio Valley Big Schools and earned a berth on the Region 12 All-Star squad.

Recognized repeatedly for his line blocking and downfield blocking, Frizzi earned Lineman-of-the-Week honors his junior year, and during his senior year recorded 25 catches for 300+ yards, 47 solo tackles, 18 assisted tackles, two interceptions, and one safety. An alternate for the Ohio North-South Game, Frizzi played in the Ohio-West Virginia All-Star Game where he scored a touchdown, intercepted a pass, and had several tackles. Frizzi also was a two-way starter in the OVAC classic.

After graduation, he played on a championship slow-pitch softball team in Bellaire, participated in the summer basketball league for several years, and played in the flag football league, going to the State tournament three years.

An employee of Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel, Frizzi was chosen in 1988 to be one of three facilitator/co-ordinators at the Yorkville Mill for their Co-Operative Partnership Agreement Program.

For the past several years, he has been active in the Bellaire City Schools Declining Enrollment Committee, 2000 Committee, and the Levy Committee.

Married to the former Kim Mylnek, Frizzi has three children: Derek, Rachael, and Audra.

JIM FUTHEY

(1921)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1984



Jim Futhey was a successful fullback on the gridiron for the Red and Black winning a conference title his junior year. In track, he won the OVAA meet events in the 220-yard dash and the 220 low hurdles, leading his team to the conference championship.

He played collegiate ball at Washington & Jefferson College. He received several offers from larger schools, however, his devout family listened to the advice of their minister about the small institution with a high moral standing. Futhey joined the starting unit immediately under legendary Coach Greasy Neale.

In his first year, the 18-member team went 10-0-1 with shutouts over Pittsburgh and West Virginia. They reached the Rose Bowl and played the heavily favored University of California. The Golden Bears flattened Ohio State the year previous in the big game and felt completely stunned when they ended the contest with a 0-0 draw to a school they never knew existed.

Futhey had a stellar career for the Presidents and became a key scorer over the years. His final season concluded with a 6-1-1 mark.

Researched by Sean Kennedy '03

JOEY GALLOWAY

(1990)

HALL OF FAME

Class of 1995



This Big Reds' four-sports performer has excelled on the prep, collegiate and professional levels. The mercury-heeled wide receiver was an All-Ohio gridder for coach John Magistro before a sparkling career at Ohio State University. After his Scarlet & Gray days, Galloway was a first round draft pick by the Seattle Seahawks of the National Football League.

Galloway rewrote the Ohio Valley record books for pass receiving yards with 2,332 and touchdown receptions with 27. He ended with 108 career catches. The 5-9 explosive game-breaker helped lead the Big Reds to the OVAC 3-A football title his junior year, playing an integral role in the 9-1 campaign. He landed 43 passes for 973 yards and 13 TDs that fall.

Galloway was a three-time All-OVAC and All-Valley honoree and was named All-Ohio second team in Division III as a senior.

In basketball, he was just as dominating as a point guard. Galloway was a starter for three straight OVAC championship teams for coach Gene Ammirante. He earned All-OVAC, All-Valley and All-Ohio honors.

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

The Bellaire Bullet then took his amazing athletic skills to Columbus, 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 earning 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.

Still holds record in football (as of 2025) for:

Most all-purpose yardage in a career: 3,309 (1987-89)

Most yards receiving in a career: 2,334 (1987-89)

Most touchdown passes caught in a game: 4 v. Wheeling Park (1989)

Still holds record in basketball (as of 2025) for:

Points in a quarter: 24 v. John Marshall (2/9/90)

RICHARD GIANANGELI

(1967)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1988



Rich Gianangeli, a 1967 graduate of Bellaire High School, lettered two years in football and basketball.

In football, he was chosen as the Most Valuable Player, rushing for 800 yards, scoring fifteen touchdowns and nineteen extra points.

He was also the Most Valuable Player in the Ohio-West Virginia All-Star Game and was chosen to numerous All-star teams.

In basketball, he was a member of the OVAC Championship Team in 1967.

In both basketball and football, teams he participated on were two of the highest scoring teams in Bellaire's history.

FRANCIS GIBSON
(1957)
HALL OF FAME
Class of 1983



Football, basketball, track: captain senior year

All-OVAC

Played football at United States Military Academy at West Point
Captain, 1960; Co-captain, 1961

CALVIN GIFFIN

(1947)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1988



Cal Giffin was 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.

JOE GILL, JR.
(1940)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1984



A 1940 graduate of Bellaire High School, Joe Gill has been very active as a Big Reds Touchdown Club member for forty years and has served as the honorary referee for the Bellaire Relays. He has also served as a track official for thirty years.

EDDIE GLASER
(1923)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1988



Eddie Glaser, a 1923 graduate of Bellaire High School, was a two-year letterman in football as quarterback and participated as a third baseman and catcher on the baseball team.

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CHARLES “TOD” GOODWIN

(1931)

HALL OF FAME

Class of 1983



Described as “the man’s man,” Charles R. “Tod” Goodwin, known by many as “Baby Face,” was a natural athlete standing at 6’ tall, 184 pounds. Playing for the Big Reds on the football pitch, he scored 66 points for his career on 10 touch-downs and six conversions on two conference title units.

He also was a pivotal player on the basketball team, leading the squad in scoring two years in a row from the center spot. His performance on the track helped lead his team to an OVAA title and two sectional championships. In the sectional meet of 1931 he broke the record for both the high and low hurdle events.

The star end went on to play for West Virginia University where he quickly gained a national reputation as a highly-skilled receiver and for having a level of confidence that tended to offend many traditionalists of the sport. His on-the-field attitude as a sophomore caused the head coach, Earle “Greasy” Neale, to make Goodwin wear a sign all week stating, “I Am Cocky,” attempting to shame the star into some humility. By the time of the next game, Goodwin showed up with a new sign reading, “I Am Still Cocky.”

In his battle with backyard rival Pittsburgh in 1934, the receiver had a strong showing against fellow Bellaire alumni Miller Munjas, Stan Olejniczak, and Leon Wohlgemuth. His performance gave him a mention in *The New York Times* in an October edition as one of the top athletes in the country. He also played for the WVU varsity basketball team at center.

After graduation, Goodwin signed to play for the New York Giants of the National Football League in 1935, one year before the first draft. His attitude received appreciation from his professional teammates who nicknamed him “The Mouth.” In his rookie season Goodwin led the NFL in receiving yards with a league record 26 receptions for 432 yards and four scores. He received second team honors on the 1935 All-Pro list. He caught his first career touchdown against the Chicago Cardinals on a 29-yarder, then dazzled the crowd with a 55-yard score versus the Eagles. He surpassed this in the regular season finale against Pittsburgh going 65 yards to defeat his former Big Reds’ teammate Stan Olejniczak. His team went 9-3 and fell to the Lions in the NFL championship game.

In 1936, Goodwin received a small acting role in a Hollywood movie, *Rose Bowl*, written by sportswriter and Bellaire legend Francis Wallace. The following season his contract went to the Wilmington Clippers of the American Association Football League (AFL pre-merger with NFL). He started in all eight games at right end wearing numbers 14, 3, and 29. Playing alongside future NFL coach Vince Lombardi, Goodwin saw his team go 5-4. In 1938, joined by Bellaire alum Roger Mass, he started all 12 games wearing number 14 as his team went 10-2 falling only to the Eagles and the Jersey City Giants. He played in every game through the next two seasons to conclude his football career and was named the Most Valuable Player of the 1940 season.

Goodwin served in the U.S. Army during World War II in every theater of the war. As a Commando Ranger, he was one of an elite group of soldiers trained in martial arts combat under Lieutenant Colonel Francois d'Eliscu to prepare for hand-to-hand action on the Japanese-occupied islands. The colonel described the Bellaire native as one of his best training partners. Goodwin reached the rank of Lieutenant Colonel before retiring in 1971.

He was named an honorary adviser of athletics for the Osaka Police Department of Japan in 1950, working with General Douglas MacArthur during the Allied occupation. He received the rank of General from Delaware Governor Terry for representing the state in the Congress of Interallied Officers which involved developing relations with NATO countries.

Goodwin received induction into the Bellaire High School Hall of Fame. He passed away at age 85 on January 1997 in Wilmington, Delaware.

Researched by Sean Kennedy '03

PHILLIP GREEN

(1988)

Wall of Fame

Class of 2000



The Bellaire Big Reds have long had the reputation of producing tough, hard-nosed football players. Phillip Green, a 1988 graduate of Bellaire High School, certainly fits into that mold.

Green was a two-way performer for the Big Reds, playing at running back and outside linebacker. Phillip was a player who loved contact. He was a punishing runner who could run over you or around you. On defense, Phillip was a devastating tackler who could disrupt opposing teams' offensive schemes.

Phillip lettered in football in 1985, 1986, and 1987 and served as captain his senior year.

Phillip's honors include Most Valuable Player in 1987, All-OVAC 1985, 1986, and 1987, All-District 1985 and 1986, and All-State 1986.

Phillip attended Gavilan Community College in Gilroy, California and Marshall University.

Phillip is employed at Capital Manufacturing.

SPOTSWOOD GREEN

(1916)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1985



Spotswood Green was a 1916 graduate of Bellaire High School, lettering in football in 1913, 1914, and 1915, achieving All-Star status. He was one of the first two black athletes to participate and letter for Bellaire High School.

He graduated from Ohio State University in 1922.

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**LEO HARRIS
(1920)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1985**



Played end in football

Attended Maryland, West Virginia University, and Pitt

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STEVE HARRIS
(1919)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1985



Played end in football

Attended Mount Union College

Graduated from The Ohio State University medical school in 1928, doing post-graduate work in Vienna, Austria

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ALFRED HAVELKA

(1940)

Wall of Fame

Class 1990



Although some of the youngsters today might not remember "Tater" Havelka, his name is still talked about by many of the old timers.

Havelka played and lettered in football for three years at BHS, being accorded All-Valley honors his junior and senior years. He also was named First Team UP All-State and was selected to play in the first Ohio-West Virginia All-Star Game in 1939.

Havelka is credited with being the last person to drop kick extra points for Bellaire High School.

But Tater's fame was on the baseball diamond where he enjoyed over twenty years with the Bellaire Civics and took extreme pride in his ability as a catcher. Havelka also spent two years playing AA baseball at Orlando, Florida.

A veteran of four years with the US Marines, he served at Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Guam, and Iwo Jima. Havelka's squad was the one responsible for the historical flag raising at Iwo Jima during World War II. During his military time, he also played baseball with the Marines at New River, North Carolina, and Quantico, Virginia.

He is married to the former Marilyn Hayes and has one son, Tom.

**NELSON HEIL
(1920)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1985**



Nelson Heil graduated in 1920 where he lettered in football in 1919. He graduated from Ohio University in 1925.

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WALTER HEIL

(1922)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1986



Played basketball in 1921 and 1922 - Cheerleader in 1921 and 1922

Walter Heil was regarded as one of the deans of Ohio Valley officiating thanks to a career that spanned some 38 years and involved three sports.

He began as a baseball umpire in 1926 then added football in 1928 and basketball in 1929, working countless games until finally hanging up his whistle at the age of 62. Heil officiated football and basketball at the high school, collegiate, and professional levels. He worked five West Virginia High School State Tournaments, five West Virginia Catholic High School State Tournaments, and three West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Tournaments. He also officiated in the semi-pro Continental Football League, which featured the Wheeling Ironmen.

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

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

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

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

FRANK HEINRICH

(1946)

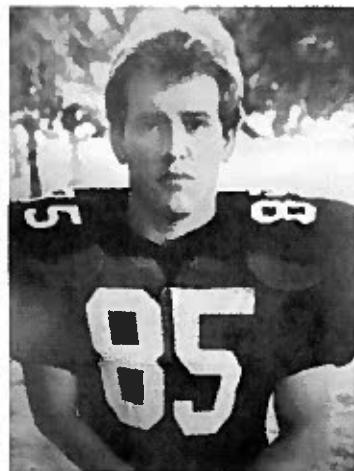
Wall of Fame

Class of 1998



Frank Heinrich is a 1946 graduate of Bellaire High School. While at BHS, Frank was a three-year letterwinner in football for Coach Jim Foti. During the 1944 and 1945 seasons, he was one of the Valley's outstanding backs. Frank was awarded an athletic scholarship to the University of Nevada where he lettered his freshman year. He then left Nevada to attend the University of Oregon and proceeded to be a three-year letterwinner. From 1950-1952, he served in the U.S. Army as a First Lieutenant Second Infantry Division, Platoon Leader, and Company Commander. He received the Purple Heart for being wounded in action. In 1953, Frank received a BS degree in biology from the University of Oregon and joined Standard Oil as an exploration geologist in Libya where he was part of the team that discovered and established the prolific Zeltan oil field. He was later involved in oil exploration in Turkey, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Nigeria, and served as Director of Operations of Esso West Africa. Frank moved into marketing management and was appointed American representative for Esso in Cairo, Egypt. Frank is retired and resides in Beaufort, South Carolina.

JOHN HELMS
(1978)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1999



John is a 1978 graduate of Bellaire High School. While at BHS, he participated in football, basketball, and baseball, earning two letters in football and baseball and one in basketball. During his senior year, he played as a free safety and split end in football while earning First Team AP All-District honors as well as Special Mention AP and Honorable Mention UPI on the All-State teams. John received the John Lambros Memorial Trophy as the team's most under-rated player. In basketball, he played center and forward on a team that won OVAC and District championships before losing in the Regional finals. He was named the team's most improved player. As a baseball player, John played first base, second base, centerfield, pitcher, and catcher. Following his senior season, he was named the team MVP. He also was selected to the AA North-South All-Star team and was the MVP of the OVAC All-Star Game. John was recruited to play football at Waynesburg College where he lettered as a tight end his freshman year and a defensive end his final three years. He was recognized by the Pittsburgh media as a senior on their All-District Small College Team. Currently he resides in Beavercreek, Ohio, where he works as a corporate environmental compliance officer.

THOMAS HEMSLEY

(1937)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1994



Thomas Hemsley was a three-sport performer for the Big Reds, playing football, basketball, and softball.

At the end of his senior season, he was named First Team All-Eastern Ohio and Second Team All-Valley.

A stellar pitcher, Hemsley led the Reds to three consecutive OVAA softball championships.

During World War II, he served in the Marine Corps and then went to work for the Goodyear Rubber and Tire Company until he retired. He also served as Secretary of Local Union #2.

ROOSEVELT HENRY

(St. Clairsville, 1951)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1996



You don't attend too many football games or track meets that you don't see the smiling face of Roosevelt Henry, known to all as Rosey. Although he graduated from St. Clairsville High School, he has become a fixture in Bellaire. Marrying Mary Green and having two stepsons wear the Red and Black, Henry became associated with Bellaire sports in the late 1960's. Joining the Touchdown Club, he has been a trustee for over 20 years, serving as President in 1992 and 1993.

He has also been an active committee member for the Bellaire Relays and the Girls' Track Invitational. His efforts in track got him named Honorary Referee of the Bellaire Relays in 1985. When the Hall of Fame Committee was formed, Henry became the Touchdown Club's choice for a representative, a position he still holds today.

His two stepsons, Clarence (1974) and Wayne (1976) were outstanding athletes in football and basketball. Rosey has also served for seven years on the Red Cross Board and has been a Pultney Township Trustee since 1983.

One of his proudest accomplishments for the Big Reds, in addition to seeing that the football squads have been fed and clothed for a quarter of a century, is the fact that he has helped put both all-weather tracks at Nelson Field, the last replacement requiring a fund raising project of over \$100,000.

Henry retired from the Eastern Ohio Regional Wastewater Authority in 1995.

ED HEPE

(1942)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1989



Edward Hepe, Class of 1942, also had a very illustrious athletic career. Although he participated and lettered in football and basketball for three years, his notoriety was achieved in track, lettering four years, serving as captain of the 1942 team, and receiving All-Eastern Ohio honors.

For several years, he held the long jump record of 22' 10 1/2'. In his senior year at the District track meet, Hepe won four individual events and was named MVP.

After graduating from high school, he served three years in the Air Force and Army in addition to playing semi-pro basketball from 1946-1950. He later entered Slippery Rock University, where he participated and lettered in football and track all three years (Hepe graduated from Slippery Rock in three years).

During his last year he served as captain of the track team and co-captain in football. In football at SRU, Hepe still holds the record for the longest punt return (90 yards) and total punt return yards for a single game (142 yards). Hepe was one of the oldest athletes to play football or run track at Slippery Rock (31 years old). He was named Man-of-the-Year by the McDonald, Pennsylvania, Lions Club in 1960.

Hepe also coached the Ft. Cherry High School basketball team to the State championship in 1961 and was named "Coach-of-the-Year."

Hepe is a member of the Slippery Rock University Hall of Fame and the Butler Area Sports Hall of Fame, serving on the Board of Directors of the latter. The retired educator resides in Butler, PA.

SONJI HERZBERG

(1950)

HALL OF FAME

Class of 1984



Two-year letterman in football; OVAC champions in 1950

Participated in discus in State track meet junior year

Attended Kent State University (graduated in 1955)

Four-year letterman in football

All-Ohio Collegiate Team

Captain, 1954

First KSU team to play in NCAA bowl game

Outstanding sophomore award

Drafted by 49'ers but went into military: first lieutenant stationed in Germany

Sonji "Sonny" Herzberg starred for the Big Reds in football. He continued to play football for Kent State University for four seasons where he became captain of the Golden Flashes team for 1954.

Graduating in 1955, he enlisted in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers stationed in West Germany. He began a successful architect designing structures in places including the U.S. Virgin Islands, St. Croix, and Juneau, Alaska.

He launched his own firm in 1969 with his office in Columbus. Herzberg's professional legacy in Bellaire can be viewed by his creation of the new City Building downtown.

CONNIE HIBBITS

(1981)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1992



When you go back looking at girls' athletics and their attempt to gain equal recognition, Connie Hibbits has to be considered one of the pioneers.

An outstanding athlete, Hibbits not only participated in volleyball, basketball, and softball for all four years of high school, but she also lettered in them, earning a total of twelve varsity letters. Her leadership skills became evident early, as she was chosen to lead the Lady Reds in volleyball and softball her sophomore, junior and senior years, and in basketball her junior and senior years.

Her performances earned MVP honors in volleyball her sophomore year, in softball and basketball her junior year, and in all three sports her senior year. The first girl to score 1,000 points in basketball, Hibbits set the school record of 52 points in a game against Buckeye South.

Her post-season honors included All-OVAC and All-Valley in basketball and softball both her junior and senior year, and honorable mention All-State in basketball her junior year.

Hibbits finished her athletic career in the Ohio-West Virginia All-Star softball game, but not before she placed girls' athletics at Bellaire High School on the track to equality and respectability.

Still holds record in basketball (as of 2025) for:

Field goals made in a season: 197 (1980)

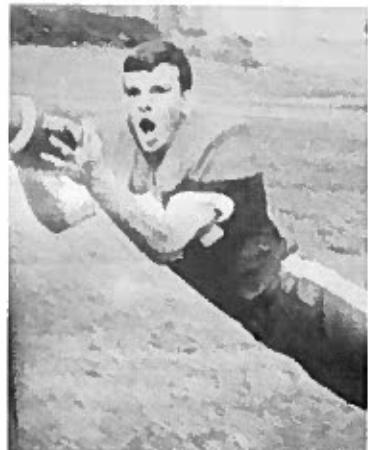
Points in a game: 52 v. Buckeye South (1980)

LARRY HOLLOWAY

(1967)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1993



A three-sport standout at Bellaire, Larry Holloway made his biggest impression on the football field.

A member of the 1964 OVAC championship squad, Holloway lettered two years and received post-season honors his senior year as All-OVAC, All-Valley, All-Eastern Ohio, and 2nd team All-State.

He still holds the school record for most touchdowns passes caught in a season, recording three catches against Wheeling in 1966. His senior year, he recorded 22 catches, 12 touchdowns, and over 500 yards. Holloway also served as captain of the Ohio All-Stars in 1967.

Playing basketball for three years also, Holloway lettered and was a member of the 1966 OVAC championship team.

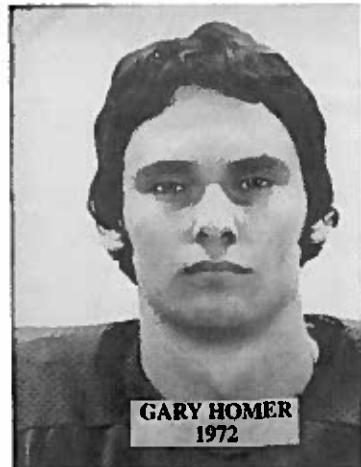
In the spring, Holloway ran track for four years, lettering three and serving as captain his senior year. Named to All-Valley, All-OVAC, and All-Eastern Ohio track teams in 1967, he held the high jump record at the Wintersville Relays at 6'1-1/2".

Upon graduation, Holloway attended Arizona Western and Marshalltown Iowa Colleges, playing football and lettering one year.

He has served over 20 years as an area track official for the OVAC and over 18 years as a West Virginia track official. In 1992, he received a ten-year service award for continuous service at the state of West Virginia track meet.

Employed by Ohio County Schools and residing in Wheeling, Holloway lives with his wife, Nancy, and daughter, Holly.

GARY HOMER
(1972)
HALL OF FAME
Class of 1998



Football placekicker

Graduated from Ohio University
Booted a school record 57-yard field goal against Penn State, 1973

Tryouts with Cleveland Browns, Washington Redskins, Minnesota Vikings,
Chicago Bears, Buffalo Bills
Signed with the Cleveland Browns

Still holds record in football (as of 2025) for:
Kickoff average in a season: 55.9 yards (1971)

CHARLES HORNE, SR.
(1926)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1988



Charles Horne, Sr., a 1926 graduate of Bellaire High School, lettered four years in football, playing positions of guard and fullback.

He was chosen as a member of the All-Valley and All-OVAC teams.

He attended Muskingum College for three years and was the second player from Bellaire High School to play in Ohio Stadium when Muskingum played Ohio State.

DAVE HUDSON

(1968)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1988



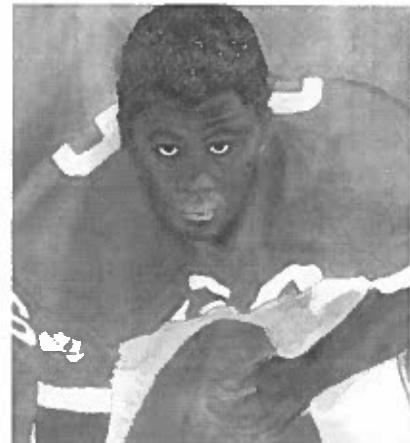
Dave Hudson, a 1968 graduate of Bellaire High School, was a three-year letterman in football, serving as co-captain, and was a two-year letterman in basketball and track.

He was chosen to numerous All-Star teams in football, was co-captain of the Ohio All-Stars in 1968, and was chosen as the Most Valuable Football Player.

He received his B.S. degree from West Virginia University in 1972 and a M.S. from West Virginia University in 1974.

Hudson received a full scholarship in football to West Virginia University and was a letterman for the Mountaineers.

**DON HUTCHINS
(1966)
HALL OF FAME
Class of 1983**



Football, basketball, and track letterman

Captain of All-Valley team
All-Ohio, third team

Played at Ohio University, graduated in 1970
Captain of 1969 team
All-MAC, honorable mention

DAVE ICE

(1964)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1989



Dave Ice, Class of 1964, was a three-year performer for the Big Reds in football and track, lettering for two years in both sports.

He earned All-Valley honors in track his junior and senior years and All-Eastern Ohio honors in football.

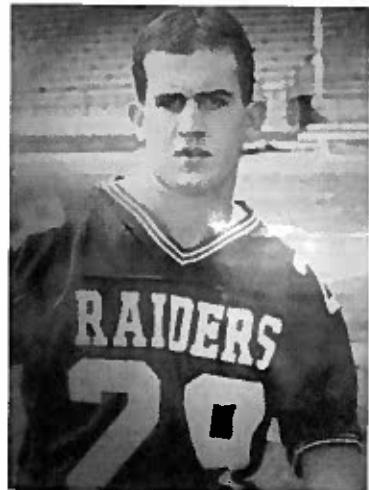
Ice was the second shot putter in Bellaire's history to throw over 50 feet. He was also honored to perform in the 1964 Ohio-West Virginia All-Star Game.

But Ice's claim to the Wall of Fame lies in his total dedication to Bellaire athletics. He has coached junior high basketball (he's still coaching) for over twenty years, and has also volunteered to coach junior high football and track.

An active Bellaire Relays committee member, Ice also served as the past chairman of one of the largest meets in Ohio.

It's difficult to mention the Big Reds Touchdown Club without instantly thinking of Dave Ice, for he has been an active member since joining and has served as the President for over 9 years. While others have achieved fame throughout the nation, Ice has been a lifelong resident of Bellaire (he currently is tri-owner of First Ward Tavern) and has dedicated his life to seeing that Big Reds' athletes get only the best attention.

**DAVID ICE
(1991)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1998**



David Ice is a 1991 graduate of Bellaire High School. While in high school, he participated in four years of football, basketball, and baseball. During his freshman year he lettered in baseball after participating on the freshman football and basketball teams. As a sophomore and junior he lettered in football and baseball. David not only lettered in all three sports as a senior but also served as captain in football and baseball. After his senior football season, where he played wide receiver and defensive back, he was chosen Honorable Mention All-OVAC and Special Mention All-Valley. The following summer, he was chosen to participate in the Ohio-West Virginia All-Star Football Game. David is a member of four OVAC championship teams at BHS. As a senior, he received the David Riley Football Memorial Scholarship and the Student/Athlete Award. Following his graduation from BHS, David went to Mount Union College where he was a three-year letter-winner as a wide receiver. He had the pleasure of playing on three Ohio Athletic Conference championship teams and one Division III National Championship team. David was honored by the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Club for his college accomplishments following his senior season. David and his wife, Cari, live in Plain City, Ohio, where he is currently employed by the Riverview Juvenile Correctional Center in Columbus, Ohio.

MIKE IMBROSCIO

(1986)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1994



If good things come in small packages, then Mike Imbroscio is a great one.

A four-year member of the wrestling team, lettering three years, Imbroscio wrestled in the lightweight classes and displayed tremendous dedication to the mat sport. Wrestling in the OVAC Wrestling Tournament, the largest high school meet in the nation, he placed 8th his sophomore year, fourth his junior year, and capped off a brilliant senior career by not only taking the championship honors in the 112-pound class but also being selected the Dave Bierkortee Outstanding wrestler.

His records (13-3, 25-9, and 27-1) allowed him to establish BHS standards for nearfalls (2 point) for both the season and his career. The team captain and MVP his senior year, he was rewarded with the George Kovalick Memorial Scholarship.

He entered Ohio State University where he wrestled in intramurals, winning the 135-pound weight class, before graduating in 1990, summa cum laude in pre-law.

From there he moved to Harvard Law School, graduating magna cum laude in 1993.

He currently works for Judge John M. Walker, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, New York.

MIKE INGRAM

(1957)

HALL OF FAME

Class of 1983



Nicknamed "The Tank" because of his physical play as a 5-foot-9, 220-pound fullback-linebacker, Mike Ingram was a three-sport Big Reds' stalwart in football, basketball, and track. He led Bellaire to football records of 7-3, 9-0-1, 7-3, and 5-5.

He was a two-time All-Eastern Ohio choice who was All-OVAC Class AA first team, All-Valley second team, and AP All-Ohio second team as a junior.

Recruited by Ohio State coach Woody Hayes, he was converted to an offensive guard-linebacker and became a three-year Buckeye starter and 1961 team co-captain for the 8-0-1 record Big Ten Conference champions which were ranked No. 2 in both wire service polls. The 8-2 record 1960 team was ranked No. 8.

He earned first team All-Big Ten as a senior and played in the East-West Shrine game and Hula Bowl game.

He was drafted by the NFL Washington Redskins and AFL Boston Patriots, but didn't play pro ball.

He passed away in 1981.

Nicknamed "The Tank" because of his physical play as a 5-foot-9, 220-pound fullback-linebacker, Mike Ingram was a three-sport Big Reds' stalwart in football, basketball, and track. He led Bellaire to football records of 7-3, 9-0-1, 7-3, and 5-5. He was a two-time All-Eastern Ohio choice who was All-OVAC Class AA first team, All-Valley second team, and AP All-Ohio second team as a junior.

Recruited by Ohio State coach Woody Hayes, he was converted to an offensive guard-linebacker and became a three-year Buckeye starter. The 8-2 record in 1960 was ranked No. 8. In 1961 he became co-captain for the 8-0-1, Big 10 Conference champions which was ranked No. 2 in both wire service polls. That year the Big 10 had not renewed a contract with the Rose Bowl and the bowl committee gave the offer to the faculty council at Ohio State to decide whether to accept. A narrow "no" vote by the faculty resulted in several days of riots on campus and downtown Columbus. The violent mob did not dissipate until the senior captain, Ingram, picked up the police megaphone and told the crowd that he and the team

would respect the decision and asked the fans to do the same. The team lost its chance at the national championship, but Ingram and the seniors created peace in a volatile situation.

He earned first team All-Big Ten as a senior and played in the East-West Shrine game and Hula Bowl.

He was drafted by the NFL Washington Redskins and AFL Boston Patriots, but did not play pro-ball. He passed away in 1981. Ingram received induction into the Bellaire High School Hall of Fame in 1983.

**HARRY JACKSON
(1935)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1987**



Many of the early inductees of the Wall of Fame were recommended from the memories of local townspeople. However when an attempt was made to document their accomplishments, little was found. Should anyone be able to add to what we do have, please e-mail tom@theratsnest.org.

CARL JOHNSON

(1914)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1991



Recognized as being the oldest living Big Reds football player and the first black to play for a high school in the Ohio Valley, Carl Johnson was a four-year performer and letter winner at the guard and tackle positions on the 1910, 1911, 1912, and 1913 football squads.

Playing tackle at 140 pounds, Johnson was regarded as one of the toughest to play the position, earning All-Star team honors three years in a row. The *Bellaire Daily Leader*, upon recognizing Johnson on the 1913 All-Star Team, stated "There was but little trouble in selecting tackles. Johnson of Bellaire is one of the quickest and toughest tackles who ever donned a high school uniform. Bellaire has been able to depend upon him all season."

Upon graduation, he received a scholarship to Cheney State Teachers' College where he played, lettered, and captained the 1916 and 1917 squads. His college career was cut short in 1917 when he was drafted in the 58th Depot Brigade of the U.S. Army.

Upon his release, he returned to Bellaire and was employed by J.H. McGraw and Sons. At this time, he organized and played semi-pro ball for the Peerless Athletic Club. He later was employed by the Standard Oil Company, the First National Bank, and the Farmers and Merchants Bank before joining the Postal Office in Bellaire, where he worked for 28 years until his retirement in 1965.

Recognized as the first African American to play high school football in the Ohio Valley, Carl played four years for the Red and Black. He earned letters while playing at guard and tackle from 1910-1913 at 140 pounds and received All-Star team honors three-straight seasons. Johnson won recognition from the *Intelligencer* All-Scholastic Eleven in 1913, an exception at the time as the West Virginia media, with the exception of Spotswood Green in 1914, refused to honor African Americans again until 1956.

He received a scholarship for college at Cheyney State Training School for Teachers (now Cheney University). While there, he played football, earning several letters, and became team captain in 1916.

A halt to his playing career occurred when he was drafted by the U.S. Army

during the First World War, serving in the 58th Depot Brigade. He continued to play football after the war for the semi-professional Peerless Athletic Club in the area.

He received his induction into the Bellaire High School Wall of Fame in 1991 at the age of 97. He passed away a year later.

EDWARD JOHNSON

(1941)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1996



“Peachy Pie.” The nickname says it all. Edward Johnson was one of the lightest players for Butch Niemiec’s Big Reds, but his running ability dazzled his opponents. An all-around athlete, Johnson played football all four years, lettering three. Although he scored touchdowns in only half the games he played his senior year, Peachy Pie lead the Reds’ squad with nine touchdowns and 54 points.

An All-Eastern Ohio designee two years and All-Valley his senior year, he was selected to serve the Reds as team captain for the Shadyside game. He was also a three-year performer in basketball and track, lettering twice in track and once in basketball. But his high school career was cut short after his senior football season.

He went to work in the #6 mine for the Rail and River Company. Johnson was also an accomplished baseball player in sandlot circles, catching for the Brown Bombers softball team during the late 30’s and early 40’s, and was the catcher for the Sanitary Meat Market when they won the championship of the Bellaire Recreation League in 1944.

KAYLA JOHNSON

(2003)

Wall of Fame

Class of 2008



Although Kayla Johnson only participated in cheering and track and field, she grew into one of the most respected sprinters ever to run at Nelson Field.

Lettering three years and serving as captain her senior year, Johnson earned track MVP honors three straight years. She also made four straight trips to Columbus where she ran in the 4x100m relay, the 200m dash (7th place her junior and senior years), and the 100m dash (5th her senior year).

Moving across the river to Wheeling Jesuit University, Johnson quickly established herself by earning Rookie-of-the-Year at both WJU and in the WVIAC. Running indoor and outdoor track and field, she lettered all four years and served as captain her sophomore and junior years.

Constantly expanding her talents, in her senior year Johnson earned first place in WVIAC-competition in the 100m, 200m, and 400m dashes, the long jump and triple jump, the 4x400m relay, and second place in the 100m hurdles and the 4x100m relay. In her last three years, she was named both WJU and the WVIAC Track Athlete-of-the-Year.

Upon graduating, she held the WJU indoor records in the 55m, 60m, 200m, and 400m dashes and the WJU outdoor records in the 100m, 200m, and 400m dashes. Additionally, she held the WVIAC records in the 100m, 200m, and 400m dashes.

Graduating from WJU in 2007, Johnson currently works as a registered nurse.

MIKE JOHNSON

(1968)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1992



Although he participated in three sports while attending BHS, Johnson was most successful during track season. Few people have established a record that has stood for over a quarter of a century, but Johnson's 13'4 1/2" pole vault standard has never been surpassed.

On his way to setting this mark, Johnson broke the Bellaire record six times. During his senior year, he captured first place honors in both the Bellaire Relays (where he set the school record) and the OVAC meet. Johnson also shared the co-holder honor of the All-Time Valley record with Steubenville's Jim Mavromatis.

Johnson has spent considerable time assisting Bellaire athletes with their vaulting techniques, most recently his son, Ian, who could have had a shot at the record except for being sidelined his junior year with a back injury.

He served as Co-Captain of the track team his senior year and was selected MVP at its conclusion. Johnson was also a three-year letterman in wrestling and not only was a member of the school's first wrestling team in 1966 but was also selected Most Valuable Performer as a sophomore. He repeated this honor his senior year as well as being selected Co-Captain.

He currently resides in Columbus where he works for the Department of Taxation as an Assistant Administrator.

**RODNEY JOHNSON
(1977)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1987**



Three year letterman in football

Two year letterman in track

Two year letterman in wrestling

1976 OVAC Runner-Up

1976 Sectional and District Runner-Up; participated in State wrestling tournament with record of 26-4

1977 team captain; OVAC , Sectional, and District champion; State Runner-up with a record of 29-1

Graduated from West Virginia University in 1981 where he lettered for three years, serving as co-captain in 1980

Third in Regional in 1978 and 1979 accumulating a WVU career record of 54-12

ART JONES

(1972)

Wall of Fame

Class 1990



Probably one of the most prolific wrestlers ever to take the mat at BHS, Art Jones, Class of 1972, enjoyed an outstanding four-year career at Bellaire High School.

During his freshman year, Jones recorded 13 wins against 1 loss and finished second in the giant OVAC Wrestling Tournament.

As a sophomore, Jones enjoyed another stellar year with a 22-1 record, building his totals to 26 pins and 58 takedowns over two years. Undefeated in dual meets, Jones took first place in the St. John Invitational, a feat he would repeat two more times, becoming the first wrestler to do this. Wrestling at 98 pounds, Jones earned first place Sectional and District berths and was a State qualifier. He was also voted MVP and received trophies for Most Pins and Most Takedowns from the Touchdown Club, another feat he would repeat during his junior and senior years. As a sophomore Jones once again finished second in the OVAC Tourney.

Jones highlighted his junior year by becoming the 98-pound OVAC Champion and was undefeated for the second straight year in dual meet competition, recording a 23-1 record with 19 pins and 35 takedowns. Although he won the Sectionals, Jones was forced to settle for a second-place finish in the Districts.

Moving to 105 pounds his senior year, Jones sported a 21-0 record with 14 pins and 30 takedowns. He again repeated as OVAC Champion, this time winning the coveted Dave Bierkortte Award as the tournament's most outstanding wrestler. Jones took first place in the Sectionals and District and once again was a State qualifier. Under Coach Dennis Penza, Jones was responsible for helping his team bring the first big wrestling trophy to BHS, that of District runner-up.

Upon graduating, Jones did not give up wrestling. For the past eight years, he has coached the Island Eagle Wrestling Club, not only sending several of his athletes to championships in the tri-state area, but also seeing several of them become outstanding champions in West Virginia high school competition. Jones' two sons, Aric and Marcus, have been wrestling since they were 7 and 3, and are well on their way to filling their father's shoes.

JOHN “KATZ” KADLIC

(1929)

HALL OF FAME

Class of 1987



John Kadlic of Bellaire's Czechoslovak community took over the quarterback duties after the graduation of Bud Bonar and led the Big Reds for the 1927 and 1928 seasons. Part of three-straight conference title teams, he became captain his senior year and made the All-Valley First Team.

For his career, Kadlic scored 89 points, including 13 touchdowns, and completed 40+ passes on 59+ attempts for over 549 yards and 13 scores.

He led the basketball team in scoring with over 100 points during his senior season. In track, Kadlic helped his team to an OVAA title and two sectional championships. He went on to Columbus for the State meet and won the championship in the half mile in 1929.

After graduation, he played one year for Kiski Prep in Pennsylvania with his Big Reds' teammate, Elwood Kalbaugh. Both men continued their football career at Princeton University, becoming three-year starters. Kadlic was the starting quarterback for the 1933 team with Kalbaugh as his center as they were co-national champions that season.

Considered one of the greatest players in Princeton's history, he won the school's Poe Cup award for outstanding leadership and high quality of character. He was an All-American in 1934 as he spent the summer in Bellaire running 10 miles in the hills each day before working on his passing and kicking game.

An author of Princeton football, A.G. Murray, Jr., wrote in his book, *Going Back*, that "Kadlic was in our eyes the greatest performer on the field, a brilliant, cagey field general, a hair-trigger passer and a deadly tackler ... His was the arm that threw the touchdown pass, his canny brain that conceived the play." On the quarterback's role in a 13-0 victory over Navy, Murray added that "Kats Kadlic was a brilliant quarterback, a tactical genius... he is a ballplayer's ballplayer. His tackles fill the ear and eye. You can hear their rasping impact on every nook and cranny of the stadium."

Kadlic finished on the All American Third Team list. After college, Kadlic became a sales manager for Colorado Fuel and Iron Company. In 1969, he tragically passed away in a traffic accident near New Brunswick, New Jersey.

MIKE KAHL

(1983)

Wall of Fame

Class of 2013



Rugged, hard-nosed, leader, clutch performer, go-to guy, no-nonsense, and dependable are just a few words to describe Mike Kahl, Class of 1983. During his freshman and sophomore years, Kahl played football, basketball, and baseball, earning a letter in baseball his sophomore year. His last two years were spent with football and basketball, lettering both years in both sports and serving as captain of both his senior year.

During his senior year, he was named to the All-OVAC teams in football and basketball and All-Eastern Ohio. Additionally, he was selected MVP of the Eastern Buckeye League in football. An outstanding defensive player in basketball, Kahl still holds the school records in taking charges in both a single game (4) and a season (19).

Upon graduation, Kahl enrolled at West Liberty State College where he played football for all four years, earning All-Conference honors his senior year.

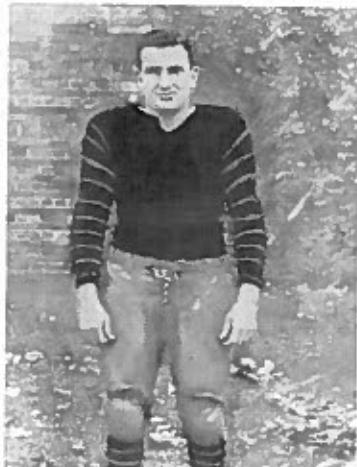
Mike has spent his teaching career at Martins Ferry High School teaching special education in addition to serving the system as a coach at various levels.

ELWOOD KALBAUGH

(1929)

HALL OF FAME

Class of 1983



Elwood Kalbaugh was born at Moore's Run. He played on the line for the Big Reds on three-straight OVAA title squads. He also started for the basketball team as one of its best defensive players. In track, he was a key part of a conference championship and sectional title as he broke the sectional record for the pole vault at 10'3" high.

After graduation, Kalbaugh attended Kiski Prep near Pittsburgh for one year where he played football, basketball, and track with Bellaire teammate, John Kadlic. Both went on to Princeton University in 1930. Kalbaugh became the starting center and defensive lineman on the 1933 national championship team with Kadlic as his starting quarterback. His two tackles at the goal line at the end of its game with Washington and Lee preserved the unbeaten season.

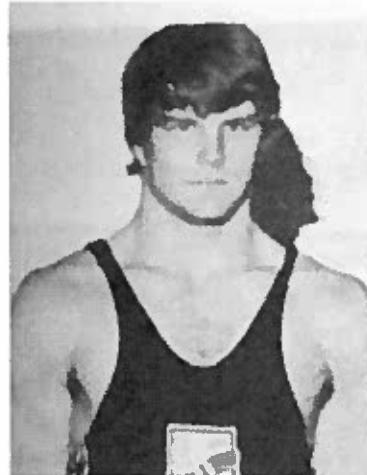
"His every snap of the ball was perfect, no small factor at a time when whoever was to take the snap stood several yards back on every play." Selected captain of the 1934 team unanimously, Kalbaugh was considered one of the Tigers' best-ever athletes and was named a First Team All-American. Coach Fritz Crisier said Kalbaugh was "a great inspirational leader."

Out of college he started work with the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company in 1936. He later became division manager of Kelly-Springfield Tire Company in 1956.

A member of the Bellaire Elks and the exclusive Princeton Nassau Club, Kalbaugh passed away in 1970 at age 59. In his obituary were listed his number of wins on the football field for the Big Reds.

Researched by Sean Kennedy '03

MIKE KALDOR
(1978)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1987



Lettered one year in football, two years in wrestling

Junior year: District runner-up, OVAC third place, participated in State tournament

Senior year: Sectional and District champion, OVAC runner-up, participated in State tournament

Graduated from Waynesburg College in 1982

Participated four years in football; NAIA honorable mention junior and senior year; All-District 18 First Team

RICHARD KALISIESKI

(1938)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1992



A four-year participant in football, Kalisieski lettered his junior and senior years, but it wasn't until the end of his junior year that the 5'10," 190-pound end started to develop and receive attention from area coaches and writers.

During his senior year, he received Honorable Mention, All-Valley honors as an end, as well as All-State honors. Kalisieski was the only gridironer from this district to be selected for a first-team berth.

Upon graduation, he received a scholarship to The Ohio State University, but chose not to attend. Kalisieski served three years, eight months with the United States Army, rising to the rank of First Sergeant.

It was on the baseball diamond after high school, however, where Kalisieski established himself as one of the top pitchers in the UMWA league playing for the Neffs Co-Op team. A veritable one-man pitching machine, he garnered 23 victories in 26 starts one season. Teaming with Wall-of-Famer Alfred "Tater" Havelka, Kalisieski was primarily responsible for Neffs winning the Southern Division Championship of the United MineWorkers of America League. He enjoyed a no-hitter game, as well as several two-and three-hitters.

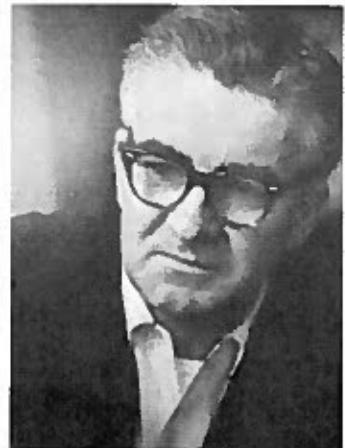
Employed for years by Modern Cam in Michigan, Kalisieski served five years on the Economic Development Board for the city of Lincoln Park, Michigan.

CHARLES “BUD” KEYSER

(1938)

Wall of Fame

Class 1990



A 1938 graduate of Bellaire High School, Bud Keyser participated in swimming, tennis, and track. Although BHS didn't have established teams in swimming and tennis, competition between schools was still conducted. As a pole vaulter, Keyser spent several years on the track team, a sport that he later would give much of his life to.

He received his Bachelor's Degree from Kent State University in 1949, lettering in tennis and being the number one seeded player on the tennis team two years in a row.

He returned to teach industrial arts and business mathematics at his alma mater in 1952, where he coached track. Two of his more noted students were Wall of Famer Bill Thomas, ex-Big Reds hurdler, and Hall of Famer Francis Gibson, considered one of the better shot putters at BHS.

But his greatest accomplishment before he left Bellaire in 1957 was founding the Bellaire Relays in 1954-1955. Due to his insight and dedication to the sport, the Relays has grown into one of the largest track meets in the state of Ohio. Upon leaving Bellaire, Keyser moved to Martins Ferry to instruct industrial drafting and later served as supervisor of vocational education.

He instructed at Ohio University Belmont, and, in 1968, was called upon to plan, equip, and operate the newly-built Joint Vocational School. He was responsible for adding Harrison County to the JVS, and later (1974) was responsible for building a similar facility in Monroe County, the Swiss Hills Vocational School.

Even with all his commitments, Keyser remained dedicated to the sport he loved, serving as a State and area track official and supplying guidance to the fast-growing Relays. He retired in 1977 and taught part time OUE until his death in 1980.

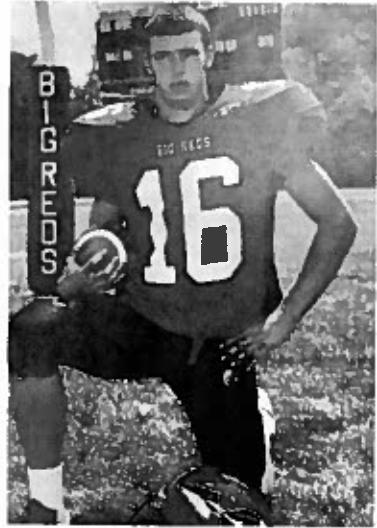
Keyser has two children, John, residing in London, England, and Barbara, a resident of Atlanta, Georgia.

JAYSON KEYSER

(2007)

Wall of Fame

Class of 2025



Jayson Keyser distinguished himself as a multi-sport athlete at Bellaire, excelling in football, basketball, and track.

On the gridiron, he was a team captain, multi-year All-Conference and All-State honoree, and part of two OVAC and Regional Championship teams. He holds season and career interception yardage and interception touchdown records.

In basketball, he contributed as captain and member of the 23-1 OVAC Championship team.

His track career was exceptional and decorated, earning 13 Regional medals, 8 State medals, and setting a school record in the 300-meter hurdles.

Keyser went on to play football at West Liberty, where he was a four-year letterman, team captain, and All-Conference selection.

Jayson and his wife, Danielle, reside with their children, Olivia, Jackson, Carson, and Elliana.

Still holds record in football (as of 2025) for:

Most yardage on interceptions in a season: 257 (2006)

Most yardage on interceptions in a career: 308 (2004-06)

Most touchdowns on interception returns in a career: 4 (2004-06)

**BOB KILGORE
(1920)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1984**



Bob Kilgore was a letterman on the 1919 football team at Bellaire High School and was later an outstanding halfback for Oglethorpe College in Georgia.

Many of the early inductees of the Wall of Fame were recommended from the memories of local townspeople. However when an attempt was made to document their accomplishments, little was found. Should anyone be able to add to what we do have, please e-mail tom@theratsnest.org.

KIM KINDER
(1994)
Wall of Fame
Class of 2007



For four years, Kim Kinder was a dominant force in the House of Champions, anchoring both the Lady Reds' volleyball and basketball teams. Although she started her athletic career at track, where she lettered as a freshman, she entered volleyball and basketball her sophomore year, lettering in both.

That year she earned honors with Second Team All-OVAC, Third Team All-Valley, First Team District 12, and Honorable Mention All-State. Kim also lettered in track as a sophomore, competing on the Regional level.

For her last two years, Kinder focused on volleyball and basketball, earning four letters. Although she received Honorable Mention in District 12 for both years, it was on the basketball court where she established herself.

As a junior, she received the following honors: First Team All-OVAC, First Team All-Valley, First Team District 12, Second Team AP All-District, and Honorable Mention Division II All-State. Those honors were repeated her senior year except for moving up to First Team All-District and Second Team Division II All-State.

You can't look at the Big Reds' Media Guide without seeing Kinder's name in every category. She still ranks fifth in points scored (1168), second in rebounds (988), eighth in steals (183), first in blocked shots (214) and third in field goal percentage (467/1028, 45%).

Kim currently lives in Shadyside with her husband, Jeff Hart, and daughter, Katelyn (3), and works as a medical assistant for Dr. Vince Kolenich.

Still holds record in basketball (as of 2025) for:

Field goal percentage in a game: 87% (13/15) v. Indian Creek (2/16/94)

Offensive rebounds in a game: 17 v. St. Clairsville (12/18/91)

Offensive rebounds in a season: 148 (1993)

Offensive rebounds in a career: 445 (1991-94)

Defensive rebounds in a season: 188 (1993)

Defensive rebounds in a career: 543 (1991-94)

Total rebounds in a game: 35 v. Buckeyes | Local (3/10/00)

25 v. Buckeye Local (2/10/92)
25 v. St. Clairsville (12/12/81)

Total rebounds in a season: 336 (1992)

Still holds record in basketball (as of 2025) for:

Blocked shots in a game: 10 v. St. Clairsville (1/29/94)

Blocked shots in a season: 105 (1994)

Blocked shots in a career: 214 (1991-94)

TODD KINDER

(1985)

HALL OF FAME

Class of 2006



Mr. Clutch, The Iceman, The Go-To Guy. These were just a few of the phrases used to describe Kinder in his senior year at BHS. In the final seconds, when the chips were down, Kinder wanted the ball, and his coaches and teammates knew he would deliver.

His freshman and sophomore years were spent at Montgomery, Alabama, where he played football, basketball, and baseball. Returning home in 1983, Kinder played and lettered his junior and senior year in all three sports. His junior year, he earned second-team honors in OVAC, All-Valley, and All-Eastern Ohio in baseball and basketball. Serving as the captain of the 1983 football team, Kinder garnered first-team accolades for football, basketball, and baseball in OVAC, All-Valley, All-Eastern Ohio, and All-State. He was also selected co-MVP of the football team.

Kinder was selected to perform in all three Ohio Valley Athletic Conference All-Star contests during his senior year. He was also honored by the *Intelligencer* as the three-sport Athlete-of-the-Year.

Upon graduation, he entered Kent State University where he became a four-year performer and letterwinner as a wide receiver for the Golden Flashes' football team. In 1988, he was selected as the Offensive Player-of-the-Week for his efforts against Ball State University. He later served as a student assistant coach for KSU, working with the wide receivers and tight ends and handling game-day substitutions.

Kinder was recognized by the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Organization for his accomplishments in football both at Bellaire High School and Kent State University.

He graduated in 1990 with a degree in business marketing and took a job in pharmaceutical sales, earning several awards and recognition for his performance. In 2003, Kinder relocated to the Columbus area, taking a job as a facilities specialist for the northern division of Kubota Tractor Corporation.

Kinder has two daughters: Britanie, attending the University of Akron, and Madison, a seventh grader at Bellaire Middle School.

Still holds record in baseball (as of 2025) for:
Runs scored in a season: 40 (1985)

WALTER KOMPART

(1917)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1986



Dutch Kompart graduated from Bellaire High School in 1917. While at BHS, he was a two-year letterman in basketball. After graduation, he attended The Ohio State University for two years.

Many of the early inductees of the Wall of Fame were recommended from the memories of local townspeople. However when an attempt was made to document their accomplishments, little was found. Should anyone be able to add to what we do have, please e-mail tom@theratsnest.org.

BOB KOTELES

(1964)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1998



Bob's selection to the Wall of Fame is the result of over thirty years of dedicated service to the athletes of Bellaire High School. During this time he has been an active member of the Big Reds Touchdown Club and has helped to make our athletic program one of the best. He has served as the chairman of the Bellaire Relays committee and was honored as the Honorary Referee of the Relays. Over the years, Bob has served the Touchdown Club on various committees and has served as a longtime trustee. Currently he still serves as a trustee and chairman of the club's scholarship awards committee. In recent years, Bob has taken on the responsibility of arranging travel plans for the football team when they travel by charter bus. His service to the community has not been limited to athletics. He has been an active member of the Elks Lodge #419 for many years and is the past Exalted Ruler. Bob and his wife, Andrea, reside in Bellaire and continue to be avid supporters of Bellaire High School. They have two sons, Bob and Matt, both graduates of BHS, and three grandchildren. Bob is employed by Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel.

GEORGE KOVALICK

(Bridgeport, 1940)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1990



It was once said that if you could select one person to coach all sports in your high school and wanted the best coach in every sport, that person would be George Kovalick.

A graduate of Bridgeport High School in 1940, Kovalick played guard in football and was an outfielder on the baseball team.

Upon graduation, he attended a junior college in Scooba, Mississippi, but was forced to leave after one semester and serve in World War II. Rising to the rank of sergeant, Kovalick saw much action in the China-Burma-India Theater.

After the war, he enrolled at Kent State University, where he played football for four years and served as captain his junior year. Returning to coach at his alma mater in 1950, Kovalick became perhaps the greatest influence on athletics ever to coach in the Ohio Valley. One only has to look at his coaching record to understand his impact.

From 1950 to 1961, he coached at Bridgeport High School, serving as head coach of football, wrestling, and baseball. Initiating wrestling at BHS, he led the Bulldogs to seven straight OVAC Championships, five District titles, and highlighted his career by winning the State title in 1959. His baseball teams won four EOBL titles, 4 District crowns, and 3 OVAC banners.

From Bridgeport he moved to West Liberty State College until 1964, again serving as head coach in the same three sports. His 1963 football squad won the WVC title; his wrestling efforts saw the collegiate career of Bobby Douglas begin; and his 1964 baseball team, starring Joe Niekro, came from the loser's bracket to win the NAIA National title.

From there, Kovalick moved to Moundsville High School where he coached football, wrestling, and track until 1968. He served a term from 1969 to 1971 as head wrestling coach in Barstow, California, before returning to the Valley to coach football and wrestling at Weir High School. His 1973 football team won OVAC honors and finished runner-up in the State playoffs. He also won the State title in wrestling, producing an individual State champ in his son, 185-pounder Mike.

In 1974, he came to Bellaire to serve as transportation supervisor, athletic director, and assistant coach in football and wrestling. In his first year, his son,

Mike, again became a State titlist, this time in Ohio.

Kovalick retired from coaching in 1978 and spent the remainder of his life imparting his knowledge and wisdom to other Valley coaches. The first recipient of the coveted Mr. Mat Award, he was instrumental in building the OVAC wrestling tournament, one of the largest in the nation. Present tourney officials still bestow a scholarship in his name each year.

His work with the OVAC baseball tournament resulted in the game being renamed the George Kovalick All-Star baseball game. He directed tournaments and meets in all sports, on all levels, and was instrumental in developing the guidelines for many OVAC policies.

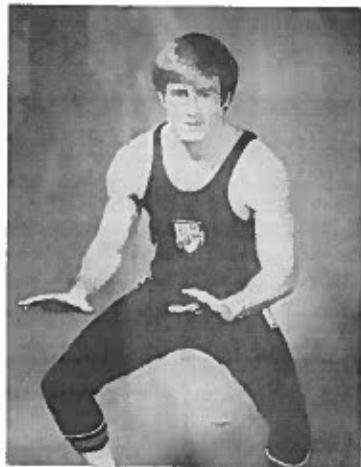
Kovalick Is a member of the Ohio Wrestling Coaches Hall of Fame, the Kent State University Hall of Fame, the West Liberty State College Hall of Fame. and the Ohio Athletic Director's Hall of Fame.

MIKE KOVALICK

(1975)

HALL OF FAME

Class of 1983



Mike 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.

BOB KOVALYK

(1955)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1999



Bob is a 1955 graduate of Bellaire High School. He has been an invaluable supporter of BHS and its athletic programs for over thirty years as a member of the Big Reds Touchdown Club. Whenever something needs done, Bob Kovalyk is one of the first people called upon to help and you can be sure he will be there. Since joining the Touchdown Club in 1970, Bob has served on the Bellaire Relays committee and was chairman of the Relays in 1986. Last year, Bob was honored for many years of involvement with the Relays by being named the Honorary Referee. For the last several years, he has overseen the operation of the Touchdown Club's NFL fundraiser, one of their major projects each year. Over the years, Bob has hung banners at the field, installed phone systems for teams, worked on the public address system, and performed many other services for BHS athletics. Presently Bob serves as the public address announcer for Bellaire football games. In addition to his work with the athletic program, Bob has been an active volunteer in the community through his involvement with St. John's Church, American Legion Post 52, Telephone Pioneers of America, and the Bellaire High School Alumni Association. For the past fourteen years, with the help of fellow utility workers and the Bellaire firemen, Bob has helped install Christmas lights for the city of Bellaire. In 1994, Bob was honored by the Alumni Association with their Achievement Award for his many efforts in community service. He has been employed by AmeriTech for 36 years. Bob has been married for 36 years to the former Charlotte Varvarosky, and they have three daughters: Sharon, Kelli, and Jamie.

BOB KREITER

(1971)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1995



Playing for both Rudy Sharkey and Jake Olsavsky, Bob Kreiter would have to rank as one of the top ten offensive guard/defensive linebackers in Bellaire High School's proud history. During his junior year, he was credited with 140 tackles, 98* being solo, setting the school record for 14* solo tackles in a game.

Selected best offensive lineman and team MVP, Kreiter was chosen *Intelligencer* Lineman-of-the-Week once and honorable mention twice. Post-season accolades included first team All-Eastern Ohio and honorable mention All-Valley and All-OVAC.

During his senior year, he experienced that awkward transition in head coaches, but again had a stellar season. Credited with 117 total tackles, he blocked 3* punts, grabbed 3 interceptions, and made 3 fumble recoveries. Named Lineman or Co-Lineman-of-the-Week five times, and recipient of the Sportsmanship Award from the St. John game, he earned first team berths on the All-Eastern Ohio, All-Valley, All-OVAC, and All-Eastern District squads and second team All-State (UPI).

After graduation, he went to Muskingum College where he earned a starting position as a 175-pound guard and lettered his freshman year, but chose not to play after that season. A graduate of Muskingum College and Capital Law School, Kreiter is employed with the Ohio Court of Claims. (*Record Still Stands)

Still holds record in football (as of 2025) for:
Most solo tackles in a season: 98 (1969)

DON KURI
(1956)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1999



Don graduated from Bellaire High School in 1956. He was an outstanding performer in both football and track, earning three varsity letters in each sport. Don was one of the Valley's top performers in both the shot put and the discus. During the 1955 and 1956 track seasons as a junior and senior, he made the All-Valley, All-OVAC, and All-Eastern Ohio track teams. He completed his high school track career by participating in the State meet in both the shot put and discus. At 6'2", 220 pounds, he was one of the Valley's outstanding big men as an offensive and defensive tackle. Following his senior season, he was selected first team on the All-Valley, All-OVAC, and All-Eastern Ohio teams. Don was also selected as a member of the All-Ohio third team and was selected by his teammates as the team's co-most valuable player. He was selected to play in the 1956 Ohio-West Virginia All-Star Football Game. Don was heavily recruited as a football player and eventually played at Kent State after a brief stay at Montana State. He was a twenty-five year employee of Ohio Ferro Alloy. Don died in October, 1993 and is represented by his wife, Sarah Kuri-Edwards, his daughter, Donna Kuri Conrad, and his son, Mike.

CHARLES KVINTA
(1959)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1998



Charles Kvinta was one of the premier linemen to play for the Big Reds during the years 1956-1958. He lettered for three years after participating on the freshman team in 1955. During his senior year of 1958, he served as team captain. Following this season, he was named to the All-OVAC, All-Eastern Ohio, and All-Valley teams as an offensive guard. Charlie was also selected by the Big Reds Touchdown Club as the team's most under-rated player. After graduation from Bellaire High School, he attended Ohio University where he graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree. Charlie is currently a certified public accountant and a partner in Deloitte and Touche, one of the world's largest public accounting firms. He resides in Kuwait City, Kuwait.

DR. PETER LANCIONE

(1928)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1992



You don't need to list all the honors and awards received by Dr. Lancione to tell of his expertise and dedication. You only have to talk to the hundreds of Big Reds who he treated, the thousands of patients he has seen, or the number of families he started and treated even through today.

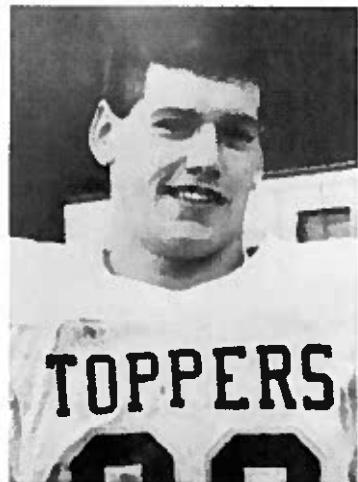
Although he "retired" from the medical field, Dr. Lancione still continues to see patients daily; patients who have known and trusted him for a lifetime.

For over a quarter of a century, Dr. Lancione served Bellaire High School as the team physician. He received national recognition in 1960 when he halted the Bellaire-Marietta football game due to the heat.

He was awarded the Outstanding Team Physician Award by the Ohio High School Athletic Association, and was recognized by the Bellaire Touchdown Club for his outstanding service to the Bellaire athletic program. In 1982, Lancione was recognized as the Outstanding Alumnus by the Bellaire High School Alumni Association.

He also received the Community Service Award from 97WK Radio. Honored by the Ohio House of Representatives for Outstanding Professional Achievements, Dr. Lancione has served as a member of the Ohio State Medical Board for twenty years, acting as president twice.

JOHN LaROCHE
(1989)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1996



John LaRoche won eight letters in three sports while attending BHS. As a freshman, he participated in football, basketball, and track, lettering in track. As a sophomore, he earned letters in football and track.

During his junior year, John lettered in all three sports, becoming an OVAC champion in the shot put. During his senior year, LaRoche was elected as the captain of the Reds and ended his football career being named First Team All-OV AC, First Team All-Valley, Honorable Mention All-Eastern Ohio, and Honorable Mention All-State. He repeated as OVAC champion in the shot put his final year in track and, upon graduation, was selected to play in the OVAC All-Star Football Game.

From BHS, John went to West Liberty State College, where he continued his football career, lettering all four years. As a junior, he was Honorable Mention All-Conference and was selected WVIAC Scholar-Athlete. Selected as captain his senior year, John led the team in receptions from his tight end spot, earning First Team All-Conference honors and repeating as WVIAC Scholar-Athlete. He was also awarded the One Valley Bank WVIAC Senior Scholar Athlete Award.

Married to the former Lisa Davis, John works for the Belmont County Department of Human Services, Children Services Division, and continues to help future Big Reds by coaching the eighth grade squad.

TOM LEDDER

(1967)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1989



Tom Ledder, Class of 1967, was the captain of what some claim was the greatest team to ever play at BHS, the 1966 9-1-0 team.

Playing football for four years and lettering all three varsity seasons, Ledder was a two-year honoree on the All-OVAC team, All-Valley team (captain his senior year), All-Eastern Ohio Team (captain his senior year), and second team All-State.

Upon graduation, he enrolled at West Liberty State College, playing and lettering in football all four years. Although he served as captain his senior year, Ledder was responsible for calling the defensive signals all four years.

A resident of Ft. Collins, Colorado, Ledder is employed at Wind-2 Research, Inc.

RICKY LEE

(1975)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1987



Ricky Lee was a three year letterman in basketball, finishing his senior year with 530 points and 1,173 career points.

His basketball skills earned him a scholarship to Capital University where he became a four time All-Ohio Athletic Conference performer. Over his four years in Columbus, he became Capital's second leading all-time career scorer with over 1,500 points; served as captain for two years; held the Capital record for field goals in a season and career; and shot over 50% from the field during his career.

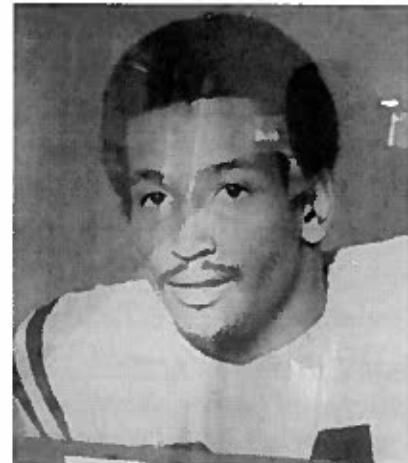
During his last two years, he was always assigned defensively to handle the opponent's toughest player. Averaging nearly 16 points per game, he was among the OAC's top ten scorers his senior year.

Because of these accomplishments, he was named the team's MVP twice.

His head coach, Dave Grube, said "Ricky has worked hard to become a complete basketball player. He is an excellent shooter, but more importantly he has increased his defensive skills to the point where he draws the opposing team's toughest assignment. He does everything he can to help the basketball team win. I am impressed with his efforts to blend his talents into the team concept."

Vince Chickerella, former head coach for Capital, said "Ricky is without a doubt the most outstanding shooter I had in my 22 years of coaching, including Jim Cleamons (former Ohio State and Cleveland Cavalier standout), Scott Weakley and Gene Caslin (both former Capital stars). If we had actually fed Ricky more, he could have been scoring thirty points a game."

RON LEE
(1971)
HALL OF FAME
Class of 1983



Ron Lee is on the short list of outstanding running backs who have graced Nelson Field. The 6-3, 195-pounder carried the Big Reds of Jake Olsavsky to an 8-1-1 mark in his senior campaign. Bellaire finished second in the OVAC 3A title chase, trailing Wintersville. The teams tied 0-0 in regular-season play. The Big Reds finished No. 19 in the UPI Class AAA poll, the largest classification in the state.

Lee rushed for 989 yards and 16 TDs that fall. His 108 points led the OVAC AAA in scoring. He also landed 10 passes. Those numbers earned Lee first-team All-Valley and All-OVAC plaudits while being named second team All-Ohio by UPI. He also played in the Ohio North-South All-Star Game.

Lee was also a three-year letterman in basketball and was voted the Big Reds' top athlete as a senior.

Lee's prep heroics earned him a grid scholarship to WVU. He chose the Mountaineers over a slew of D-I offers. Freshmen were not eligible to play in those days. Lee, however, enjoyed a strong campaign with the Mountaineers' frosh squad, leading the team with 372 yards on 97 carries in five games.

As a sophomore, Lee moved into the No. 2 fullback slot, rushing for 304 yards and three TDs on 76 carries. His toughness was matched by his versatility, resulting in him being utilized as fullback and tailback his final two seasons. Lee was the team's second leading rusher both of those campaigns, gaining 543 yards as a junior and 623 stripes as a senior, while also leading the team with 10 TDs.

A member of two WVU Peach Bowl teams, he was selected as No. 74 on the list of top 100 all-time WVU football players in the WVU Athletic Department Book, "Saturday Snapshots," published in 2015.

His success at Morgantown resulted in Lee being chosen in the third round of the NFL Draft by the Baltimore Colts. He played in 42 games, starting eight. He ended his Colts' career with 940 yards on 206 carries.

ANELLO LIBERATI
(1952)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1988



Anello Liberati graduated from Bellaire High School in 1952 where he was a three-year letterman in football, being chosen to the All-Valley, All-Eastern Ohio, and All-State football teams. He played offensive guard and defensive linebacker for the Big Reds.

He was a three-year letterman in football at Kent State University, graduating in 1955.

Liberati served as an Ohio Valley football official on the high school, college, and semi-pro levels for thirty-one years.

CHARLES LOPEMAN

(1920)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1985



Charles "Chalky" Lopeman was a two-sport athlete for the Red and Black. He lettered three seasons in football and basketball and was part of two-straight OVAA title winners on the gridiron.

After graduation he went to play for Marietta College with classmate Aaron McDermott before moving on to Grove City College and George Washington University. In his first game at Marietta as a freshman he won the starting job at quarterback and scored two touchdowns in an upset win over Duquesne.

He played football, basketball, and baseball for the GWU Colonials while studying law. Later, Lopeman became an assistant football coach at George Washington for two seasons and then at Allegheny College.

He returned to the valley and took the reigns as the head boys' basketball coach at St. John Central in the mid-1930s introducing the fast break concept to the high school level after watching Davis & Elkins College.

Becoming a high school football official, Lopeman refereed games in the Ohio Valley from 1937-1963 and was arguably the best and most trusted to hold the whistle, specifically known for his impartiality.

Researched by Sean Kennedy '03

SCOTT MAFFE

(1985)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1992



Earning a total of nine varsity letters at BHS, Scot Maffe participated in baseball for four years and basketball and football for three years. Serving as captain of all three sports his senior year, Maffe reaped numerous post-season honors.

He was First Team All-Valley in all three sports, All-OVAC in three sports, All-Eastern Ohio in football and basketball, and First-Team All State In baseball.

Maffe still holds several baseball records at BHS, including: At Bats (Season, 105), Singles (career, 84), Doubles (Game, 3), Triples (Game, 2), RBI's (Game, 6), Runs Scored (Career, 95), Stolen Bases (Game, 4; Season, 33; Career, 55), Innings Pitched (Season, 76; Career, 202 1/3), and Wins (Season, 12; Career, 26).

He also earned First-Team All-Eastern Buckeye League in all three sports his junior year before Bellaire dropped from the league. Maffe was elected to play in the OVAC All-Star Football Game, the OVAC All-Star Basketball Game, All-State Baseball Game, and played on the OVAC All-Star Baseball team both his junior and senior years.

Upon graduating from Bellaire, Maffe went to Ohio University where he played baseball for three years, lettering his sophomore and junior seasons.

Graduating in 1989 with a B.S. Degree in Special Education, Maffe currently teaches at Beallsville High School.

Still holds record in baseball (as of 2025) for:

At bats in a season: 105 (1984)

Singles in a career: 84 (1982-85)

Doubles in a game: 3 v. East Liverpool (1985)

Triples in a game: 2 v. Bridgeport (1984)

Runs batted in in a game: 6 v. Bridgeport (1984)

Stolen bases in a game: 4 v. Barnesville (1985)

Stolen bases in a season: 33 (1985)

Stolen bases in a career: 55 (1982-85)

Innings pitched in a season: 76 (1985)

Innings pitched in a career: 202 1/3 (1982-85)

Wins in a season: 12 (1985)

Wins in a career: 26 (1982-85)

AMY MAGISTRO

(1996)

Wall of Fame

Class of 2008



Four years, twelve letters, three captains. Not a bad career.

Although she started out her freshman year playing volleyball, basketball, and track (she earned All-OVAC and All-Valley honors her freshman year in track), she switched to softball her sophomore year.

By the end of her senior season, she was All-everything in three sports, and was named softball Player-of-the-Year her senior year. Regardless of the sport played, Magistro was a tenacious competitor both offensively and defensively.

Upon graduation, she went to West Liberty State College, where she played and lettered two years in basketball before transferring to Marietta College for her last two years.

At Marietta, she played and lettered two years, serving as team captain both years.

Married to Kyle Doak, she has two children and is a teacher in the Reynoldsburg Middle School.

CHAD MAGISTRO

(1992)

HALL OF FAME

Class of 2005



Magistro earned ten letters while playing football, basketball, and baseball at Bellaire High School. As a freshman, he lettered in baseball while participating in freshman football and basketball.

After his sophomore year where he lettered in three sports, he was selected in baseball to the All-OVAC First Team, All-Eastern Ohio First Team, All-Valley Second Team, and the All-EOBL team.

As a junior, he was selected All-OVAC First Team in football and baseball, All-Valley Second Team in football and baseball, and All-EOBL in baseball.

Magistro's senior year was capped by his selection to First Team baseball (All-OVAC, EOBL, All-Valley, All-Eastern Ohio, All-State), Second Team All-OVAC in football and basketball, Special Mention All-Valley in football, and All-Eastern Ohio in football and basketball. He also served as captain of the football and basketball teams his senior year.

Upon graduation, he received a scholarship to play baseball at Mercer University, a Division I baseball school in Macon, Georgia. While at Mercer, he lettered four years and had a career batting average of just under .300. During his sophomore year, he batted .325 and was named to the All-Trans American Athletic Conference Tournament Team. As a senior, he was selected Third Team All-Conference. In 1994, he had hitting streaks of twenty and sixteen games.

Chad served on the NCAA Student Athletic Advisory Committee while at Mercer. In addition to his athletic ability, he was an outstanding student. He was selected valedictorian of his high school class, was a four-year selection in college to the All-Conference Academic Team, and graduated with honors in marketing.

Magistro received his Masters' Degree from West Virginia University while serving as a graduate assistant for Coach Don Nehlen's football staff.

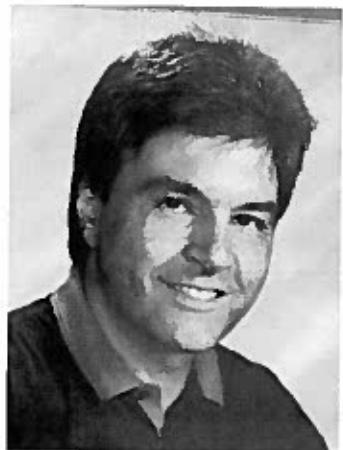
Magistro currently resides in Worthington, Ohio, where he is a pharmaceutical sales representative for Watson Pharmaceuticals.

JOHN MAGISTRO

(St. John, 1966)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1995



Although John Magistro graduated from St. John Central High School, his impact on BHS athletics has been of major significance. A 1966 graduate, Magistro played and lettered three years for the Irish. Chosen All-Eastern Ohio his senior year, he was recruited by the University of Chattanooga on a football scholarship. After completing his freshman year, he transferred to West Liberty State College, where he played three years of football, lettering twice.

He started his teaching/coaching at Martins Ferry High School where he served as an assistant football and baseball coach, later being named head baseball coach for the Riders. During that tenure, his diamond squad won two Sectional championships, a District championship, and a Regional runner-up title.

In 1980, he moved to Bellaire High School as an assistant football coach under Mike Sherwood and assistant baseball coach under Mark Bonar. Magistro assumed the helm of the Big Reds football program in 1984. Entering his 12th year, he has led the Big Reds to their 500th consecutive career win, racked up 14 consecutive wins, guided Bellaire to its first 9-0 season before dropping a heart-breaker to Ferry, and earned back-to-back OVAC titles in 1993 and 1994, in addition to another title in 1988. His tenure has allowed him to become the longest head coach of the Reds as well as replace the legendary Reyman "Bud" Bonar as Bellaire's all-time winningest coach with 69 victories.

In 1993, he guided the gridders into their first-ever State Playoff berth. Selected District Coach-of-the-Year in 1992 and finalist for Ohio Coach-of-the-Year in 1988, Magistro and his staff guided the Ohio All-Stars to a 21-0 victory over West Virginia this past summer. He and his staff have also developed one of the finest weight rooms in the Ohio Valley.

Married to the former Lillian Roth, he has three children: Chad, who is playing baseball at Mercer College, Gina, a sophomore at The Ohio State University, and Amy, a senior at BHS.

JOHN MALIK, SR.

(1927)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1988



John Malik, Sr. graduated from Bellaire High School in 1927. He participated in football, basketball, and track. He was a four-year letterman in football, being chosen to various All-Star Teams.

Malik attended Notre Dame University and played under Knute Rockne until he was injured in his sophomore year.

**JOSEPH “BRICKEY”
MALLEY
(1940)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1997**



Malley played a year of football and basketball, but was found ineligible at the end of the semester his senior year.

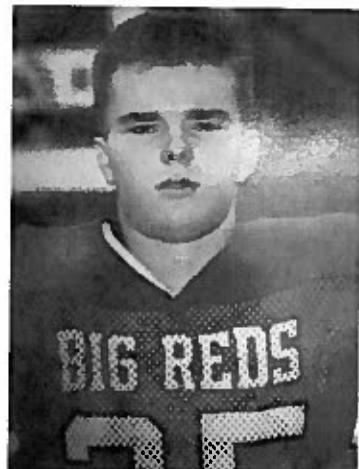
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RICH MAMIE

(1996)

Wall of Fame

Class of 2006



Whether on the football field or the baseball diamond, they didn't make them any more hard-nosed than Rich Mamie. The picture will always be painted in the Red and Black faithful of Mamie walking from player to player, picking them up from the ground and applauding their efforts in the brutal 44-50 double overtime loss against Versailles in the first State championship game the Big Reds ever played in.

During his three years as player and letterman, the Reds went 20-5, capturing three consecutive OVAC championships, and making it to the first State play-offs ('93) and first State championship game ('95).

His senior year recorded the first perfect 10-0 season in the Reds' illustrious grid history. As an individual, just check the record pages. As a linebacker, he had 29 tackles in a game, 196 tackles in a season, and 515 in a career. From his fullback spot, he averaged 6.3 yards per carry over his career, and rushed for 36 touchdowns. As a senior, he garnered every first-team honor given in the Valley and State.

Mamie was also a standout in baseball, playing and lettering four years at BHS. Like football, Mamie also swept the post-season accolades in the spring of his senior year.

Upon graduating, he entered Walsh University where he played both football and baseball. There he earned six varsity letters, two in football and four in baseball. At the end of his sophomore year, Mamie decided to focus on baseball his last two years, serving as captain and gaining both second and first-team All-Conference honors.

Mamie currently works for Enterprise Rent-a-Car and is married to his high school sweetheart, Jill Workman. The couple reside in Bellaire and have two children, Brandon and Adam.

Still holds record in football (as of 2025) for:

Highest average per rush in a career: 6.3 yards (1993-95)

Most touchdowns rushing in a game: 6 v. Linsly (1995)

Most touchdowns rushing in a season: 28 (1995)

Still holds record in football (as of 2025) for:

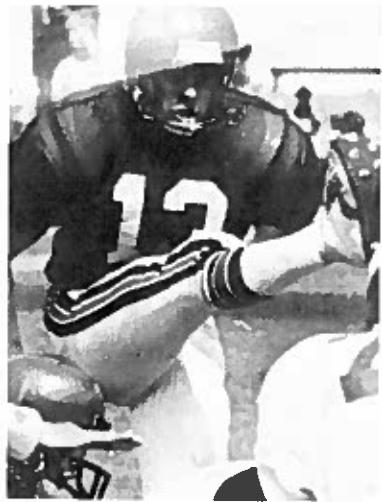
- Most touchdowns rushing in a career: 36 (1993-95)
- Most all-purpose yardage in a season: 1,896 yards (1995)
- Most points in a season: 216 (1995)
- Most points in a career: 282 (1993-95)
- Most touchdowns in a season: 34 (1995)
- Most touchdowns in a career: 45 (1993-95)
- Most tackles in a game: 29 v. Youngstown Cardinal Mooney (1995)
- Most tackles in a season: 196 (1994)
- Most tackles in a career: 515 (1993-95)
- Most assisted tackles in a game: 29 v. Youngstown Cardinal Mooney (1995)
- Most assisted tackles in a season: 176 (1994)
- Most assisted tackles in a career: 417 (1993-95)

MARK MARCHESE

(1982)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1997



Mark Marchese was one of the Ohio Valley's premier place kickers. He was a three-year letterman in 1979-1981.

As a junior, Mark was instrumental in getting the Big Reds off to a goad start by kicking 3 field goals in a 9-6 win over St. Clairsville and kicking a game winning 47-yard field goal in the closing seconds of the Marietta game . That season, Mark was the number 1 placekicker in the Ohio Valley and was selected to the All-Valley and All-OVAC 1st Teams.

During his senior year, Mark again made the All-Valley and All-OVAC 1st Teams as well as the UPI All-Ohio 2nd Team.

His 47-yard field goal is still a school record. He also set records for most field goals in a season (8), most field goals in a game (3) and most points scored kicking in a season (41) .

After Bellaire High School, he lettered for four years at West Liberty State College where he set what was a school record, at that time, for the longest field goal (47 yards).

Mark is currently the General Manager of Staples, Inc. at their Newark Store.

Still holds record in football (as of 2025) for:

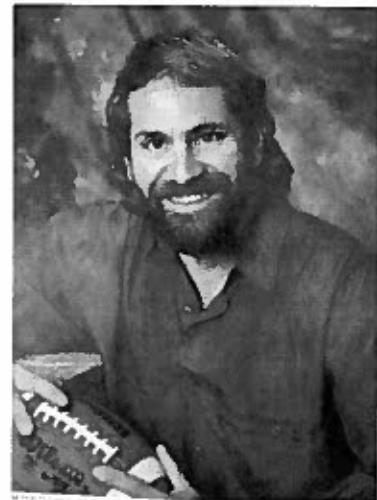
- Most consecutive extra points in a season: 22 (1981)
- Most consecutive extra points in a career: 22 (1979-81)
- Most field goal attempts in a game: 4 v. Marietta (1980)
- Most field goal attempts in a season: 16 (1981)
- Most field goal attempts in a career: 36 (1979-81)
- Most field goal made in a game: 3 v. St. Clairsville (1980)
- Most field goals made in a career: 15 (1979-81)
- Longest field goal made: 47 yards v. Marietta (1980)

PAUL MARCHESE

(1974)

HALL OF FAME

Class of 1994



If you mention kicking to a BHS football aficionado, the name Marchese has to be among the top. Coming from a family of kickers, Marchese played four years of football at BHS and earned two letters.

Post-season honors following his senior season included first team place kicker All-OVAC, All-Valley, and All-Eastern Ohio. However,

It was at Kent State University that Marchese developed into an outstanding place kicker. Playing four years and lettering two, he was selected First Team All-Conference MAC his junior and senior years. His career field goal record was 35 out of 55 for a .636 percentage. During his senior year, playing only 10 of the 11 games due to an injury, Marchese won the NCAA, Division I, field goal championship by booting 18 out of 27 attempts for a .667 percentage or 1.80 FG's per game. Included in this was a school record-setting 51-yard field goal against Bowling Green, which still stands today.

Upon graduating from KSU in 1978 with a BS in education, Marchese had a brief tryout with the Oakland Raiders.

Returning to the Valley, he began teaching at the School of Hope where he established a productive Special Olympic Program. After ten years of work, he was responsible for developing a one-fifth mile paved track for the school.

In 1982, along with Mary Rataiczak, Marchese started Rat and Cheese Photography, which is currently celebrating ten years in business. Marchese was a 1992 inductee into the BHS Wall of Fame.

Still holds record in football (as of 2025) for:

Most field goals made in a game: 3 v. New Philadelphia and Wheeling (1973)

BEEBEE MARINACCI
(1966)
Wall of Fame
Class of 2011



Big Reds Equipment Manager - 26 years
Softball Coach - 14 years (4 OVAC Championships, 2 Sectional Titles)
Basketball Clock Operator - 24 years
Design/paint football fields for seven area schools
City Councilman for 30 years

WILLIAM MARINACCI
(1939)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1987



Charter member of the Big Reds Touchdown Club, the Bellaire Relays committee, and the Bellaire Relays smoker committee

Long time track official

Coached Little League baseball for over twenty years

Touchdown Club's annual award - The William B. Marinacci Most Valuable Player Trophy - given in his memory

ROBERT MARLING

(1936)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1994



In a time when you jumped center after every basket and high scoring games weren't the norm, Robert "Bud" Marling was the Reds' all-time scorer up until the late forties.

A four-year member of the basketball team and three-year letterwinner, Marling captained the Big Reds his senior year, earning All-OVAA honors.

He also played on the undefeated softball teams of 1935 and 1936 winning 25 straight games under Coach Jim Dixon.

He was awarded a basketball scholarship to Washington & Jefferson College. Deciding to return to the Valley, Marling went to work for Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel at the Martins Ferry Plant.

In 1943, he enlisted in the Air Force, serving in the Eastern Mandates, the Western Pacific, and Air Offensive Japan. He was awarded the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with three Bronze Stars, and the Air Medal with two Oak-Leaf Clusters. Flying a total of 32 missions, Marling was honorably discharged on November 3, 1945.

Returning to Wheeling-Pitt, he worked his way up to General Manager, retiring in 1980 with 44 years experience.

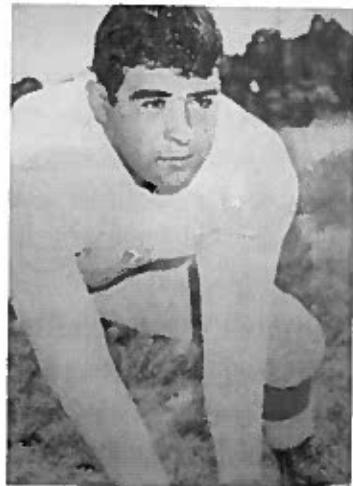
Marling was very instrumental in establishing the Bellaire Junior Sports Program and coaching Little League. He also served for years as a basketball official in the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference.

SAM MARZELLA

(1941)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1994



Considered to be one of the greatest defensive centers that the Ohio Valley produced in over a decade, Sam Marzella earned three varsity letters for the Big Reds.

In his senior year against Martins Ferry, Marzella blocked two punts in the game, a record that still stands today. Selected to four All-Valley teams, Marzella was also chosen for All-State honors.

Upon graduation, he accepted a full scholarship to the University of Miami in Florida, passing up offers from Ohio State, Notre Dame, Capital, and Wittenburg. During his sophomore season, he had the unique distinction intercepting a pass and running 35 yards for a score over Furman in the Orange Bowl Stadium.

His career was interrupted by World War II when he enlisted in the Marine Corps, serving in Okinawa, Saipan, Tinian, and Japan.

He returned to Miami in 1946 to earn his third numeral. Graduating in 1948, he stayed in Miami and Cape Coral where he taught physical education for 35 years. Three times named Teacher-of-the-Year, Marzella reared six sons and remains active in community affairs in Pine Island.

Still holds record in football (as of 2025) for:

Punts blocked in a game: 2 v. Martins Ferry (1940)

Many considered him one of the best defensive centers in the Ohio Valley in the decade. After earning three letters in football, Marzella received All-Valley and All-State honors.

He turned down offers from Ohio State, Notre Dame, Capital, and Wittenburg to play football for the University of Miami in Florida. Notably during his sophomore year, he intercepted a pass against Furman and ran it back 35 yards for the touchdown.

The Second World War interrupted his collegiate career as he enlisted in the Marine Corps with the 2nd Marine Division, landing in Okinawa, Saipan, Tinian, and Japan.

He came back to Miami in 1946 and played a third season for the Hurricanes. He is the only center to have scored a touchdown for the Hurricanes.

He was a physical education teacher for 33 years with the Dade County school district and passed away on December 31, 2004, at age 81.

TY MASCIARELLI

(1998)

Wall of Fame

Class of 2006



Ty Masciarelli served as a three-year player and letterwinner during the Golden Years of BHS football. His career saw the Reds go 38-3 (25-2 with him as the starting quarterback), gain three straight OVAC titles (five in a row at this point), complete their third consecutive perfect 10-0 season, and play in two straight State runner-up games.

Serving as team captain of the Reds his senior year, Masciarelli's post-season plaudits saw him take every first team honor available, repeating the same effort from the end of his junior year. At the conclusion of his senior season, Masciarelli was selected Division IV Eastern District Player-of-the-Year, and later named Division IV Offensive Player-of-the-Year for the entire state. Posting two seasons with 2,500+ yards passing, Ty holds the third place all-time career spot behind the two Davis brothers.

Masciarelli also played and lettered two years in basketball, taking his junior year off. At the close of his senior year, he was recognized as first team All-OVAC and All-Valley and second team All-Eastern Ohio.

Upon graduating, Masciarelli was a walk-on candidate for The Ohio State University. He returned home after his freshman year to play and letter two seasons for West Liberty State College, before graduating in 2002.

Masciarelli is married to Krenna Zanke Masciarelli, and is employed by the Bellaire Local Schools.

Still holds record in football (as of 2025) for:

Consecutive completed passes in a game: 11 v. Steubenville Catholic (1996)

MIKE MATERKOSKI

(1983)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1993



Mike Materkoski participated in varsity football and baseball for three years at BHS, lettering three years in both sports.

Serving as tri-captain of the 1982 squad, Materkoski earned post-season accolades as All-OV AC, All Valley (2 years), All-Eastern Ohio (2 years), and All-State, being selected as second team middle guard.

He was named MVP in 1980 and 1982 for his performances against St. John by the Irish Boosters, and was picked to play in the 1983 Ohio-West Virginia All-Star game, serving as co-captain of the Ohio stars.

Materkoski still holds the school records for most rushes in a game, a season, and a career. He also led the team in scoring all three years and was the recipient of the William Marinacci Memorial Award as the team's Most Valuable Player.

In baseball, Materkoski started off his career with the highest batting average and ended his senior year being named captain and All-Eastern Ohio.

Employed by Wheeling Pittsburgh Steel in Mingo, he resides in Bellaire with his wife, Kim, and son, Zachary.

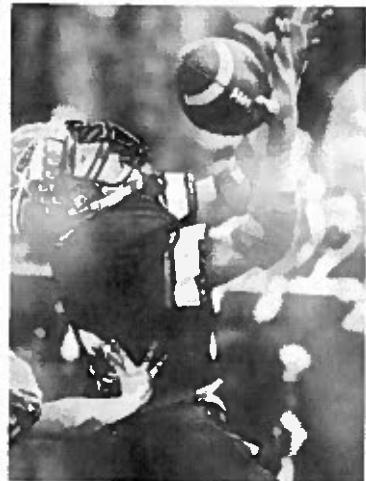
Still holds record in football (as of 2025) for:
Most rushes in a career: 422 (1980-82)

RICH MATERKOSKI

(1998)

Wall of Fame

Class of 2012



During his four years at Bellaire, Materkoski earned ten letters in football, basketball, and track. A three-year letterwinner in football, he played on three consecutive OVAC championship teams, three Regional championship teams, and two State runner-up squads, for a record of 38-3. Earning All-OVAC, All-Eastern District, and All-Ohio honors, he became the first wide receiver to garner 1,000 yards receiving (1,334). He was also selected to play in the Ohio-West Virginia All-Star game.

During the winter, he earned three letters and two trips to Athens for the Regional tournament. Averaging 14 points and 8 rebounds, he earned post-season plaudits for All-Eastern Ohio and All-OVAC.

In track, Materkoski earned four letters from Coach Monte Miller as a stand-out sprinter and hurdler. During his junior and senior seasons, he competed in five events in the giant Ohio State Track Meet, earning a sixth-place finish in the 110M hurdles.

Upon graduating, he went to Wheeling Jesuit University and competed for the Cardinals in the 400M hurdles as well as being a member of the record-setting 4x400M relay team. He finished his college career at Ohio University, receiving a degree in education in 2003. He later earned his Masters from the University of Cincinnati in 2010.

Materkoski has been teaching/coaching at Martins Ferry High School for seven years where he works as the head track coach and co-offensive co-ordinator in football. He and his wife, Jennifer, reside in Wheeling with their son, Mason.

Still holds record in football (as of 2025) for:

Most fair catches on punts in a season: 13 (1997)

Most fair catches on punts in a career: 14 (1995-97)

ARTHUR MATTHEWS

(1924)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1988



Arthur "Buddy" Matthews played center in football for three years and was a guard and forward in basketball.

He also participated in baseball.

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TONY MATUSEK

(1926)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1986



Born in Bellaire in 1906 from Czech immigrants, Anthony Matusek starred at center for the Red and Black gridiron squad on two OVAA championship seasons. He was named captain his senior year and voted unanimously to the First Team All-Valley list.

He started two seasons in basketball at the forward position and scored 171 points as a junior.

He graduated and played football at the University of Chattanooga. Halfway through his time there he transitioned from the line to quarterback as leader of the unit. Blocking for him at guard was another alum from Bellaire in Andy Nardo.

He joined the coaching staff for a time before leaving to create football programs at Soddy-Daisy High School in 1937 and Hixson High in 1948. Early on, he also coached boys and girls basketball and baseball at Hixson. He continued to lead the football team until his retirement in 1970.

Matusek passed away in March 1973 and became a member of the Bellaire High School Athletic Wall of Fame in 1986.

Researched by Sean Kennedy '03

MARK MATZ

(Bridgeport HS, 1968)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1993



A 1968 graduate of Bridgeport High School, Mark Matz played and lettered in both basketball and baseball, receiving the Bridgeport Boosters' Scholarship his senior year.

Upon graduation, he enrolled at West Liberty State College where he played and lettered in baseball for two years before graduating in 1972.

Getting a job at Bishop Donahue, it didn't take Matz long to become recognized as one of the top young coaches in the Valley as he took the Bishops to two back-to-back State Catholic championships in 1975 and 1976.

When the job opened for basketball coach at Bellaire in 1976, he quickly applied and, during the next few years, completely restructured Big Reds' basketball. His squads compiled two back-to-back OVAC championships (AAA in 1978 and AAAA in 1979), four consecutive Sectional championships, the school's first District championship, and the school's first Regional participant, ending Regional Runner-up in 1978.

Compiling a record of 79-33 while at Bellaire, Matz was named to coach the Ohio All-Stars in 1978 and was chosen 1979 District 12 Coach-of-the-Year.

After a brief hiatus from teaching and coaching, Matz returned to his alma mater to pilot the Bulldogs, recording a 40-47 record over four years. During this time, he earned his Master's Degree from the University of Dayton (1981) in secondary administration, and, when Bridgeport's principal's position opened, left coaching to take over that job which he currently holds.

His overall coaching record stands at 160-90, making him the third winningest coach in Big Reds' history.

Listed in Who's Who Among America's Teachers, Matz is married to the former Anita Fawcett Matz and has a daughter, Susan Kay, and a step-son, Scott.

LANCE MEHL

(1976)

HALL OF FAME

Class of 1983



Lance Mehl was a three-sport team captain for the Big Reds and 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.

Still holds record in football (as of 2025) for:

Most punts in a season: 52 (1975)

Most punt yardage in a season: 1,832 (1975)

Most passes intercepted in a season: 8 (1975)

VINCE MEHL

(1978)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1989



A three-year performer in football, basketball, and track, Vince Mehl, Class of 1978, lettered three years in track, two in basketball, and one in football, and served as captain in football and track.

He was a three-year performer on the All-Valley track team (captain his senior year), All -Eastern Ohio for two years, and All-State his senior year.

In basketball, he played on the 1978 OVAC Champions and the first District Championship team in the school's history.

In track, Mehl was a major contributor on two OVAC championship teams (1977, 1978), and was team MVP his senior year. He set the school record in the high jump at 6'2" and the school record in the 330-yard hurdles. He also still holds the Valley record for the 330-yard hurdles, a record that will probably stand forever due to metric conversion.

Mehl was selected the Rod Milburn District Track Athlete-of-the-Year in 1978, All-Valley II-Decade Track Team for the Seventies (330-yard hurdles), a Dapper Dan honoree, and was a finalist for the OVAC Class AAA Multiple Sclerosis Athlete-of-the-Year.

Upon graduation from high school, Mehl attended Kent State University, Waynesburg College, and West Liberty State College where he graduated in 1982. While in college, he earned three varsity track letters.

At Waynesburg, Mehl held the school record and was undefeated in the 400M hurdles, was the Mountaineer Relays 400M hurdle champ, team MVP, District 18 Champion, All-District hurdler, and a qualifier for the NAIA National Track Meet.

At West Liberty, he once again had an undefeated record in the 400M hurdles, was the WVIAC champ, earned All-WVIAC honors, and was again a qualifier for the NAIA National Track Meet.

A resident of Wheeling, West Virginia, Mehl is employed by the Brown and Williamson Tobacco Company.

SYLVAN MENDELSON

(1934)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1988



Sylvan "Shuman" Mendelson graduated from Bellaire High School in 1934 where he was a four-year letterman in basketball, holding the record for the most points scored. He was captain of the basketball team his senior season and was chosen to the All-Ohio Valley basketball team for three years.

In addition, he was a two-year letterman in football and was rated the best softball pitcher in the Ohio Valley in fast pitch softball.

He attended Blue Ridge Prep School in Hendersonville, North Carolina, participating in football and went on to The Ohio State University where he was a one-year letterman in basketball and football.

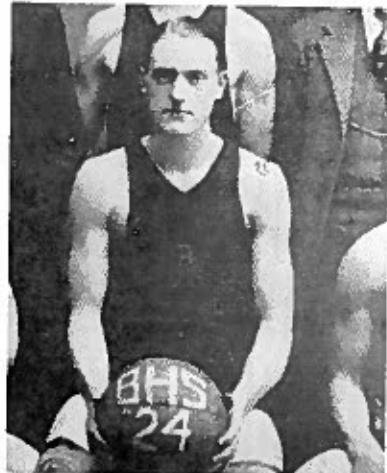
Sylvan Shuman Mendelson, known as the best softball pitcher in the Ohio Valley, attended Blue Ridge Prep School in Henderson, North Carolina before going to The Ohio State University where he lettered in football and basketball for one year. He received induction to the Bellaire High School Hall of Fame in 1988. Sylvan passed away in 2009 at age 94.

OLIVER “OBIE” MILES

(1925)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1986



Oliver "Obie" Miles lined up at right halfback for the Red and Black. Miles was part of an OVAA title and made the Third Team All-Valley list. He scored 97 points on 16 touchdowns and added six interceptions on defense.

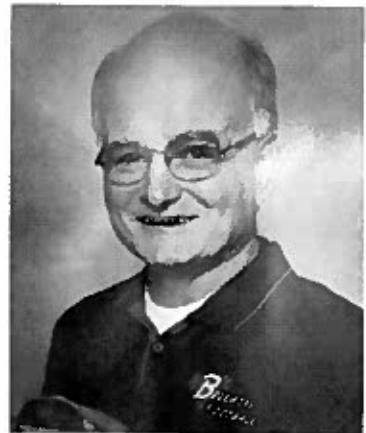
Miles was named captain in basketball as a junior and achieved First Team All-Valley.

He missed his senior year as he moved on to a preparatory academy early before going to Princeton University. Miles was a great two-way player for the Tigers. During the 1927 and 1928 seasons, he became the premier defensive back and one of the top offensive backfield weapons. Against Yale in 1927, Miles made 50 percent of the total tackles on the runners.

Following graduation, he made a career at Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company and became its vice president. He earned the Bellaire Alumni Association's Alumni Service Award and was inducted into the Big Reds' Athletic Wall of Fame in 1986.

Researched by Sean Kennedy '03

ED MILLER
(Wheeling HS, 1965)
Wall of Fame
Class of 2007



Although he started his athletic career at Wheeling High School in 1965, Ed Miller has been a fixture of the Bellaire football and track teams for the past thirty years.

At Wheeling High, Miller participated in football (3 years), basketball (2 years), track (3 years), and golf (3 years). After graduation, Miller served three years in the U.S. Army in South Korea, retiring with the rank of Specialist 4 class.

A 1972 graduate of West Liberty State College where he served as football student assistant for four years, Miller began his teaching career in Crooksville High School, then moved to River High School, then to Union Local, before making Bellaire his home.

He has been involved with the football program since arriving thirty years ago. Initially, he coached the freshman teams, then moved up to varsity where he has become the mainstay of the special teams, as well as assisting with the offensive line and scout teams.

Additionally, he helped with the wrestling program for five years, and, like football, has been a track coach for over 26 years, handling the sprinters, relay teams, and long jumpers. A 1978 graduate of the University of Dayton Masters' program, Miller was responsible for organizing and running the school's 6th grade outdoor education program and 7th grade trips to Washington, D.C.

Ed is married to Mary Ellen Gress Miller and has three children: Jason, 34, Barbara, 32, and Douglas, 29.

MONTE MILLER

(1965)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1990



A 1965 graduate of Bellaire High School, Miller began his sophomore athletic career playing football, basketball, and track before specializing in the latter two his junior and senior years, earning three letters in basketball and two in track.

During his senior year, he received many post-season honors, being named All-OVAC, All-Eastern Ohio, All-District, and All-Valley in both sports and All-State in basketball.

As a senior in track, Miller held both the Bellaire (6'1-1/4") and the District (6'1") high jump records, becoming Bellalre's first 6' high jumper. He was also Eastern Ohio's leading scorer in basketball his senior year, averaging 23 points per game, and still holds the school record for most field goals in a game (20).

Upon graduation, Miller went to Gannon University on a basketball scholarship before transferring to West Liberty State College to receive his Bachelor's Degree. In college he

participated in track (two years) and basketball (four years), receiving three basketball letters and being named captain his senior year.

Miller served three years in security in the United States Army. He has spent most of his teaching career at St. Clairsville High School, where he enjoyed considerable success as a boys' and girls' track coach. In addition to his girls winning five OVAC titles and five District or Regional championships, his 1981 girls' squad was the Ohio State AA Champion. His boys' teams also won two District trophies.

Miller is married to the former Ruth Ann Moran and has two daughters, Jackie and Juliann.

BILL MITCHELL
(1967)
HALL OF FAME
Class of 1983



Lettered in football and track

Football captain, 1966

Two years All-Eastern Ohio, one year All-OVAC

Played at Ohio University; Captain, 1970; All-MAC Honorable Mention

Still holds record in football (as of 2025) for:

Most punt return yardage in a game: 196 v. Moundsville (1966)

Most touchdowns on punt returns in a game: 2 v. Moundsville (1966)

**EARL MITCHELL
(1933)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1986**



Earl Mitchell graduated from Bellaire High School in 1933 where he was a two-year letterman in football and All-Valley end. After two years at Manhattan College, he left to coach semi-pro teams in Newark and Columbus.

Many of the early inductees of the Wall of Fame were recommended from the memories of local townspeople. However when an attempt was made to document their accomplishments, little was found. Should anyone be able to add to what we do have, please e-mail tom@theratsnest.org.

DAN MLYNEK
(1974)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1988



Dan Mlynek, a 1974 Bellaire High School graduate, participated in football and track.

He was chosen as the Outstanding Athlete in 1974 in track and was chosen as the Most Valuable Player by the Big Reds Touchdown Club in 1973. He received a sportsmanship award in 1972 presented by the St. Johns Central Boosters and received the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Outstanding Achievement Award in football in 1974.

He was chosen to the UPI "AA" All-Ohio Team in 1972 and 1973, and was on the first team defense in the North-South Game in Canton, Ohio in 1974.

In addition, he was also chosen to the OVAC All-Conference Team in 1973.

Still holds record in football (as of 2025) for:

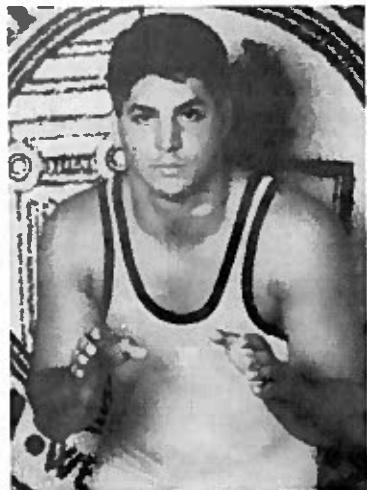
Highest punting average in a game: 64.0 yards v. Martins Ferry (1973)

MARK MLYNEK

(1987)

HALL OF FAME

Class of 1992



Although he participated in football, wrestling, and track all through high school, Mark Mlynek ended his high school career by earning nine varsity letters and being selected captain of the wrestling team his senior year. But it was on the mat where Mlynek attained his most success.

During the giant OVAC wrestling tournament, the largest such high school tournament in the nation, he wrestled to a 7th place finish his sophomore year, a 3rd place finish his junior year, and capped his senior career by not only taking 1st place honors but also receiving the coveted Dave Bierkortte Award. During Ohio tournament action, Mlynek was a District Champion for three straight years and a Regional Champion his senior year (being Regional Runner-Up his junior season). His high school career ended in a 4th place finish at the Ohio State Tournament.

Mlynek also was an OVAC track champion in the 300M hurdles and was a member of the Bellaire record-setting shuttle hurdle team.

Upon graduation, Mlynek enrolled at West Liberty State College where he wrestled and lettered for four years, again being elected captain of the Hilltoppers his senior year. He was chosen to the All-Conference team his sophomore, junior, and senior years. Mlynek ended his wrestling career in the NAIA Tournament where he wrestled to a 6th place finish, making his collegiate career record a sparkling 71 wins against 21 losses.

He recently graduated from WLSC with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration.

TOM MOKROS
(1965)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1991



Tom Mokros was a three-year performer in both football and basketball, lettering in both his junior and senior years.

He received honorable mention All-Valley in basketball his junior year, and All-OVAC, All-Valley, and All-Eastern Ohio honors in football his senior year.

Upon graduation, he went to Kent State University where he played football for three years, earning two letters. In addition to serving as a game captain, Mokros earned third team All-MAC honors. Voted Most Improved Back his senior year, he turned down an offer to sign as a free agent with the Atlanta Falcons and went to work for The Timken Company.

Mokros resides in Canton, Ohio.

GEORGE “RED” MOONEY

(1939)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1988



George "Red" Mooney graduated from Bellaire High School in 1939. In football, he was a quarterback and was chosen All-Valley in 1937 and 1938.

He went to West Nottingham Academy where he was honorary captain of the football team, graduating in 1941.

He attended the University of Miami until his senior season where he played fullback and halfback. He left college because of a football injury to enter the Marine Corps.

Mooney received All-Valley nods in football for the Big Reds in 1937 and 1938.

After graduation he played football at West Nottingham Academy becoming a captain.

He moved on to the University of Miami, Florida, where he played halfback and fullback. An injury ended his playing career and he enlisted in the Marine Corp during the Second World War.

He worked in Dayton, Ohio, for the State Auto Insurance Company and was president of the Dayton Claims Adjuster Association. He passed away in June 1964.

BOB MORRIS
(1928)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1986



This All-Valley honoree was the center on Alfred Sear's OVAA championship football team, earning three letters. In basketball, Morris was considered one of the best long distance shooters in the valley from any angle.

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HART MORRIS

(1927)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1986



Hart Morris played both right guard and tackle on Alfred Sear's OVAA championship teams. In basketball, the guard was considered one of the best ball handlers and outside shooters.

Hart Morris was a star tackle for the Red and Black and made the First Team All-Valley list and finished his high school career with back-to-back 9-0-1, OVAA title seasons.

He played college football for the University of Pittsburgh under Coach Jock Sutherland and was named an All-American at guard. He spent his last few seasons playing alongside his brother, Bob, for the Panthers. His dominating performance against national-power Army in 1931 during his senior year earned him the game ball.

He started coaching football at the University of Scranton and St. Thomas College before becoming chief assistant and line coach in 1937 at the University of Miami for several seasons. In 1938 Morris became the men's basketball head coach.

He stepped down from the post in 1942 to enlist in the U.S. Navy during World War II and participated in the Invasion of Normandy. In 1946, Morris returned to Miami to retake his head coaching duties for basketball and the assistant job for football. After 10 seasons on the court, he finished with a 119-82 record.

He passed away in 1969 at age 60 and was posthumously inducted into the University of Miami Sports Hall of Fame in 1973 and the Bellaire High School Wall of Fame in 1986.

GERALD MOSSO
(1944)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1987



JIMMY MOUNTAIN
(St. John, 19xx)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1986



Jimmy Mountain, a non-graduate of Bellaire High School, was the city editor of the *Times Leader* until his retirement a few months ago. As a matter of fact, Jimmy was a graduate of St. John Central High School, but once he began his writing career with the *Times Leader*, he became the unrivaled historian of the city. For years, his reporting of Bellaire football games was crystal clear, unbiased, and accurate. There has never been a time when he was asked to get material printed on BHS that he turned us down. Over the years he has been invaluable in helping track down graduates, seeing that the Hall of Fame/Wall of Fame was established and inductees identified and located, acting as a walking encyclopedia of the city and its schools. It is for this dedication that he is inducted into the Wall of Fame.

MILLER MUNJAS

(1930)

HALL OF FAME

Class of 1987



Three year letterman as a fullback
Attended Pitt University where he was converted to quarterback
Had the distinction of being the only college quarterback not to lose to Notre Dame during his career

Frances Wallace nicknamed Bellaire "The All-American Town" as it had three Big Reds serving as starting quarterback at three universities: Katz Kadlic (Princeton), Miller Munjas (Pitt), and Bud Bonar (Notre Dame)

Played football for the University of Pittsburgh including its elite 1934 squad. Munjas ranked as one of the best college quarterbacks in the nation and among the elite punters. He became the only three-year field general to defeat the University of Notre Dame three times, including a 20-0 victory over the Irish under quarterback and Bellaire alum Bud Bonar.

On January 1, 1935, he captained and led the East squad of the East-West Shrine Bowl. He also was the quarterback and captain for the All-American team which met the Chicago Bears at Soldier Field in the annual college v. professional contest.

Immediately after graduation, he began working in Akron for Goodyear. The university contacted his boss and had a plane ready to bring him back to the campus to receive the top award at the All-Sports banquet.

Munjas was one of the quarterbacks the writer Francis Wallace used to make his final and definitive argument to the nation that Bellaire was indeed The All-American Town. He shared this honor with Bonar at Notre Dame and John Katz of Princeton.

Munjas passed away in 1978. Many attended his funeral including his elderly former coach at Bellaire, Chuck Wright.

JOHN MUTH
(1916)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1985

Lettered in football

Attended college at Ohio Wesleyan, playing center on the football team

Served as head coach at Mingo High School, assisted by Woody Hayes, who later coached at OSU

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ANDREW NAMETH

(1960)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1996



.A 1960 graduate of Bellaire High School, Andy Nameth played four years of football and two years of basketball for the Big Reds, lettering his junior and senior years. Upon graduation, he went to The Ohio State University, where he played football his freshman and sophomore years, and wrestled his sophomore year before his career was ended by a knee injury. Graduating from OSU in 1965, he returned to his alma mater to teach biology and serve as an assistant football coach. Before he left, he had initiated the first wrestling team for the Big Reds, a sport that still excels today, a testimony to his vision.

He moved to Reynoldsburg High School serving in the same capacity there as he had at Bellaire, also starting their first wrestling program. In 1968, he moved to Ohio State as a graduate assistant football coach, helping with the 1968 National Champs, where he became close friends with the legendary Woody Hayes. Graduating with a Masters in 1969, Andy moved to Cornell University for a brief stay as the defensive line coach, but was recruited to Marshall University in 1970 to help rebuild the defensive line after their team was killed in a tragic plane crash. He also served as the head track and cross country coach in 1974.

But in 1975, Andy left athletics to become the Assistant Principal at Ironton High School. Just like in athletics, Nameth climbed the administrative ladder, becoming Principal in 1978 until being named Superintendent of Schools for South Point Local Schools in 1990. In 1994, he became the Assistant Superintendent for the Lawrence County Educational Service Center, a position he still holds today.

ANDY NARDO

(1928)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1984



Andrew Nardo played guard for the Red and Black on three-straight OVAA title teams. He also played guard on the basketball court.

After graduation, Nardo continued his football career at the University of Chattanooga. At guard, he was a three-year starter blocking for fellow Bellaire alum Tony Matusek.

Later, he joined the coaching staff there in football and wrestling. During his stint, he coached his younger brother, Johnny, to great success on the 1937 squad.

GEORGE E. NEFF

(1940)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1988



George E. Neff, a 1940 Bellaire High School graduate, lettered three years in football at the position of left guard, being chosen to the First-Team All-Ohio Valley football team in 1939.

He was also a four-year letterman in track.

He attended The Ohio State University in 1943 where he lettered in football in 1943 and 1944 on teams that went undefeated and won the Big Ten Championship in 1944.

He was voted All-Big Ten guard in 1944. He played football for the Detroit Lions in 1946.

He has been active in baseball in the Ohio Valley, playing for and assisting the Bellaire Civic Teams.

He was elected Belmont County Sheriff for sixteen years, from 1961-1976.

George Neff lined up at left guard for the Big Reds lettering three years and earned All-Valley honors in 1939. He starred on the track team for four seasons.

He played football for The Ohio State University on their 1944 undefeated, Big Ten title run. He concluded that season by receiving All-Big Ten honors.

He entered the National Football League in 1946 dressing for the Detroit Lions. Neff played semi-pro baseball for the Bellaire Civics and was elected as Belmont County Sheriff for 16 years from 1961-76.

BOYD NELSON

(1945)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1988



Boyd 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 though 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 Hornjak, just a to mention a few.

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

When *The Times Leader* published a pictorial history of Eastern Ohio in 1999, the book was dedicated to Nelson, a lifelong Belmont County resident. He began his career following a stint in the U.S. Navy where he served 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.

JIM NEMEC

(1955)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1989



Even though he earned 10 varsity letters at BHS, Jim Nemec, Class of 1955, received most of his notoriety in football. He was a four-year performer and letterwinner in football and baseball, a two-year performer and one-year letterwinner in basketball, and a one-year performer and letterwinner in track.

In football, he received many post-season first team honors his senior year, including All-OVAC, All-Valley, All-Eastern Ohio, All-TV Channel 7, and All-State.

In 1954, he was the leading scorer in the Ohio Valley. Nemec started 36 out of 40 games at Bellaire and scored 216 points, believed to be at the time the most points ever scored at BHS. He was a member of the undefeated (tied Ironton) 1954 OVAC championship team being inducted today.

Upon graduation, Nemec attended Purdue University, where he played football for three years, lettering two of those.

Nemec also had various associations with sandlot and semi-pro teams. He played three years with the Columbus Colts in the United Football League, one year with Ft. Eustis, Virginia, and one year with the Bellaire Civics.

Nemec is employed at Owens-Illinois and resides in Lilburn, Illinois.

Jim was an athlete at Bellaire High earning varsity letters in basketball, baseball, track, and football. He was named All-Ohio as a fullback earning him over 30 scholarship offers to Division I universities.

Jim became a Boilermaker (wearing #33) and played center at Purdue University (1956-58) where he also earned a B.S. in Economics. He continued his football career playing in the NFL in 1961 for the Akron Pros and the Columbus Capitols in 1962.

He served as a ROTC Army Cadet Captain while at Purdue and continued to serve after graduation as a First Lieutenant in the Army Reserves. Nemec later earned his MBA in Finance from Xavier University in Cincinnati. He spent most of his professional career working for Brockway Glass. In 1976, he was named an executive for the company and relocated to their headquarters in Brockway, Pennsylvania. Nemec passed away on March 25, 2019, in Johns Creek, GA.

Researched by Sean Kennedy '03

JOHN “BUTCH” NIEMIEC

(1924)

HALL OF FAME

Class of 1987



John "Butch" Niemiec played two football seasons for the Red and Black and proved himself one of the greatest athletes in the Ohio Valley. He dominated on both sides of the ball with his large frame and physical ability. His strength, speed, and agility were unmatched in his time leading to numerous heroic performances on the gridiron.

His games against archrivals Wheeling and Martins Ferry made him a local legend, yet his effort in a stunning upset over Washington, PA may have been his best as his work handed the Keystone-state defending champions their first loss in eight years.

For his career he scored 156 points on 18 touchdowns while converting 42 extra points and two field goals. Niemiec had success passing as well going 18+ - of-27+ for 239+ yards and eight scores. For his junior year he received First Team All-Valley recognition. He repeated the nod for his senior season on a team that had nine players receive honors.

Named captain of the basketball team, his teams finished with a 35-9 record. He also found himself a member of the local semi-pro football team, the Wienies.

After high school Niemiec attended St. Edward Preparatory in Texas before joining former teammate John Polisky at the University of Notre Dame from 1926-28. Niemiec quickly became one of Coach Knute Rockne's most trusted athletes. His stardom came in 1926 as a sophomore when he scored twice to keep Rockne's boys in the national title race. The first occurred when he caught the only score against Northwestern for the win. In the second, the team made an unprecedented trip across the country for the first-ever meeting with the University of Southern California. At the Coliseum in Los Angeles, before an enormous crowd, Niemiec hauled in a long pass in the waning moments and was tackled at the goal line for the winning touchdown.

He quickly became a triple threat option with his ability to pass, catch, run, and kick. His name was known as one of the elite stars in the country and he started contests in front of the two largest crowds ever to watch a college football game, including over 120,000 during the Navy-Notre Dame battle in 1928.

Niemiec led the team in passing in 1927 and 1928. His senior season he played despite having a re-occurring knee injury which kept him from being eligible for the All-American college football top 11 list in 1928. He was in the locker room when Coach Knute Rockne gave his famous "Win one for the Gipper" speech while trailing #1 Army in 1928. The Bellaire native shocked the nation and permanently put his name in the history of the sport when he threw the winning touchdown to Johnny O'Brien, ending the Cadets' national title hopes.

In the summer when college was out, Niemiec played with many of his fellow Bellaire grads for a local baseball team, the Bellaire Grains. He briefly tried out for the Chicago White Sox after graduation but his knee injury ended his time in the pros. He continued to play for the Wheeling Stogies in the Middle Atlantic League through the early 1930s.

He entered the coaching circuit becoming an assistant coach at Rice Institute, and was acting head coach in a 37-0 win over Texas A&M. Niemiec served as the head football coach at Columbia College (now known as Loras College) in Dubuque, Iowa from 1934 to 1937.

Niemiec left to take the head football coach reigns at Bellaire High School just weeks before the 1938 season and later assumed the same role in track. He led the Reds five seasons to a 33-13-2 record with an OVAA title.

After dealing with several health issues, he stepped down from coaching during the 1942 season. He remained in Bellaire for much of his later years as a prominent member of the community. Niemiec died on June 16, 1976, at the age of 75. After his death he was honored by the NCAA for his important impact on the sports world and received induction to the Athletic Hall of Fame at Bellaire.

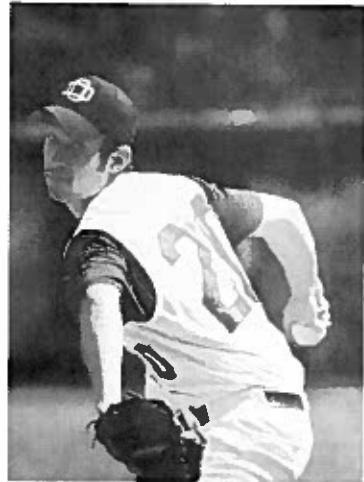
Researched by Sean Kennedy '03

CHRIS OFAT

(2000)

Wall of Fame

Class of 2010



Eight for eight. Four years, eight sports, eight letters. Although he played basketball and golf, Ofat made his name on the baseball diamond.

His senior year at Bellaire, he was the team captain, First Team All-OVAC, First Team All-Valley, and First Team All-Eastern Ohio. A two-year performer for the EOBL All-Star Game, Ofat went to Ohio Dominican University where he continued to blossom.

Like BHS, he was a four-year performer and letter winner, being named captain his senior year. Performing in the American Mideast Conference, he was twice named First Team. He also received two Honorable Mentions as a NAIA All-American, and twice was named baseball All-Region. He also played in the NAIA World Series his freshman, sophomore, and junior season.

He set the Conference and school career record for innings pitched (349). Ofat has the second most strikeouts in school history (309), just two away from the record (The record is held by his teammate Jonathan Sanchez of the San Francisco Giants). He also missed the school record for career appearances by 1, playing in 79 games. When he graduated, he had earned 33 career victories.

During the summers before his junior and senior years, Ofat played for the Hays (KS) Larks, made up of baseball players (mostly Division I) who were invited to showcase their talents. Both summers he performed in the NBC (National Baseball Congress) World Series. He is listed in the top ten performers in four categories: wins (7), lowest era (1.23), walks/9 innings: (1), and best individual winning percentage (.875, 7-1).

**JOHN O'GRADY
(1948)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1988**



John O'Grady, a 1948 graduate of Bellaire High School, was a three-year letterman in track and football where he served as captain of the football team in 1947.

O'Grady attended the University of Tennessee for one year.

STANLEY OLEJNICZAK

(1931)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1984



Born in Neffs from the Polish community, Stan Olejniczak was a star lineman for the Big Reds on the gridiron. He was part of two conference championships. He also won an OVAA title and two sectional crowns in track as his team qualified for the state meet. His victory in the shot put in the sectional round broke the meet record by over six inches with a throw of 43 feet.

Following graduation, he continued his academic and playing career for the University of Pittsburgh. At 6' tall, 220 pounds, he started for the Panthers alongside two other Bellaire alumni in Miller Munjas and Leon Wohlgemuth. The right tackle first received action on the varsity as a sophomore on an 8-1-2 team that fell in the Rose Bowl. Olejniczak entered the starting line-up in 1933 on an 8-1 unit.

His senior season in 1934 saw Pitt finish at 8-1, ranked fourth in the nation, and miss the Sugar Bowl as the administration opted out of a postseason.

Staying in Pittsburgh, Olejniczak played one year professionally for the Pirates in the National Football League, starting in six of the 12 games he entered. He played alongside Bellaire St. John grad Chaz Visnic.

After his playing career ended, he changed his last name to "Olemn" which many people referred to him as years earlier. Beginning a stint in coaching, he was an assistant under for the Haleton High School Mountaineers in Hazleton, Pennsylvania from 1936 to 1937. Olemn took the head coaching spot of the Mountaineers from 1938 to 1942, recording a 39-9-1 record. He stepped down in 1943 after the school refused to grant him a leave of absence to remain coaching at the University of Pittsburgh. Here he was an assistant from 1943-45 until he resigned.

He passed away in March 1979.

Still holds record in football (as of 2025) for:
Longest punt: 85 yards v. Moundsville, 1930

Researched by Sean Kennedy '03

JAKE OLSAVSKY

(Redstone HS)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1989



A standout athlete at Redstone High School In Republic, Pennsylvania, William "Jake" Olsavsky came a long way to get into the Bellaire High School Wall of Fame.

At Redstone High School, he played football, basketball, and baseball for four years, lettering in all three for three years. During his senior year, he also participated and lettered in track. The captain of his senior team, Olsavsky was also awarded All-State and All-American football honors.

Upon graduation, he enrolled at Indiana University where he participated in football for four years, lettering three. He served as captain his senior year and was accorded All-Conference honors.

Although he became active in football coaching, he came to the Ohio Valley and excited area fans for eight years with the Wheeling Ironmen.

At Bellaire High School, Olsavsky coached for ten years, attaining a record of 59-35 (60%) and was the second winningest coach in our school's rich history. While at BHS, he had the honor of coaching two players who later made it into the pros: Ron Lee and Lance Mehl (both are BHS Hall of Famers).

At present, Olsavsky coaches at Union Local High School and resides in St. Clairsville.

**JOHN “SHRIMP” ORIN
(1921)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1986**



John Orin played both left end and quarterback on the football team. He also served as the captain of the basketball team.

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JOHN OSTRANDER

(1971)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1988



John Ostrander was a 1971 graduate of Bellaire High School. He lettered three years in football, two years in baseball, and one year in track.

In football, he was chosen to the UPI and AP All-State teams and was defensive captain of the All-Valley Team.

In addition, Ostrander was chosen as Tri-Captain of the All-Eastern Ohio Team and captain of the All-OVAC squad. He was also chosen as the Most Valuable Player at Bellaire High School.

In baseball, he was chosen to the All-District Eastern Ohio All-Star team.

Still holds record in football (as of 2025) for:

Most opponent's fumbles recovered in a career: 8 (1968-70)

**PETER PALKOVICH
(1931)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1987**



Tackle in football and star performer in track

Held the Ohio state record in the mile run for several years

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NORM PAPOLA

(1969)

Wall of Fame

Class of 2012



While he participated and lettered in football and track at BHS, Papola's claim to Wall of Fame status came after he graduated from Bellaire High School. After graduating from Jefferson County Technical Institute in 1971 and gaining employment, Papola did something few Big Reds can claim they did: he dedicated his life to serving his school.

Over thirty-five years of service to the Bellaire Big Reds Touchdown Club, Papola has performed as secretary, vice-president, and trustee, in addition to serving seven consecutive years as president. For three decades he has worked on all major fundraising efforts for the boosters: from All-American Days festivals to street fairs to 300 Club (captain for over 25 years) and was the first NFL Club chairman. He also founded and has served as a five-time chairman for the Bellaire Touchdown Club Golf Scramble.

Also extremely active in track, Papola spearheaded the TD Club effort to replace the all-weather track (a track that was first installed when he was a senior), and has worked on the Bellaire Relays committee for decades, acting as chairman (3 times) and co-chairman (3 times) of the Relays, Girls' Invitational, and Junior High Meets.

After serving on the football chain gang for 27 years, he "retired" to help out by taking stats for the current Big Reds. He also initiated the Sportsmanship Award for the Bellaire-Martins Ferry football game.

In 2006, he was recognized by the BHS Alumni Association with an Achievement Award in civics. While he works for East Ohio Regional Waste Water and resides in St. Clairsville with his wife, Diane Couts Papola, Norm continues to do what he has done for decades: see that our athletes get the best, and support the Big Reds in *all* sports.

**UGO PAPOLA
(1935)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1986**



Ugo Papola was a member of the Bellaire High School class of 1935. He left school to serve in the U.S. Navy from 1935-1939 and later served during World War II. Ugo is a disabled American veteran. He has been a member of the Big Reds Touchdown Club since its inception forty years ago and has served as Honorary Referee of the Bellaire Relays.

JOHN PATRONE

(1960)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1991



One of the last four-year performers in both basketball and football, John Patrone earned three varsity letters in both sports, and captained both squads his senior year.

As a senior, Patrone earned post-season honors in basketball on the OVAC, All-Valley, All-Eastern Ohio (his junior year also), and All-State squads.

Joining the Navy for four years, Patrone played military ball for the U.S.S. Saratoga, where he averaged over 35 points per game and served as team captain. Playing in many international tournaments in Greece, Italy, France, Lebanon, Turkey, and Spain, his team became one of the top four service ball clubs in the United States.

Earning the rank of E-5 as an electronics technician, Patrone earned a scholarship to Jacksonville University where he played and lettered for one year.

Employed by Xerox Corporation, he has been active on the local sports scene by serving as a Little Dribblers coach for five years, a 7th grade coach for three years, and stepped in to serve as an interim coach for Claire Cribbs during his illness. He also coached baseball for both the Bellaire Junior Sports Association and the Martins Ferry American Legion.

LEE PATRONE

(1956)

HALL OF FAME

Class of 1983



Three year letterman in basketball - First team All-Ohio, 1956 - Three years All-Eastern Ohio - Three years All-OVAC - Captain, 1956

Played four years at West Virginia University - Co-Captain, 1961 - Helms Foundation All-American - 1961 Co-Amateur Athlete of the Year in West Virginia - Three years All-Southern Conference

Played for Pittsburgh Rens in the ABL which later became the ABA

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

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

He tallied 54 points twice in a game in 1956, including his final game while playing with an injured leg against Martins Ferry in the district tournament title game. Ferry prevailed, 91-87, while surviving a limping Patrone's heroics. Earlier, against a Bridgeport team featuring Basketball and OVAC Hall of Famer John Havlicek, he converted 25 goals. 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 Wintersville High School where his first 1969 team went 14-4 and 1972 team was 16-4. After retiring, he relocated to his current home in Florida.

Still holds record in basketball (as of 2025) for:

Field goals made in a game: 25 v. Bridgeport (1956)

Field goals made in a season: 299 (1956)

Career scoring average: 27.1 (1954-56)

Most games over 20 points in a season: 23 (1955)

Most games over 20 points in a career: 57 (1954-56)

Most consecutive games over 20 points: 28 (1955-56)

BEN PAUL

()

Wall of Fame

Class of 1993



Plenty of dry towels. Clean uniforms. A big chew. A white T-shirt and ball cap. A gruff voice.

Depending on what you did in athletics at BHS, your image of James "Ben" Paul was different. But for overthirty years, Paul was a landmark at Nelson Field in the fall and spring. Although details about his coming to Bellaire are sketchy and family members few, Ben was loved by all who knew him as Bellaire's equipment manager.

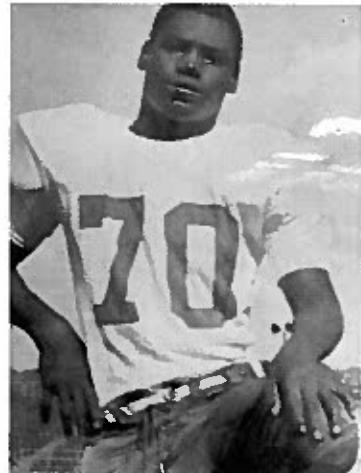
He saw to it that all football gear was kept in repair, the locker room was clean, and treated the Nelson Field area as if it were his.

Serving as a track official for several years, Paul was also named Honorary Referee for the Bellaire Relays.

A member of the Touchdown Club, Paul could be seen in the winter at all basketball games taking tickets, policing the gym, or helping out wherever needed.

Not destined for accolades and greatness, and not even concerned about them, Paul's only interest was to see that Big Reds got only the best attention. And that he did.

**FRED PERDUE
(1963)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1987**



Football captain

Two years All-Eastern Ohio, All-Valley, All-OVAC

All-State senior year

Two year letterman in track

Captain of bowling team; co-captain of basketball team

Graduated from Trinidad College in 1968

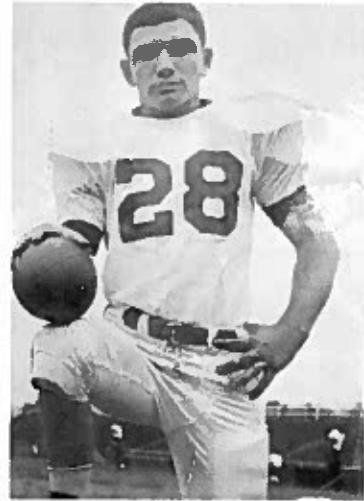
All-Conference and captain in football and track

WAYNE PETERS

(1964)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1987



Three year letterman in football, serving as captain his senior year

All-Eastern Ohio, All-Valley, All-OVAC for two years, serving a captain or co-captain of each his senior year

All-State and honorable mention All-American his senior year

Played in OVAC All-Star game

Still holds record in football (as of 2025) for:

Most touchdowns on interception return in a game: 2 v. Dover (1962)

RICHARD PETRAN

(1958)

Wall of Fame

Class of 2008



Stick to one thing and do it well. That was Dick Petran. Although he didn't get started until his sophomore year, Petran was a three-year performer and letterman in track, serving as captain his senior year.

Upon graduation, he moved to West Liberty State College, where he lettered his freshman and sophomore year. The unusual part at WLSC was that in two of his specialties, vaulting and hurdling, the Hilltoppers lacked adequate facilities, therefore he did most of his practicing at Nelson Field.

At West Liberty, he accumulated 75 points his freshman year and 97 points his sophomore year. He then transferred to West Virginia University where he was red-shirted in 1961.

At WVU, Petran performed and lettered his final two years, serving as captain his senior year. He ran the 120-yard high hurdles, the 220-yard low hurdles, and competed in the high jump and pole vault. He accumulated 65 points as a junior, and 50 points as a senior. He graduated from WVU with a B.A. in 1962 and a M.A. in 1963.

Petran, who is a retired teacher from Virginia Beach Public Schools, is married (Susan) and has one son.

DIRK PICA
(1984)
HALL OF FAME
Class of 2005



A standout performer on the gridiron and baseball diamond, Pica enjoyed quite an illustrious career at Bellaire High School. He was a four-year performer and letterwinner in baseball, a three-year performer and two-year letterwinner in football, and captained both sports his senior year.

Post-season accolades in baseball included All-OVAC First Team (two years), All-Valley (three years), All-Eastern Ohio First Team (two years), All-Eastern Buckeye League (two years), and All-State First Team his senior year. Setting over fifteen school records, Pica was selected as District Player-of-the-Year his senior year, and was also selected to play in the All-Ohio baseball series in 1984.

Football post-season honors included All-OVAC (two years), All-Valley (two years), Eastern Buckeye League (one year), and special mention All-State his senior year. In 1983, he was voted the Randy Meek Defensive Player, and in 1984, received the Iron Mike Award for his courageous playing while injured.

Upon graduation, Pica received a four-year athletic scholarship to The Ohio State University, where he played and lettered in baseball for four years. At the end of his junior year in college, Pica was selected to play in the Midwest Jayhawk League. A 1989 Dapper Dan honoree, Pica also played semi-pro baseball with Bellaire for one year.

At present, he resides in Dublin, Ohio, with his wife, Sandi, and two children, Alexa, 15, and Tyler, 12. He is employed as an Associate Director of Regional Accounts by Watson Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Still holds record in baseball (as of 2025) for:

Hits in a career: 117 (1981-84)

Walks in a career: 63 (1981-84)

Runs batted in in a season: 36 (1984)

Runs batted in in a career: 93 (1981-84)

JOHN PICKENS
(1920)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1985



John Pickens graduated from Bellaire High School in 1920, playing left end on the football team. He attended Mount Union College and graduated from The Ohio State University. He served as superintendent of schools in Monroe County and Martins Ferry City Schools.

Many of the early inductees of the Wall of Fame were recommended from the memories of local townspeople. However when an attempt was made to document their accomplishments, little was found. Should anyone be able to add to what we do have, please e-mail tom@theratsnest.org.

JOHN PIEHOWICZ
(1953)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1987



Lettered in football, basketball, and track

First team All-Ohio

Co-Captain of All-Eastern Ohio and All-OVAC teams, 1953

TONY PIEHOWICZ
(1966)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1987



Two year letterman in football

Chosen All-OVAC and honorable mention All-State

Two year letterman in basketball

Three year letterman in track, placing fourth in State meet in 1965

Served as track captain his senior year

Bellaire Relays champion in 1965 and 1966

All-OVAC in track

Graduated from The Ohio State University in 1970

Received three letters in track at OSU, including a 5th place finish in the Big 10 championship meet in the discus in 1968

FRANK PILOSENO

(1941)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1996



Considered an excellent blocker and a good all-around football player, Piloseno was a three-year varsity performer for the Big Reds, playing running guard for Coach John "Butch" Niemiec's squads. During his senior year, he served as a game captain, playing his best game against Steubenville where he intercepted a pass and blocked a pass helping the Reds win 12-6.

At the conclusion of the season, he received All-Star honors and was selected to perform in the second OVAC All-Star game. He was recruited by North Carolina State, West Virginia University, the University of Dayton, West Liberty, the University of Toledo, and Kent State. However, he enlisted in the army and played football for the famous 82nd Airborne Paratroop Team in Fort Benning, Georgia. Earning a first-team berth, he enjoyed playing with many college and professional players of his time. Rising to the rank of staff sergeant, he had three combat jumps in Normandy, Holland, and the Battle of the Bulge, being wounded in two of them. He received numerous medals, including the Purple Heart.

After World II, Piloseno went to the University of Dayton to play under his brother, Danny. Lettering his freshman and sophomore years, he quit and moved to the University of Toledo where he received his degree. He worked for the Lucas County Human Services as a caseworker and later became director of investigation and child support and headed the food stamp program, one of the first in Ohio. After 31 years of service, he retired in 1987, returning to the Ohio Valley and becoming a staunch supporter of the Big Reds.

Piloseno was a three-year veteran for Coach Niemiec playing running guard. He received All-State honors and starred in the second All-Star game in the valley.

He was recruited by North Carolina State, West Virginia University, University of Dayton, West Liberty, University of Toledo, and Kent State University. Instead, he enlisted in the in the U.S. Army at the beginning of American entry into World War II and played football for the famous 82nd Airborne Paratroop Team in Fort Benning, Georgia. He lined up alongside many college and professional athletes while earning himself first-team honors.

Rising to the rank of staff sergeant, he made three combat jumps at Normandy, Holland, and the Battle of the Bulge. Twice wounded, he received the Purple Heart among many awards.

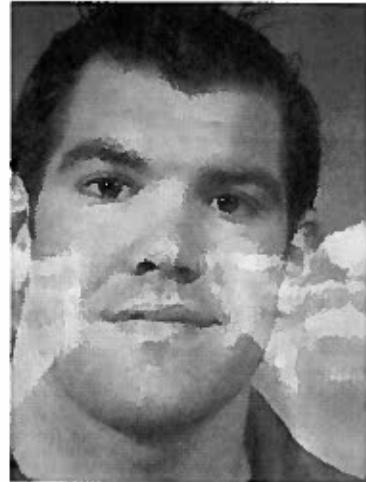
After the war, he continued to play ball with his brother, Danny, at the University of Dayton, lettering twice before moving on to the University of Toledo to finish his degree. He spent 31 years working for the Lucas County Human Services before retiring to the Ohio Valley where he passed away in 1997.

TOM POE

(1998)

Wall of Fame

Class of 2008



Tom Poe was a four-year letterwinner in wrestling at BHS, serving as the captain of the mat squad his senior year.

Earning All-OVAC and All-State recognition, he was a State qualifier his junior and senior years and Sectional and District champion his senior year. He also played and lettered in football his junior and senior year, earning All-Eastern Ohio, All-Valley, All-OVAC, and All-State recognition in his final year.

Upon graduation, he moved to West Liberty State College where he earned four letters in wrestling and two letters in football. In wrestling, he was a National qualifier his freshman, junior, and senior year. In football, he was named First Team All-WVIAC his senior year.

Poe currently resides in Washington, D.C., where he works for the Capitol Police Department, Federal Law Enforcement office.

DENNIS POGANY
(1965)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1987



Four year member of football, serving as co-captain his senior year

All-Valley, All-Eastern Ohio, All-State, honorable mention All-American

Lettered two years in basketball and three years in track

Attended United States Military Academy at West Point, graduating in 1969

Participated four years with junior varsity football team, serving as co-captain his junior and senior year

CAL POKAS

(1951)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1998



Cal Pokas has given over forty years of service to the sports fans of the Ohio Valley. Beginning as an assistant sports editor of *The Times Leader* in 1955, he has been a positive influence on Ohio Valley sports. In 1966, Cal became sports editor of *The Times Leader* and has reported on all aspects of area sports. Always known as a fair and accurate reporter, he treated those he covered with respect. As a result of his hard work, he has received numerous honors and awards. He is a member of the UPI Sports Writers Hall of Fame and the Ohio Prep Writers Association Hall of Fame. Cal is past president of the Ohio Prep Writers Association and was named Ohio Prep Sports Writer-of-the-Year in 1976. His honors include a couple of first time awards when he was given the first Service Award presented by the Eastern District Athletic Administrators Association and the first Media Recognition Award presented by the Meadows Racetrack (PA). In 1995, he was given a special service award and was honored at the OVAC Banquet of Champions. Since his retirement in 1995, Cal has received the Appreciation Award from the Ohio Valley Football Coaches Association, the Media Award from the Ohio Baseball Hall of Fame, and last year the prestigious Mr. Mat Award from the Ohio Valley Wrestling Coaches Association. Even though he has retired, Cal continues to provide weekly reports on Ohio State football, and he and his wife, Betty, can still be seen covering other sporting events throughout the Valley. Cal and Betty have three children: Dr. John Pokas, Judy Mayles, and James Pokas, as well as four grandchildren.

STEVE POLINSKY

(Linden (PA), 1926)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1995



Although he graduated from Linden High School in North Strabane, PA, Steve Polinsky had a major impact on Bellaire High School and Ohio Valley athletics. In a school that had only 11 boys, the 5'11" Polinsky played center on the basketball team for three years, lettering all three years. In 1926, his squad won the Washington County Class B Championship while Polinsky earned All-Tri-State honors. After graduating, he enrolled at Muskingum College on a scholarship to play basketball, lettering three years as an incredibly quick varsity guard. During his sophomore year, he decided to play football, playing both offensive and defensive center. Over the next three years, he missed only one quarter of play and was selected both captain and All-Conference his senior year. An extremely talented knuckleball pitcher, he also earned three varsity letters in baseball.

He came to Bellaire High School in 1932, serving as a teacher and coach from 1932-1950. During this time, he served as an assistant football and basketball coach, head tennis coach, and head track coach from 1945-1950. In 1950, he was named head basketball coach, but declined it to take the position of principal, allowing the school to name the legendary Claire Cribbs to the position. He remained principal at BHS until 1955.

In 1958, he was named superintendent of St. Clairsville Schools, a position he held until his death in 1966. During his stay at Bellaire, he managed the Bellaire pool for ten years, producing and directing the annual Aquacades that drew audiences of 2,500+. He also ran the Bellaire Roller Rink sponsoring many programs there, including basketball. His track expertise was passed throughout the Valley as he served as a track official and starter. In 1955, he became the Vice-President of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference (OVAC) and assumed the presidency in 1956, helping to guide the conference during its formative years.

Married to the former Mabel Morris (who, incidentally, taught at Key Ridge and Rose Hill for close to twenty years), the couple had two children: Linda Vidoni of Phoenix, AZ, and Richard, former coach and principal and currently a teacher at St. Clairsville.

JOHN “BULL” POLISKY

(1925)

HALL OF FAME

Class of 1984



Attended Bellaire High School in 1920-21, graduating from St. Edwards Prep School in 1923

Played football for Notre Dame from 1925-1927

All-American second team

Played in Rose Bowl

Graduated in 1928

Served as freshman coach under Knute Rockne

Played one season with Chicago Bears

Coached at Creighton University with Marty Schwartz

Coached at Rice Institute in Austin, Texas

Coached at Steubenville Catholic with Mac Cara

Born John Pytelewsky in Pittsburgh, his family changed the name to “Polisky” as so many families from central and eastern Europe did to deflect prejudice. He earned his lifelong nickname from his youth when the other kids he played sandlot football with called him “a bull.”

The six-foot, 225-pound lineman had an outstanding career for the Red and Black on the line and as a tackler, earning All-Valley honorable mention, and continued with the local Wienies semi-pro team in town.

He played at St. Edwards Preparatory College in Austin, Texas, before transferring to the University of Notre Dame to play with John Niemiec under the legendary coach Knute Rockne. He was highly successful during his frosh season as he became known as the “All-American Freshman.” From 1925-27 he played at right tackle with his best year during his senior season. One of his notable highlights which caught the nation’s attention was against the top ranked and undefeated University of Minnesota. With the game on the line, the Irish defense faced a three-time All-American in fullback Herb Joesting who had sights on a national championship. Joesting made first-and-goal on the half-yard line before he took four straight snaps to try to tie the game. On three of those downs, Polisky dropped him and Notre Dame survived.

After graduating, Polisky spent one year as the coach for Rockne's freshmen team. He played one year professionally for the Chicago Bears in 1929 alongside six future hall-of-famers. He started in six of the nine games he appeared, including a stretch where the Bears played 12 games in 16 days as a promotion for professional football.

Polisky spent several years coaching at different colleges including line assistant at Rice University in Texas with Niemiec before coming back to the Ohio Valley. He joined another Bellaire alum, Mac Cara, on the coaching staff at Steubenville Catholic Central. Polisky came back to Bellaire as an assistant under Niemiec to finish his coaching days.

In 1984, he received induction to the Bellaire High School Hall of Fame.

DUANE POWELL

(1952)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1989



Duane "Dibby" Powell is regarded among the best officials by area coaches as well as his peers, spending 25 years making the calls in both football and basketball.

He began officiating both sports in 1971 as a member of both the Ohio Valley Board of Approved Football Officials and the Ohio Valley Board of Approved Basketball Officials (he received a lifetime membership to both organizations).

During his career, he worked several OHSAA football playoff games and basketball tournament games and also officiated countless small college football games in the West Virginia Conference.

He was the honorary official at the OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game; received the OVAC Robert Dawson Basketball Officials Award in 2000; and received a Meritorious Award from the OHSAA for outstanding service to high school athletics as an official.

Powell was born in Dilles Bottom, and was an outstanding athlete at Bellaire High.

In basketball, he was regarded as one of the premier passers and playmakers in Ohio Valley history, scoring 358 points as a senior while earning all-Ohio, all-Valley, and all- Eastern Ohio accolades.

He also played baseball for the Bellaire Civics and, as a pitcher, he signed with the Pittsburgh Pirates' farm team in Brunswick, Georgia (Georgia State League) in 1954.

He was inducted into the Bellaire High Wall of Fame in 1989.

Powell, a veteran of the U.S. Army, worked at the Martins Ferry plant of Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel and after retiring, was a bus driver for the Martins Ferry City Schools. He was a member of the Purple Rider Booster Club, American Legion Post 38, and the Foresters of Lansing.

He passed away in 2013 at the age of 78, and in his memory Martins Ferry and Bellaire established the Duane Powell Memorial Scholarship Softball Game in 2014.

JOHN POZZINI
(1951)
HALL OF FAME
Class of 1983



All-state football; All-Eastern Ohio

All-American Honorable Mention

ED PRICE
(1972)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1999



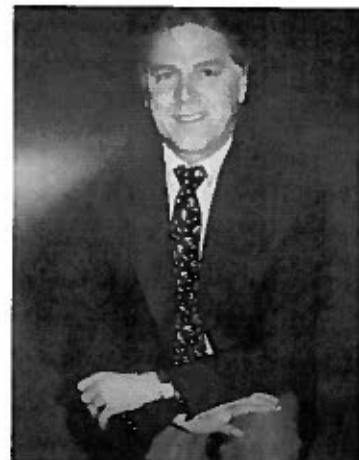
Ed is a 1972 graduate of Bellaire High School. During his high school career, he won eight varsity letters in three sports. As a third baseman in baseball, he earned two varsity letters and served as tri-captain his senior year. Following his freshman and junior years, Ed was selected to the All-District team and received mention on the All-State team. In basketball, he was a two-year letterman. It was in football where Ed gained his most recognition as an outstanding quarterback. He was a three-year letterman and enjoyed much success beginning with his sophomore season. Ed was named to the All-District team, Special Mention All-OVAC, and Honorable Mention All-State after his sophomore year. By the end of his senior season he was Bellaire's all-time passing yardage leader. That year Ed was First Team All-District, Second Team All-Valley, and Honorable Mention All-State. Following graduation, Ed went to Waynesburg College where he played for one year. He currently ranks as the fifth leading passer in school history with 2,352 career yards. Ed resides in Canal Winchester, Ohio, and is vice-president of E. Anthony Price and Associates Telemarketing Company.

JOHN “DIXIE” PURTIMAN

(1959)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1994



Although he participated in cross country, basketball, and track at BHS, John "Dixie" Purtiman graduated in 1959 with his best years ahead of him.

Lettering twice in cross country and track and once in basketball, Purtiman enlisted in the US Navy upon graduation. During his three-year tour, he made the FIBLANT All-Star Basketball team each year. After his discharge he attended Findlay College before returning to graduate from West Liberty State College in 1970.

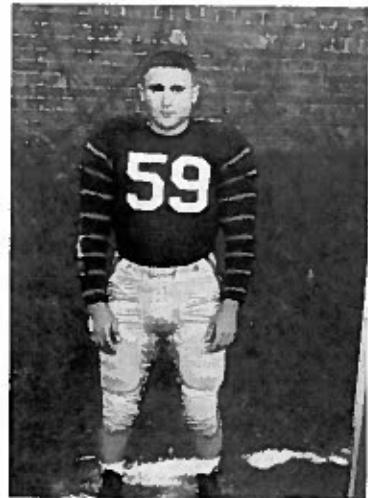
A two-year performer and letterman in cross country, basketball, and track, he received All-Conference accolades his senior year, establishing the school record in the 880 (1:58). He returned to teach at his alma mater in 1972 and took over the track program and leadership of the Bellaire Relays.

In 1979, he started the girls' track program and the following year established the Touchdown Club Invitational. His team won the Shadyside Relays six times, District honors two times, and twice won the OVAC crown.

Receiving Coach-of-the-Year honors in 1978 and 1980, Purtiman coached State finishers Tom Shunk, Vince Mehl, and Mike Chirpas and saw his 1978 shuttle hurdle quartet capture first place honors in the giant Bellaire Relays.

Purtiman retired from coaching in 1981 and was named Honorary Referee of the Bellaire Relays in 1991.

**LEO RAGNI
(1951)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1987**



Lettered two years in football, one year in track; participated in basketball one year

All-Eastern Ohio, All-Valley, All-State

Played in OVAC All-Star football game in 1951

Attended Princeton University, Kent State University, and graduated from Ohio University in 1969

Participated three years in college football

BRYAN RAMSEY

(1987)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1996



A four-year performer in football and track, Bryan Ramsey lettered three years in football and four years in track. His senior year in football, he earned every post-season plaudit you could earn: All-OVAC, All-Valley, All-Eastern Ohio, and All-State. He also served as team captain, and was selected to perform in the OVAC All-Star Football game the summer after graduation.

But it was in track that the weightman made his name. As a discus thrower his senior year, he went into each meet establishing a new standard, setting the school record and the Ohio Valley record of 176'7", a record that still stands today. As in football, he earned All-OVAC, All-Eastern Ohio, and All-Valley honors, ending his career in Columbus at the State track meet where he was the Runner-Up in the State.

Upon graduation, Ramsey enrolled in Kent State where he played two years for the Golden Flashes before returning home to attend Belmont Technical College to study electrical engineering. A member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 141, Ramsey is married to the former Renee Fijalkowski.

Still holds record in football (as of 2025) for:

Highest percentage of field goals made in a season: 70% (1985)

Highest percentage of field goals made in a career: 63% (1983-85)

Kickoff average for a career: 54.3 yards (1983-85)

THOMAS E. RATAICZAK

(1964)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1992



Although he never participated in any organized sports at Bellaire High School, Tom Rataiczak has been actively involved with the athletic department at BHS since he returned to teach in 1968.

Perhaps associated with basketball more than any other sport, he has served as the statistician/scorekeeper for the boys for the past 22 years. During this time he has published an article on basketball statistics in *Scholastic Coach* magazine and has developed, copyrighted, and published two scorebooks/statistic systems. He has been honored to keep the score for the Holiday Basketball Tournament, the Detroit Pistons/Indian Pacers game, and worked the OHSAA Girls' State Basketball Tournament.

Under the tenure of Mark Matz and Gene Ammirante, Rataiczak was responsible for designing the gym floor, pennants, locker room, and record board. For the past five years, he has also served as the statistician for the girls' basketball team.

In 1980, Rataiczak became a member of the OVAC Basketball Classic Board of Directors, and has served as program director/scorekeeper for the past 12 years. Renamed the Samuel A Mumley All-Star Basketball Classic, he also serves as the Secretary /Treasurer of the Board.

Rataiczak has been on the BHS HOF/WOF Committee for 10 years, serving as chairman for the past five years. In this capacity, he was responsible for creating the WOF display in the cafeteria and re-designing/refurbishing the current HOF portraits.

In 1987, along with Dave Liberati and Mike Sherwood, Rataiczak was responsible for creating the Bellaire High School Sports Foundation, Inc. and has served on its Board of Directors since. The Foundation is responsible for overseeing the Claire Cribbs Scholarship, the Football Memorial Scholarship, and the Johnson & Johnson Student/Athlete Scholarship. For the past ten years, Rataiczak has been responsible for all of the high school athletic records. His Media Writing classes maintain the football display, basketball record boards, and the Archives.

A teacher for twenty-five years, he is married to the former Linda Sue Kahl and has two children: a daughter, Sheri McAninch, who currently teaches at First Ward Elementary School, and Terry, a sophomore at Wheeling Jesuit College.

BOB RAUSCHER

(1940)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1993



Bob Rauscher holds the honor of being not only a four-year varsity player but also a four-year varsity letterwinner. Believed to be the first football player to be a four-year letterman, Rauscher was also team captain his senior year.

Acclaimed by many local sportswriters as one of the most rugged fullbacks to play the game, Rauscher helped lead his teams to a 33-6-1 record and three OV AA titles under the direction of Albert "Sleepy" Glenn and John "Butch" Niemiec. At the conclusion of his senior year, he was chosen to play in the first Ohio-West Virginia All-Star game where he was elected team captain.

Although Rauscher never played high school baseball (there was no team) he started playing for the Neffs team in the United Mine Workers League at the age of 15 and was named on numerous All-Star teams. In fact, his baseball prowess at shortstop and third base got him a spot on the Washington Senators from 1940 to 1942.

In the midst of World War II, he enlisted in the Army and served in the South Pacific from 1942 to 1945 and rose to the rank of Sergeant before being discharged.

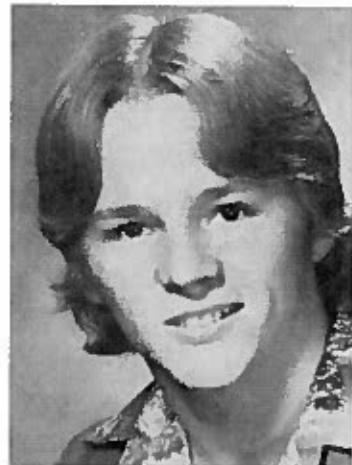
He returned to the Senators for another year. After leaving baseball, Rauscher went to work for Martin-Marietta Aerospace as a tool and die maker before retiring after twenty years.

BRYAN REGOLI

(1976)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1996



Quiet and unassuming off the field, pound-for-pound, B.J. Regoli was one of the most intense, hardest-hitting linebackers to wear the Red and Black. His career was, in part, overshadowed by his linebacking partner, Lance Mehl, who later was All-Pro for the New York Jets.

An all-around athlete, B.J. played three years of football, wrestling, and baseball, earning eight letters. Named team captain in both wrestling and football, he was also selected the Most Valuable Player in the St. John game his senior year.

A tenacious wrestler, Regoli was chosen All-OVAC and All-Eastern Ohio both his junior and senior years. His wrestling talents carried him to West Liberty State College where he wrestled and lettered two years for the Hilltoppers.

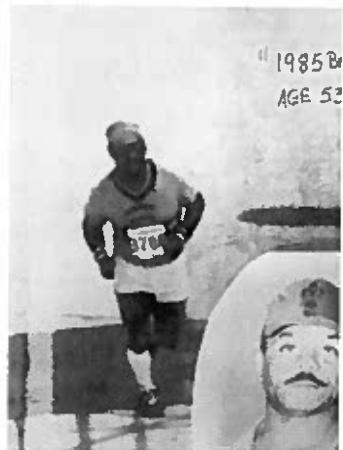
Graduating from WLSC, Regoli lives in North Carolina with his wife, Donna, and two children, Brian and Renee, and works for Whittle Communications.

CHARLES RIEVES

(1951)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1990



Charles Rieves earned a total of nine letters in three sports before graduating from Bellaire High School in 1951. An outstanding athlete, Rieves participated in football, basketball, and track receiving several post-season accolades.

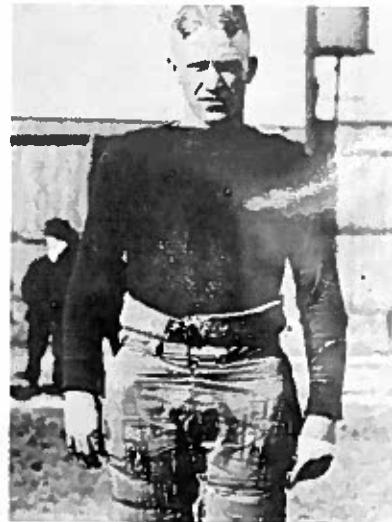
Upon graduation, he attended West Virginia State before entering the Army in March of 1952, a move which was to last for twenty years. Rieves served in the Korean War in 1952 and spent two tours of duty in Vietnam in 1967 and 1971.

While at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, he participated in football in 1956. He retired from the US Army Airborne Rangers in March, 1973, serving as a Green Beret and attaining the rank of Master Sergeant.

During his tenure, he received a Combat Infantry Badge (for 7 major battles in Vietnam), a Master Parachutist Badge, two Bronze Stars, an Air Medal (for 50+ assaults into enemy territory), 5 Army Commendation Medals, and five Honorable Discharges.

Presently residing in Columbus, Rieves is employed by Queen City Barrel, Cincinnati.

CECIL ROBINSON
(1922)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1986



Captain of 1921 football team; halfback

Southeastern Ohio champions

Member of Wienies

Amateur boxer after high school

Many of the early inductees of the Wall of Fame were recommended from the memories of local townspeople. However when an attempt was made to document their accomplishments, little was found. Should anyone be able to add to what we do have, please e-mail tom@theratsnest.org.

TARA ROSEPAPA

(1999)

Wall of Fame

Class of 2013



Graduating in 1999, Tara Rosepapa led the Lady Reds' softball teams to OVAC championships three times: 1996, 1997, and 1999. She was named team MVP all four years of her career as well as being named to the All-OVAC and All-Eastern Ohio teams four times.

Rosepapa was selected All-Eastern District her first three years in high school and made Eastern District Player-of-the-Year her senior year along with a second team All-Ohio award. She was the pitcher on the Eastern District All-Star Team in 1996, 1997, and 1998 and was a three-time OVAC Player-of-the-Year.

She still holds many of the pitching records at Bellaire to this day: most wins in a season (16), most wins in a career (51), most strike-outs in a game (16 v. St. Clairsville), most strikeouts in a season (167), most strikeouts in a career (598), most innings pitched in a game (11 v. Indian Creek), and most innings pitched in a career (500 1/3).

Upon graduation, she went to Marietta College where she served as pitcher and rightfielder. After her sophomore year, Wheeling Jesuit University started their softball program again, so she transferred there for her last two years, playing first base and right field and serving as co-captain her senior year.

BOBBY ROTH

(1996)

Wall of Fame

Class of 2007



Bobby Roth was a three-sport standout at Bellaire where he earned nine varsity letters.

As a freshman, Roth earned his first letter in track. His sophomore year he participated in football, basketball, and track, earning letters in the fall and the spring. His junior year saw the same schedule, adding a letter this time in basketball.

During his final year at Bellaire, Bobby earned three more letters while serving as captain of the football and track teams. In his three years of football, the Reds went 30-5, winning three straight OVAC titles, capping the first perfect 10-0 season, and made their first State playoff appearance ('93) and, two years later, their first State Championship appearance ('95).

During his final football season, he was selected First Team All-Eastern Ohio, Special Mention All-OVAC and All-Valley, and Honorable Mention All-State. He was also named as the Reds' Most Under-Rated Player. Roth still holds the school record for average yards per rush at 7.78 yards, set his junior year. He also collected 237 tackles during his three-year tenure.

Upon graduation, Bobby went to Baldwin-Wallace College, but sat out his freshman year with a shoulder injury. He played and lettered in football the following three years before suffering a tear to the ACL.

Bobby is married to Stacey Silverio ('98) Roth and resides in Lewis Center, Ohio, where he is a high school math teacher and assistant football and track coach for the Olentangy Liberty Schools.

Still holds record in football (as of 2025) for:

Most touchdowns on interception return in a game: 2 v. Wheeling Central
(1994)

JOHN SABINSKI
(1984)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1994



Establishing the All-Time Valley record for the 110M high hurdles in 1984 (14.1 seconds) which still stands today, John Sabinski made a name for himself on the Nelson Field track.

Running track for four years and lettering three, Sabinski received All-OVAC, All-Valley, and All-Eastern Ohio honors both his junior and senior years. During his senior year he established seven meet standards in the 110HH, placed third at the State meet and was named All-State in track. The captain his senior year, Sabinski qualified for the Junior Olympic Nationals in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where he made it into the finals before being eliminated.

He received recognition from The Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Club for his accomplishments in track in 1985.

He attended college in Hagerstown, Maryland, where he received All-Conference honors.

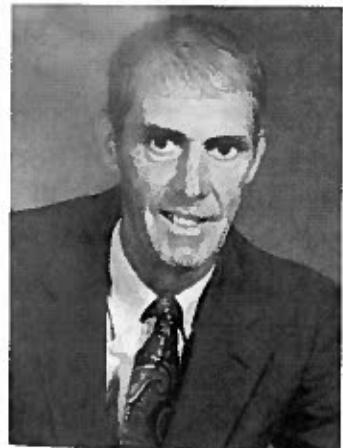
He currently is employed by Rechrome Service, Inc.

RICH SAFFIELD

(1958)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1997



Rich Saffield was definitely a late bloomer as a basketball player. After lettering for only one year under Claire Cribbs, Saffield enrolled at West Liberty.

During his four years there, Rich started and lettered every year. During his junior year and senior seasons, he was selected to the All-Conference Team and the WVIAC All-Tourney team both years. He was West Liberty's leading scorer and rebounder as a junior and senior. He finished his career with 1,572 points, ranking him as the school's 2nd leading scorer at that time. That total currently ranks him as the number five all-time scorer.

Following graduation from West Liberty, Rich made numerous All-Tourney teams in local independent tournaments such as St. Vincent's and the Sistersville Lions Tournaments.

Saffield got into coaching as an assistant at St. John High School and followed that with head coaching jobs at Meadowbrook, Union Local, and Bridgeport.

He has over 200 career victories as a head coach. Rich currently teaches at Union Local High School.

ARNOLD SALVATERRA

(1937)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1988



Arnold Salvaterra, a 1937 graduate of Bellaire High School, lettered in football, basketball, and softball.

He attended the University of Michigan for 1 1/2 years, graduating from The Ohio State University in 1947.

Salvaterra was a member of the freshman football team at the University of Michigan.

Still holds record in football (as of 2025) for:

Most punt return yardage in a season: 336 (1935)

Most punt return yardage in a career: 828 (1934-36)

Arnold "Sal" Salvaterra was born in 1917 and became a three-year starter for the Big Reds. As the signal caller, he led the valley in passing yards both his junior and senior years. A top-academic student, he earned the role of co-captain in 1936 and led his team to the OVAA title as he finished his career with 742 yards passing for 13 scores, 337 yards rushing with 10 six-pointers, and scored 102 total points on his way to a Bellaire Wall of Fame induction.

Salvaterra enrolled at West Nottingham Academy in Maryland before moving up to the football roster for the Michigan Wolverines in 1938. In 1939, he was a halfback as his team faced off against Delmas Dickerhoof's Iowa Hawkeyes in a race for the conference title.

Graduating from The Ohio State University with a degree in marketing, he also served in the Pacific theater during World War II in the U.S. Naval Air Corps as a Lieutenant Senior grade with air transport. Sal worked in insurance while settling in Upper Arlington, Ohio with his high school sweetheart, Mary Lepo, through 68 years of marriage. He passed away in 2014, aged 96.

JOSEPH SALVATERRA

(1926)

Wall of Fame
Class of 1986



Participated in football, receiving multiple All-Star awards

Lettered four years at The Ohio State University in football

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DICK SCHILLER

(1951)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1997



Dick Schiller was an outstanding performer in track and football at Bellaire High School. He was a three year letterman in both sports.

During Dick's junior year, he was selected to the All-OVAC, All-Valley, and All-Eastern Ohio teams in both football and track. As a senior, he helped lead the Big Reds to an OVAC championship in football. Again that year he was selected to the All-OVAC, All-Valley, and All-Eastern Ohio teams in both sports. Schiller added to his honors by being named to the All-State 1st team.

After Bellaire High School, he enrolled, at The Ohio State University where he lettered for one year. Dick also played one year of military ball with the 1954 Fort Monmouth Team.

His work career saw him honored in 1966 with a, recognition award at Sylvania for significant contributions made to scientific and engineering progress. While working for Bellcone (Bell Communications) Research, he received the Distinguished Member of Professional Staff Award in 1985 and the Award of Excellence at Bellcone for outstanding work performance in 1987. He had a distinguished career in telephone systems engineering and telephone operations engineering using advanced computer technologies.

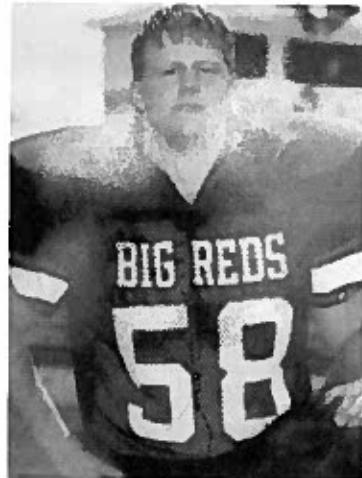
Dick is retired from Bell Communications Research.

BRIAN SECHREST

(1997)

Wall of Fame

Class of 2010



When you talk hard-nosed football at Bellaire, the Sechrest name will always surface in the conversation. A four-year performer in football and wrestling, Sechrest earned seven varsity letters in two sports.

In football, Bubba was a two-way starter who played on the first team to go undefeated (10-0) in 1995. This feat was repeated his senior year. Fans will remember those years as the Big Reds were 13-1, losing the State championship both years. The Big Reds were OVAC champions all four of his high school years.

In his senior year, he was All-District, All-OVAC, and All-State, and later played in the OVAC All-Star Game. Sechrest also was named Honorable Mention as a USA All-American.

On the mat, Sechrest was just as successful. Although he started out slowly his freshman year with a 7-7 record, he improved his sophomore year to 20-10, finishing 6th place in the OVAC and becoming a District qualifier. His junior year saw him earn the OVAC title as 215-pound champion, recording 26 pins on his way to a 28-2 record and another District opportunity.

As a senior, he pinned his opponent 25 times, but fell short of a repeat championship in the OVAC. However, he earned a 3rd place title in the District and was a State qualifier. His 32-4 senior record moved his career total to 87-23.

Still active in the ring, Bubba has fought in the Toughman Contest and is a National Bondo Kick Boxing Heavyweight Champion.

GARY SECHREST

(1965)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1994



Considered by many to be one of the best defensive ends to play at Bellaire High School, Gary Sechrest played three years of football under Don Ault, lettering twice.

At the conclusion of his senior year, Sechrest was named All-OVAC, All-Eastern Ohio, All-District, All-Valley, and special mention All-State. His senior season saw the Reds winning the OVAC championship, a crown that wouldn't be gained again until 1993.

He was also a two-year starter on Coach Claire Cribbs' basketball team.

Selected to represent BHS in the OVAC All-Star game, Sechrest also had stints with two area semi-pro football teams -- the Washington Generals and the Ohio Valley Panthers.

A two-year veteran of the Marine Corps, he served 1-1/2 years in Viet Nam, being cited for bravery during the 1968 Tet offensive in Phu Bi.

Sechrest is credited with starting the seventh grade football program at Bellaire and spent years coaching grade school football and basketball.

He also served as a track official for 20 years, from 1969 to 1989.

Sechrest is an employee of Consolidation Coal.

MIKE SECHREST

(1992)

Wall of Fame

Class of 2007



Earning eight varsity letters in three sports, Mike Sechrest was one of the most versatile athletes to wear the red and black.

As a freshman, he lettered in track. Although he threw the shot and discus, he also played a key role on the 4 x 100 and 4 x 200 relay teams.

His sophomore year, he added football to the list, earning two more letters and All-OVAC honors in track. He repeated this his junior year adding All-Valley and All-Eastern Ohio honors in both sports. Serving as captain of the Big Reds, he again repeated his junior honors, adding All-State and District Defensive Player-of-the-Year.

His senior year, Mike decided to try basketball, and earned three letters his final year.

Upon graduating, Sechrest moved to Ashland University where he played and lettered three years in football. His sophomore year was resigned to special teams before he moved up to starter his junior and senior seasons.

Mike is married to Jenny Sechrest and has two sons: Trace (6) and Colton (4). Sechrest is currently employed at the Belmont Correctional Institute and lives in Bellaire.

Still holds record in football (as of 2025) for:
Best kickoff return average in a career: 27.8 yards (1989-91)

MIKE SECHREST

(1992)

Wall of Fame

Class of 2007



Earning eight varsity letters in three sports, Mike Sechrest was one of the most versatile athletes to wear the red and black.

As a freshman, he lettered in track. Although he threw the shot and discus, he also played a key role on the 4 x 100 and 4 x 200 relay teams.

His sophomore year, he added football to the list, earning two more letters and All-OVAC honors in track. He repeated this his junior year adding All-Valley and All-Eastern Ohio honors in both sports. Serving as captain of the Big Reds, he again repeated his junior honors, adding All-State and District Defensive Player-of-the-Year.

His senior year, Mike decided to try basketball, and earned three letters his final year.

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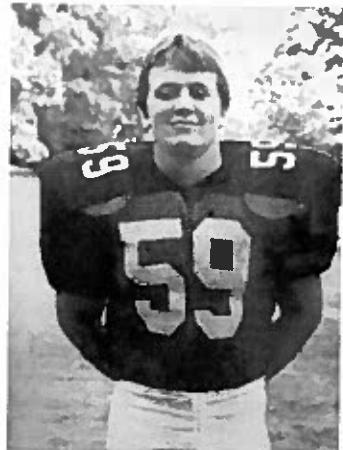
Mike is married to Jenny Sechrest and has two sons: Trace (6) and Colton (4). Sechrest is currently employed at the Belmont Correctional Institute and lives in Bellaire.

DOUG SHAFFER

(1978)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1989



A very versatile athlete, Doug Shaffer, Class of 1978, participated in football, wrestling, and track at Bellaire High School for three years, accumulating 8 varsity letters.

In football, he was awarded post-season honors on the All-OVAC team, All-Valley team, and All-Eastern Ohio team. In addition to receiving the Big Reds Touchdown Club Memorial Scholarship, Shaffer was selected to play in the Ohio North-South All-Star Game in 1978.

On the wrestling mat, Shaffer helped the Big Reds earn two OVAC titles (he was captain his senior year), while being selected All-OVAC, All-Valley, and All-Eastern Ohio his senior year.

In track, Shaffer was a State track meet participant in the 880- and mile-relay. A member of the school record holding 880-relay team and captain of the team, Shaffer earned post-season honors as All-OVAC, All-Valley, and All-Eastern Ohio and was selected to participate in the Cal Giffin Track Classic, highlighting the best trackmen in the Valley. He also had the distinction of being a member of the first place shuttle hurdle relay team at the Bellaire Relays.

Upon graduation, Shaffer enrolled at Waynesburg College where he participated and lettered four years in football and one year in track. Selected All-Conference two years in football and one year in track, Shaffer was also selected as captain and MVP his senior year.

A Dapper Don honoree, Shaffer now resides in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and is employed by the PNC Merchant Banking Company, Pittsburgh National Bank.

GARY SHERMAN

(1959)

HALL OF FAME

Class of 1983



Co-Captain of Bowling Green, 1962; MVP, Most Valuable Lineman, 1962
First Team All-MAC guard/linebacker, 1961, 1962
Named to Doyt Perry's All-Time Bowling Green Team (1966)
Named to the Worldwide All-Army Team (1964) while playing for Fort Sill, OK
Drafted by Cleveland Browns, 1963; Drafted by Boston Patriots, 1963

Gary Sherman played football for Bowling Green State University. He was a two-time All-Mid American Conference All-Star at guard and linebacker, elected co-captain in 1962, and aided the Falcons to two conference titles. His team named him the most valuable lineman.

Reaching 230 pounds, Sherman was drafted by the NFL's Cleveland Browns and the AFL's Boston Patriots. He signed a contract with the Browns, but decided to take a mathematics teaching offer at Bellaire High instead and missed out on Cleveland's 1964 championship.

From 1964-66, Sherman served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army where he played with the team at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and his excellent performance allowed him to earn a spot on the Worldwide All-Army team.

Sherman finished his master's degree from Bowling Green in 1968 and his doctorate in mathematics from the University of Indiana in 1971 with a focus in Algebra. Dr. Sherman became a professor at Bowling Green and Indiana and then joined the faculty at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute. Here he published several papers on mathematics and has received many academic awards by several mathematics societies.

He stayed fit by competing in bicycling and entered the Indiana State Cycling Championship winning the gold medal while setting a new state record in the velodrome and won a bronze medal in the road race.

Sherman was inducted into the Bellaire High Hall of Fame in 1983, and the following year he spoke at the Bippus Banquet. He made Bowling Green's All-time Football team.

EDWARD “PIE” SHERWOOD

(1937)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1987



Two year letterman in football

Second leading scorer in Ohio Valley in 1936

Still holds Valley record for five interceptions in one game against Wheeling

One year letterman in basketball

One year letterman in track where he was District champion in the javelin and shot put and second place in the discus

Attended West Virginia University for one year on a football scholarship

Still holds record in football (as of 2025) for:

Most passes intercepted in game: 5 v. Wheeling (1935)

Ed “Pie” Sherwood starred for the Big Reds football team playing three seasons. At 5'8, 196 pounds, he continued his athletic and academic career at West Virginia University at guard wearing number 49.

His first season was cut short due to injury at a preseason camp in Jackson's Mill. He made the roster again in 1938.

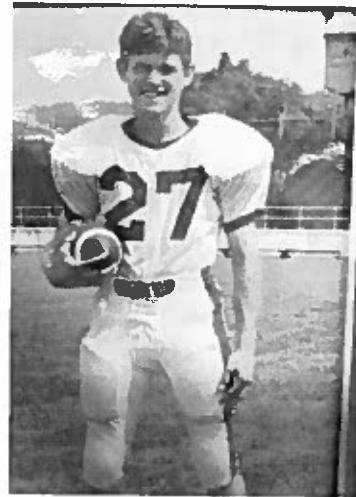
Inducted into the Bellaire High School Wall of Fame, he watched two of his sons receive the same honor. He worked for years at Valley Machine Company in Warwood and was a familiar presence at Nelson Field for football and track events. Sherwood passed away in 1981.

KELLY SHERWOOD

(1971)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1988



Kelly Sherwood graduated from Bellaire High School in 1971 and was a three-year letterman in football, being chosen to the All-OVAC team three years.

He was a member of the All-Valley team two years and the AP-District team two years. He was also chosen honorable mention All-State.

Sherwood held the school record of 40 catches in 1969 and was a three-year letterman in track.

He received a scholarship to Marshall University where he lettered in football his freshman and sophomore years.

Still holds record in football (as of 2025) for:

Most passes intercepted in career: 15 (1968-70)

Most touchdowns on punt returns in career: 4 (1968-70)

Longest punt return: 89 yards v. Martins Ferry (1970)

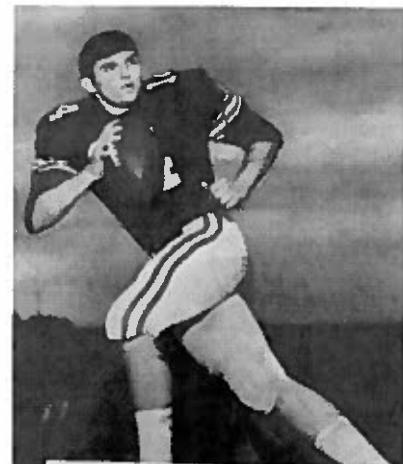
Most touchdowns on kickoff returns in career: 2 (1968-70)

MIKE SHERWOOD

(1967)

HALL OF FAME

Class of 1983



Athletics have always played a major role in Mike Sherwood's life. A 1967 graduate of Bellaire High School, Sherwood was an outstanding athlete who even today holds a few records. He was a two-year starter on the basketball team and a one-year starter on the football team.

Sherwood set a football record for total yards his senior year by gaining over 1,300 yards passing. He also holds the record for his 20 touchdown passes in one season. His senior football team was considered one of the best in Bellaire as they sported a 9-1 record that year.

Sherwood was equally impressive on the basketball court. He set a record of 59 points scored in one game. One of his most memorable games was one against Moundsville his senior year, when the Big Reds scored 118 points. The basketball team went to the District tournaments his senior year before finally being eliminated.

Upon graduating from BHS, Sherwood decided to attend WVU. Because of his size, he pursued a career in football rather than basketball. Sherwood went on to become a standout player his junior and senior years, setting several Mountaineer records, a few of which still stand.

After graduating from WVU, Sherwood served as assistant coach at Waynesburg and Bethany before finally returning to Bellaire to serve as head coach for the Bellaire Big Reds. He served as head coach for four seasons, during which he led the Big Reds to an impressive record of 26-12-2. After coaching, Mike Sherwood assumed the position of Athletic Director at BHS. Currently, he serves as Vice-Principal of Bellaire High School.

He resides in Bellaire with his wife, Pam, and their two children, Kelly and Matt.

Still holds record in basketball (as of 2025) for:
Points in a game: 59 v. St. John (1/14/67)

MARIA SHIPLEY

(Wheeling Park HS, 1978)

Wall of Fame

Class of 2006



Coach Maria Shipley, although graduating from Wheeling Park High School in 1978 and West Liberty State College in 1982, came to Bellaire right out of college and immediately started building a dynasty in volleyball at Bellaire High School.

At Park, Shipley lettered three years in volleyball, basketball, and softball. During her senior season, she made All-OVAC in basketball and softball, and was named All-State honorable mention in basketball.

Earning a degree in physical education at WLSC, Shipley lettered four years in softball and two years in basketball for the Hilltoppers. Although she also coached softball for five years and basketball for two years at Bellaire, it was in volleyball that she established herself.

From 1982 to 1988, her teams posted only three winning seasons, but for the next five years, the Lady Reds were the team to beat. The 1989 squad went 20-4, winning the OVAC and sectional titles and made Bellaire's first district appearance. The following year found the squad 23-2, with another sectional championship and Shipley gaining Coach-of-the-Year honors in the OVAC and District 12.

Another OVAC and sectional championship was added in 1991 with a 19-4 squad, while in 1992, the Lady Reds made Bellaire history again by making their first regional appearance after capturing the sectional and district titles. Once again, Shipley was named OVAC Coach-of-the-Year.

1993 saw the Lady Reds go 23-1, capture the sectional, district, and OVAC titles and conclude the season as the regional semi-finalist. That year, Shipley was recognized as the OVAC and District 12 Coach-of-the-Year and received an award from the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Organization. Shipley ended her volleyball coaching career with a 211-97 record.

Although she retired from coaching, Maria was still very active in area sports, serving as a softball official for 14 years and a volleyball official for 25 years. She is currently entering her 24th year as a physical teacher in the Bellaire Local Schools.

ANDY SIMKO

(1948)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1994



A four-year member of the football team, Andy Simko lettered twice and ended a rather quiet career at BHS.

Upon graduation, he received an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point and an academic scholarship to West Nottingham Prep School.

At West Nottingham, he lettered in three sports, captained the football team, and set the highest scholastic average of any student ever to attend West Nottingham.

From there he moved to West Point, but because of his small stature, he was unable to compete on the varsity level. He did, however, coach and play three years on the Cadets' intramural squad.

Simko served two tours of duty in Viet Nam. On the second tour, while serving as Battalion Commander, 4th Infantry Division, he was killed in a helicopter crash enroute to assisting an engaged company. Simko is buried at West Point.

DICK SKETEL

(1979)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1994



Earning nine varsity letters and contributing to SIX OVAC Championships, Dick Sketel was one of the ultimate competitors.

He ran track for four years at BHS and participated in cross country and basketball three years each.

In cross country, Sketel earned All-OVAC, All-Valley, All-Eastern Ohio, and All-State honors, capping his career by placing 32nd out of seventy runners in the State meet. Leading the harriers to two OVAC titles, he was in the top ten runners 22 out of 25 career races, 10 times being first or second.

In basketball, Sketel was a member of the first team to make it to the Regionals and again anchored two OVAC Championships. A gutty point guard, his unselfish ball-handling allowed him to give out 123 assists, a record that still stands today.

Track found Sketel earning All-Valley honors twice while again garnering two OVAC Championships. In 45 career races, he finished first or second 22 times.

Upon graduation, he attended Ohio University where he ran cross country for the Bobcats his freshman and junior years.

He is employed as an auditor by the State of Ohio.

NICK SKORICH

(1939)

HALL OF FAME

Class of 1983



Nickolas Leonard Skorich was born from the Yugoslav community in Bellaire on June 26, 1921. The second oldest of nine siblings, he went to work early around his school hours to help after his father suffered a disabling injury in the coal mines. Skorich lined up at right tackle for the Big Reds and was part of three-straight conference championships and collected All-Valley honors.

At 5'9", 200 pounds, he earned a scholarship to the University of Cincinnati under assistant coach Bud Bonar, former Reds' signal caller. In 1942, Skorich made captain of an 8-2 team the fell short of a bowl game after a loss to #2 Georgia. The big tackle earned All-American honorable mention.

Skorich was drafted in 1943 with the 157th overall pick by the Pittsburgh Steelers (then the Steagles) of the National Football League but had to wait as his military draft notice came in next. He joined the US Navy during World War II where he attended midshipmen school at Northwestern and received commission as an officer at age 22. Skorich was in the amphibious service for three years and was part of the D-Day invasion of Normandy.

After his service concluded, he rejoined the Steelers wearing number 12 and took the starting guard spot. Against the Chicago Cardinals, he blocked a punt that led to the winning score. During the 1947 season, Skorich was on the first team in franchise history to qualify for the playoffs. That year, he played in their non-league exhibition game on September 6th at Wheeling Island Stadium against the Norfolk Shamrocks in front of his local family and friends. The coach of the Chicago Bears called Skorich the "toughest guard" they met all season. In 1948, the dominating lineman suffered a career-ending injury forcing his retirement. The Steelers headman, Jock Sutherland, stated, "Someday, this young man will be a great coach."

Skorich began the next phase of his journey in the coaching ranks and finished his master's degree at Michigan State University. He took the head job at Pittsburgh Central High School where in four seasons he produced multiple undefeated records and sent future All-Americans to college.

He worked on his doctorate at the University of Pittsburgh and then went to Renassellar Polytechnical Institute. He was named the line coach with his old team, the Steelers, and stayed with the squad for five seasons. He joined the staff of the Green Bay Packers in 1958 before moving the following year to Philadelphia to become the Eagles' defensive coordinator and running backs' coach.

In the 1960 season he became a world champion as the Eagles capped an 11-2 record with a title game win over the Packers. His head coach, Bud Shaw, retired and the position went to Skorich. He led the team to a 10-4 mark the next year, but its was followed by two subpar campaigns and a change in ownership.

The 1964 season he was the defensive coordinator for the Cleveland Browns and won another NFL championship and a runner-up in 1965. After four years he became the offensive coordinator and took the head coach reigns in 1971. In his first season the team went 9-5 winning the AFC Central Division, falling to the Colts in the postseason. He followed this up with a 10-4 record and dropped a tough 20-14 decision losing the lead in the final four minutes to Don Shula's undefeated Miami, the closest score the Dolphins had all year. The Browns missed the playoffs the next two seasons and lost stars to retirement including Leroy Kelly and Gary Collins. Despite Skorich drafting the players that built the successful future for the team (Brian Sipe, Doug Dieken, and Greg Pruitt), he was let go by the longtime, volatile owner Art Model. During his 20 years of coaching, Skorich compiled a cumulative record of 143-117-8 and two championships. He is the only alum from an OVAC-member school to be a head coach in the NFL.

In 1975, Skorich received a call from longtime NFL commissioner Pete Rozelle with an offer to become the Assistant Supervisor of Officials at the league office. This next chapter of his life took 26 years until his retirement at age 80 in 2001. In 1976 the league began experimenting with the idea of instant replay as Skorich oversaw the operation. At the time he believed that they did not have the technology available to process the 12-needed angles to properly view plays on the field. He continued to push for better camera tech well after the system began in 1986. He is also credited with the development of mechanics for umpires on the field, a major change for officials to keep them out of high-traffic areas yet still see the field. When he finished his time in this position, Skorich completed a 50-year career at all levels in the NFL.

His honors include induction into six halls of fame including the Bellaire Athletic Hall of Fame, the initial hall of fame class at the University of Cincinnati in 1977, Dapper Dan Sports, and the Western Pennsylvania Hall of Fame. Skorich passed away in 2004 leaving a legacy unmatched.

Researched by Sean Kennedy '03

PETE SKORICH

(1947)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1988



Pete Skorich, a 1947 Bellaire High School graduate, served as president of his senior class and was chosen to All-Valley, All-Eastern Ohio, and Honorable Mention All-State Teams in football.

In track, he achieved several first place finishes and lettered in basketball.

He attended Michigan State University, California State University, and the University of Redlands. He received a B.S. degree in Business Administration and M.S. degree in Management with a grade point average of 4.00.

At Michigan State University, he participated in football for two years.

Skorich received many honors his senior football season including All-Valley, All-Eastern Ohio, and Honorable Mention All-State. He also starred in track and basketball for the Big Reds. He was captain of the Bellaire Red's cinder team in 1946. That same year he ran a record breaking 4:37 mile in track.

After graduating as senior class president in 1947, he entered the U.S. Army serving as a paratrooper with the distinguished 82nd Airborne Division, finishing with the rank of Sergeant.

He played football for two seasons at Michigan State University as a walk-on, eventually earning a scholarship. This was lost due to an injury sustained during a game. He transferred to Long Beach State University earning his B.S. with a 3.9 GPA and later his M.S. at the University of Redlands with a 3.99 GPA.

He went into a career in the new field of information systems and computers making Director of Information Systems.

JIM SOSTARICH
(1967)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1988



Jim Sostarich is a 1967 graduate of Bellaire High School. He was a three-year letterman in football, achieving first team All-Eastern Ohio two years, first team All-OVAC two years, and was selected to play in the Ohio-West Virginia All-Star game, but could not play because of signing a four-year college scholarship to Marshall University.

Sostarich received a full scholarship to Marshall University and served as co-captain of the freshman football team. He graduated from Marshall University in 1971 with a B.A. in marketing and finance.

WILLIE SPARKSMAN

(1965)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1990



A three-sport standout, Willie Sparksman, Class of 1965, received ten letters in football, basketball, and track, serving as co-captain of the 1964 OVAC Championship football team.

An All-OVAC and All-Eastern Ohio performer his senior year, Sparksman also received Honorable Mention accolades for All-State football. Sparksman helped set the Ohio Valley and Bellaire High School track records in the shuttle hurdle relay, not to the surprise of many, as they also set the freshmen record in the Ohio Valley in 1961.

Upon graduation, he was selected to play in the OVAC All-Star Football game and also performed for the American Legion Post Baseball team in the Ohio Baseball Tournament.

Sparksman played football at West Liberty State College, lettering all three years and serving as co-captain his senior year. But the bulk of his post-high school career has been spent in the U.S. military where he served four years in the USAF Security Police, four years on the USS Vulcan, and twelve years in the US Navy, Intelligence and Data Processing Division, where he is a Petty Officer 2C.

Getting in a little military football, he was selected All-Conference defensive back in the USAF, Atlantic Division, Europe, in 1969.

DREW SPENCER

(2000)

Wall of Fame

Class of 2013



Drew Spencer, Class of 2000, earned seven letters in three sports while wearing the red and black. Serving as captain of both sports his senior year, Spencer also was awarded first-team honors in both sports for All-OVAC, All-Valley, and All-Eastern Ohio. Named to the All-State second team in football, Drew also participated in the All-Ohio All-Star Game.

After graduating, he decided to focus on football and enrolled at Tiffin University to play and letter all four years. For his sophomore, junior, and senior years, he served on the Blackwatch Leadership Council, and, during his senior season, was named team captain.

He earned second team All-Conference accolades his sophomore and junior years, garnering first team honors his final season. Additionally, he was also selected Honorable Special Mention All-American.

Drew currently works for General Nutrition Center and resides in Dublin, Ohio.

MARK SPIGARELLI

(1988)

Wall of Fame

Class of 2000



A 1988 graduate of Bellaire High School, Mark Spigarelli was a very multi-talented athlete who earned seven letters in three sports.

In baseball Mark was a four-year letter winner lettering in 1985, 1986, 1987, and 1988, serving as captain his senior year. In basketball Spigarelli participated during his senior year and was a major contributor to a successful season, culminating with an OVAC championship.

It was in football that Mark is best remembered as a fearless free safety with total disregard for his body. He lettered in 1986 and 1987 and was selected by his teammates to serve as captain in 1987. On defense, Mark has ten career interceptions and nine catches for 120 yards and an offensive touchdown.

Spigarelli received numerous awards and honors his senior year for his aggressive playing style. Mark was selected as the starting free safety in the 1988 OVAC All-Star game. He was also selected Honorable Mention 3A All-Valley, All-Valley "Big School" Special Mention, and Eastern District Honorable Mention.

In 1992 Mark received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from Ohio University and a Master's Degree in Educational Administration from Ohio University in 1997.

Spigarelli is a member of the football coaching staff working with the defensive backs and wide receivers. He also serves as varsity assistant on the Big Reds basketball staff.

He is employed as a special education teacher at Bellaire High School.

Still holds record in baseball (as of 2025) for:
Stolen bases in a game: 4 v. Martins Ferry (1988)

JOE STARY
(1944)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1987



Many of the early inductees of the Wall of Fame were recommended from the memories of local townspeople. However when an attempt was made to document their accomplishments, little was found. Should anyone be able to add to what we do have, please e-mail tom@theratsnest.org.

BRUCE STOLZ

(1967)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1991



Bruce Stoltz was a three-sport performer in football, basketball, and track, earning three letters in football and two each in track and basketball.

As a senior, he earned second team honors on the All-OVAC, All-Valley, and All-Eastern Ohio squads.

Upon graduation, he entered West Liberty State College, where he played four years of football, lettering his junior and senior years. Serving as captain of the Hilltoppers his senior year, Stoltz earned second team All-Conference and honorable mention All-American honors.

After serving as a volunteer assistant in football, Stoltz returned to his alma mater in 1974 to act as assistant football, basketball, and track coach. Stoltz has been credited with establishing the tough defensive football reputation that the Big Reds have enjoyed over his past eighteen years.

However, his success has been established in the Ohio Valley as the head track coach of the Reds, a position he assumed in 1982 and still holds. From 1983 to 1988, his teams racked up 54 consecutive dual meet wins, while capturing six OVAC titles and three District crowns.

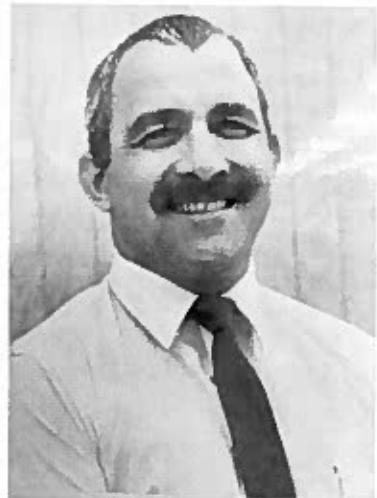
His boys' track teams rewrote the school record books by setting all but three of the old records, while the girls have set all of the current standards. His boys won over seventy individual OVAC titles while the girls have captured over ten first place finishes.

Stoltz has also seen his individual thinclads place in the State over ten times and win the Bellaire Relays over five times. Stoltz also was responsible for seeing Joe Galloway earn two first-place finishes in the State in 1991.

Stoltz also saw some semi-pro football action with the Wheeling Panthers, serving as captain of that squad.

He presently works for the Bellaire City Schools and resides in Bellaire.

JEFF STOLZ
(1970)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1987



Two year letterman in football

Three year letterman in wrestling, serving as co-captain his senior year

OVAC Runner-Up in 1969 and 1970

Sectional and District champion junior and senior year

First wrestler from Bellaire to participate in State wrestling tournament

Graduated from Bethany College in 1974

Received four letters in wrestling, serving as co-captain his junior and senior year

TOMSTRUSSION

(1987)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1993



A four-year participant in football and track, Tom Strussion was an electrifying runner to watch perform.

Earning three football numerals, Strussion established six football records (two still stand) for kickoff returns. During his senior year, he was selected All-OVAC, All-Eastern Ohio, All-Valley, and All-State in football.

In track, Strussion was a force to beat during his four-year tenure. He was a four-year letterman, a four-year All-OVAC performer, a four-year All-Valley nominee, a four-year All-Eastern Ohio choice, and received All-State honors by performing in the State track meet. Strussion still holds the school records for the 100M dash (10.9), the 4 x 200M relay (1:31.8), and the 4 x 400M relay (3:23.4).

Upon graduation, he enrolled at Muskingum College where he participated in football and track for two years, lettering in football once and track twice. A two-year All-Conference designee in track, Strussion holds the school record in the mile relay and two indoor track records: 4x100M relay and 4x200M relay. He was also the 1992 ACC Bounce and Bench Press winner.

During this time, he worked as a campaign manager for State Senator Robert W. Ney, moving up to State Legislative Aid in 1989. In 1992 he became a consultant for the State Senate Election of Ney and just recently opened Strussion Consulting Services, Inc. in Columbus, representing clients before the State legislature in formulating, organizing, and implementing regulatory or legislative strategy to meet the clients' needs.

Still holds record in football (as of 2025) for:

Most kickoff returns in a game: 5 v. Wintersville (1985)

Most kickoff returns in a career: 32 (1984-86)

ALYSON TAYLOR

(1994)

Wall of Fame

Class of 2010



Four OVAC championships in volleyball, two District championships, four Sectional championships, two Regional appearances, three undefeated seasons. Not too shabby for a career.

A four-year starter in volleyball and softball, Taylor held twelve school records in the two sports. She was also a three-year starter in basketball, and co-captained all three sports her senior year.

Alyson was named to numerous All-Valley, All-OVAC, and All-Eastern District teams in three sports, earning an OVAC Player-of-the-Year in volleyball and an Eastern District Player-of-the-Year in softball.

An invited walk-on at The Ohio State University in volleyball, she was one of two who made the team out of fifty-one candidates. She was a member of the 1994 Lady Buckeye team that went 31-2, losing the championship to Long Beach State. That year she earned All-Big Ten honors.

When OSU decided to go bigger to win national championships, Alyson transferred to Muskingum College and served as captain for two years. She still holds numerous records on teams that went 128-23 during her career. The Lady Muskies were two-time Ohio Conference Champions and Midwest Regional Champions, losing in the Final Eight to UC San Diego.

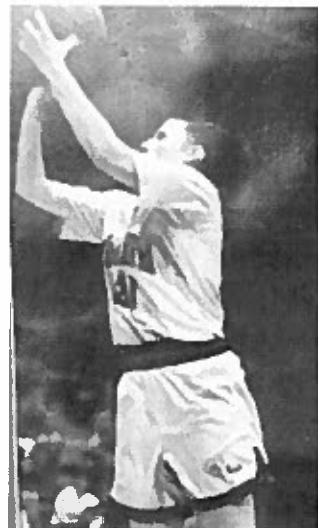
Alyson completes the family of inductees, joining sister Amy, Class of 1992 (WOF '97) and Ben, Class of 1997 (HOF '05).

AMY TAYLOR

(1992)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1997



Amy Taylor earned 11 letters at Bellaire High School while participating in volleyball, softball and basketball. During her freshman year she participated in all three, earning a letter in volleyball and softball. As a sophomore and junior she earned letters in all three sports.

Amy's senior season saw her serve as captain in all three sports as well as being the team MVP in all three. She was selected to the All-Valley 1st Team in volleyball and softball, All-OVAC 1st Team in volleyball, softball, and basketball, 1st Team All-Eastern Ohio in volleyball, basketball and softball, 2nd Team All-Valley in basketball and Honorable Mention All-State in volleyball, basketball and softball. She played in the OVAC All-Star games for both volleyball and softball. She was a District 12 All-Star in volleyball, basketball, and softball.

Amy chose to attend Muskingum College where she was a four-year performer in basketball. She earned three letters and served as team captain her junior and senior years. As a junior, she was Honorable Mention All-Ohio Athletic Conference Academic Team and 1st Team All-Ohio Athletic Conference Academic Team as a senior.

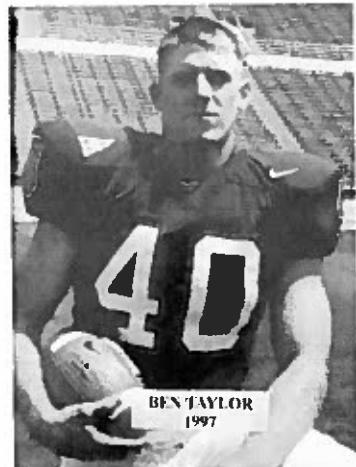
Taylor was presented with the "Dedication to Sport Award" by Muskingum. Amy was a Cum Laude graduate with a triple major in English, Secondary Education, and Elementary Education. She is currently a 10th grade English teacher and the head coach for girls' basketball at Wynford Local High School.

BEN TAYLOR

(1997)

HALL OF FAME

Class of 2005



There's tough, and then there's the way this Big Reds' all-Ohioan played throughout his career. It didn't matter what side of the ball, Ben Taylor was heavily involved in the success of the Big Reds' football program in the mid-1990s.

During Taylor's career, in which he earned three letters, the Big Reds compiled a 35-3 record. Two of those three losses came in the Ohio Division IV State Championship Game. During those seasons, Taylor saw time at line-backer, safety, and wide receiver for Coach John Magistro's squad. Taylor, who was a first team all-Ohioan and a "Mr. Football" finalist as a senior, finished his career with 348 tackles and 12 interceptions on defense. He was also a mainstay in the passing game, catching 130 passes for 1,679 yards and 12 touchdowns in his career. He was also an outstanding punter.

He also owns the Bellaire single-season record for receptions in a season (70) and career. His career tackle number ranks third in Bellaire history and his 192 tackles in a season ranks second. His receiving yardage is fourth. Taylor was chosen for the Ohio North- South All-Star Game and was chosen as a team captain. He also took part in the OVAC All-Star Game and captained that squad.

He landed a scholarship at Virginia Tech and shined for four years. The Hokies were 39-9 during Taylor's career in Blacksburg. En route to being named a semifinalist for the Butkus Award, which goes to the nation's premier collegiate linebacker, Taylor recorded 318 tackles and seven career sacks. He was twice named all-American and all-Big East. After finishing the regular season undefeated in 1999, Taylor and the Hokies (who had Michael Vick at quarterback) played in the Sugar Bowl for the BCS National Championship against Florida State. The Hokies lost, 46-29. Taylor was chosen for the East-West Shrine Game after the 2001 season.

He was then drafted in 2002 by the Cleveland Browns in the fourth round. He spent four seasons at linebacker with the Browns and then signed with the Green Bay Packers in 2006, but injuries ended his professional playing career. All told, he recorded 218 career tackles in the NFL and had one interception.

Along with Taylor's football abilities, he was a member of two OVAC Championship basketball teams coached by OVAC Hall of Famer Gene Ammirante. The 1997 Big Reds' hoop squad won the district title. Taylor also played baseball early in his prep career and then ran track as a sprinter.

Still holds record in football (as of 2025) for:

Most passes caught in a season: 70 (1995)

Most batted down passes in a game: 3 v. Martins Ferry (1996)

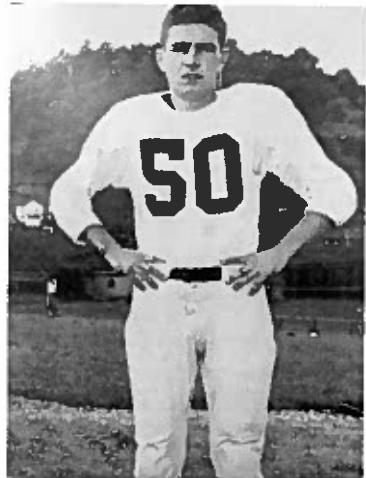
SAM TEDESCHI
(1947)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1985



Sam Tedeschi has been an active member of the Big Reds Touchdown Club for 33 years and has served as an officer for 13 of those years, including 8 years as club president.

He has served as honorary referee for the 1983 Bellaire Relays and has been given a lifetime membership to the Touchdown Club.

JAMES TEKELY, SR.
(1952)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1988



James Tekely, Sr. was a 1952 graduate of Bellaire High School where he was a four-year letterman in track, serving as co-captain his senior year.

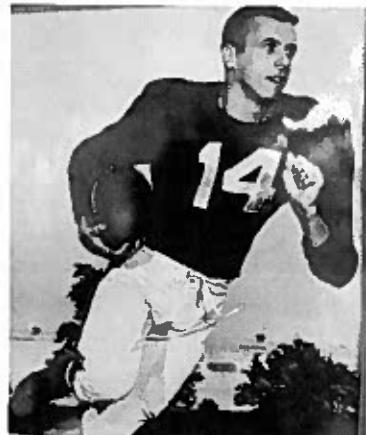
He was also a three-year letterman in football, serving as co-captain. In addition, Tekely was a one-year letterman in baseball and was All-Valley and All-District in track.

BILL THOMAS

(1952)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1987



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

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

He received the OVAC Cal Giffin Award for service to track and field in 1983; was honorary referee at the Bellaire Relays in 1996; and was honored again during the 50-year celebration of the famed Bellaire meet in 2004.

The former Bellaire High athletic great is a member of the school's Wall of Fame.

Thomas attended 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.

CLYDE THOMAS
(1958)
HALL OF FAME
Class of 1989



Spending most of his life in the Ohio Valley, Clyde Thomas, Class of 1958, has made a career of entertaining and helping Valley residents.

At BHS, Thomas played basketball for four years and football for three years, lettering three years in both sports and serving as captain of both his senior year.

Post-season football honors saw him earning berths on the All-OVAC team and All-Eastern Ohio team in both sports his senior year. Selected Most Valuable player in both sports, he played in the North-South Basketball Game, and the Ohio-West Virginia All-Star Football Game.

Upon graduation, Clyde played football for two years at Ohio University, being chosen All-Conference his junior year and having the honor of being on the 1960 National Champion Bobcat team.

A veteran of the US Army, Thomas entertained fans for ten years in semi-pro and pro football, seeing action with the British Columbian Lions of the Canadian League, the Philadelphia Eagles of the NFL, and most memorably, the Wheeling Ironmen of the Continental League, where he was the leading rusher, leading kick-off returner, and most valuable player.

Thomas was also honored by the Bellaire-Shadyside Tribute to Professional Athletes.

A resident of Wheeling, he is an EEO officer for the Northern Panhandle Private Industry Council and has served as the Vice-Mayor or City Councilman of Wheeling for the past 18 years.

JIM "SHAG" THOMAS

(1942)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1993



Jim "Shag" Thomas never intended to spend his football career in obscurity. It just happened that way.

Only a second stringer at Bellaire under John "Butch" Niemiec, Thomas didn't see the starting eleven until the fifth game of his senior season, but his performances from there on earned him a spot on the 1942 Ohio All-Star team.

That fall, he enrolled at Wilberforce and earned a letter his freshman year, but like so many others of that time, he entered the service after the season. Three years later, he went to Ohio State as a walk-on and made the Buckeye squad.

During the '46 season, he only saw action in one game. He left school in '47, but returned in '48 to see some action in three games but still received no letter.

A powerfully-built man with considerable speed and strength, most coaches considered him too short to withstand the punishment of a Big Ten lineman. During his senior year, he again rode the oak for the first three games but got his first big break against undefeated Minnesota as he shut down the middle against the powerful Gophers. From there, each game got better. He ended the season with an outstanding game against Michigan and accompanied the Buckeyes to the Rose Bowl to play California.

After the season ended, Thomas received honorable mention on the UPI All-American team, was selected by the players for the All-Stadium team, and received a trophy from a Toledo radio station as the outstanding Buckeye lineman. But his most prized award was the OSU letter he received at the fall sports banquet.

After college, Thomas spent several years on the professional wrestling circuit as "King Toby."

Born in Stewartsville in 1924, Shag Thomas did not make his first start until the fifth game of his senior season but it was enough to earn a spot on the 1942 Ohio squad of the Ohio Valley All-Star Game.

After graduation, he played one season at historic Wilberforce College before entering the service in the Second World War. After three years Thomas entered

Ohio State and qualified for the Buckeyes team as a walk-on. Despite his speed and strength, many coaches thought he was too short (5'7) to withstand other Big Ten linemen. He played in one game in 1946 and three more in 1948.

During the 1949 series he did not get onto the field until the fourth contest against the undefeated Minnesota Gophers. He proved his talent by holding the center against the nation's best. He finished the season with the starters including an impressive game against Michigan and played in the Rose Bowl victory over California. He earned honorable mention from the UPI All-American team. He also received All-Stadium honors by his team and a trophy from a radio station in Toledo as an outstanding Buckeye lineman. At the fall banquet, he finally received his first varsity letter.

After OSU, the 225-pound Thomas signed a contract with the NFL's Green Bay Packers on July 21, 1950. This proved significant as he and his Ohio State teammate, Jim Clark, were the first African Americans ever to sign a deal with the Packers' organization as before former co-owner and coach Curly Lambeau refused to hire non-white players. Both played throughout the long preseason but they were cut on September 7th before the regular season began.

Thomas tried out for the CFL Montreal Alouettes but did not make the final roster. He later became a professional wrestler on a national circuit under the name "King Toby" during the 1950s and 1960s. One of the few African American wrestlers at the time due to segregation in many places in the country, Thomas gained fame in the NWA Pacific Northwest Territory under promoter Don Owen, who refused to separate his wrestlers by race. Thomas won the Pacific Northwest Heavyweight Championship twice and the Tag Team title a total of 16 times. He appeared on television in April 1957 winning the NWA "Beat the Champ" title. He also won two NWA Stampede Tag Team titles. He was known for his headbutting in the ring, with a promoter, Dean Silverstone, saying they thought that Thomas was so tough that he must have played football without a helmet. After winning his final match in 1969, he began refereeing tournaments for Owens on Portland television. He made a return as a wrestler from 1972-1976 before again retiring.

He finished his education at the University of Oregon and opened a bar, Shag's Arena. He taught at a high school in Portland until he passed away from a heart attack in 1982 at age 57. Bellaire High School inducted Thomas into its Wall of Fame in 1993.

MISSY TIBER

(1990)

HALL OF FAME

Class of 2011



From the first time she stepped onto the floor at BHS, you could tell that Missy Tiber was a competitor. Playing four years for the Lady Reds and lettering three, Tiber was a three-time All-Valley honoree, a two-time All-Eastern Ohio performer, and was selected Second Team All-OVAC her senior year. Serving as team captain, she was selected to play in the OVAC All-Star Basketball Game after graduation.

From there, she went to Muskingum College where she played basketball for one year before transferring to West Liberty State College. A three-year performer, a three-year letterwinner, a two-year captain, and a one-year All-Conference honoree, Tiber received the WVIAC George Springer Sportsmanship Award, made the WVIAC All-Tournament Team, was selected MVP of the Hilltoppers, and was a major contributor on the 1994 team that set the school record for wins in a season with 18. The intense "do everything" Tiber played four different positions for the Lady Toppers her senior year and led the Hilltoppers in scoring and three-point field goal percentage, while finishing second in field goal percentage, rebounds, and steals. She finished her career ranked in the top ten players in career scoring, rebounding, and assists. Tiber served as a volunteer assistant for one year, and was recently promoted to the school's head volleyball coach and assistant women's basketball coach.

Tiber is currently Head Coach for Southern Illinois **Salukis** women's basketball. The former Head Coach at Tusculum College and Belmont Abbey College (167-70), Tiber is "a proven winner, a respected recruiter, known for building programs from the ground up."

Her SI's 2011 class was ranked 36th in nation by ESPN (4th of all teams from mid-major schools)

WARREN TIMBERLAKE

(1931)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1987



Timberlake played center on the basketball team, being very adept under the basket.

Many of the early inductees of the Wall of Fame were recommended from the memories of local townspeople. However when an attempt was made to document their accomplishments, little was found. Should anyone be able to add to what we do have, please e-mail tom@theratsnest.org.

JOHN TOBIN
(1918)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1985



John Tobin served as captain of the 1917 football team and holds the school record with the most touchdowns in one game with seven and for a career total of 34 touchdowns. He was also an outstanding track and basketball participant.

Tobin graduated from Grove City College where he played football and baseball.

Still holds record in football (as of 2025) for:

Most touchdowns responsible for in game: 7 v. Barnesville (1916)

Most touchdowns in a game: 7 v. Barnesville (1916)

JOHN TSCHAPPAT

(1916)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1985



Captain of 1915; played guard
Played tackle at West Virginia Wesleyan

Born in 1896, standing 5' 10" and weighing 180 pounds, John C. Tschappat, Jr. starred for the Red and Black on the gridiron for four seasons and received the honor of captain during his senior year.

He was of considerable music talent performing in the school's orchestra and glee club during his time.

He played football at West Virginia Wesleyan College in 1916, spending two years with his former high school quarterback, Ernest Beck. In 1917 they stunned the football world as they walloped West Virginia University where Tschappat made an interception. He was named in Walter Camp's Spalding's Official Foot Ball Guide to the All-West Virginia team during his final season.

He continued his education in chemistry at The Ohio State University before the outbreak of World War I. Tschappat served in the United States Army Medical Division from June 1918 to March 1919.

In the early days of professional football of the Ohio League, he served as the line coach for the Bellaire Athletic Association team during the 1919 season while working as a boilermaker.

In 1921, Tschappat played the tackle position for the Dayton Triangles of the American Professional Football Association (the second regular season of the NFL). After his football career, he earned his medical doctorate and became a dentist in Bellaire.

He passed away in 1958 at age 61 and received a posthumous induction into the Bellaire Athletic Wall of Fame.

PETE TUCCIO

(1946)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1990



A late bloomer in high school, Pete Tuccio, Class of 1946, played football all four years in high school, and ran track his junior and senior year, yet only accumulated two varsity letters.

Upon graduation, he entered West Liberty State College where he played and lettered all four years and was selected captain his senior year. A unanimous All-Conference choice in the S.I.C. Conference in 1950, Tuccio also received Honorable Mention All-American his senior year. He held the West Liberty and S.I.C. Conference rushing record of 296 yards in one game.

Upon graduation, he entered the United States Air Force, serving in the Korean War, and achieving the rank of First Lieutenant.

Tuccio also served as head basketball coach at Carl Hayden High School in Phoenix, Arizona, from 1962 to 1981, and was selected Phoenix Coach-of-the-Year in 1971.

Tuccio was recently honored by his college alma mater by being inducted into the West Liberty State College Hall of Fame.

CHARLES TURNER

(1962)

HALL OF FAME

Class of 1991



Charlie Turner was a 1962 graduate of Bellaire High School where he was an outstanding athlete in football, basketball, and track. In addition to lettering three years in each, Turner placed in the State track meet his senior year.

Upon graduation, Turner enrolled at Ohio University where he was a four-year performer at both the defensive and offensive end position. While at OU, he received All-Mid American Conference honors as a defensive end.

Turner later played professional football for the Edmonton Eskimos of the Canadian Football League where he received All-Pro Lineman honors for eight years. In 1975, he was awarded the Schenley Most Outstanding Lineman-of-the-Year. That same season, he received the Becket Demarco Trophy for the Most Outstanding Lineman. In 1973, Turner was voted the CFL Players' Association Lineman-of-the-Year. The following year he was selected Mac Truck Lineman-of-the-Year.

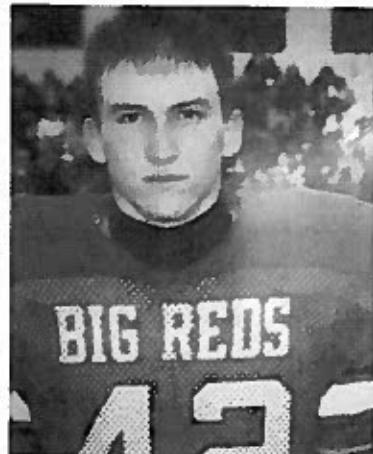
Turner resides in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

SHAWN VALLORIC

(1994)

Wall of Fame

Class of 2010



A standout in football and track, Shawn Valloric earned seven letters in his four years at BHS, three in football and four in track, serving as team captain of both sports his senior year.

In football, he earned All-OVAC, All-Valley, All-Eastern Ohio, and All-State honors his senior year. He wrote his name in the record books on three occasions: longest catch, an 83-yarder from current Coach Jose' Davis against Linsly (which has since been broken), and most kickoff returns for a touchdown for the season and career, both which still stand today.

However it was on the oval that Valloric earned his reputation. All-OVAC for four years, All-Eastern Ohio for three years, All-Valley for two years, and a seventh place finisher at the giant State track meet, Shawn was a member of the first team in BHS history to win the Regional Championship. His junior year found him an OVAC champion in both the 100M dash and the 110M High Hurdles.

From BHS, Valloric moved to Otterbein College where once again he earned four letters. Serving as captain his junior and senior years, he was All-Conference in track for three years.

Valloric returned to his alma mater upon graduation to teach and coach, and currently serves as the track coach for the Big Reds' boys and girls.

Still holds record in football (as of 2025) for:

Most touchdowns on kickoff returns in a season: 2 (1993)

Most touchdowns on kickoff returns in a career: 2 (1991-93)

STEVE VALLORIC
(1923)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1988



Steve Valloric was a member of the Bellaire High School football and basketball teams in 1921, a year in which they were undefeated under Coach Galbraith.

He played quarterback and was the 12th man on the squad. In 1922, Valloric quarterbacked the team, calling signals from an end position.

He served as athletic director at St. John Central High School in Bellaire from 1945-1975.

KELLY VAN DYNE

(1914)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1985



Known as the “German Star,” VanDyne played one year of basketball and three of football for Bellaire. For his work on the gridiron, he was named to the *Intelligencer* All-Scholastic Eleven during his senior year. He also started at center for the basketball team. In academics, VanDyne focused on business, was named the business manager of the *Beljuan* staff and received election as senior class president.

He continued his playing and education at The Ohio State University. He was the starting center for the Buckeyes on their first conference championship (Western) in 1916, including the school’s first victory over Michigan. They repeated with a conference title in 1917 as Van Dyne was named a First Team All-American on the 8-0-1 team.

The following year VanDyne enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Force with his Buckeye teammate and superstar Chic Harley during the First World War.

Researched by Sean Kennedy '03

AMBER VAVREK
(1999)
Wall of Fame
Class of 2011



Cross Country, track, basketball all four years at Bellaire
All-OVAC, All-Valley, All-Eastern Ohio in cross country for three years
Ohio Northern University cross country and track four years (lettered all four)
First ONU athlete to qualify in the 500, 800, 1000, and 5,000 in one season
Earned Doctor of Pharmacy degree (currently pharmacist at Krogers)

ASHLEY VAVREK

(2006)

Wall of Fame

Class of 2011



Leading scorer for Lady Reds' basketball with 2,036 points
All-Ohio 1st Team as senior; candidate for Ohio's Ms. Basketball honors
Played four years at Fairmont State University
(started EVERY game last three years)
Sixth leading scorer in FSU women's basketball (1,563 points)
Currently in second year of Physician Assistant Program at Marietta College

Still holds record in basketball (as of 2025) for:

Field goals attempted in a game: 42 v. St. Clairsville (11/19/04)

Field goals made in a game: 23 v. St. Clairsville (11/19/04)

Three point field goals made in a game: 7 v. St. Clairsville (11/19/04)

Free throws attempted in a game: 24 v. John Marshall (12/18/04)
24 v. Shenandoah (1/22/05)

Free throws attempted in a season: 239 (2005)

Free throws made in a game: 21 v. John Marshall (1/29/04)

Free throws made in a season: 182 (2005)

Free throws made in a career: 399 (2003-06)

Free throw percentage in a career: 74% (399/538) (2003-06)

Consecutive free throws in a game: 12 v. Shenandoah (2/18/05)

Consecutive points in a game: 21 v. St. Clairsville (11/19/04)

Points in a career: 2,036 (2003-06)

Scoring average in a season: 29.95 (2005)

Most games over 20 points: 18 (2005)

Best back-to-back games: 45 v. St. Clairsville (11/19/04)
28 v. River (11/22/04)

KACIE VAVREK

(2002)

HALL OF FAME

Class of 2007



Three sports; four years; twelve varsity letters. Not bad. But Kacie Vavrek was far from your typical high school athlete.

In volleyball, Kacie played four years, earning All-OVAC honors her junior and senior years and serving as captain her senior year. In basketball, it was easy to see as a freshman that Vavrek would be one of the greats.

As a sophomore, she made All-State, Honorable Mention. During her junior and senior years, she was All-OVAC, All-Eastern Ohio, Eastern District Player-of-the-Year, and First Team All-State.

Serving as captain her senior year, Vavrek still holds school records for most assists in a game (12), game free throw percentage (11/11), most assists in a season (104), and is second in girls' career points with 1,631 (ranking behind her sister, Ashley).

Spring was no different for Kacie as she quickly made a name for herself at Nelson Field's oval. In her freshman and sophomore years, she placed at the State meet in the 100M hurdles and the high jump, earning her All-State honors. Her junior year, she punched her ticket into the BHS HOF by winning the 100M hurdles, placing fourth in the 300M hurdles, and competing in the high jump and 4 x 400M relay.

Her senior year, she repeated her championship and added a title in the 300M hurdles. She was 5th in the high jump and again competed in the 4 x 400M relay.

Upon graduation, Kacie enjoyed a full scholarship to Kent State University where she competed for four years on the women's basketball team. She helped lead the Golden Flashes to the MAC runner-up titles her junior and senior years. Vavrek just recently graduated with a degree in nutrition and has been accepted into graduate school at Ohio University.

Still holds record in basketball (as of 2025) for:

Field goals attempted in a career: 1,464 (1999-2002)

Field goals made in a career: 610 (1999-2002)

Free throw percentage in a game: 100% (11/11) v. John Marshall (2/4/02)

Still holds record in basketball (as of 2025) for:

Points in a quarter: 22 (11/29/01)

Scoring average in a career: 18.53 (1999-2002)

Most games over 20 points: 18 (2001)

**JOE VEVERKA
(1931)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1987**



Born of Bellaire's Czech community, Joe Veverka played fullback for the Big Reds. In track, he was part of a sectional championship. He broke the sectional meet record in the javelin and placed at the state meet in Columbus.

Originally set to attend Notre Dame, Veverka instead headed south to play football for North Carolina State joining two other Bellaire natives, Jake Mahoney of Linsly and Danny Pilosino of St. John Central.

Later, Bellaire's Mac Cara and Roger Mass joined for the Wolfpack as four players from the All-American Town led the team.

Researched by Sean Kennedy '03

HENRY WAGNER

(1917)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1985



Attended Mount Union College, serving as captain of football team

Outstanding basketball player

Worked as football official in the Ohio Conference

Still holds record in football (as of 2025) for:

Most points in a game: 50 v. Barnesville (1916)

Most extra point attempts in a game: 15 v. Barnesville (1916)

Most extra points made in a game: 14 v. Barnesville (1916)

Consecutive extra points in a game: 11 v. Barnesville (1916)

Most points kicking in a game: 14 v. Barnesville (1916)

Many of the early inductees of the Wall of Fame were recommended from the memories of local townspeople. However when an attempt was made to document their accomplishments, little was found. Should anyone be able to add to what we do have, please e-mail tom@theratsnest.org.

FRANCIS WALLACE

(St. John, 1911?)

Wall of Fame

Class of 2025



Born in 1894 to Irish immigrants, Francis Wallace graduated from St. John Central High School in Bellaire before attending the University of Notre Dame, where he worked closely with legendary coach Knute Rockne.

Wallace went on to become a nationally acclaimed sportswriter, novelist, Hollywood screenwriter, and lecturer, publishing 17 books and producing iconic works for film and television. He created the famous *Pigskin Preview* (1937–1956), widely known as the nation's "Football Bible," and became a familiar voice as a commentator for CBS football broadcasts.

Most importantly for Bellaire, in 1929 Wallace coined the title "The All-American Town" in a New York newspaper article celebrating the remarkable number of athletes the community had produced for major colleges across the country. The name stuck and has defined Bellaire's identity for generations.

Wallace's career achievements and his proud representation of his hometown embody the spirit of the Wall of Fame. Though not a Bellaire High School graduate, his legacy and his words forever link him to the tradition of the Big Reds.

CHARLES WARD

(1986)

HALL OF FAME

Class of 1992



Although he tried his hand at basketball his freshman year, Charlie Ward quickly discovered his greatest success was in running, as he earned eight varsity numerals during his four-year career in cross country and track.

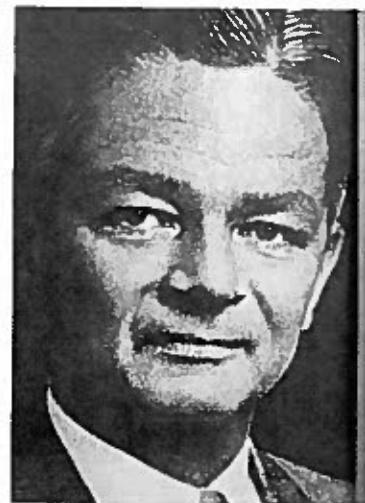
Chosen as team captain in both sports for both his junior and senior years, Ward gained post-season honors in both sports as All-OVAC, All-Valley, All-Eastern Ohio for both his final years. During his senior season, he was selected as captain of the All-Valley track team. A two-time State performer in both sports, he gained a 6th and 3rd place finish in track, and a 6th and 10th place finish in cross country.

In high school, he held the school and Valley records in the 1600M run (4:16.85) and 3200M run (9:24.92). Selected Most Outstanding Athlete in the 1986 OVAC Track Meet, Ward also received MVP cross country honors at BHS his sophomore, junior, and senior seasons.

Upon graduation, he enrolled at Marshall University where he ran and lettered in both cross country and track all four years. Selected as captain of the cross country team his junior and senior seasons, and tri-captain of the track team his senior year, Ward received All-Conference recognition his freshman year in cross country (9th place), his sophomore year in indoor track (3rd in the 4 x 400), and his junior year in cross country (8th).

He helped set the Marshall University record in the 4 x 1500M relay and had the following personal bests: 1500M run (3:55), 300M Steeplechase (9:16.77), 5.000M run (15:16), and 10,000M run (32:16).

FRED WASSMAN
(1916)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1985



Played halfback on 1917, 1918 teams

Attended University of Michigan

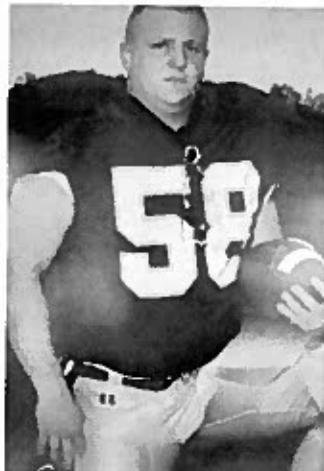
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JOSH WEBER

(1996)

Wall of Fame

Class of 2007



In three years, Josh Weber helped anchor perhaps the best offensive line ever to play at Nelson Field. As a sophomore, he played in the Reds' first playoff game, and two years later played for the State title, losing a double overtime thriller to Versailles, 44-50. Weber's record for three years was 30-5, including three straight OVAC championships. Weber played football and track for three years at Bellaire, earning five letters and serving as captain his senior year. The post-season honors grew each year. All-Valley Honorable Mention as a sophomore, All-OVAC, All-Valley, and All-Eastern Ohio as a junior. Then All-OVAC (first team), All-Valley (first team), All-Eastern Ohio (first team), and All-State (special mention).

Upon graduation, he went to Allegheny College, where he played football all four years, lettering his sophomore and senior seasons. He sat out his junior year with a broken foot.

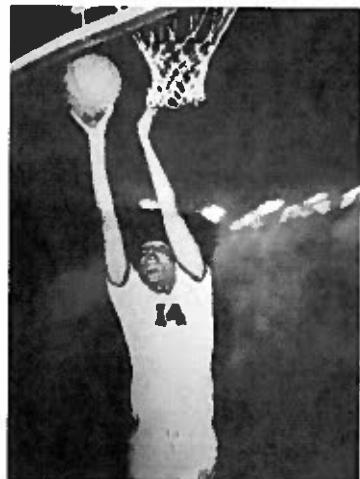
In 2000, he enrolled at The Ohio State University School of Law, graduating in 2003. He has been practicing law for four years, the past two years with The Law Office of Charles Mifsud in Columbus.

JOHN WILKES

(1957)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1999



John is a 1957 graduate of Bellaire High School. He has the unique distinction of being the first basketball player in the school's history to be a four-year starter and letterman. John was also an offensive and defensive end in football where he earned one letter. As a junior, he was named to the All-OVAC, All-Valley, and All-Eastern Ohio basketball teams. During the 1956-1957 season, he was selected as the team captain and averaged 24.9 points per game. John was once again selected to the All-OVAC, All-Valley, and All-Eastern Ohio teams. He was also an Honorable Mention All-Ohio honoree and was selected to play in two post-season all-star games. Despite playing a different position each year, he led the Big Reds in rebounding and certainly would be one of the school's all-time leading rebounders had those records been kept at that time. Prior to the 1957 season, he was selected by both **Street and Smith** and **Dell Magazine** as one of the top fifty school players in Ohio. At the end of his career, he was only the second player in school history to have scored 1,000 points. John is still the school's fifth leading career scorer with 1,157 points. Following graduation, John was a familiar face on the local semi-pro teams. He played five years with the Cleveland All-Stars and ten years locally with WHLL. John resides in Bellaire and is employed at the Yorkville Plant of Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel.

LARRY WILLIAMS
(1927)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1986



Outstanding halfback who never lost a game at Bellaire High School

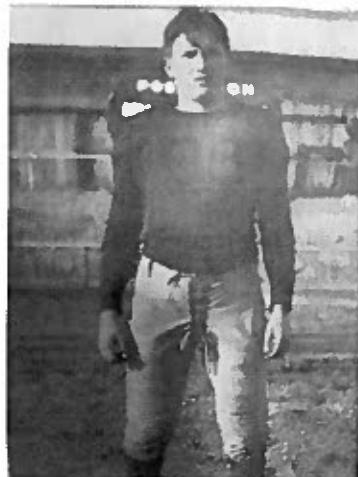
OVAA champions each year

Attended The Ohio State University

Died in World War II during Normandy invasion at St. George D'Elle, France

Enshrined in OSU Highest Roll of Honor

FLOYD WITCHHEY
(1937)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1997



Floyd Witchey was an outstanding offensive lineman from 1933 -1936. Floyd lettered for four years and served as the team captain his junior and senior seasons. He was selected 1st Team-Valley and 1st Team OVAA in his junior and senior seasons. He was chosen to the All-State Team as a senior.

The 1936 team was OVAA champions and scored 248 points to their opponents' 32 points.

Due to his father's poor health, family obligations forced Floyd to pass up offers from many schools including Ohio State, Penn State, and Arkansas.

Floyd was a Sea-Bee in World War II and spent three years in the South Pacific. He died at the age of 41 on November 21, 1958.

PETE WOODS
(1988)
HALL OF FAME
Class of 1995



Pete Woods was a standout on the BHS football and baseball teams from 1984 to 1988. Earning three varsity letters in football, Woods received All-Eastern Ohio, All-OVAC, and All-Valley honors as well as being named All-State in both the AP and UPI polls. The captain of the '87 Big Reds, Woods also was selected defensive MVP.

In baseball, he was a four-year letter winner, starting as catcher all four years. His senior year rewarded him with All-OVAC, All-Valley, and All-Eastern Ohio honors. He helped lead the diamond squad to two OVAC Championships (1985, 1988).

Upon graduation, Woods went to Marshall University and earned four varsity letters, serving as snapper on extra points and long punts all four years. Redshirted his sophomore year for medical reasons, Woods returned to the center position to lead the Thundering Herd to two National Playoffs, ending runner-up in 1991, and becoming National Champions in 1992.

His efforts not only got him the Tom Stark Award for overall athletic and academic achievement but also double recognition from the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Club in 1988 and 1993. Woods is employed as a teacher in the Meigs Local Schools.

SCOTT WOODS

(1989)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1994



Starting as the quarterback his sophomore year, Scott Woods quickly established himself as one of Bellaire's premier passers.

Earning letters and All-OVAC honors three years, Woods also was recognized as All-Valley twice and All-District and Honorable Mention All-State his senior year.

As a sophomore, he was recognized by the *Wheeling Intelligencer* as their Sophomore-of-the-Year. He set 18 school standards during his career, many still standing today.

Woods was selected to play in and captained the 1989 OVAC Ohio All-Stars.

He also was a valuable performer on the Big Reds basketball and baseball squads.

He went to Marshall University as a freshman but was red-shirted. The following year he played and lettered but then decided to transfer to Indiana University of Pennsylvania. As with Bellaire, Woods immediately established himself as one of the nation's best small-college quarterbacks.

In 1992, he received Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference Offensive Player-of-the-Week, was 2nd team PSAC, and received the IUP Morrel Trophy. During his senior season, Woods led his team to the NCAA Division II Championship where they finished runner-up.

Receiving All-American quarterback honors, Woods set IUP passing records for most passing yards in a season (2,850) and total offense in a season (2,872). For two consecutive years, he finished in the top ten in the nation for passing efficiency.

Woods is currently employed at the Cambridge Savings Bank.

PAUL XENAKIS
(1964)
Wall of Fame
Class of 1987



Lettered in football and track

Chosen All-OVAC, All-District, All-State in football

Holds all time Valley record in 440 yard dash and school record in 100 yard dash

Attended Union College in Jackson, Tennessee where he was Conference champion in the 200 and 400 yard dashes

Held school and Conference record in the 440 (47.6 seconds)

Still holds record in football (as of 2025) for:

Longest kickoff return in a game: 108 yards v. St. John (1963)

TERRY ZONKER

(1982)

Wall of Fame

Class of 1991



A veteran of Operation Desert Storm, Terry Zonker earned his reputation as a four-year varsity performer in wrestling, a three-year varsity performer in football, and a two-year performer in track.

He earned three letters in both football and wrestling, and captained both squads his senior year.

Post-season honors were accorded him as a senior in both sports on the All-OVAC, All-Eastern Ohio, and All-Valley teams, while he earned All-State honors in football.

During his senior year in wrestling, Zonker wrestled his way to the championship crown in the prestigious OVAC Wrestling Tournament in the always tough heavyweight division. At the conclusion of his high school career, he was also selected to play in the OVAC All-Star football game, serving as captain.

Upon graduating from BHS, he entered the University of Toledo where he played football for three years and earned one letter. He had the privilege of playing in the 1984 California Bowl in Fresno against UNLV.

Zonker left college in 1985 to enroll in the Marines, where he rose to the rank of sergeant after serving six years. Zonk served eight months in Operation Desert Shield/Storm aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Iwo Jima. He was also awarded the Navy Achievement Medal for his performance.

Presently employed by Ceramic Tile Spec, he resides in Alexandria, Virginia.