



A banner which proclaims retired Bellaire High basketball coach Claire Cribbs as No. 1 was presented to the former Pitt All-American at Claire Cribbs Night ceremonies Friday night at the Bellaire High gymnasium. Dave Liberati,

at left, of the "Big Reds Forever" organization, and school board member Charles "Bud" Fry made the presentation as Coach Cribbs' daughter, Judy; wife, Betty; and son, Lin, looked on. (Photo by Bob Koteles)

## Emotional Tribute Paid To Cribbs

In an emotional, cheer-filled and tear-filled ceremony, Bellaire High School and Big Red fans paid tribute to retired basketball coach Claire L. Cribbs, All-American and Hall of Famer, Friday night at the Bellaire High gymnasium.

Over \$1,000—raised in a four-day period by the faculty and students at the school—was presented by Lori Shriver, president of the student council, to form the foundation for the Claire Cribbs Scholarship Fund. Another \$100 was added by the Ohio Valley Board of Approved Basketball Officials, with OVAC commissioner of officials Evan Reese making the presentation.

Cribbs, whose left leg was amputated last fall, had been a two-time All-American at the University of Pittsburgh, where he played on mythical national championship teams in 1934 and '35 under the legendary "Doc" Carlson. He became coach at Warren Consolidated High in Tiltonsville in 1936 and was there until 1949—except for some two and a half years

became his first All-Ohioan, returned to Bellaire from his Florida home to participate in Friday's tribute. Cribbs-coached teams continued to pile up impressive records as stars such as All-Ohioans Lee Patrone and Mike Sherwood led the Reds to glory.

Coaching into 1970, Cribbs posted more than 400 varsity victories. He was named to the Pitt Hall of Fame, along with the "Halls" of the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Assn. and the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Club. Moreover, back in his native Jeanttte, Pa., area, they also enshrined him.

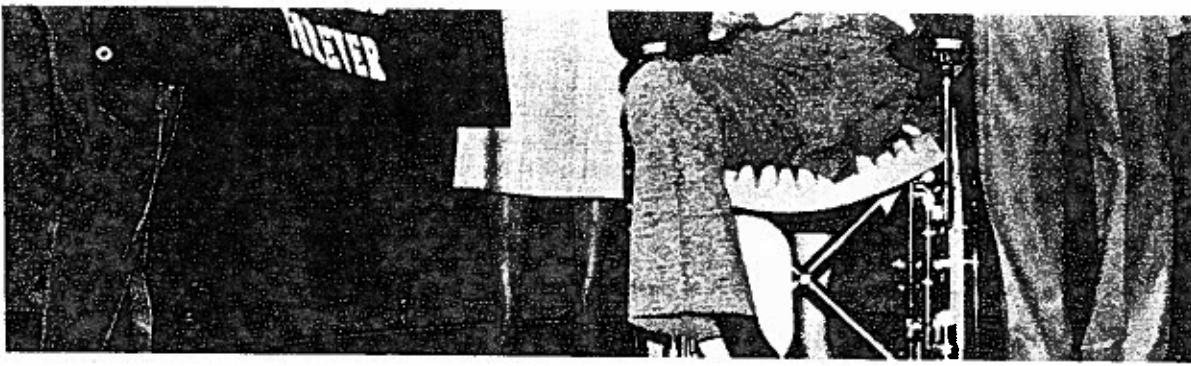
However, as emcee Tom Rataiczak told an admiring, loving crowd at Friday's tribute, held between halves of the Bellaire-Cambridge game, "That is not why we are honoring the man tonight. While he directly influenced the athletes he came into contact with, there were very few students at Bellaire High School who were not affected by Claire Cribbs, the man. From his retirement until this year, this giant walked the halls

Reds!', the true meaning of the school spirit was driven home. It has been some 15 years since he retired from coaching basketball but it's difficult for anyone who has followed Bellaire basketball to witness another season beginning without thinking of this man for the word basketball and the name Cribbs are synonymous."

The Pitt-WVU program at this year's game in Pittsburgh featured a tribute to Cribbs and a copy of that program, autographed by members of the current Bellaire team, was presented to the coach by senior Mark Martin.

Coyne presented a replica of a large picture of Cribbs that will soon hang in the foyer of the school auditorium—the stage of which was the "crackerbox" gym where so many of the great games of the Cribbs era were played.

A framed letter of appreciation, which also outlined the Cribbs record, was presented to him as a souvenir of the evening. And Dave



A banner which proclaims retired Bellaire High basketball coach Claire Cribbs as No. 1 was presented to the former Pitt All-American at Claire Cribbs Night ceremonies Friday night at the Bellaire High gymnasium. Dave Liberati,

at left, of the "Big Reds Forever" organization, and school board member Charles "Bud" Fry made the presentation as Coach Cribbs' daughter, Judy; wife, Betty; and son, Lin, looked on.

(Photo by Bob Koteles)

## Emotional Tribute Paid To Cribbs

In an emotional, cheer-filled and tear-filled ceremony, Bellaire High School and Big Red fans paid tribute to retired basketball coach Claire L. Cribbs, All-American and Hall of Famer, Friday night at the Bellaire High gymnasium.

Over \$1,000—raised in a four-day period by the faculty and students at the school—was presented by Lori Shriver, president of the student council, to form the foundation for the Claire Cribbs Scholarship Fund. Another \$100 was added by the Ohio Valley Board of Approved Basketball Officials, with OVAC commissioner of officials Evan Reese making the presentation.

Cribbs, whose left leg was amputated last fall, had been a two-time All-American at the University of Pittsburgh, where he played on mythical national championship teams in 1934 and '35 under the legendary "Doc" Carlson. He became coach at Warren Consolidated High in Tiltonsville in 1936 and was there until 1949—except for some two and a half years during World War 2 when he served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy. Then he came to Bellaire and almost immediately brought the Big Reds out of the basketball doldrums.

Bellaire won its first OVAC championship under Cribbs in 1953 and Don "Nemo" Coyne, who that year

became his first All-Ohioan, returned to Bellaire from his Florida home to participate in Friday's tribute. Cribbs-coached teams continued to pile up impressive records as stars such as All-Ohioans Lee Patrone and Mike Sherwood led the Reds to glory.

Coaching into 1970, Cribbs posted more than 400 varsity victories. He was named to the Pitt Hall of Fame, along with the "Halls" of the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Assn. and the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Club. Moreover, back in his native Jeanttte, Pa., area, they also enshrined him.

However, as emcee Tom Rataiczak told an admiring, loving crowd at Friday's tribute, held between halves of the Bellaire-Cambridge game, "That is not why we are honoring the man tonight. While he directly influenced the athletes he came into contact with, there were very few students at Bellaire High School who were not affected by Claire Cribbs, the man. From his retirement until this year, this giant walked the halls of BHS, imparting his wisdom and strong sense of moral obligation and school spirit to hundreds of students. Few of us will ever forget the inspirational Perry pep rallies that Coach Cribbs was called upon to fire up the football team. Every time his deep voice spoke the famous 'Hi, Big

Reds!', the true meaning of the school spirit was driven home. It has been some 15 years since he retired from coaching basketball but it's difficult for anyone who has followed Bellaire basketball to witness another season beginning without thinking of this man for the word basketball and the name Cribbs are synonymous."

The Pitt-WVU program at this year's game in Pittsburgh featured a tribute to Cribbs and a copy of that program, autographed by members of the current Bellaire team, was presented to the coach by senior Mark Martin.

Coyne presented a replica of a large picture of Cribbs that will soon hang in the foyer of the school auditorium—the stage of which was the "crackerbox" gym where so many of the great games of the Cribbs era were played.

A framed letter of appreciation, which also outlined the Cribbs record, was presented to him as a souvenir of the evening. And Dave Ice, representing the Big Red Touch-down Club, presented a glass plate, etched by John Gray at Sickles Glass with an Indian head and the words "To Coach Cribbs, Thanks For Being a Big Red."

Close to 100 of Cribbs' players were

(See Cribbs, Sports Page 8)

### Cribbs Honored

(Continued From Sports Page 5)

grouped on the basketball floor behind the man who meant so much to him. And right with him throughout the ceremonies were the people who love him most of all—his wife, Betty; his daughter, Judy; and his son, Lin.

# Bellaire High School Sports Foundation, Inc.

Tonight's Claire Cribbs' Memorial Basketball Classic is being sponsored under the auspices of the Bellaire High School Sports Foundation, Inc., now in its sixth year. The Foundation is controlled by a nine-member Board of Directors: Dave Ice, Dave Liberati, John Mike Marinacci, Tom Rataiczak, Toni Sechrest, Mike Sherwood, Dick Sketel, and Angelo Spigarelli.

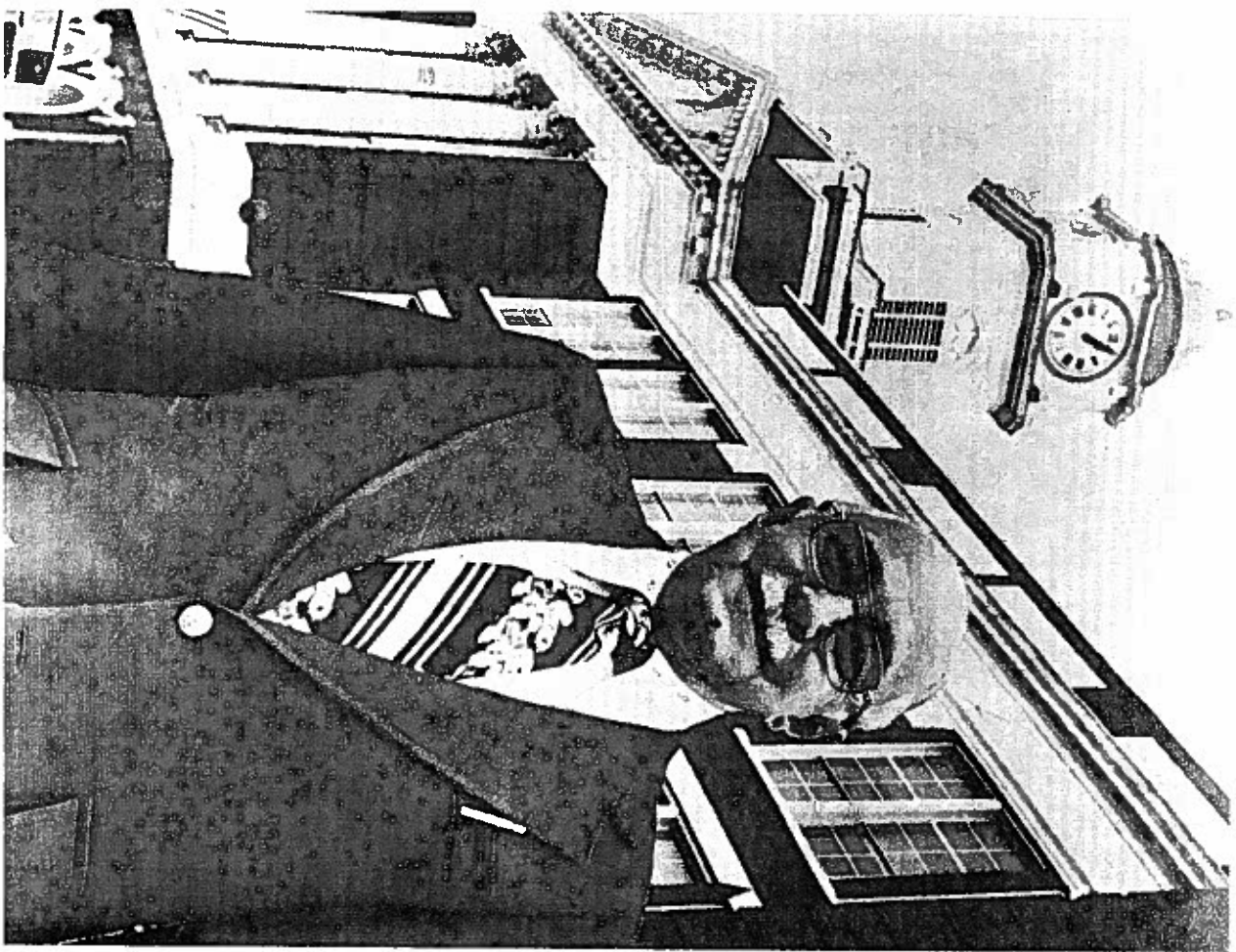
The Foundation has four major purposes: 1. To organize the athletic alumni into a strong organization; 2. To provide athletic activities for those people living in the immediate area as well as local residents; 3. To help benefit scholastic activities; and 4. To support athletic endeavors in the high school.

To date, the Foundation sponsors three scholarships valued at \$2300, sponsors the historic Bippus Banquet, has replaced the lighting and sound system in the gymnasium, repainted Nelson Field, and this year has embarked upon its largest project -- replacing the visitors' seating at Nelson Field.

Presently conducting their 1994 membership drive, the Foundation could use all the support it can get. If you have not yet joined, nor received a mailing, wish to join, or like additional information, contact one of the above Board members or write, c/o P.O. Box 497, Bellaire, OH 43906-0497.

## Claire Cribbs' Scholarship Fund

The Claire Cribbs' Scholarship was established in 1985 when Bellaire High School honored one of its most beloved citizens. At present, a male/female basketball player is selected each year who best exemplifies the type of player Coach Cribbs enjoyed working with: a good citizen, a hustler on and off the court, a hardworker, dedicated, a good example to younger children. Ten players have been honored as recipients: **Scott Maffe, Lisa McCulley, Missy Balsei, Chris Kelly, Jim Kruger, Eric Patterson, Missy Tiber, Dana McCulley, J.R. Battista, and Mike Dunfee.** Originally, the scholarship was for at least \$100 per year for four years, however this benefit allowed us to raise it to \$200 annually. It is the hope of the Foundation that activities such as this will allow us to increase the scholarship to an even more attractive amount next year.



## Sixth Annual Claire Cribbs Memorial Basketball Classic

**Saturday, January 29, 1994**

All proceeds benefit the Claire Cribbs' Memorial Basketball Scholarship

