

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Hamilton
Big Blue

Garfield
Griffins

Taft
Tigers

6:00 pm
Sunday, February 14, 1999

Hamiltonian Hotel



ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Class of 1997

Jim "Boxcar" Bailey
Alex "Boo" Ellis
Jim Grimm
Judy Kraft
Joe Nuxhall
Warren Scholler
Greg Stokes
Mike Townsend

Frank Clair
Kevin Grevey
Derek Howard
Marvin McCollum
Paul Sarringhaus
Jack Smith
Chuck Thackara
Bill Wilks

Class of 1998

Shauna Bowman
Bernie Griesinger
Rudy Oaklets
Floyd "Breezy" Reid
David Stalls
Charles "Skip" Taylor

Bill Evans
Bill McCormick
Carl Ott
Leonard (Jim) Smith
Pat Sword
David "Chuggy" Waller



ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

RECEPTION FOR INDUCTEES AND SPOUSES
Courtesy of Holbrock & Jonson Law Firm

MASTER OF CEREMONIES
John Wade

INVOCATION
Jack Young
Class of 1948

WELCOME
George Jonson
Class of 1952

INTRODUCTION OF HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

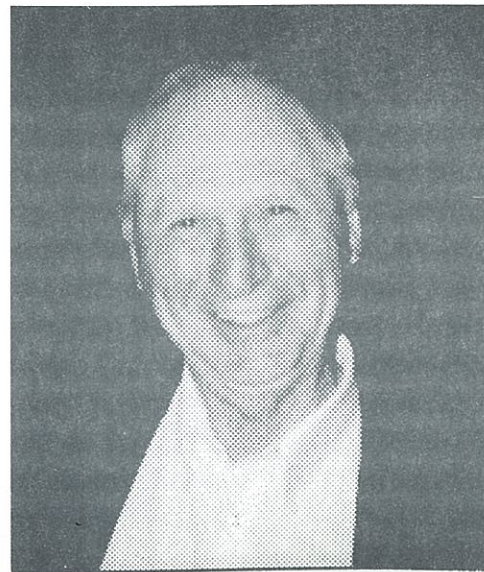
Mel "Moody" Baker - Class of 1951

A force to reckon with in football and basketball at Hamilton High School, Moody Baker certainly goes down as one of the best all around athletes in Big Blue history. He was captain of the 1950 football team, which was ranked second in the state of Ohio. He played guard on both sides of the line. He was selected to play in the North-South All-Star football game in 1951. The 1951 basketball team was ranked number one in the state all year long before getting beat in the state finals by Columbus East. Their 26-2 record was good enough for Hamilton High to be ranked second in the state's final polls. As a student athlete in Hamilton, he was coached by fellow Hall of Famers' Bill "Coach" Sharp, Chuck Thackara and Warren Scholler. Baker continued his prowess on the gridiron at Miami University as the Redskins won Mid-American Conference (MAC) crowns in 1953 and 1954 under Coach Ara Parseghian. He was named All-MAC in 1954. He has enjoyed a successful career as a Certified Public Accountant and has coached Little League and Babe Ruth baseball, Little Pro football and women's softball. Baker was inducted into the Butler County Sports Hall of Fame in 1995.



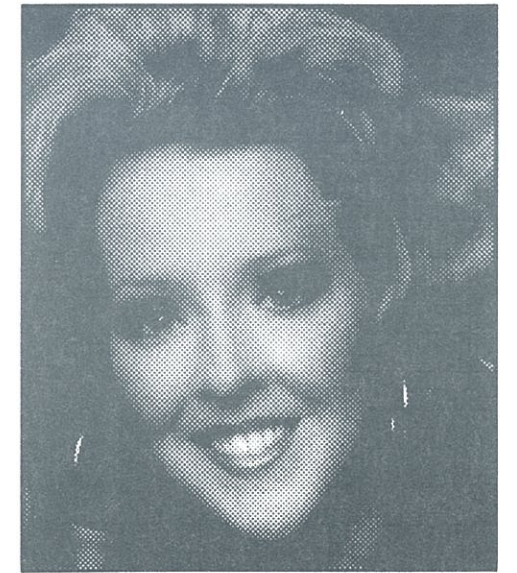
Taylor "Tay" Baker - Class of 1945

The only man to serve as head basketball coach at both the University of Cincinnati (UC) and Xavier University (XU), Baker graduated from Hamilton High School in 1945. He played high school basketball under Coach Harvey Shollenberger and performed as a member of the Fliptwisters under Director and Hall of Famer Jim Grimm. After a tour of Army duty, Baker enrolled at the University of Cincinnati, lettering in basketball in 1948-50, the same years that UC won the MAC championships. He began his coaching career at Lebanon High School and also enjoyed successful stints at Miamisburg and Wyoming. Returning to UC as a top assistant and key scout, Baker was a most intricate part of the Bearcats' "Golden Era" as UC put together back to back NCAA National Championships. Taking the head reins in 1965, Taylor led the Bearcats to a Missouri Valley Championship and a 21-7 record. He coached Xavier from 1973-79, winning the Tennessee Volunteer Classic and changing the fortunes of Muskie basketball. Baker was inducted into the Butler County Sports Hall of Fame in 1992. An accomplished golfer, Baker serves as executive director of the Greater Cincinnati Golf Association.



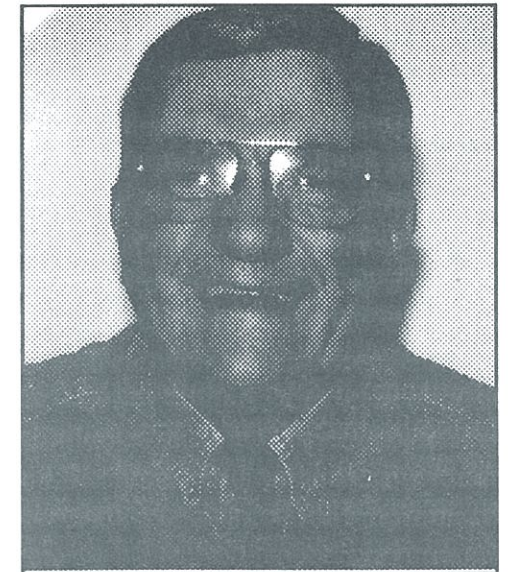
Elise Spears Combs - Class of 1985

Elise Spears Combs was named Hamilton High's Most Valuable Player (MVP) in softball in 1983, 1984 and 1985 as well as Greater Miami Conference (GMC) All-Star first team all three years. She was a pitcher for the 1985 Big Blue fast pitch team. The team's 28-2 record lead them to become GMC, district and regional champs on their way to becoming Ohio State Class AAA Fast Pitch Softball Champions. She was named as the 1985 Ohio Player of the Year and was a member of the All-State team, District 15 All-Star team, the Cincinnati Post's All-Metro team. She was named Cincinnati Post's Player of the Year. Her three year batting average was .351. Her three year pitching record boasts 45 wins and 7 losses. She had an ERA of .662, with 407 strike outs and 25 no hitters. She was a member of Hamilton High School's Homecoming Court in her senior year. Her softball uniform, #13, has been retired. She played in three women's Amateur Softball Association (ASA) State Fast Pitch tournaments, making the first team ASA All-State at the age of 15 years old. Combs played on ten league championship teams before the age of 18. She pitched in four Junior Olympic state tournaments, six ASA Junior Olympic State tournaments and one national Olympic Fast Pitch Tournament. She also played in four women's national slow pitch tournaments. She was inducted into Butler County's Softball Hall of Fame in 1990.



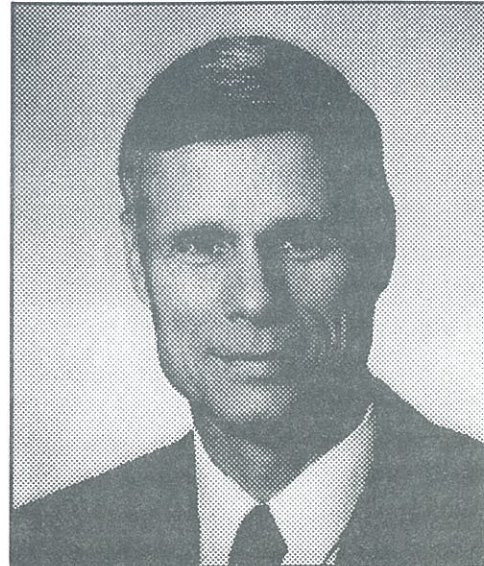
Jack Gordon - Class of 1949

Jack Gordon was busy at Hamilton High School, playing football for three years and basketball for two years. He also ran track for two years. He was a member of the 1947 and 1948 Big Blue football teams that boasted a 18-2 record under Coaches Chuck Mather and Chuck Thackara, respectively. Gordon teamed up with "Box Car" Bailey for 41 touchdowns in 1948 as each player gained over 1,000 yards. Following his graduation from Hamilton High, he continued on at the University of Cincinnati. Gordon was the ground-gainer leader in 1951 as they became the all time winningest Bearcat team with a 10-1 record under Coach Sid Gillman. He was drafted by the Los Angeles Rams in the ninth round in 1953, but decided he wanted to coach and teach. He was the captain of the UC team in 1956. He coached for one year at North College Hill High School and five years at Lima High School, before becoming head coach at Middletown High School in 1964. During his 18 years as head coach at Middletown, his team record was 119 wins, 56 losses and 1 tie. He coached 11 All-Ohio players at Middletown. He was named Southeast Ohio Coach of the Year in 1965 and 1973. He won the Greater Ohio League (GOL) Coach of the Year three times and the GMC Coach of the Year two times. He also coached the South All-Stars in 1977. After retiring as the Middies football coach in 1982, he became the Voice of the Middies on WPFB radio. Gordon became a member of the Butler County Sports Hall of Fame in 1987 and is a member of the Ohio Amateur Softball Association Hall of Fame. He is also chairman of the Butler County Sports Hall of Fame Committee.



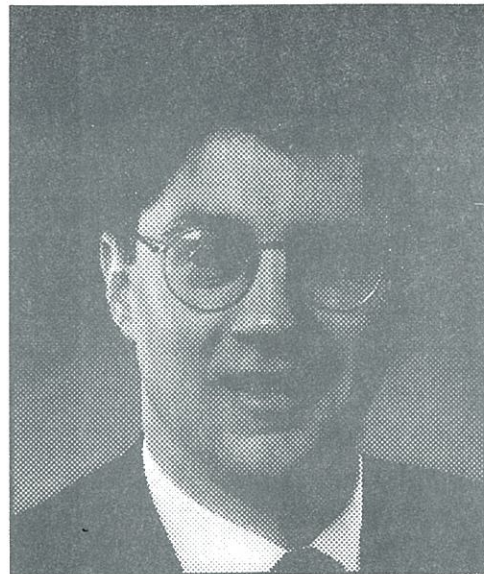
Jerry Johnson - Class of 1969

A three sport standout at Taft High School, Jerry Johnson earned three varsity letters in baseball, two in football and one in basketball. In 1968, he was captain of the Taft Tigers' football team and a member of Taft's baseball team that advanced to the state regional tournament at Crosley Field in Cincinnati. He was named All-GMC in baseball in 1969. After graduation, he was accepted into the United States Military Academy at West Point where he continued to play football and baseball. He was the leading hitter on the baseball team with a .375 batting average. While at West Point, Johnson added boxing and cross country running to his athletic resume. He was the Brigade Boxing Champ light heavyweight in 1972 and 1973 and named Outstanding Boxer in 1974. During his senior year, he delivered four knockouts and two decisions on his way to becoming the New York City Golden Gloves sub-novice middleweight champion out of a field of 64 contenders, before a record Madison Square Garden crowd of over 20,000. He was honored as the Most Valuable Athlete and received the Army Athletic Association Award. He was a member of the 1975 All-Army boxing team. He also received the 306th Infantry Award for being first in his graduating class for the extensive four year Physical Education course at the Academy. He served as a physical education instructor at West Point from 1982 to 1985. Colonel Johnson, currently stationed at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, served in Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Kuwait in Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm and Desert Thunder as a Field Artillery Battalion Executive Officer in the 82nd Airborne Division.



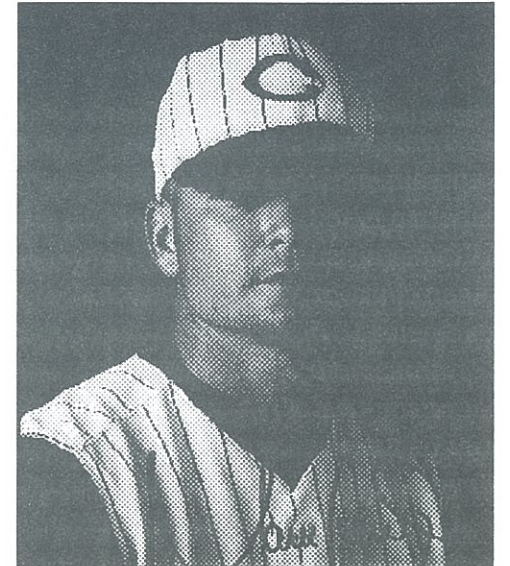
Andy Kolesar - Class of 1977

A member of Taft High School's varsity basketball team for three years, Kolesar was the team leader in his junior year in assists (123) and foul shooting (73.4%). That same year, he was named first team All-GMC and Honorable Mention in District 15. He also was named to the second team Golden Triangle All Star. As the Tigers' MVP his senior year, he led his team with a scoring average of 19.8 points per game, 124 assists and 78.4% free throw average. He was the GMC's leading scorer while being named first team All -GMC and its honorary captain. Kolesar was also named First Team District 15 and first team Golden Triangle All-Star. He earned second team honors on the Associated Press' Ohio Southwestern District. He was also honorable mention All-State. His many accolades as a basketball player at the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) include being named team captain for two years. He was named three times as Division I Academic All-American. In 1981, his 3.71 GPA in Civil Engineering was the highest among all first team selections. He was selected as first team All Southern Conference as a junior while boasting a 19.2 point average. In his senior year, he was named honorable mention All Southern Conference. Kolesar was nominated as a candidate for the Pizza Hut Classic and for the 1980 U.S. Olympic try out camp. He received the VMI Intercollegiate Sports Award in 1980. He graduated eighth in his class of 269 in 1981. Upon graduation, he held VMI's record for free throw percentage during a season with an 87.9% mark. His career accuracy from the line of 84.9% was second in VMI's history and third in the Southern Conference history. He was one of only 15 seniors in the country to be awarded a NCAA post graduate scholarship. He was elected into VMI's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1991. Kolesar is an attorney with Thompson, Hime and Flory in Cincinnati.



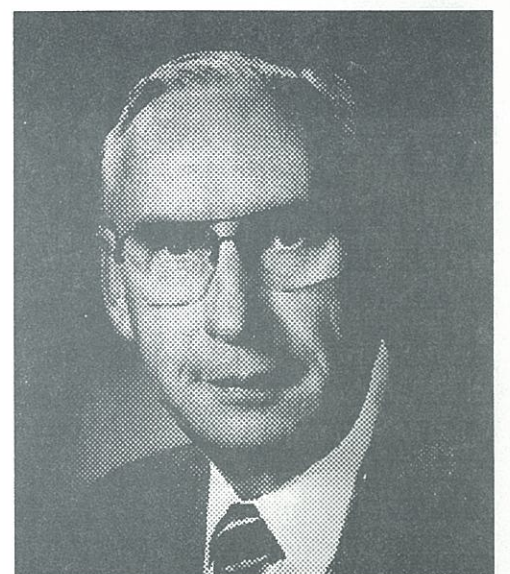
Mark Lewis - Class of 1988

Mark Lewis established a number of national high school batting records while playing baseball at Hamilton High School. In his four year career, he set national records with 222 hits and 212 runs batted in (RBI), while batting .545. He totaled 42 home runs, 117 games, 201 runs, 43 doubles, 13 triples and 64 stolen bases. He hit .600 with 15 home runs, and 66 RBI's in his senior season. He was named Gatorade's National Player of the Year in 1988. He was the first high school player to be chosen in the 1988 major league baseball draft (second player chosen over-all) by the Cleveland Indians. After several years in the minor leagues, Lewis was called up by the Indians to debut on April 26, 1991 against Texas. At his first at bat, he collected a single off Nolan Ryan. That day, he went 2 for 3 with a double and two RBIs. He started at shortstop for the injured Felix Fermin and then moved to second base upon Fermin's return. After just 19 games in the majors, Lewis led the Indians with 12 multi-hit games. In 1992, in his first full major league season, he hit .264, batting .271 with runners on base. In 1995, while playing for the Cincinnati Reds, Lewis batted .339 with three homers and 30 RBIs in 171 at bats. That same year he set the record as the only major league player to hit a pinch hit grand slam home run in the division series sweep of the Los Angeles Dodgers, the last time the Reds won a playoff series. In eight major league seasons, he is a .266 hitter with 40 homers and 254 RBIs.



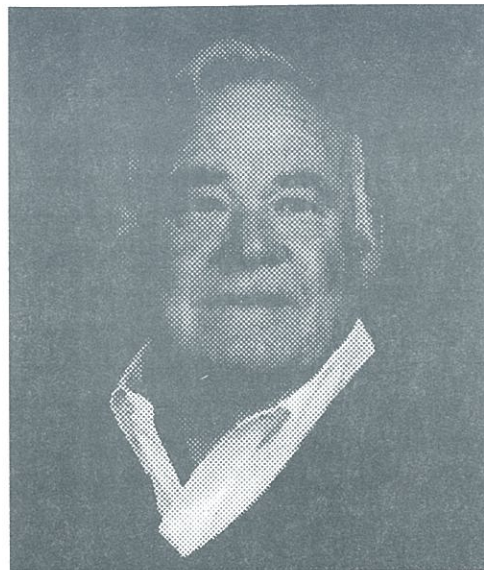
Ervin J. Nutter - Class of 1933

A member of Hamilton High School's 1929 undefeated state football champions, Erv Nutter played both sides of the ball. Under Coach Dana King, Big Blue's record was 10-0. During high school, he also was a member of Clark's Sporting Goods Rifle Team. After graduation, Nutter attended the University of Kentucky, where he majored in Mechanical Engineering. He was named Engineer of the Year two times. Nutter's distinguished business career was launched when he accepted a position as a civilian Engineer in the Wright-Patterson Air Force Equipment Laboratory as the only civilian Branch Chief, and was responsible for testing Air Force aircraft and equipment in adverse environmental conditions for world-wide operation. In 1950, with only a \$360 investment, the entrepreneur started an engineering and manufacturing company that grew from one employee to one of the world's leading manufacturers of sophisticated tubular assemblies for private, commercial and military jet engines. He founded and was past CEO of the Elano Corporation which General Electric bought from him in 1985. He is in the University of Kentucky's Engineer Hall of Distinction. The Nutter Center on Wright State University's campus is named in his honor. He also holds membership in the President's Club at University of Kentucky, The Ohio State University, University of Dayton and Wright State University. Nutter was named to Ohio's Senior Citizens Hall of Fame. He was also named Greene County's Man of the Year in 1981. He is the former chairman of the Board of Trustees of Wright State University. An avid supporter of Hamilton High School's football program, Nutter gave a substantial contribution for the construction of the Bill Moeller Press Box located at the Virgil M. Schwarm Stadium.



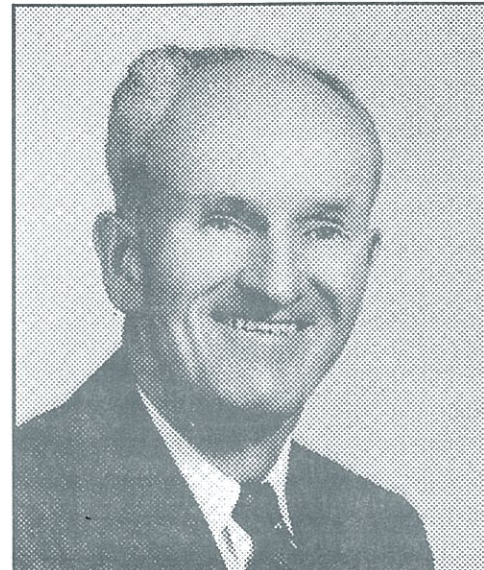
Bernie Reid - Class of 1942

Bernie Reid was one the talented Reid brothers who dominated the football field. Bernie played for three years at Hamilton High and he also ran track for two years. He attended the University of Cincinnati in the fall of 1942 on a football scholarship, but joined the Merchant Marines in December of that year. After the service, he attended the University of Georgia and ran track for one year and played football for three years under Coach Wally Butts. He was voted Most Valuable Lineman and was named first team All-Southern (which included the Southeastern Conference, Southwestern Conference and Southern Conference at that time). He was captain of the 1948 Bulldogs team as they became the Southeastern Conference Champs and played in the Orange Bowl. After graduation, he was drafted by the San Francisco 49er's and the Chicago Cardinals, but wanted to coach instead. Reid was head coach at Albany High School in Albany, Georgia and led the team to state runner-up in 1958 and state champs in 1959. He was named Regional Coach of the Year two times while coaching at Albany and served one year as the president of the Georgia High School Coaches Association. His team also was regional champions for three years. He was the defensive line coach at the University of Maryland from 1960 through 1968. In 1969, he became a talent scout for the Denver Broncos. During his 25 years as a scout, Denver won the American Football Conference (AFC) four times, playing in four Super Bowls. He received the game ball when Denver defeated the Cleveland Browns for the AFC championship in 1990. He continues to enjoy training and racing his thoroughbreds.



Bill "Coach" Sharp - Coach

Bill Sharp graduated from Plattsburg High School in 1924, playing four years of basketball, baseball and track. He was a member of the 1923 State Class B basketball championship team and the 1923 regional 4 x 440 relay champions. He graduated from The Ohio State University in 1928 where he ran track and wrestled for one year. He came to Hamilton in 1930, coaching football, basketball and golf at Hamilton Catholic High School. After eight years at Hamilton Catholic, he spent 21 years at Roosevelt Junior High School, coaching basketball and track. Coach spent another 16 years at Garfield High School, where he coached wrestling and developed and ran an active intramural program. During the summer months, he worked for the Hamilton Parks and Recreation Department as a recreation leader, playground leader and swimming pool manager. He retired from teaching in 1975 and became a fitness instructor at the Hamilton Central YMCA until 1993. During his over 60 years in Hamilton, Coach Sharp touched the lives of thousands of students and athletics in nearly every family - in many cases, two to three generations.



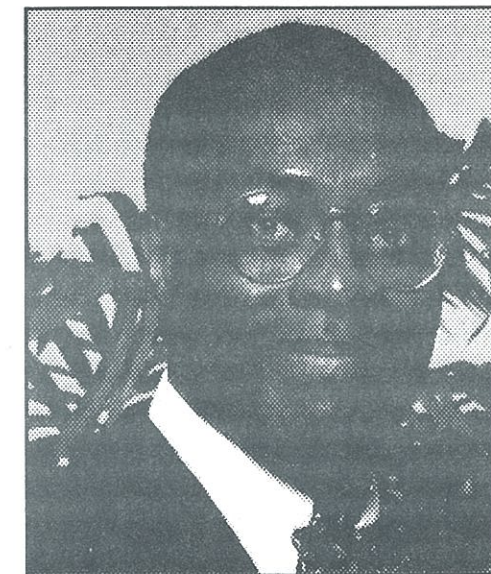
Arthur "Ray" Tilton - Coach

Ray Tilton graduated from Lebanon High School in 1919 where he was a standout basketball player nicknamed "Bully". Tilton reached high acclaim as a basketball coach, leading New Straitsville to the state championship in 1922, Seville in 1923 and Shadyside in 1924. This may be the only time an Ohio coach won three straight titles at three different schools. It was at Hamilton High that Ray Tilton reached his highest acclaim as a football coach. He joined the coaching staff in 1929 and took over as head football coach in 1934. By the time he retired from coaching in 1942, his Big Blue teams had piled up 60 wins against only 10 losses and 4 ties. Two of his teams went undefeated - the 1935 state champions and the 1939 team. The 1935 team set an all time Hamilton High scoring mark of 319 points, while their opponents totaled only 9 points. After his coaching days, Tilton was the first lay person named to the athletic board at Xavier University where he was a professor of accounting and business. He served as Butler County Auditor for 15 years. He was inducted into the Butler County Sports Hall of Fame in 1983.



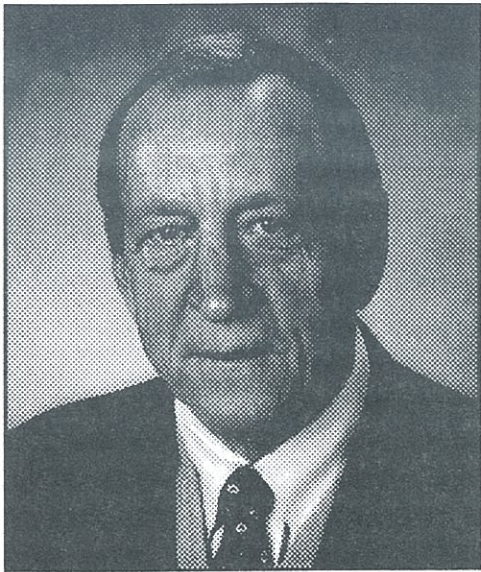
Willie Townsend - Class of 1969

Willie Townsend was one of the multi-talented Townsend boys who played three sports at Garfield High School. Willie competing in football, basketball and track. The Griffins' basketball team reached the state finals in his junior year and he was named All-Ohio in his senior year. He continued on to Notre Dame where he played under two legendary coaches, Ara Parseghian in football and Digger Phelps in basketball. He played offensive end on Notre Dame's 1973 and 1974 National Champion football teams. He played basketball with brother Mike as they became the first brothers to play for Notre Dame in the same season. They helped their team come in second in the NIT finals in New York. He was drafted by the Los Angeles Rams in 1974.



David Weaver - Class of 1952

David Weaver was a standout offensive lineman for the Big Blue football team, coached by fellow Hall of Famer Chuck Thackara. Weaver played in the Ohio All-Star game in 1952 before entering The Ohio State University. He was a three year letterman at OSU under Coach Woody Hayes and a member of two Big Ten championship teams and the OSU national championship team of 1954. Weaver was selected to the Blue-Grey All-Star team his senior year. He graduated from OSU and continued on to graduate summa cum laude from the OSU School of Dentistry in 1959. In 1982, Weaver began mountain climbing with the Colorado Outward Bound School. His greatest accomplishment is scaling Aconcagua, the highest peak in the Western Hemisphere (23,000 feet). He was inducted into the Butler County Sports Hall of Fame in 1993.



**ATHLETIC
HALL OF FAME**

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Marilyn Bowling	Anne Carr
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Hamilton
CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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