



WILBUR WRIGHT DON MEINEKE MEMORIAL
ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

AWARDS DINNER



Induction Ceremonies

Milton Athletic Club
Dayton, Ohio

November 4, 2016

Good Evening...

Welcome to the fourth Wilbur Wright High School, Don Meineke Memorial, Athletic Hall of Fame Awards Dinner.

An appropriate subtitle for tonight's program might be Speed, Inc., as the athletes to be celebrated will include the fastest male runner in Wilbur Wright history, the fastest female runner, the 1955 Mile Relay team that set the City record (3:32.9) that stood for 15 years, and four City championship track teams in their entirety.

We will also recognize six other individual speedy athletes, three not-as-speedy coaches, and one used-to-be-speedy-but-you'd-never-know-it-now Distinguished Service and Achievement honoree. Finally, we will pay tribute to a championship basketball team and a championship football team from the early 40's.

The number of hall of famers, based on individual performance, on our composite plaque now totals 55. We are gathering information for a companion plaque which will display the names of all of the school's championship teams (with their key players listed under each). Hall of Fame coaches could appear on a second plaque for individual hall of famers, or they could appear on a plaque with teachers, administrators and Distinguished Service and Achievement honorees.

We are always receptive to constructive criticism and suggestions. If there is a deserving athlete whom you feel we have overlooked (we have incomplete info, for almost 100 athletes), please mail your suggestion to Dave Swartz, 201 Big Pine Rd., Dayton, OH 45431-1840.

The Wilbur Wright Athletic Hall of Fame Committee:

*Todd Carmichael, Gary Conley, Tom Hatton,
Kenny Mann, Dave Swartz, Lee Wiedeke*

Schedule of Events

Registration and Reception	5:30 pm
Dinner	6:45 pm
Awards Presentation	8:00 pm

Wilbur Wright High School Athletic Hall of Fame



Individual Honorees

Eldon Pohl	'48
Jim Beard	'55
Joe Hensler	'65
Douglas C. Fink	'73
Jeffery "Bullet" Washington	'76
Leo P. Janson	'78
Patricia A. Whitlow	'82
Jeff Klepacz	'82

Team Honorees

1941 and 1942 City Track Champions

Homer Knorr '42 Dale Plunkett '44

1943 City Football Co-Champions

Bill Cukovecki '44 Dale Plunkett '44

Chuck Flaum '45 Ben Hardin '45

1943 City Basketball Co-Champions

Bill Cukovecki '44 Dale Plunkett '44

1945 City Track Champions

Ben Hardin '45 Lester Schmidt '46

1955 City Track Champions

Bill Alexander '55 Dick Bitzer '55

Joe Freese '55 Bob Mewhinney '55

Willis "Bing" Davis '55 Tom Skilling '55

Bob Winchek '55 Roy Kronenberg '56 Lou Malloy '56

Kenny Mann '56 Richie Miller '56 Chuck Ray '56

Dick Slade '56 John Grottke '57 Clyde Slayton '57

Hall of Fame Coaches

Ben Campbell '50-'79 Teacher and Coach

Dean Dooley '46-'62 Teacher and Coach

Chuck Hardin '51-'76 Teacher and Coach

Distinguished Service and Achievement Hall of Fame

Jerry McElfresh '58 1998 - 2016



Eldon Pohl

Class of 1948

Football Basketball Baseball

Letters: Football (2) Basketball (1) Baseball (2)

Football: 1947—Honorable Mention All-City Center.

Basketball: 1947-'48 City Championship team: Honorable Mention All-City Guard.

Baseball: All-City caliber 2nd-baseman (No A-C awards were given in 40's & 50's). Played on 1948 Spring championship team and on '47 and '48 Summer (Gem City Roofing) championship teams.



Jim Beard

Class of 1955

Football Baseball

Letters: Football (2) Baseball (3)

Football: 1954—Honorable Mention All-City Quarterback.

Baseball: All-City caliber 2nd-baseman (No A-C awards were given in 40's & 50's) in '54 and '55, both Spring and Summer (Vulcan Tool Co.) A regular .300 hitter, he was a key player in 5 championships: '53 Summer Co-Champs, '54 Summer, '54 Spring, '55 Spring, and '55 Spring District (Regional Runners-up). A flawless fielder.

Other: Was an excellent basketball player (chose to study instead) and golfer.

Post-WW: Scholarship to DePauw. A heart condition ended his sports career.



Joe Hensler

Class of 1965

Football Basketball Baseball

Letters: Basketball (2) Baseball (3)

Basketball: Honorable Mention All-City 1965.

Baseball: Starting Shortstop '63, '64, & '65. 1st Team All-City 1965. Was probably the only WW baseball player ever to receive a 4-year baseball scholarship to a major university (Miami of Ohio).

Post WW: At Miami University, 3-year starter, Courage Award, Senior Captain. Volunteer coach while in graduate school. Also, 2 years Dayton AA adult baseball. **Basketball:** 3 years AAU. **Running:** Over 12,000 miles. 1981 Louisville Marathon: 3 hrs-30 mins. 1983 Columbus Marathon: 3 hrs-18 mins. **Handball:** Elected to State of Ohio Handball Hall of Fame in 2005. **Slow-pitch Softball:** Elected to Dayton Amateur Softball Hall of Fame in 2000.



Douglas C. Fink

Class of 1973

Football Track Wrestling

Letters: Football (3) Wrestling (4)

Football: Won the Thomas Printz Memorial Award as a freshman. Started two years at defensive end and one at linebacker. Was a member of WW's City Co-champ team of 1971.

Wrestling: (145# Division) At graduation he held records for most wins, most consecutive wins, and most take-downs. Defeated all 31 opponents in 1972-'73 season. Champion of the Belmont, Xenia, Wilbur Wright, and Fairmont East Invitationals. Sectional and Southwest District Class AAA (large school) Champ. Wrestled at State. Number 1 on Journal Herald Honor Roll. Wrestling scholarship to University of Kentucky.

Post WW: One semester at Univ. of Kentucky. 5th in the National Junior Olympics. Member of All-Army team of 1978. Two-time Army Fort Bragg Champ.



Jeffery Washington

Class of 1976

Football Track Cheerleading

Letters: Football (3) Track (4) Cheerleading (1)

Football: Running and Defensive Back. Scored a few TD's.

Track: Nicknamed the "Bullet", his events were the 100, 220 Dashes and 440 Yard Run, and several relay teams. **1974 & 1975:** Won many races in dual meets. **1976:** City Meet-1st in the 100, 2nd in the 220, 3rd in the 440. Sectional: 1st in the 220 (22.2), 2nd in the 100, 3rd in the 440. District: 1st in the 100 (9.6), 2nd in the 220, 3rd in the 440. State: 4th in the 100, 6th in the 440. Journal Herald Honor Roll: 1st in the 100 (9.7), 1st in the 220 (21.9), 2nd in the 440 (49.2).

Post WW: Full Scholarship to Morehead State University, ran Track four years. Ohio Valley MVP in 1978. Went to Nationals all four years, running the 100 meter (10.0) and 400 meter (45.8).



Leo P. Janson

Class of 1978

Football Basketball Baseball Track

Letters: Football (3) Basketball (3) Track (1) Baseball (2)

Football: 1976—Honorable Mention All-City Offensive Tackle (even though he missed five games due to injury). 1977—1st Team All-City Offensive Guard, 1st Team All-Greater Dayton, All Southwest Ohio, Honorable Mention All-State.

Basketball: Starter 2 years. 6'3" rebounding center on a 1978 star-studded team that included Sedric Toney, Eric Bradley, Fred Johnson, and Gordon Motley.

Track: Shot Put and Discus.

Baseball: .300-hitting 1st Baseman. WW team was Summer Champs in 1975 and shared the Spring championship with Meadowdale in 1976.

Post WW: Full football scholarship to Tulane University. Started two seasons and part of another, lettered twice. Played in the 1979 Liberty Bowl vs. Penn State and in the 1980 Hall of Fame Bowl vs. Arkansas.



Patricia A. Whitlow

Class of 1982

Cross Country Basketball Track

Letters: Cross Country (3) Basketball (3) Track (4)

Cross Country:

Was not a distance runner. Ran just to stay in shape.

Basketball:

Started 3 years at forward, averaged about 11 points.

Track:

1979 --

City Meet: 3rd in the 440 (as a freshman).

1980 --

City Meet: 1st in the 440, 4th in the 100-Yard Dash.

Sectional: 1st in the 440 (tied record at 59.2 sec.),
2nd in the 220.

District: 4th in the 440, 3rd in the 220.

State: 3rd in the 440. Journal Herald Honor Roll: 2nd
in 440.

1981 --

City Meet: 1st in the 440 (new record at 59.4), 5th in the
220, and WW placed in all three relays.

Sectional: 1st in the 440 at 59.3.

District: Qualified for STATE at 58.9.

1982 --

City Meet: 1st in the 100 Meters, the 200, and the 400.

District: 1st in the 400 at 57.3.

Regionals: 2nd at 57.92.

State: 6th at 57.23.

All year: Joined Niki Brown, Connie Winn, and Tina
House to anchor the Sprint Medley relay
team.





Jeff Klepacz

Class of 1982

Football Basketball Golf Baseball

Letters: Golf (3) Baseball (4)

- Golf:** Started 3 years, was MVP in 1981, led Pilots to City championship in 1980.
- Baseball:** Middle Infielder who could run, hit, and field. 1980--2nd Team All-City. 1981--All-City and Special Mention All-Area; led his team to City championship. 1982-- Hit well over .300, led his team to the District finals, and finished with a career average between .330 and .360. 1982 Class B All-Star Shortstop for WW's Summer team. Athlete of the Month '81 and '82.
- Other:** 1982—Physical Education III award & Sports Editor of the Wright Pilot.
- Post WW:** **College:** Four years of baseball at Sinclair College and the University of Dayton. He was elected team captain at UD in 1985.
- Dayton Amateur Baseball, Class AA (adult):** 7-year career average over .300 with Midwest Sports Medicine. City champs in 1987.
- Umpiring and officiating:** 1983 to present-baseball, basketball, and volleyball at high school, college, and professional levels. Umpired dozens of Dayton Dragons games and many championship games. Was elected to the Dayton Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame in 2010.
- Coaching:** 1996-2015: Various sports for St. Anthony school and Patterson Park.
- Literary:** Wrote a book, *Show Me the Ball*, about umpires, players, and managers.

1941 and 1942 City Track Champions



Homer Knorr '42

1941 City Meet: Homer Knorr and Bill Kramer each won 13 1/2 points; Elwood Kaylor won 7 1/2. Homer Knorr was 2nd in the 120 Yard High Hurdles and 1st in the Discus. Kramer was 2nd in the 100 Yard Dash and 1st in the 220.

1942 City Meet: Homer Knorr won the 120 Yard High Hurdles, was 3rd in the High Jump, and 2nd in the Discus. Don Norris (Bill Kramer graduated in '41) won the 440 Yard Run, was 4th in the 100 and 2nd in the 220. Tex Turner won the Mile Run. Elwood Kaylor won the 220 Yard Low Hurdles and was 3rd in the Broad Jump.



Dale Plunkett '44

Other members of the '41 and '42 track teams: Dale Plunkett, Roy Begley, George, Holland, Cal Reeder, Bill Lemmon, and then last name only: Wright, Sommers, Pohl, Kozuh, Farah, Speraw and Morton.

1943 City Football Co-Champions

(Beat Roosevelt 14-7 to tie Fairview and Chaminade at 5-1)



Chuck Flaum '45

1st team All City: Bill Cukovceki (E), Dale Plunkett (QB & RB), Frank Shain (G). 2nd team All-City: Glenn Mumpower (T) and Roy Begley (RB). Honorable mention All-City: Bill Gaiser (E), Cal Reeder (FB), Chuck Flaum (C) and Dick Powers (G).

Other members of the team: Ben Hardin, Jack McConnell, Clyde Schaeffer, Alan Graber, Bob Crosley, Marion Scrimenti, Joe Robinson and Tatum (last name only).

1943

City Basketball Co-Champions

(5-1 record tied Fairview and Roosevelt)



1st team All-City: Dale Plunkett. 2nd Team All-City; Bill Cukovecki. Honorable Mention All-City: Wilbur Pytel, Don Norris and Jim Blair.

Other members of the team: Roy Begley, Bill Gaiser, Cal Reeder, and then last name only: Roberts and Manchester.

Bill Cukovecki '44

1945

City Track Champions



Lester Schmidt '46

City Meet: Jack McConnell won the 100 and 220 Yard Dashes and was 5th in the Broad Jump. Joe Robinson won the Broad Jump and was 3rd in the 100 and 220. Lester Schmidt was 5th in the 440 Yard Run. Joe Boehmer won the Pole Vault and tied Ben Hardin for 3rd in the High Jump. Don Bruns was 2nd in the Mile and 3rd in the Half Mile.

Bob Hocker was 3rd in the High Hurdles and 4th in the Low Hurdles. Kenny Kaylor was 5th in the High Hurdles and 3rd in the Low Hurdles.



Ben Hardin '46

Other members of the team: Bob Smock, Glenn Mumpower, Cal Reeder, Gene Funderer, Charlie Blair, Jim Brewer, Jim Hollahan and Myron Shartle.

1955

City Track Champions

(Wilbur Wright 67 1/2, Roosevelt 60, Stivers 31 1/2)



Bill Alexander '55

Bill was a member of the 3rd place 880 Yard Relay team. He participated 3 or 4 years in football, basketball and track. Lettered in all three sports.



Dick Bitzer '55

He was 2nd in the High Hurdles, was 1st in the Low Hurdles with a record setting time of :19.9. He was 5th in the High Jump and was a member of the record-setting (3:32.9) Mile Relay team. Ran hurdles at State. Was Special Mention All City in Basketball.



Willis "Bing" Davis '55

He was 1st in the High Jump (5' 11 1/2"). And he was 3rd in the Broad Jump (20' 1 1/2"). In the High Jump he set the Wilbur Wright record of 6'3", and at State he was 2nd in '53, 3rd in '54, and 2nd in '55. Also lettered four times in Basketball and was 1st Team All-City in '54 and '55.



Joe Freese '55

Tied for 4th in the Pole Vault at 11 feet even. He also lettered in football, played 4 years.



Robert A. "Bob" Mewhinney '55

Was 5th in the 120 Yard High Hurdles and 1st in the Pole Vault (11'10"). Also lettered in basketball and was a starter on the 18-3, '54-'55 team.



Tom Skilling '55

Was 2nd in the Mile Run and 1st in the 880 Yard Run (2:05.1). He also lettered in football.



Bob Winchek '55

Was 3rd in the Shot Put and 2nd in the Discus. Won City Shot Put in '52 (48' 1 1/2") and in '54 (50' even). He had 4 letters in track and 3 in football.



Roy C. Kronenberg '56

Won the 440 Yard Run (:53.1) and was a member of the record setting (3:32.9) Mile Relay team. He also lettered in football and was a key defensive back for the semi-pro Dayton Triangles.



Louie Malloy '56

Was 3rd in the 100 Yard Dash, 4th in the 220, and was a member of one 3rd place 880 Yard Relay team. He won many 100's and 220's as a senior. He also lettered in football.



Kenny Mann '56

Was 5th in the 440 Yard Run and ran anchor on the record setting (3:32.9) Mile Relay team. As a senior, was 3rd in the District 440 to become a State Qualifier. He also lettered in football, played freshman basketball and one year summer baseball.



Richie Miller '56

His events were the Shot Put and Discus. He did not earn points at the city meet. Place 3rd in Discus at Fort Wayne Relays. Earned two letters each in track, football and basketball (2nd Team All City in '55-'56 season).



Chuck Ray '56

His events were the Mile Run, 880 Yard Run and the Mile Relay. He did not earn points at the city meet. Earned 3 letters in track and often won the Mile. He also played freshman football and basketball.

Dick Slade '56



Was 5th in the 880 Yard Run. Events were the Mile Run and the 880 Run. Earned 2 letters in track, played freshman and JV football.

John Grottke '57



Was a member of the 3rd place 880 Yard Relay team and the record setting (3:32.9) Mile Relay team. He earned 2 letters in track, played freshman football. Favorite expression is "God love ya."

Clyde Slaton '57



Was a member of the 3rd place 880 Yard Relay team. Also often ran the 120 Yard High Hurdles. He earned 3 letters in track and 3 in football.



Hall of Fame Coaches



Ben Campbell

1950 - 1979

Coach, Teacher, Wright Pilot Advisor

- A:** Baseball Coach for 15 years. Won or shared city champion-ships in 1954, 1955, 1956 and 1959. Won District Championship and advanced to Regional Finals in 1955.
 - B:** Recognized and respected by his players as the finest teacher of baseball fundamentals **EVER, ANYWHERE.**
 - C:** Taught English and Journalism.
 - D:** **The Wright Pilot** was perennially rated one of the top 10 high school newspapers in the USA.
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Dean Dooley

1946 – 1962

Coach, Teacher

- A:** Head Track Coach 16 years. His 1955 team won the City Championship, upsetting Roosevelt 67 1/2 to 60. Stivers was third with 31 1/2 points.
- B:** Head basketball coach 12 years. His 1954-1955 team (W18-L3) upset both perennial powerhouses Roosevelt and Middletown.
- C:** Dooley, on his own time, helped Bing Davis and others organize a basketball program for disadvantaged youth in the Springfield and Irwin Streets neighborhood.
- D:** Taught Social Studies and Psychology.



Chuck Hardin

1951 - 1976

Coach, Teacher, Athletic Director

- A:** Freshman and Assistant Football Coach
 - B:** Assistant Basketball & Track Coach
 - C:** Head Basketball Coach 11 years
 - D:** Athletic Director, 14 years
 - E:** Taught American Government.
 - F:** Was Advisor for the Hi-Y (YMCA) Club.
 - G:** Organized the Wilbur Wright Boosters Club in 1968.
 - H:** Was honored by the Boosters, upon his death, with the creation of the Chuck Hardin Memorial Trophy to be given to a top Senior Scholar Athlete.
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Acknowledgement

The logistics in making an event like this successful requires the support of more than a few people. The Committee would like to extend a thank you to the following individuals for going that extra yard in making tonight a memory maker.

Milton Athletic Club Team

Chuck Ray '56

Teresa Hatton

Debbie Wait



Distinguished Service and Achievement Hall of Fame

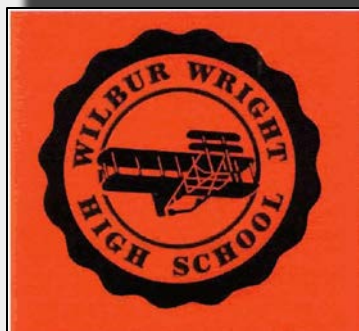


Jerry McElfresh '58 1998 - 2016

- A:** Class of 1958 Alumni President.
- B:** Men's all-class, semi-monthly lunch and activity organizer.
- C:** Helped repair seats in the auditorium before the rest of the original Wilbur Wright structure was demolished.
- D:** Helped repair and re-hang large class and athletic pictures in the old alumni room.
- E:** Orders, picks up and delivers special Wilbur Wright wearing apparel for all alumni who so desire.
- F:** Served two years on the Athlete Hall of Fame Committee. Did a large amount of newspaper microfilm research.

_____ *Notes* _____

Notes



THE WILBUR WRIGHT HIGH SCHOOL FIGHT SONG

*Down the field to Victory
Roll up the score for Wilbur Wright!
Here's to fame and loyalty;
Let's win the game, so fight! Team fight!
Red and Black we're all for you
we'll never let your colors trail!
Cheer let's cheer for Wilbur Wright.
Her spirit will not let us fail.
Fight! Fight! Fight!
Fight! Fight! Fight!*

(Repeat the song)

Wilbur Wright
Athletic Hall of Fame
Committee

www.wilburwrightalumni.com/halloffame