



WILBUR WRIGHT DON MEINEKE MEMORIAL
ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

AWARDS DINNER



Induction Ceremonies

Milton Athletic Club
Dayton, Ohio

November 3, 2017

Schedule of Events

Registration and Reception 5:30 pm

Dinner 6:45 pm

Award Presentation 8:00 pm

Good Evening...

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

We continue to move forward, not knowing exactly where we're going. We pretty much agree that if we wish to be a true Hall of Fame, nine or ten total awards banquets should complete the job for a school which existed only 42 years. Otherwise we will become merely a Hall of Good Athletes.

The Milton Athletic Club has graciously agreed to let us hang our composite plaques in their card room until we can find a more appropriate and accessible location. The new Wright Brothers Middle School doesn't seem to be an appropriate "museum" for old Wilbur Wright High School athletes Dayton Public Schools doesn't return our calls or answer our letters.

But we continue to move forward. Tonight we will honor some athletes and coaches who are deceased or are too physically incapacitated to travel. Some will have family representatives present; some will not. But it's the right thing to do because their dedication and contributions were exceptional.

The number of hall of famers, based on individual performance, gracing our composite plaques now totals 65. We are still gathering information and considering designs for companion plaques which will recognize the championship teams, hall of fame coaches, and Distinguished Service and Achievement honorees.

If there is a deserving athlete whom you feel we have overlooked, please mail your recommendation (preferably a complete resume) to Dave Swartz, 201 Big Pine Road, Dayton, OH 45431-1840, or to one of our other committee members. Thanks for being here tonight. Have a great time.

The Wilbur Wright Athletic Hall of Fame Committee:

Gary Conley, Tom Hatton, Joe Hensler,
Kenny Mann, Clyde Slaton, Dave Swartz

Wilbur Wright High School Athletic Hall of Fame



Individual Honorees

Edward Kenneth McCracken	'52
Dick Beckham	'54
Don Young	'57
Jim Jennings	'59
Philip A. Hapner	'64
J. D. Schulte	'65
Bill "Smitty" Smith	'65
Jim Leopold	'77
Billy Ward	'80
Jill "The Thrill" Derrick	'82



Team Honorees

**1948 Baseball Spring and Summer
City Champions**

**1949 Baseball Summer
City Champions**

**1953 Baseball Summer
City Co-Champions**

**1954 Baseball Spring City Champions and
Summer City and District Champions**

**1955 Baseball Spring District Champions
and Regional Runner-Ups**

**1956 Baseball Spring and Summer
City Champions**

Hall of Fame Coaches

Coach Percy "Perc" B. Welcome '41-'46

Coach Dwight Bushong '45-'49

Distinguished Service and Achievement Hall of Fame

Tom Bliss '51



Edward Kenneth McCracken

Class of 1952

Football Baseball

Letters: Football (2) Baseball (2)

Football: Played 4 years. Was 2nd Team All-City RB in '51 with many long runs and 14 TDs —12 rushing, 1 passing, and 1 receiving. Caught game-winning pass to beat Stivers 19-18, with 5 seconds remaining in the game.

Baseball: Played 3 years. Started in the OF for 2. Good hitter.

Post WW: Industrial league basketball and slow-pitch softball. **Football:** RB for Dayton's Semi-Pro Triangles. Became long-time coach of the Triangles (later the Colts). The Triangles/Colts won five Midwest league championships, and once went 12-0, beating teams like Detroit Chicago, Washington, D.C., St. Louis, Cincinnati, and Toronto. Ed was named to the Triangles/ Colts Hall of Fame.



Dick Beckham

Class of 1954

Football Basketball Track

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

Football: Played 3 years, suffered broken leg in final practice of '52.

Basketball: Played 3 years. 2nd Team All-City '54. Was one of 12 Montgomery County All Stars chosen to play the Clark County All Stars.

Track: Ran 4 years. Specialized in high and low hurdles. Could also high jump. Took many firsts in dual meets '52-'54. In '53 he was 3rd in the District LH, 3rd in the City HH, and 5th in the City LH. In '54 he was 3rd in the District HH, 3rd in the Miami Relays HH, and 1st in the City HH. In the Dayton Relays he was 1st in LH and 3rd in the HH. Dayton Jaycees named him Outstanding Senior at WWHS.

Post WW: Capital University: Full Athletic Scholarship. Basketball & Track, 4 years each. 1st in LH and 2nd in HH in '58 Ohio Conference Meet.



Don Young

Class of 1957

Football Track

Letters: Football (3) Track (1)

- Football:** 1st Team All-City Offensive Tackle '56. Started in '55 also.
- Track:** At 200+ pounds, natural events were the Discus and the Shot Put. But he also ran the 100 and 220-yd. dashes, sometimes winning the 100 in dual events at 11 seconds flat, which drew the attention of Woody Hayes.
- Post WW:** Full Scholarship to Ohio State. Ohio State: 2 letters. Career-ending injury near end of junior year. Vince Lombardi's Packers had shown an interest in him.
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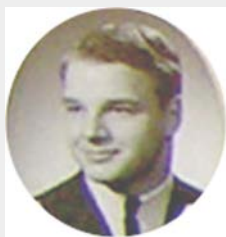
Jim Jennings

Class of 1959

Basketball

Letters: Basketball (2)

- Basketball:** 1st Team All-City in '59. Was the leading scorer and rebounder in Dayton. Was selected to play in the Ohio North/ South All-Star game. Received scholarship to Murray State University.
- Post WW:** At Murray State, led team in scoring and rebounding three years. 1st Team All-Ohio-Valley Conference three times. 1964 OVC Conference Player of the Year and Murray State Athlete of the Year. Chosen for the Murray State Athletic Hall of Fame. Coached the Murray State freshman team in 1968.



Philip A. Hapner

Class of 1964

Football Baseball

Letters: Football (4) Baseball (4)

Football: Defensive Tackle. Honorable Mention All-City '61, 2nd Team All-City '62, 1st Team All-City and 2nd Team All-District '63.

Baseball: Catcher. Hit .300 -.350 with power. Great arm. Battled future L.A. Dodger Steve Yeager of Meadowdale for All-City honors.

Post WW: Bowling Green State University: Received full scholarship. Started at Line-backer as freshman. Also won a Handball championship.



J. D. Schulte

Class of 1965

Football CrossCountry Basketball Track

Letters: Football (2) Cross Country (1)

Basketball (2) Track (4)

Football: Honorable Mention All-City Wide Receiver '61.

X Country: Finished 2nd in City Meet.

Basketball: Very good team player with ability to move ball quickly.

Track: Rare combination of speed and endurance. Coach Robert Sexton: "He has won numerous individual awards in various invitational and district meets." Most Outstanding Freshman. Same as sophomore, plus MVP. Won the District Class AA 880 in '63 and competed at State. Set school record for 880 at 1:58.2. Broad jumped over 20', ran anchor on the 880 Relay team, and ran the 440.



Bill "Smitty" Smith

Class of 1965

Football Basketball Baseball

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

Football: Played 2 years as Wide Receiver.

Basketball: Played 4 years.

Baseball: 1st Team All-City Pitcher '65.

Post WW: Relief Pitcher '66 for U.S. Marine Corps MCRD San Diego team. Played 64 games vs. Division 1 and Division 2 college teams. Played basketball and softball in California Police Olympics, circa 1970-1995. Was an ASA umpire 1996-2015. Umpired two National tournaments and over 15 North Coast Sectional H. S. playoff games.



Jim Leopold

Class of 1977

Basketball Baseball

Letters: Basketball (3) Baseball (4)

Basketball: Honorable Mention All-City '75, '76, and '77.

Baseball: Shortstop and Pitcher. Honorable Mention All-City '75, 1st Team All-City '76 and '77. WW was both Spring and Summer league Champions in '76. Journal Herald and Regional All-Star '77. MVP in Regional All-Star game. Batted .493 in '77. Received 4-year scholarship to University of Kentucky.

Tom Printz Memorial Award: Won it as a freshman.

Post WW: University of Kentucky: Four letters as centerfielder and pitcher. Helped Kentucky to SEC playoffs in '79 and '81. Awarded SEC Best Defensive Player in '81. Drafted by San Diego Padres as a pitcher June, '81. **Summers:** Played for Springfield Post Printing NABF Senior National Champs in '78 and in prestigious Cape Cod League in '79. **Professional:** 4 years with the Padres A, AA, and AAA; 3 years with the Pirates AA and AAA; 1 year with the Cardinals AA and AAA. Pirates took him to Major League Spring Training in '85. Injured arm in '88.



Billy Ward

Class of 1980

Football Basketball Track

Letters: Football (3) Track (3)

Football: Wide Receiver. Had 10 career TDs. Was Captain his senior year. Led the league in receptions.

Track: Captain and MVP senior year. Events were the 100, 200, and 400 meter sprints, plus all distances of relays. School records were set in the 4x100, 4x200, 4x400, and Sprint Medley Relays. In large meets he sometimes finished 2nd or 3rd in the 400M.

Post WW: Central State University: Letters—Football 3, Track 4. **Football:** Wide Receiver, 14 career TDs. **Track:** 4 years All-Conference as a 400M sprinter. Member of the 4x100M Relay team that was NAIA National runner-ups in '84. MVP '82, '83, and '84. Captain '83, '84. **NAIA All-American '84. Dayton Public Schools Coaching Track:** Belmont H. S.: 3 years, 1 State Champion. Colonel White H. S.: 1 year, 1 State qualifier. Thurgood Marshall H.S.: 9 years and counting, 5 State champions. 18 total State qualifiers in coaching career.



Jill “The Thrill”

Derrick

Class of 1982

Volleyball Basketball Track

Letters: Volleyball (3) Basketball (3) Track (2)

Volleyball: 1st Team All-City '80 and '81. Captain in '81. Played 4 years.

Basketball: 3rd Team All-City '80-81. Played 4 yrs.

Track: Sprinter--Won points in dual meets.

1948 Baseball Spring and Summer City Champions

1949 Baseball Summer City Champions



Don Fink '48

Darwin "Red" West, Loren "Dutch" Myers, Jim Lambert, Eldon Pohl, Dale Eckert, Howard Padgett, Dick Lego, Jim Fleming, Tom Neff, Don Fink, Don Meineke, Norm Kleinhans, Gerald Busch, Jerry Ellis, Walt Linkous.

Owner of Gem City Roofing: Roger Amyx,
Spring Coach: Ray Otto

Summer Coaches: Johnny Swain and Dutch Ussat, Father of Bill (see '54 Spring Baseball Champions).



Tom Neff '49

These were teams of pros and future pros. Dutch Ussat was with the Cleveland Indians in 1927 when the Babe hit 60 homers! Eckert (Pirates) and Padgett (Reds) played minor league baseball; Lambert played one year in the Canadian Football League; and Meineke, of course, played five years in the NBA and was Rookie of the Year in '52-'53.

1953 Baseball Summer City Co-Champions



Lou DeSaro '53

Bruce Todd (P), Roger Long (1B), Jim Stone (2B), Lee Frankenfeld (C), Corky McCune (P), Don Risch (OF), John Turley (OF), Chuck Breisch (C), Norm Christ (OF), Jim Beard (IF / P), Bunk Warren (P), Ledford Benton (IF), Dave Padgett (IF), Dave Swartz (OF), Ron Pohl (IF), Lou DeSaro (IF), William "Shorty" Long (Coach)



Lee Frankenfeld '53

During the summer, Wilbur Wright's sponsor was the Vulcan Tool Company. Vulcan, Fox Cleaners (Fairview), and Inland Manufacturing (Roosevelt) tied for the championship with 12-2 records.

Vulcan was then eliminated from further post season play by Fox in the opening round of the City/ District playoffs. For the season, leading hitters for Vulcan were Frankenfeld, Pohl and DeSaro.



Ron Pohl '53



Don Risch '53



Jim Stone '53



Bruce Todd '53

1954 Baseball Spring City Champions Summer City and District Champions



Ledford Benton '54

Dick Grothjan (IF), Buddy Mantia (OF), Ron Van Meter (SS), Gary McGhee (1B), John Turley (OF), Dave Swartz (OF), Corky McCune (P), Chuck Breisch (C), Bunk Warren (P), Ledford Benton (3B), Dave Padgett (IF), Roger Long (1B), Paul Schuh (OF), Jim Beard (2B/P) and Paul Wiltshire (C).

Spring Only: On the team were John Black, Norman Mann, Bill Ussat, Ned Blakeley, Doug Stovall, and Don Thomas. Ben Campbell and William "Shorty" Long (Coaches).



Chuck Breisch '54

In the Summer District playoffs, Wilbur Wright (Vulcan Tool) first defeated Chaminade (Zimmerman Construction) 2 out of 3, then Fairview (Fox Cleaners) 2 out of 3.

In the deciding game, Bunk Warren out-dueled Fox's Ron Nischwitz, 1-0 as Ron Van Meter's single and Bud Mantia's triple provided the winning run. The good guys then lost 2 out of 3 to Frisch's Mainliners out of Cincinnati in the Regionals.

In addition to Wilbur Wright's future professional pitchers, Warren and McCune, Mantia, Long and Beard were probably the leading hitters.



John Turley '54



Buddy Mantia '55



Paul Schuh '55



Dave Swartz '56

1955 Baseball

Spring District Champions

Regional Runner-Ups



Jim Miranda '55

Bunk Warren (P), Ned Blakeley (IF), Corky McCune (P), Jim Miranda (3B), Jim Beard (2B), Bud Mantia (RF), Dave Swartz (CF), Larry Miranda (C), Jerry Warner (LF), Don Thomas (OF), Dick Bitner (P), Paul Wiltshire (C), Gary McGhee (1B), Tom Brush (OF), Dave Padgett (IF), Louie Slife (IF), Ron Van Meter (SS) and Charlie Green (P). Ben Campbell (Coach), Gary Latham (Equipment Manager)



Corky McCune '55

After stumbling in league play, the Pilots rebounded to become the first Wilbur Wright baseball team to reach the Spring Regional Tournament played at Crosley Field, home of the Reds. In the semi-final game, McCune bested Fairview's Ron Nischwitz 2-0, but in the finals, Cincinnati Elder, eventual State Champion, prevailed 5-1.

Leading hitters for the Pilots, as the Regionals began, were Swartz at .427, McGhee at .397 and the two All-City pitchers Warren and McCune.



Jerry Warner '55



Bunk Warren '55



Gary McGee '56



Ron VanMeter '57

1956 Baseball

Spring and Summer

City Champions



Tom Brush '56

Tom Brush (LF), Dave Padgett (3B), Roger Long (SS), Gary McGhee (1B), Dave Swartz (CF), Paul Wiltshire (C), Gary Coffing (2B), Kenny Mann (OF), Jerry Emert (RF), Gail DeSpain (IF), Larry Morgan (OF), Charlie Green (P), Butch McCune (P), Larry Miranda (C/3B), Bill Dalhamer (IF), Mike Martin (IF), Bob Hobbs (IF), Max Benton (IF), Dave Mack (P), Orlando Shoffstall (C), Wayne Tribbey (1B), Ben Campbell (Coach), William "Shorty" Long (Coach).

NOTE: Mann was not on the Spring Team. 7 or 8 others were not on the Summer Team.



Roger Long '56

The '56 starting line-up was referred to by one sportswriter as "Murderers Row." Unfortunately, the will to kill died at tournament time!

In the Spring, the Pilots opened the tournament by "upsetting" Roosevelt 6-2, as All City pitcher Charlie Green bested All City "Teddy" Ted Mills. But, then the big bats were silenced by Patterson Co-op's Bill Ussat, who had been a Pilot as a sophomore.

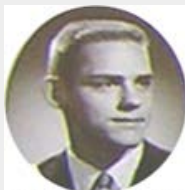


Dave Padgett '56

In the Summer, Fairview (now Salem Lane Market) behind the pitching of Benny Green and Deaton, upset the team that had beaten them easily earlier in the season. Result, early exit from playoffs.



Paul Wiltshire '56



Butch McCune '57



Charlie Green '58

Hall of Fame Coaches



Percy "Perc" B. Welcome

1940 - 1945

At Wilbur Wright: Coached championship Track teams in '41, '42, and '45.

Pre-WW: Became associated with athletics in Dayton in 1930.

Was a member of the Dayton Amateur Basketball Association and the Dayton Recreation Water Safety Commission. At Steele H. S. he was head Track coach and assistant Football coach under Tom Herrman.

Post-WW: Became Secretary of Dayton's Athletic Board of Control in 1946, and was Dayton Public Schools Director of Athletics from 1946 until his death in 1958. He conceived and administered the football premieres (a pre-season, introductory series of half-games, featuring all City teams playing on the same night at the (then) High School Stadium). He also started the Dayton Relays invitational track meet. Welcome Stadium, UD's stadium, is, of course, named after Perc.

Dwight D. Bushong

1945 – 1949



At Wilbur Wright: Coached championship Golf teams in '46, '47, '48, and '49. Coached Basketball from 1945 through '49, and never had a losing season. Coached the '48 Basketball team to the only unshared championship in the school's history. After a 32-29 come-from behind victory in the final and deciding game, forward Jack Schweizer praised his coach: "Only Coach Bushong could have figured a way to beat Dunbar."

Pre-WW: Coached Basketball at Berlin Heights, Erie County; Leesburg, Highland County; Ross Township, Greene County; and Football also at Eaton, Preble County.

Post-WW: Coached Golf and Freshman Basketball at Colonel White.

Distinguished Service and Achievement Hall of Fame

Tom Bliss '51



At Wilbur Wright: Performed the duties of Equipment Manager for four teams, Football, Basketball, Baseball, and Track, all four years of his high school career. Under football coach John Spezzaferro he also became part trainer and team doctor as he learned how to apply ankle wraps and butterfly stitches, as well as how to use BFI powder to stop the flow of blood.

Post-WW: Has served 4 years as photographer for the Wilbur Wright Athletic Hall of Fame Awards Dinner. Served in the U.S. Air Force as an engine mechanic during the Korean War. Has served veterans for many years in many ways, and today is actively involved in the Honor Flights to Washington, D.C.

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

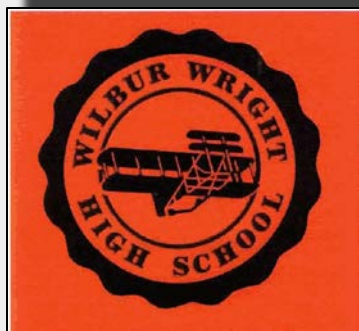
Teresa Hatton

Chuck Ray '56

Debbie Wait



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