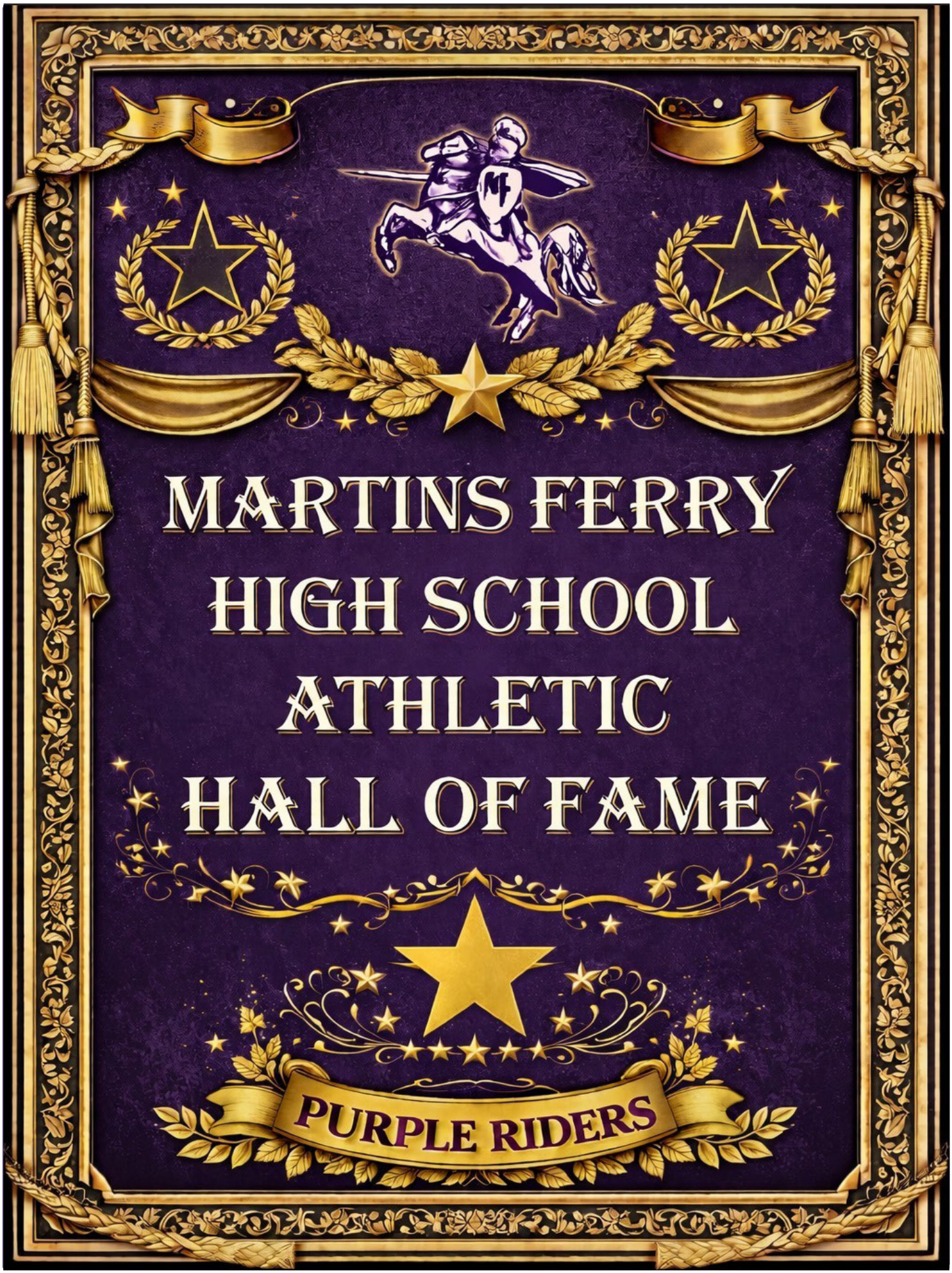

MARTINS FERRY
HIGH SCHOOL
ATHLETIC
HALL OF FAME
PURPLE RIDERS



THE MARTINS FERRY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME PRESENTED BY UNIFIED BANK







Martins Ferry Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2026

Harry Johns (1941)

Walter J. Veloski (1941)

Frank Twardoski (1973)

Melissa Zaney (1986)

Dave Frey (1993)

Ron Hill (2000)

Katrina Jones (2002)

David Tierney (2002)

John Tierney (2002)

Thank You

Hanover Fuel Stop

for catering and donating

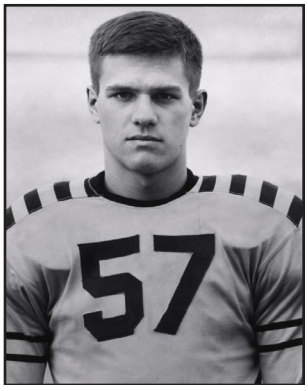
the Hall of Fame Luncheon!

Hanover Fuel STOP

MARTINS FERRY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME - CLASS OF 2026

Harry Johns

(Class of 1941)

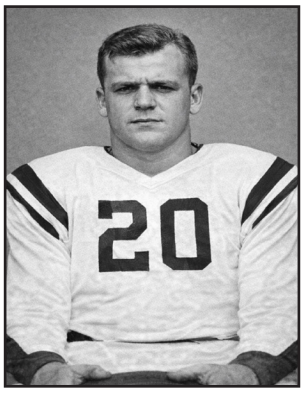


Harry Johns

A 5-10, 185-pound three-year letterman, he played guard on the Purple Riders' ultra-talented offensive line that also included Walter Veloski and Lou Groza.

As a senior, he received first team All-Ohio accolades from the International Wire Service and United Press International. Also a stellar defensive lineman, his honors also included first team Daily Times All-Valley and Intelligencer All-Valley. He played on the 1940 team that posted an 8-2 record and outscored its opponents 183-40 with five shutouts and during his three seasons, the Riders were a combined 21-6-2.

Johns also played basketball as a freshman.



Walter J. Veloski

Walter J. Veloski

(Class of 1941)

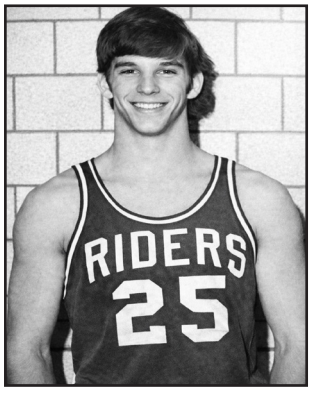
A 5-9, 195-pound, three-year letterman, he was the anchor of one of the best Purple Rider offensive lines of all time alongside fellow All-Ohioans Harry Johns and Lou Groza.

During Veloski's senior season (1940), Ferry posted an 8-1 record, outscoring its opponents by a whopping 183-40 margin with five shutouts. He received first team All-Ohio recognition by the International Wire Service; first team All-Daily Times All-Valley and third team Intelligencer All-Valley honors. During his three years, the Riders posted a combined 21-6-2 record on the gridiron.

Veloski was also a two-year letterman on the MFHS baseball team and was an infielder on the 1939 team that captured the district championship and advanced to the OHSAA Class A State Tournament. He also played on the 1940 and '41 teams that were district runners-up. He is the uncle of MFHS Hall of Famer Don Veloski.

Frank Twardoski

(Class of 1993)



Frank Twardoski

He was a three-sport, three-year letterman (football, basketball and track), and would become the third member of his family in the "Hall" – joining his father, Frank "Pedro" (MFHS Class of 1948) and his brother Sam (MFHS Class of 1970), who were inducted in 2017.

On the football field, Twardoski earned special mention All-Ohio Class AA honors along with first team All-Eastern District Class AA, All-OVAC Class AAA and All-Valley "Big School" honors. A talented receiver-defensive back-punter-punt/kickoff returner, he caught 21 passes for 450 yards with four TDs and 4 two-point conversions as a senior while intercepting six passes from his cornerback position.

In basketball, he received honorable mention All-Ohio Class AA (UPI and AP) and was second team All-Eastern District Class AA and special mention All-OVAC Class AAA. He averaged 19 points and was also the team's leading rebounder as a 6-3 senior captain of the Purple Riders, who posted a 15-7 record while winning the OHSAA Class AA Sectional title and finishing as the District runner-up. He was also second team All-OVAC Class AAA and third team All-Valley "Big School" as a junior.

In track, his best event was the high jump, evident in the fact that he tied what was at the time the school record with a 6-foot, 2-inch leap. He finished second in the OVAC Class AAA meet at 5-6; won the Cambridge Relays (6-2) and finished second in the Shadyside Relays (5-10) and Martins Ferry Relays (5-10).

As a junior, he was third in the OHSAA Class AA District (6-0) to qualify for the Regional; tied the record in the Shadyside Relays (5-11½); tied for first in the Martins Ferry Relays (5-10); tied for second in the OVAC Class AAA event (5-10); second in the Belmont County Relays (6-0) and was an All-Valley selection in his specialty.

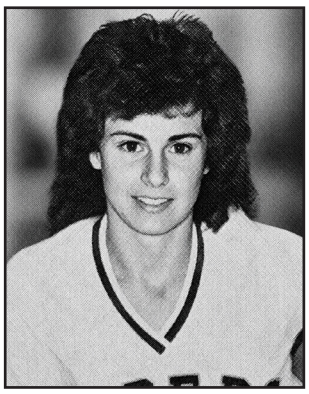
He also competed in the long jump, 220-yard dash and shuttle hurdles.

Twardoski played football for one year at the University of Akron before joining the U. S. Navy.

MARTINS FERRY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME - CLASS OF 2026

Melissa Zaney

(Class of 1986)



Melissa Zaney

A three-year letterwinner and two-year starter, Zaney was a key performer on the Lady Riders' squad that posted a 22-2 overall record which set the school record for victories, winning the OVAC Class AAA championship and the OHSAA Class AA Sectional crown before falling to eventual state champion West Holmes in the District.

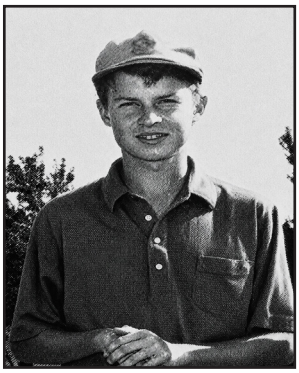
The 5-10 Zaney averaged 19.5 points and 11 rebounds per game with a career high of 27 points against Steubenville and 23 career games of 20 points or more. She was rewarded with a third team spot on the All-Ohio Class AA squad. She was also first team All-Eastern District Class AA, All-District 12 Class AA, All-OVAC Class AAA and All-Valley "Big School", finishing as the runner-up for District 12 Player of the Year.

She played in the OVAC Samuel A. Mumley All-Star Game (12 points) and the Pepsi/District 12 All-Star Game (15 points). She had 12 points and 17 rebounds in Ferry's district tournament loss to West Holmes.

As a junior, Zaney was honorable mention All-Ohio Class AA; first team All-OVAC Class AAA and All-District 12; and second team All-Eastern District Class AA. She averaged 17.9 points and 10 rebounds that season including a career-high 22-rebound game (fourth best all-time at MFHS) against Wintersville, helping the Lady Riders win the OHSAA Class A Sectional title and post a 17-6 overall record.

Dave Frey

(Class of 1993)



Dave Frey

A four-year letterman, Frey was among the best Purple Rider golfers in history.

As a freshman, he posted an 83 to help Ferry to the Bel-Roe League title; carded a 92 in the OHSAA Division II Sectional and a 94 in the OVAC Class 3A Tournament where the Riders finished in third place.

As a sophomore, he narrowly missed a district berth with an 84 in the OHSAA Division II Sectional; earned All-OVAC Class 3A honors with an 83 in leading the Riders to a runner-up finish; and had an 83 in the Bel-Roe, with MFHS finishing as the runner-up.

Frey enjoyed his best postseason as a junior, carding an 85 in the OHSAA Division II Sectional (Ferry was the sectional runner-up and qualified for the district as a team) and following that up with a 77 in the Division II District (losing a playoff for medalist honors) to advance to the OHSAA Division II State Tournament where he posted a two-day total of 178 – fifth best among individual qualifiers.

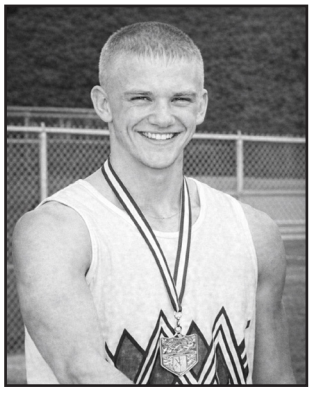
That year, he also fired a 76 to earn All-OVAC honors and led the Purple Riders to their first OVAC Class 3A championship and he earned first team All-Eastern District Division II honors.

As a senior, he had a 77 in the OHSAA Division II Sectional to finish third and advance to the District where he shot 79 and just missed a return trip to the state tournament. He was also OVAC Class 3A runner-up medalist with a 76; third in the Bel-Roe Tournament and again received All-Eastern District accolades.

Frey competed in countless amateur golf tournaments in the Ohio Valley after graduation and finished 12th in a U.S. Amateur qualifying event in 2003.

Ron Hill

(Class of 2000)



Ron Hill

A four-year letterman in track, he excelled in sprints and relays for the Purple Riders.

As a freshman, Hill was second in the Division II District in the 400-meter relay (44.2) and Regional (43.31) and a state qualifier while placing first in the 400-relay (44.60) and second in the 800-relay (1:32.75) at the OVAC Class 3A Championships.

As a sophomore, he qualified for the OHSAA Division II State Meet in the 400-meter dash, placing second in the District (23.40) and third in the Regional (50.62) in that event. He was also second in the 200-meter dash (23.4) at the District and a Regional qualifier. At the OVAC, Hill was first in the 400 (51.45), 400-relay (44.49) and 800-relay (1:32.74) and second in the 200 (23.4) while at the Belmont County Relays, he was first in the 400 (51.9), 800-relay (1:33.4) and 1600-relay (3:38.4) and third in the 200 (23.7).

As a junior, he was part of the Riders' state championship quartet in the 400-meter relay (42.50) that also included Richard 'JR' Thomas, Tony Collette and Julius 'Jay' Wallace and he qualified for the state meet in the 200 and 1600-relay. To get to Columbus, he was first in the 200 (22.0) and first in the 400 relay (42.9) and second in the 400 (51.5) at the District; and first in the 400-relay (42.95) and 1600-relay (3:23.5) and second in the 200 (22.36) at the Regional.Hill was first in the 200 (22.78), 400 (51.73) and 800-relay (1:31.99) at the OVAC Championships; first in the 400 (51.7), 400-relay (43.6) and 1600-relay (3:37.9) and third in the 200 (23.8) at the Belmont County Relays.

As a senior, Hill was part of an All-Ohio quartet, placing third in the 400-meter relay (43.55) with teammates Tony Collette, Zac Bruney and John Yoder while also qualifying for the OHSAA Division II State Championships in the 200 and 1600-relay.

He was first in the 200 (22.38) and 400-relay (43.32) and second in the 1600-relay (3:30.17) at the District and fist in the 400-relay (43.2) and 1600-relay (3:24.71) and second in the 200 (22.39) at the Regional.

His final OVAC meet included first in the 800-relay (1:32.07), second in the 400 (50.25) and third in the 200 (23.06) while at the Belmont County Relays, he was first in the 200 (22.8), 400-relay (44.4), 800-relay (1:32.6) and 1600-relay (3:29.1).

In basketball, he was a two-year letterman who averaged 13 points per game as a senior, helping the Riders to a 14-9 record and the OHSAA Division III Sectional title. Hill's accolades included honorable mention All-Ohio Division III; first team All-OVAC Class 3A; second team All-Eastern District Division III and All-Valley 'Big School'; and honorable mention All-District 12 Division III.

As a junior, he was the sixth man, averaging nine points per game on a 21-2 record squad that won the OHSAA Division III Sectional crown.

Hill went on to a stellar four years at Ohio University, earning Mid-American Conference honors competing in the 200, 400 and sprint relays in both indoor and outdoor track. A four-time Academic All-MAC honoree, he ran a leg on the third-fastest 400-meter relay in OU history (40.78).

Katrina Jones

(Class of 2002)



Katrina Jones

This talented athlete could definitely "go the distance" when it came to running, both in track and cross country. In fact, she held the school record in the 1600-meter run for more than two decades with a clocking of 5:11.50.

A three-year letterwinner in track, Jones helped the Lady Riders to the OVAC Class 3A championship as a sophomore when she was part of the second-place 4x800-meter relay (10:17.14) and finished sixth in the 800 meters (2:34.77). The 4x800 quartet also finished third in the 4x800 relay (10:45.1) that year.

As a junior, Jones literally took off, culminating with All-Ohio status after finishing in eighth place in the 1600 meters (5:22.75) at the OHSAA Division II State Track Championships. To get there, she placed second in the Division II District (5:21.66) and third in the Regional (5:15.46). She also reached the D-II State Meet in the 4x800 relay, placing 15th (10:38.35) along with teammates Mandy Bruney, Amy Bruney and Jessica Hale). That foursome was second in the District (10:09.57) and third in the Regional (9:53.52).

Jones added to her junior accomplishments by placing fourth in the 800 at the District (2:27.35) and eighth at the Regional (2:28.0). She was first in the 800 (2:26.64), fourth in the 400 (1:06.67) and 2nd in the 4x800 relay (10:17.14) at the OVAC Class 3A Championships while taking first in the 4x800 relay (10:30.4) and fourth in the 1600 (5:43.4) at the Belmont County Relays.

As a senior, she continued to excel in the 1600, finishing second in the District (5:23.5) and Regional (5:10.66) and placing 15th in the OHSAA Division II State Track Championships (5:30.48).

She scored an OVAC 'double' by winning the 1600 (5:12.70) and 3200 (11:36.5) while placing third in the 800 (2:30.20) and also had a 'double' in the Belmont County Relays by prevailing in the 1600 (5:26.0) and 3200 (11:52.7) and placing third in the 4x800 relay (10:39.60). Additionally, she posted a 'triple' at the Union Local Invitational (800, 1600, 3200); placed first in the 800 and 1600 at the Bellaire Burger King Invitational; first in the 1600 and second in the 800 at the Bellaire EarlyBird and Bellaire Girls Invitational; and first in the 1600 and 3200 (both meet records at the time) and third in the 800 at the Shadyside Relays.

She was an All-Eastern District Division II selection in the 1600 and 3200.

Also a three-year letterwinner in cross country, Jones' sophomore year included a fifth place finish (19:41) in helping the Lady Riders to the Division II District championship; a 17th place finish in the Regional (Ferry finished third and qualified for the state meet); and a 60th place effort (20:35) at the OHSAA Division II State Cross Country Championships (the Riders were 11th as a team). She also placed third in Class 3A and fourth overall in the OVAC Cross Country Championships (Ferry was the Overall and Class 3A team champion); and was third in the Belmont County Meet (21:21) and Ohio Valley Cross Country League Meet (20:05).

Her junior year in the postseason included a third place finish (20:35) at the District (Ferry won the team title); 18th in the Regional (20:38) and 58th in the OHSAA Division II State Meet (20:10), with the Lady Riders placing 11th as a team. She was the Overall and Class 3A runner-up in the OVAC Championships (20:29), helping the Riders to the team title, and second in the Belmont County Meet (21:16) and OVCCL Meet (19:45). Jones also finished second in invitationals at Meadowbrook and Buckeye Local, third at Newcomerstown and fifth at Cambridge.

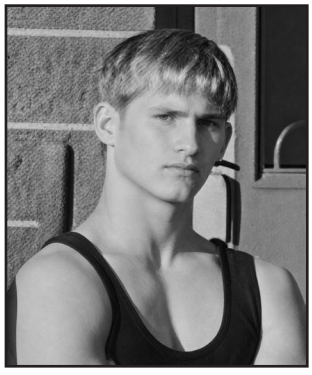
As a senior, Jones was sixth in the Division III District (20:07), 10th in the Regional (20:38) and 76th in the OHSAA State Meet (20:46). She also placed third in Class 3A and eighth overall (20:44) in the OVAC Championships; second in the Belmont County Meet (21:12) and 12th in the OVCCL Meet (21:25) while also winning invitationals at Meadowbrook, Buckeye Local and Newcomerstown.

She received All-Eastern District Division II recognition as a junior and senior.

Also an Academic All-Ohioan, Jones received a scholarship to Akron University where she participated in track and cross country for two years.

David Tierney

(Class of 2002)



David Tierney

A four-year letterman in wrestling, this half of the Tierney Twins played a key role for the Purple Riders on the mat each year and finished his career with 149 victories, which was second all-time at MFHS at the time he graduated.

As a freshman, he was the Division III Sectional and District champion and an OHSAA Division III State Tournament qualifier while earning a fifth-place finish at 119 pounds in the prestigious OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships.

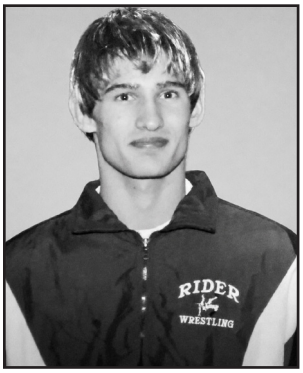
He followed that up with a terrific sophomore season, posting a sparkling 42-2 record and repeating as Division III Sectional and District champion while placing third in the OHSAA Division III State Tournament to earn All-Ohio status. He also took the runner-up spot in the OVAC Tournament at 119.

As a junior, he moved up to the 125-pound weight class and again won Division III Sectional and District crowns and earned another third-place finish at the OHSAA Division III State Tournament to repeat as an All-Ohioan. This time, he was third in the OVAC Tournament.

Tierney capped his career with a 40-4 senior season as a 130-pounder, again winning Division III Sectional and District titles and qualifying for the OHSAA Division III State Tournament for a fourth consecutive year. He reached the pinnacle at the OVAC Tournament, winning the conference championship.

He represented MFHS in what was called the Dapper Dan Wrestling Classic (OVAC vs. WPIAL) match following his final season and was selected as member of the 2000 USA Wrestling-Ohio National Team.

He was inducted into the Martins Ferry Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2019.



John Tierney

John Tierney

(Class of 2002)

Not only could this Tierney Twin pin you on the mat, he could also outrun you.

He provided a one-two wrestling punch with his twin brother David and joined him as a Martins Ferry Wrestling Hall of Fame inductee in 2019.

A four-year letterman, John Tierney finished his career with an impressive 147-20 record which was third all-time at MFHS at the time he graduated and was a four-time OHSAA State Tournament qualifier, earning All-Ohio honors twice.

As a freshman, he was Division III Sectional and District champion and placed fourth in the OHSAA State Tournament at 103 pounds. He was also the runner-up in the OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Tournament.

Tierney then was the Division III Sectional runner-up and fourth in the District as a sophomore at 119 pounds, again qualifying for the state event and he again finished second in the OVAC Tournament.

As a junior, he captured Division III Sectional and District titles and again gained All-Ohio status by finishing fourth in the OHSAA State Tournament at 119. This time, he was third in the OVAC Tournament.

Tierney's senior year on the mat resulted in another Division III Sectional/District championship sweep, but he elevated to the runner-up spot in the OHSAA State Tournament at 119 to cap a 40-5 record season He was the OVAC Tournament champion, MVP of the Ohio Dual Tournament and was later named the OVAC Ohio-side Wrestler of the Year. He competed in the Dapper Dan Wrestling Classic (OVAC vs. WPIAL).

John Tierney also enjoyed success in cross country as a four-year letterman, competing in the OHSAA State Cross Country Championships and placing high in OVAC Cross Country Championships every year.

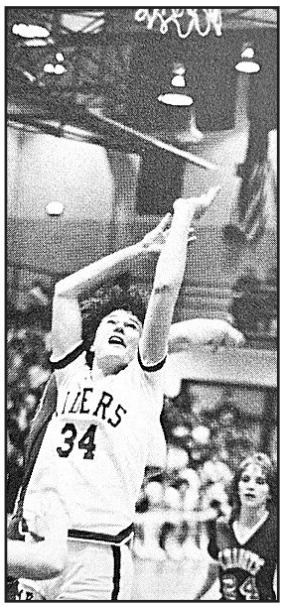
As a freshman, he was sixth in the Division II District (17:03) and 10th in the Regional (17:06) while finishing 84th in the State Meet (17:11). He was second in the OVAC Class 3A event (17:30), second in the Ohio Valley Cross Country League (17:13) while also taking third in the Meadowbrook Invitational, fourth in the Cambridge Invitational and fourth in the Zanesville Invitational.

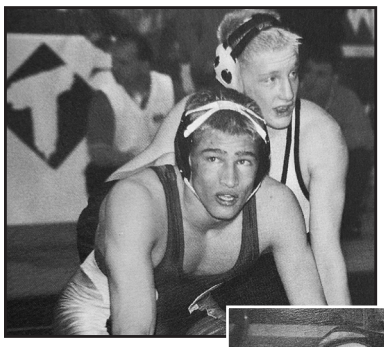
As a sophomore, Tierney placed seventh in the Division III District (16:57) and 10th in the Regional (17:22) to earn a return trip to the OHSAA State Meet. He was second in the OVAC Class 3A Meet/13th overall (17:32), fourth in the OVCCL (17:08) while taking sixth in the Dover Invitational and Meadowbrook Invitational and eighth in the Cambridge Invitational.

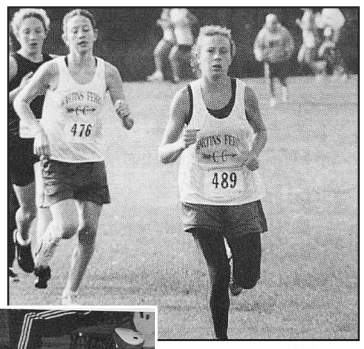
As a junior, he was fifth in the Division III District (17:09) and 15th in the Regional (17:30) before placing 54th in the OHSAA State Meet (16:52). He was fifth in the OVAC Class 3A/9th overall (17:59), second in the Buckeye Local Invitational, third in the Newcomerstown Invitational, fifth in the Cambridge Invitational and sixth in the Meadowbrook Invitational and OVCCL Meet.

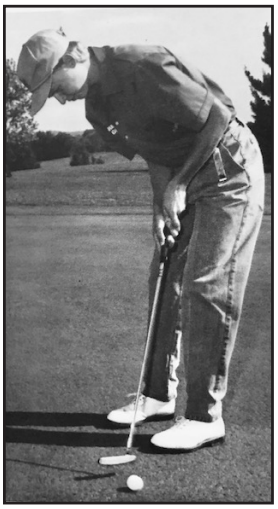
As a senior, he placed seventh in the Division III District (16:58), ninth in the Regional (17:18) and had his best finish at the OHSAA State Meet by placing 26th (16:41). He was sixth in OVAC Class 3A/12th overall (17:15), second in the OVCCL (16:34), second in the Buckeye Local Invitational and Zanesville Invitational, and third in the Meadowbrook Invitational.

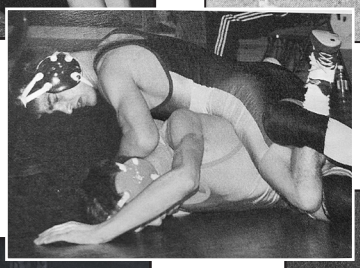
Tierney also competed in track as a freshman, finishing 4th in 3200 in Class 3A at the OVAC Cal Giffin Track Championships (10:32) and fifth in the 3200 at the Belmont County Relays (10:46).





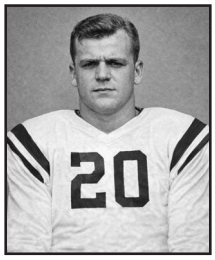


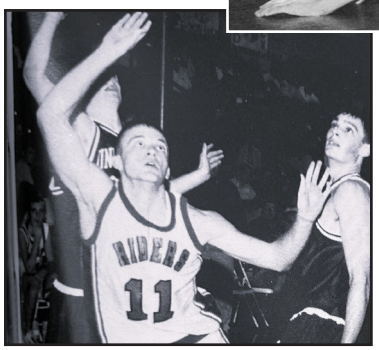


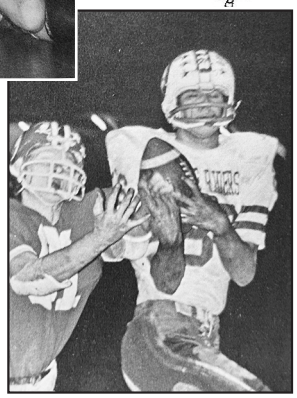


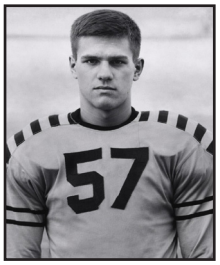












Martins Ferry Athletic Hall of Fame - Previous Inductees

2014
Russell 'Tuss' Edwards (1923)
Bill Van Horne (1939/Media-Contributor)
Fred Negus (1940)
Lou 'The Toe' Groza (1942)
Bill Young (1943)
Alex Groza (1944)
Eudie Joseph (1945)
John 'Corky' Vrotsos (1946)
Fred Bruney (1949)
Ken Vargo (1952)
Ron 'Cy' Godfrey (1956)
Jim Brown (1961)
Larry Duck (1962)
Bruce Smith (1976)
Doug Swearingen (1979)
Peri Powell (1979)
Dennis Swearingen (1982)
Chad Brinker (1998)

2015
Theodore Duck (1924)
Karl Sommer (1929)
John Vargo (1930)
Chuck Bruney (1935)
Nick Vrotsos (1944)
Ed McGlumphy (1949)
Karl Sommer II (1953)
Dan McGrew (1954)
Keith Sommer (1959)
Bob Patton (1960)
Bob Bruney (1960)
Charlie Mamula (1960)
Don Veloski (1960)
Bill Lude (1961)
Ted Torok (1961)
Joe Minder (1962)
Vic Rose (1962)
Bill Yeager (1962)
Bob DiStefano (1964)
Rich McFarland (1964)
John Scordos (1964)
Dave Reasbeck (1968)
Shelly Carroll (1988)
Maurice Jordan (1991)
Floyd Baker (Basketball Coach)
Gordon Downie (Track/CC Coach)
Bob 'Smokey' Wion (Football Coach)
1930 State Champion Baseball Team
1941 State Champion Boys Basketball Team
1941 State Co-Champion Football Team

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2016
Cyril Letzelter (1925)
Bill 'Willie' Elias (1941)
Bob Plotz (1946)
Bill Almashy (1953)
Mike Lucas (1964)
Louis 'Kess' Keys (1965)
Steve Scipio (1967)
Jeff Sommer (1970)
Rich Heil (1974)
Keith Vrotsos (1979)
Jeff Kepreos (1980)
Chuck Allen (1983)
Babe Sidon (1990)
Cory DelGuzzo (1997)
Fred Thomas (Football/Track/CC Coach)
Ken Kadar/Bob Bowen
(1942 State Champion Doubles Tennis Team)
Rich 'JR' Thomas/Ron Hill/Tony
Collette/Julius 'Jay' Wallace
(1999 State Champion 4x100-Meter Relay Team)

2017
Frank Swiger (1938)
Eddie Sterling (1943)
Frank 'Pedro' Twardoski (1948)
Charlie Probst (1954)
Jerry McDaniel (1961)
Rich Weiskircher (1969)
Sam Twardoski (1970)
Mark Hayes (1980)
Jill Myers (1984)
Vanessa Sikora (1989)
Ricky Ray (1991)
Jim Duncan (1992)
Josh Lucas (1993)
Chrissy Martin (1994)
Mikale Roby (1994)
Lamont Tucker (1995)
Fred Hart (Baseball/Football Coach)
Jeff Oberdick (1976/Wrestling Coach)

2018
John Bennett (1937)
Charlie Becca (1943)
Ralph Short (1946)
Dick Thomas (1949)
Bob Joseph (1950)
Raymond 'Bill' Dorsey (1952)
Joe Reasbeck (1953)
Mike Frazier (1975)
Dale Schaal (1975)
John Miller (1976)
Diana Swearingen (1980)
Mike Kuri (1985)
Kelly Kish (1994)
Brian McFarland (1995)
Ryan Lucas (1996)
Fred Ray (1999)
Earl Loucks (Football Coach)
Dave McKim (Gymnastics Coach)

2019
William H 'Bill' Dorsey (1933)
Mike Goudy (1974)
John Schuller (1977)
Jesse Outward (1984)
Jason Pollock (1993)
Dana Schell (1999)
Natalie Vinci (2002)
Dave Bruney (1969/Football Coach)
Jeff Sabatino (1972/Basketball Coach)

2020
Jeff Jones (1960)
Bill Bruney (1970)
John Jasper (1973)
Marc Freeman (1989)
Scott Joseph (1990)
Kari Peterson (1990)
Zac Bruney (2000)
Scott Roth (2000)
Dirk Fitch (Track Coach)

2021
Allen Jackson (1963)
Walter Dombroski (1967)
Larry Allen (1974)
John McFarland (1992)
Nate Jackson (1996)
Lindsay Coyne (2003)
Clay Tucker (2005)
Kim Appolloni (Girls Basketball Coach)
Jeff Harrison (1977/Media-Contributor)

2022
Jack Kardules (1961)
Denny Lucas (1970)
Tom Suriano (1973)
Joe Ellis (1974)
Jeff Smith (1993)
Angela Cerasoli (2005)
Chas Yoder (2005)
Jess Cordery (Softball Coach)
Nick Stankovich (1977/Contributor)

2023
Bill Padgelek (1965)
Mike Deaton (1969)
Bob Krone (1970)
Margie Kunze (1981)
Brad Rinderer/Barry Voytecek (1981/82)
Jack Becker (1995)
Trevor Bruney (2004)
Ryan Churh (2005)
Kayla Lewis (2008)

2024
Steve Santa (1931)
Jodi Janetski (1985)
Tony Rose (1986)
Pete Beck (1994)
Bobby Tucker (1995)
Heather Baker (1997)
Tony Collette (2000)
Mandy Bruney (2001)
Jeremy Murray (2009)

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2025
Ken Sokolowski (1983)
Kevin Sokolowski (1983)
Frank Valentine (1994)
Dan Jones (1998)
Nick Yourkovich (1998)
Craig Bruney (1999)
Ashley Bruney (2002)
Scott Mirich (2006)
Tyler Chesonis (2008)

MARTINS FERRY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Class of 2014

Russell "Tuss" Edwards (Class of 1923)



He was an honored, record-setting Purple Rider athlete who served as team captain of football, basketball and baseball as a senior. He was an All-Valley halfback as a senior after two years as an All-Valley end. In his senior season, he set record which was listed as an Ohio Valley record for several years. He scored 56 points on eight touchdowns plus eight conversion kicks in an 81-0 blanking of Coshocton.

Edwards enrolled at Washington & Jefferson College, then a "major college" football power under coach John Heisman, for whom the Heisman Trophy is named. He played his final three years as a regular end for coaches Allie Miller and Andy Kerr. As a senior, he was All-East and earned some second team All-America honors.

After rejecting an offer to play pro football with the Philadelphia Yellow Jackets, he returned to the Ohio Valley to coach high school at Adena, Warwood and Linsly. At Adena, his 1927 football team went 10-0, the girls' basketball team was 18-0 and the boys' hoop team had a winning season. He coached OVAC Legends honoree Jim (Monk) Moscrip, a Stanford University All-American who started in three Rose Bowls, at Adena. His 1930 Linsly boys' basketball team took a 21-0 record to Chicago to compete in the National Scholastic Basketball Tournament. The Cadets won two games before bowing in the quarterfinals.

He helped found the Wheeling Midget Baseball League in 1950 and served as president from 1953-68. He was named Wheeling Jaycees' Citizen of the Year in 1956.

Edwards was inducted into the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Hall of Fame in 1984 and was selected as an Ohio Valley Athletic Conference "Legend" honoree in 2013.

Bill Van Horne (Class of 1939/Media-Contributor)



He was the dean of Ohio Valley sportswriters during a legendary newspaper career that spanned 53 years.

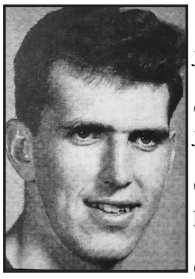
Van Horne was sports editor of *The Times Leader* for 25 years and the *Wheeling News-Register* for 28 years, during which time he was recognized by his peers as the most informational and influential writer in Ohio Valley history. His work with the OVAC over the years was especially instrumental in the success of the wrestling, track and field and cross-country. Van Horne was the second recipient of wrestling's 'Mr. Mat' Award in 1977 and he also received the Calvin Giffin Memorial Track Award.

His columns, 'Van Horne on Sports,' were masterpiece chronicles of the lives of others. Agiant in his field and a role model for aspiring writers, Van Horne was admired and respected for his integrity, dedication, fairness, knowledge and compassion.

Van Horne's coverage and support for events like the Wheeling Distance Race (now The Ogden Newspapers 20K Classic), the West Virginia Tennis Open and the (now defunct) Wheeling LPGAClassic helped those events reach prominence in our area. His backing also was a factor in the popularity enjoyed by the Wheeling Ironmen, Wheeling Blues and Wheeling Thunderbirds (now the Wheeling Nailers), professional football, basketball and hockey teams.

Numerous awards and honors were bestowed on Van Horne. The Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Club named him Man of the Year in 1993; he was selected as the West Virginia Sportswriter of the Year three times; received the Gene Morehouse Memorial Award for contributions in sports writing throughout the Mountain State; and he was inducted into numerous halls of fame. Among those were the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Hall of Fame, Wheeling Hall of Fame; Lou Holtz Upper Ohio Valley Hall of Fame; Ohio Baseball Hall of Fame, Minor League Pro Football Hall of Fame and the Wheeling-Oglebay Tennis Club Hall of Fame. He served as president of the West Virginia Sports Writers Association and was a member of the Football Writers of America. Bill was the first sportswriter from West Virginia to be elected to the Football Writers Board of Directors. He also served as state chairman for the Heisman Trophy selection committee.

Fred Negus (Class of 1940)



He was a three-sport, three-year Purple Rider athlete in football, basketball and baseball and earned All-Valley honors as a junior center and senior fullback while serving as team captain in two sports.

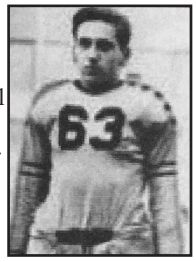
After a year in prep school, he played football two years at the University of Wisconsin and earned All-Big Ten as a sophomore center on an 8-1- 1 record team ranked No. 3 in the nation. After enlisting in the Marine Corp Reserve, he earned All-Big Ten center as a junior at the University of Michigan and also lettered in track.

Following a year in the active U.S. Marine Corp where he competed on the Marines' football team, he was drafted by the NFL's Cleveland Rams, but opted to return to the University of Wisconsin. He earned his third All-Big Ten first team honors and competed for the College All-Star team against the Chicago Bears.

Professionally, he played three seasons in Chicago in the All-American Football Conference and the 1950 season with the Chicago Bears.

He was inducted into the University of Wisconsin Athletic Hall of Fame inductee in 1998 and an Ohio Valley Athletic Conference "Legend" honoree in 2009, he passed away in 2005 at the age of 83.

Lou "The Toe" Groza (Class of 1942)



The Purple Rider luminary is best known as a record-setting professional football placekicker, but he was much more.

In high school, he was a three-sport standout and All-Ohio in football and basketball. He was center, and the state tournament's leading scorer, on the 27-2 record Rider team which won the 1941 state Class A title.

He also was a tackle on the 10-0-1 record 1941 football team which claimed an Ohio co-championship after a 14-14 tie with Toledo Libbey in a post-season challenge game. Groza, by the way, kicked only one field goal in high school. He played football as a freshman at Ohio State before joining the armed services which preceded his 21-year career with the Cleveland Browns which ended in 1967. When he retired, he was pro football's all-time leading scorer with only one TD and 1,609 points. He booted 234 field goals, with a long of 53 yards. He had conversion streak of 134 and scored in 107 straight games. The Lou Groza Award is given annually to college football's top placekicker.

A nine-time Pro Bowl offensive tackle, as well as kicker, he played in nine NFL title games, with four titles, and played on four All-American Conference title teams and had his No. 76 retired by the Browns.

He is a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame (1974) and the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Hall of Fame (1969), National High School Hall of Fame (2006), Ohio Sports Hall of Fame (2024), National High School Hall of Fame (2026) and was honored as an Ohio Valley Athletic Conference "Legend" (2005). A portion of Route 7 is named for him in Martins Ferry.

MARTINS FERRY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Bill Young (Class of 1943)



He was a three-sport standout in a Golden Era of Purple Rider sports. He was honored on Ferry teams which won, or shared, two Ohio state championships in 1941. He was the only sophomore starter on the Lou Groza-led 1941 basketball team which capped a 27-2 record by winning the first Ohio basketball team title-the largest Class A-of any Ohio Valley school. He was named All-Tournament. Later that year, the junior led Ferry to a 10-0 regular season football record and an invitational to play Toledo Libbey for a mythical state title. The teams tied, 14-14. In regular season, Ferry outscored 10 foes by 333-19 including a 54-6 rout of Steubenville.

The rare four-year Rider football letterman and three-year basketball starter on teams with records of 27-2, 22-3 and 24-1, he was team captain in both sports. As a senior on the 24-1 record state semifinalist--the first unbeaten regular season team in school history, he was team MVP on a squad featuring sophomore Alex Groza, an OVAC Hall of Famer and later college All-America and Olympic star. In 1942, Young became the first Rider to wear football jersey No. 44, a school tradition for several years to the team's top player. He also played baseball.

After graduation, he entered U.S. military service before returning to enroll at West Liberty State. He starred on three teams which lost only one game. He earned Little All-America and Small All-America honors in 1947 when he led the nation in rushing with 1,353 yards. He held the West Virginia Conference career total offense record until the 1970s.

He was a charter member of the West Liberty Athletics Hall of Fame and was an Ohio Valley Athletic Conference "Legend" honoree in 2014.

Alex Groza (Class of 1944)



This 6-foot-7, 220-pounder led the Purple Riders to two straight undefeated regular seasons in basketball and to the Ohio state tournament both years. Martins Ferry finished 24-1 in 1943 and 26-1 the following season.

The Purple Riders won the first OVAC Class AA basketball championship in 1944 as Groza scored a valley record 628 points (a mark later broken by 2004 OVAC Hall of Fame inductee Ken Alessi). Groza scored 41 vs. Tiltonsville. He was an all-conference and all-Ohio first-team selection.

He was the top scorer and rebounder on the University of Kentucky's 'Fabulous Five,' which won back-to-back NCAA titles in 1948 and '49, with Groza being named the tournament MVP both years. He was a three-time all-Southeastern Conference choice and a two-time consensus All-American. He set 22 individual SEC records. Groza still ranks seventh on Kentucky's all-time scoring list with 1,744 points. Alex's jersey number (15) was retired by the school.

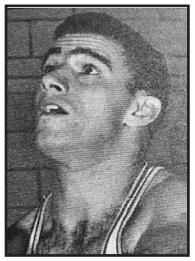
Groza and four of his UK teammates - Ralph Beard, Wallace Jones, Cliff Barker and Kenny Rollins - won a gold medal as U.S. Olympians at the London Games in 1948. Groza, in 1949, was named the Helms Foundation Basketball Player of the Year. In a 1950 Associated Press nationwide poll of sports writers selecting the leading athletes of the half-century, Alex was chosen as one of the five top-rated basketball players.

In the NBA, Groza averaged 22.5 points in 130 pro games with the Indianapolis Olympians in 1950 and '51. He coached Bellarmine (Ky.) College from 1959 through 1966. The school had never won a basketball championship before Groza's tenure. He led the Knights to the Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference regular season and tournament title in 1963, after which he was named the league coach of the year.

Groza later served as business manager and then assistant to the president of the ABA's Kentucky Colonels before becoming general manager of the San Diego Conquistadors until the franchise folded. He then served as GM of a professional volleyball team for one year before joining Reynolds Metals in 1977 as a regional sales manager.

He was inducted into the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Hall of Fame (1988), the State of Kentucky Athletic Hall of Fame (1992), the University of Kentucky Athletic Hall of Fame (2005) and the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Hall of Fame (2004). He died of lung cancer at his home in San Diego on January 21, 1995.

Eugene "Eudie" Joseph (Class of 1945)



A three-sport All-OVAC honoree in football, basketball and track, he was a major contributor to top-record Purple Rider football and basketball teams.

In basketball, playing for OVAC Hall of Fame Legend coach Floyd Baker, Joseph was a regular on teams which went 71-4 in three years including 21-2, with 20 straight wins, as a senior. He was a junior on a 26-1 record team which won the first OVAC Class AA title in 1944. That team lost its only game to eventual Ohio champion Middletown, 38-34, in the state tournament semifinals. Joseph, along with teammate and OVAC Hall of Famer Alex Groza, were all-tournament selections. Joseph scored 421 points —second on the team to Groza's OV record total of 628 points. As a sophomore, Joseph was a member of a 24-1 record team.

In football, he was co-captain of a 7-2-1 record team which won the first OVAC Class AA title and recorded eight shutouts. He earned All-Ohio UPI honors as well as All-OVAC and was a two-time All-Eastern Ohio selection at running back. Nicknamed the "Ghost" for his elusive style, he played on a 9-1 record team as a junior and Ferry was 22-6-1 in his three seasons.

In track, Joseph set an OVAC high hurdle record in the two-year-old meet as a junior and won the high jump. He didn't compete as a senior after being drafted for military duty.

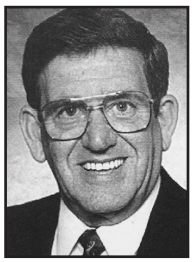
After discharge, he enrolled at the University of Dayton and played four years of basketball with three as a starter on teams with school records of 24-8, 27-5 and 28-5. The last two years, the Flyers were runners-up in the National Invitation Tournament and also were NCAA regional semifinalist in his senior year of 1952.

He spent his entire 37-year professional career teaching and coaching at Linsly Military Institute where he was head coach of boys' basketball (1953-72) and track and assistant in football and also served as athletic director. His Cadet teams won three OVAC titles — 1971 basketball and 1961-62 in track. The top court records were 16-4 in 1957, 15-4 in 1971 and 15-3 in 1972. A Linsly scholarship is named in his honor.

He was inducted into the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Hall of Fame in 2012.

MARTINS FERRY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

John "Corky" Vrotsos (Class of 1946)



He not only initiated the sport of wrestling at his alma mater, he quickly established himself as one of the premier mat coaches in conference history.

Vrotsos guided the Purple Rider grapplers from 1957-68, leading his team to seven consecutive OVAC Tournament championships (1961-67) along with six straight Ohio District Tournament titles. His teams finished ranked in the top 10 in the state four times (1959, '60, '63 and '64) and the best finish at the state tournament was a fifth place effort in 1960.

During his tenure, Vrotsos coached 41 OVAC champions and 41 Ohio State Tournament qualifiers, including 10 state place-winners and one state champion (175-pounder John Scordos in 1964). Ferry's dual meet record during the Vrotsos years was 85-20-1, including unbeaten seasons in 1964 and '67.

The initial inductee into the Martins Ferry High School Wrestling Hall of Fame in 1994 and the 1978 recipient of the OVAC Wrestling Tournament's 'Mr. Mat. Award', he served as tournament director for the OVAC, sectional and district tournaments after yielding the coaching post.

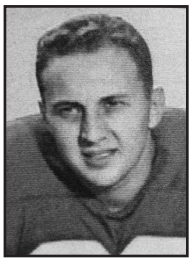
In addition to serving as head wrestling coach, Vrotsos was also an assistant in football and track for the Purple Riders. He was on the football staff during Ferry's run of three consecutive undefeated seasons (1959-61) and four OVAC championships (also 1963).

As an athlete, he was a three-year letterman in football and basketball at Martins Ferry. In football, he was a center-linebacker under legendary coach Fred Thomas, playing center and linebacker on the 1944 and '45 OVAC championship squads, earning all-conference 'AA' honors as a senior. He played guard in basketball under coaches Floyd Baker and Ralph Gartrell.

After serving in the army, Vrotsos then attended West Liberty State College, graduating in 1951. He was a three-year varsity football player for the Hilltoppers and a member of two undefeated teams that played in bowl games. (Smokey Mountain Bowl and Pythian Bowl).

A charter member of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Hall of Fame in 2004, he passed away in 2008.

Fred Bruney (Class of 1949)



An honored football player at three levels - high school, college and pro - he etched his name in Purple Rider lore as a senior when he led the 1948 team to a 9-0-1 record. Ferry was ranked No. 3 in the Ohio one-class poll behind No. 1 Massillon (8-1) and No. 2 Canton McKinley (9-1). The tie was a scoreless struggle with unbeaten Triadelphia (9-0-1) played before 10,961 at Ferry Stadium.

After the mid-season tie with the Triads, Bruney led Ferry to wins over Bellaire, 33-0; East Liverpool, 13-7; Steubenville, 20-0; Linsly, 35-0; and Mansfield, 6-0. Bruney lifted the Riders past East Liverpool with a second half comeback; led Ferry past Steubenville, following a scoreless first half, with a TD run and TD pass; and scored the game's only TD in a 6-0 win over state-ranked Mansfield. Ferry had seven shutouts and allowed only 19 points. The four-year football player, who also played basketball and ran track, earned All-Ohio honors from International News Service as well as All-OVAC and All-Eastern Ohio recognition. The triple-threat player led the Riders in rushing and scoring with 97 points plus six TD passes and also led the team in pass interceptions and kick returns.

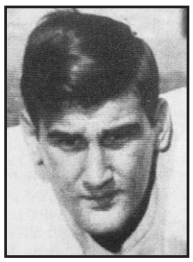
He went on to Ohio State University where the two-way back had 17 pass interceptions — second on the Buckeye charts, including three in one game. He was a first team All-Big Ten Conference choice and played in the East-West Shrine Game.

Bruney was the 35th overall draft pick, in the third round, by the Cleveland Browns in 1953 and played six years in the NFL with the San Francisco 49ers, Pittsburgh Steelers and Los Angeles Rams. From 1960-62, he played in the upstart AFL with the Boston Patriots and twice earned AFL All-Star status. He ended with 15 pro pass interceptions.

He then served 35 years as an NFL assistant coach with the Philadelphia Eagles, Atlanta Falcons, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, New York Giants and Indianapolis Colts. When he retired in 1997, he had the longest tenure as a player and coach in pro football.

Bruney was the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Co-Man of the Year in 1981 along with OVAC Hall of Famer Tom Keane; was inducted into the City of Martins Ferry Hall of Fame in 2009 and into the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Hall of Fame in 2010.

Ken Vargo (Class of 1952)



A three-sport, four-year Purple Rider athlete who was team captain in football and basketball as a senior and a track team member. A 6-foot, 184-pound center-linebacker in football, he earned first team Associated Press All-Ohio defense as a senior and was selected captain of the All-OVAC and All-Valley "Big School" honor rolls. The 1951 All-Valley selections were the first ones selecting Big and Small School teams. Vargo, a 48-minute player, also was a two-time All-Eastern Ohio selection at center.

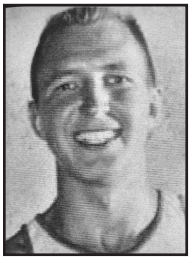
He earned a scholarship to Ohio State University where he became a three-year regular at center and Buckeye co-captain as a senior when he earned first team All-Big Ten Conference with two teammates in the College Football Hall of Fame - Heisman Trophy winner Howard (Hopalong) Cassaday and Outland Trophy winner Jim Parker. Vargo played in the 1956 Hula Bowl.

As a junior, he was a regular on a 10-0 team which won the Rose Bowl, 20-7, over USC and was named AP National Champions.

Vargo was drafted in the ninth round by the Chicago Bears of the National Football League, but opted to play in Canada with the Ottawa Rough Riders where he was Canadian Football League All-Star linebacker in his 1956 rookie season.

He was inducted into the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Hall of Fame in 2013.

Ron "Cy" Godfrey (Class of 1956)



The 6-foot-5 Godfrey set school scoring records which remain on the books for more than 50 years. He shattered Purple Rider career, season and single game marks set in 1944 by legendary OVAC Hall of Famer Alex Groza. His records include current standards of 1,300 career points, a 32.4 point per game norm as a senior, and twice scoring 51 points in a game against Wheeling and Benwood Union. The single-game mark has been tied, the others unbroken. He earned All-Ohio and All-OVAC honors in 1956 at the Purple Riders went 18-6 with sectional and district titles before bowing to Canton McKinley, 57-54, in regional play.

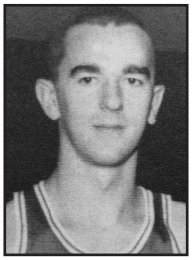
Godfrey earned a scholarship to the University of Miami, where he scored 1,384 career points as the Hurricanes went 61-18 in his three varsity seasons. The 1960 NCAA Tournament team went 23-4 and the 1961 NIT Tournament squad ended 20-7 as Godfrey earned honorable mention All-America.

He later served as head coach for four seasons of the Hurricanes before resigning in 1971. His prize protégé was future Basketball Hall of Famer Rick Barry. Godfrey has been inducted into the University of Miami Sports Hall of Fame (1992) and the Atlantic Coast Conference Legends Class of 2012 although he never played an ACC game. Miami is currently a member of the ACC.

Godfrey was inducted into the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Hall of Fame in 2013.

MARTINS FERRY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Jim Brown (Class of 1961)



A two-sport Purple Rider standout, he is the first OVAC athlete honored primarily for golf. In the OVAC all-class tournament, he improved each year to place fourth, third, second and first his four years. He also won three OVAC Ohio-side titles. He won three Ohio district crowns after placing second as a freshman. In the Ohio state tournament, he improved each season - 11th, 8th, 6th and 4th as a senior. His career match record was 43-4, including 13-1 as a senior after marks of 9-2, 11-0 and 10-1. He was medalist in 39 of 47 career matches.

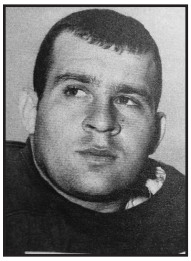
In basketball, the 5-foot-11 guard was a two-time All-OVAC Class AAA choice, twice All-Eastern Ohio (co-captain as senior) and All-Ohio second and third team in two wire service selections. He was co-captain in the Ohio Norrth-South All-Star Game.

He earned a scholarship to play golf and basketball at Ohio State and became OSU's No.1 golfer, and senior team captain, and a three-year varsity basketball letterman.

After six years coaching at Rollins College in Florida and Kent State, he returned in 1973 to become Ohio State's ninth golf coach. He remained for 36 seasons as the longest tenured coach in any sport at OSU. His teams won 17 Big Ten titles and the 1979 NCAA championship among 11 NCAA Top 10 finishes and 31 appearances. A three-time Big Ten Coach of the Year, he won national honors in 1979 and 1986.

He has been inducted into the Golf Coaches of America Hall of Fame (1989); the Ohio Golf Hall of Fame (2006); the Ohio State Athletics Hall of Fame (1991) and the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Hall of Fame (Class of 2013).

Larry Duck (Class of 1962)



Winning and Larry Duck go hand-in-hand. The prep gridiron legend was one of the key pieces in the Purple Riders' amazing success in the late 1950s and early 1960s. The punishing and powerful Duck was a three-year grid starter for Ferry.

What is most remarkable about his illustrious grid career was the fact that he never lost a game as the Purple Riders went 30-0. As a sophomore, Duck started at middle guard for the Ferrians, coached by Hayden Buckley. As a junior, he started at both linebacker and fullback as rookie coach Bob Wion guided another 10-0 campaign. Duck's contributions did not go unnoticed as he was first-team all-OVAC and co-captain of the all-Valley team. Duck's senior year was even more amazing as Wion's charges rolled to yet another 10-0 season. Duck hauled in a myriad of post-season honors. He was named captain of the all-OVAC and all-Valley teams and earned first-team all-Ohio plaudits as a fullback. He was named to the Senior Scholastic All-American Team while also gaining a spot in the Ohio North-South All-Star Game in Canton. Moreover, he was named UPI "Back of the Year" after averaging 6.6 yards a carry, scoring 12 touchdowns and gaining 911 yards.

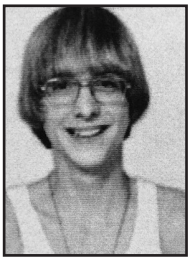
The 6 ft., 220-pound Duck was no one-sport wonder, as he was a starter in basketball while also excelling in track. He putted the shot more than 50 feet and twirled the discus better than 150 feet, both prodigious distances in that era.

Duck accepted a scholarship to WVU and subsequently led the Mountaineers' freshman team in rushing. His stay in Morgantown was short-lived as he transferred to Memphis State University. The move worked out exceptionally well as Duck started three years at middle guard. His teammates voted him MVP following his senior year. Duck was also chosen to play in the prestigious Blue-Gray All-Star Game in Alabama.

Duck's prolific play led him to being drafted by the Canadian Football League. He opted to remain at Memphis as a graduate assistant. He returned home and accepted a teaching position at Martins Ferry High in 1970. He spent the next 30 years at his alma mater, teaching, coaching and also serving a stint as athletic director. He guided the Ferry boys' basketball team to a 20-5 record and a district championship in 1982. He later coached the girls'' team to much success.

He was inducted into the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Hall of Fame in 2010.

Bruce Smith (Class of 1976)



He is at the top of the list when it comes to distance running as a four-time Ohio state champion who set countless meet, valley and school records along the way.

In cross country, Smith was a three-time All-Ohioan (1973, '74 and '75), capturing first place at the state meet in both his junior (9:43.0) and senior (9:33.4) seasons after placing seventh (10:05.0) as a sophomore. His time in 1975 was the state record at the time.

As both a junior and senior, he also finished first in the sectional, district, OVAC and Belmont County meets and finished undefeated both years. As a sophomore, he was second in the sectional, district and county meet and third in the OVAC. He was a three-time All-Eastern District and All-Valley honoree in cross country as well.

In track, Smith earned All-Ohio status two times (1975, '76), winning the state championship in the two-mile run both years. He posted a time of 9:11.1 as a senior after winning in 9:31.1 as a junior. He also placed seventh at the state event as a sophomore (9:39.9).

He finished first in the sectional and district meets all three years, winning the county event twice and finishing as runner-up once. In OVAC meets, he won the OVAC one-mile run and finished third in the 880-yard run as a senior; and captured the two-mile run as both a sophomore and junior.Smith garnered All-Eastern District and All-Valley laurels three times in track.

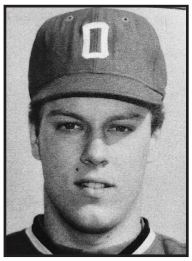
In the two sports at Martins Ferry, Smith was part of four undefeated teams, three sectional and district championship teams, one OVAC championship team and three OVAC runner-up teams.

Smith was also a long-time competitor in most area road races, including several years as the top local runner in the Elby's Distance Race (later know as the Ogden 20K Classic).

He was inducted in to the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Hall of Fame in 2006 and the Eastern District Track and Cross Country Hall of Fame in 2019.

MARTINS FERRY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Doug Swearingen (Class of 1979)



He was best known for his pitching prowess, but Swearingen was a multi-sport standout for the Purple Riders. In addition to the diamond, Swearingen sparkled on the gridiron as well as the hardwood for Ferry. With that said, Swearingen remains one of the finest hurlers in Ohio Valley prep annals.

The crafty southpaw was a four-year baseball letterman for the Purple Riders. When not on the hill, Swearingen was a hard-hitting outfielder. He was a two-time all-Valley honoree and was a first-team all-Ohio selection as a senior. There was no all-OVAC team back then.

Swearingen went 6-2 a senior, compiling a miniscule 0.74 ERA. He fanned 130 batters in 62 innings. He was equally as potent at the plate, batting a robust .412 with eight doubles, three triples, one homer and 24 RBI. He lost the ultimate heartbreaker that spring, dropping a 1-0, 10-inning district final affair to Cadiz. He struck out 20 in a route-going effort.

Such an outstanding prep career had college baseball coaches coveting the 6 ft. 2, 195-pound southpaw. He chose The Ohio State University, a decision he would not regret. Swearingen was a four-year lettermen for the Buckeyes. He compiled a sparkling 23-13 career mark with a 3.80 ERA. Swearingen was a superb 9-1 as a junior, losing only to Oklahoma in the NCAA Regional. He was second-team all-Big Ten that season. Swearingen finished his Scarlet & Gray career tied for 14th place for career mound wins, ninth in innings pitched (278) and 13th in strikeouts (224). He was the team's co-captain as a senior.

He was drafted by the Seattle Mariners in the 23rd round. He pitched for four years in the minors, going 30-22 with a 3.36 ERA.

Swearingen was also a member of the 1982 U.S. National Team which participated in South Korea. He posted a 3-1 record with a 2.25 ERA as the U.S. claimed the bronze medal.

A two-year in football and basketball letterman, he was a first-team all-OVAC defensive back as a senior and was chosen to play in the OVAC All-Star Football Game, but he opted to bypass the game due to his Ohio State baseball scholarship.

He was inducted into the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Hall of Fame in 2012.

Peri Powell (Class of 1979)



Powell distinguished herself as a superb college softball player. Unfortunately for Powell, her high school did not field a prep softball team. That didn't stop her, however, from being an exceptional athlete for the Purple Riders, lettering in three sports.

She still rates as one of the finest basketball players, male or female, in Martins Ferry history. She poured in 1,404 points in her prep career. In the process, the dynamite guard was accorded all-Ohio honors as a junior and senior. She was also honored as OVAC Player of the Year as a senior and was captain of the All-Valley team that same year.

Powell displayed her versatility by lettering four years in volleyball for the Ferrians while also lettering three years in track and field.

Softball came to the forefront at the next level, as Powell earned a full scholarship to the College of Steubenville. As fate would have it, the college did away with the program after two years.

Powell remained undaunted, however. She simply took her vast softball skills to West Liberty State College. It was a move that paid quick, albeit, short dividends.

Powell earned first-team all WVIAC accolades in softball for the Lady Hilltoppers. She opted, however, to leave West Liberty.

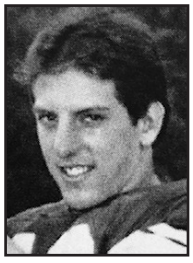
It was not the end of her collegiate exploits, as she decided to ply her trade at Wheeling College (now Jesuit University). She scripted a brilliant two-year career with the Lady Cardinals.

She gained all-WVIAC honors both seasons and was named conference player of the year as a senior. She batted .437 that year. Powell played in the NAIA national tournament in San Antonio, Texas. Powell was voted NAIA All-American, the first Lady Cardinal athlete to ever gain that distinction. Wheeling College retired her softball jersey in 1987. She was inducted into the Wheeling University Hall of Fame in 1991.

After her playing days, Powell distinguished herself in the coaching ranks. She served as Wheeling College head softball coach for two years, being named the WVIAC Coach of the Year, only to have the college discontinue the program. Powell currently serves as assistant softball coach at Martins Ferry.

She was inducted into the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Hall of Fame in 2013.

Dennis Swearingen (Class of 1982)



Swearingen earned 10 varsity letters in four sports, making his biggest marks in football and basketball.

In football, he was a three-year letterman an starting quarterback/defensive back, amassing 1,616 yards passing and 890 yards rushing while leading the Purple Riders to a combined 21-9 record, including a spotless 10-0 mark in his sophomore season, Ferry's first perfect record in 20 years. On defense, he was credited with 125 tackles and had 11 pass interceptions.

He was a two-time first team AP All-Ohio Class AA defensive back, earning second team all-star honors from UPI both years as well. He also garnered first team All-OVAC Class AAA, All-Eastern District Class AAand All-Valley honors twice.

Following his senior season, Swearingen was named a Centennary Prep All-American, an Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Club special honoree and participated in the OVAC Charity All-Star Football Game. In basketball, Swearingen was a three-year starter and 1,000-point career scorer and he was a key member of Ferry's squad which posted a 20-5 record and advanced to the Ohio Class AA regional finals in Athens in 1982. Scoring 14.7 points per game as a senior, he was named first team All-OVAC Class AAA (captain), All-District 12 and All-Valley as well as second team All-Eastern District Class AA. He played in both the OVAC and District 12 All-Star Games.

As a junior, Swearingen averaged 18.9 points per game and was named first team All-OVAC Class AAA and All-District 12, second team All-Eastern District Class AA and third team All-Valley.

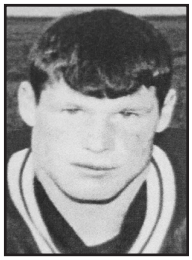
Swearingen also was a three-year letterman in baseball, earning All-OVAC Class AAA honors twice. He also lettered in track as a senior.

He went on to a stellar four-year football career at Ohio University, graduating in 1986 and positioning himself in the top five on the Bobcats' all-time passing list in 10 categories (through 2005). He is second in pass attempts in a game (57) and season (383); third in pass completions for a game (31) and season (195) as well as TD passes for a season (13); fourth in yards passing for a game (355), season (2,056) and career (3,267) as well as pass attempts (569) and completions (312) for a career; and fifth in career passing yards (3,267).

He was inducted into the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Hall of Fame in 2006.

MARTINS FERRY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Chad Brinker (Class of 1998)



This Purple Rider legend shined in three sports during his four-year prep career, but it was in football where he really left a lasting mark.

After lettering as a freshman, Brinker got his chance to be the Purple Riders' main tailback midway through his sophomore season and clearly made the most of his opportunity. Brinker finished his prep career with 3,984 yards, which ranks second all-time at Ferry, and 51 touchdowns. The majority of his career yards came as a senior when he racked up 2,024 yards. After both his junior and senior seasons, Brinker was named first-team all-Eastern District and first-team all-Ohio. He had three 300-yard games as a senior, including a school record 313 yards vs. Indian Valley, 310 vs. St. Clairsville and 309 vs. Buckeye Local.

As a senior, he was the district's offensive player of the year and also the district's nominee for Ohio's coveted Mr. Football Award. He was also named a USA Today All-American. Along with his state honors, Brinker was twice named first-team all-OVAC and all-Valley, serving as a co-captain both in 1996 and 1997. Brinker took part in the Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic, but after rushing for 160 yards in the first half, he was injured and didn't play in the second half.

His success wasn't limited to the high school ranks. Brinker signed with Ohio University and earned four letters for the Bobcats. He was twice named all-MAC and was chosen to play in the 2002 Hula Bowl All-Star Game in Hawaii. Brinker finished his career with the Bobcats with 2,826 yards and 27 rushing touchdowns, which rank fifth and fourth on the O.U. career listing, respectively. Of his yards, he ran for 1,099 as a senior. He put forth 10, 100-yard rushing games during his career.

Brinker put forth those numbers despite missing four games as a junior because of an injury. Though he went undrafted, Brinker signed with the New York Jets in 2003 and played in the preseason before being released on the final cut. He scored two touchdowns that pre-season. He played in NFL Europe in 2004.

Along with his football exploits, Brinker was an all-Ohioan in track and field. He finished seventh in the Division II 100-meter dash as a senior, running 11.27. He also lettered in basketball and baseball. He earned all-OVAC in hoops.

Since graduating from Ohio University with a degree in exercise science, Brinker served as a radio color analyst for Bobcats' football games, served as an assistant coach at Westerville Central and since 2010 has worked in the player personnel department with the Green Bay Packers. He received a Super Bowl ring after the Packers defeated the Steelers in 2010. He was inducted into the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Hall of Fame in 2014.

Class of 2015

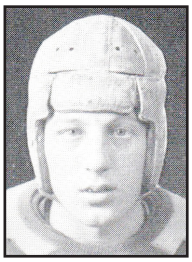
Theodore Duck (Class of 1924)



He was an All-Valley end regarded as the "ultimate utility man" on the gridiron. He started out in the backfield, but moved to end and was also a talented kicker for the Purple Riders.

In addition to his football exploits, he was also a four-year member of the baseball team and a member of the basketball squad. After graduation, he played semi-pro football for the Vigilants team that played its home game at old League Park located in the south end of town. Among their opponents was the reknown Canton Bulldogs, featuring Pro Football Hall of Famer Jim Thorpe.

Karl Sommer (Class of 1929)



A hard-charging fullback, he was the player called upon when it came to getting the much-needed tough yards as he hit the line with the "force of ten men" according to reports.

He was the team captain of the '28 team which steamrolled its way to a 10-1 record, outscoring the opponent by a whopping 340-26 margin including eight shutout victories. The only blemish was a season-ending 14-12 loss to a Cleveland team on Thanksgiving Day.

At the end of his junior year, he received a trophy emblematic of being the team's Most Valuable Player.

Sommer was also a member of the Vigilants semi-pro football team that played its home games at old League Park located in the south end of town.

He later served with both the U.S. Navy and Marine Corp during World War II; was a 15-year member of the Alert Engine Co. and a honorary member of the Martins Ferry Fire Department; was an agent for Metropolitan Life Insurance; director of the Belmont County Cancer Society, member of the Martins Ferry Civil Service Commission and the Martins Ferry American Legion Post 38. After retiring, he was a school bus driver for the Martins Ferry City Schools.

John Vargo (Class of 1930)



He was also captain of the 1930 baseball team which captured the Ohio Class A Championship, the first-ever state title for Ferry High. A multi-year letterman, he was the catcher of the squad that defeated Canton McKinley, Bedford and Cincinnati Woodward in the state tournament while finishing with a 21-2 record. He had a triple, two singles, one RBI and one run scored in the championship game victory. The Riders also reached the state tournament during Vargo's junior year in 1929.

In football, he was the pillar of the Purple Riders' defense from his tackle position, he served as team captain as a senior. Vargo later served as the Police Chief of the City of Martins Ferry.

Chuck Bruney (Class of 1935)



The hard-running back led the entire state of Ohio in scoring as a senior, tallying 21 touchdowns and 21 point-after conversions for a total of 147 points.

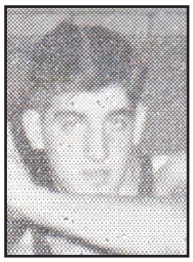
Bruney led the Purple Riders to the school's first-ever perfect season, with Ferry posting a four-year record of 36-3-1 during his career (8-1-1, 9-1, 9-1 and 10-0). The Riders outscored their opponents 238-9 during his senior campaign, including eight shutouts.

For his efforts, he was selected to the All-Ohio Class A first team fullback by the Ohio High School Coaches Association.

Bruney went on to play football at Duke University.

MARTINS FERRY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Nick Vrotsos (Class of 1944)



Vrotsos was a three-sport standout (football, basketball, baseball) for the Purple Riders, earning All-Ohio accolades in both football and basketball.

He was on Ferry hoop squads that reached the state finals three times in four years, including winning the state title during his freshman season. A talented ballhandler and defender, he was selected as the team's MVL that year.

In football, he played both end and tackle and was labeled in the yearbook as a "Rock of Gibraltar" on defense and a "modern tank" on offense.

Vrotsos earned four letters in basketball, three in football, one in track and one in baseball.

After spending time in the U.S. Marines during World War II, he returned home and was eligible to participate in the Ohio-West Virginia All-Star Football Game in 1946, playing end for the Ohio team coached by then University of Alabama coach Frank Thomas.

That connection led to a full-ride football scholarship to Alabama for Vrotsos, but a knee injury during his freshman year resulted in a switch to basketball where he lettered years (1949, '50 and '51), was team captain as a senior and was named an all-Southeast Conference guard wearing the number 77.

After graduation, he embarked on a long coaching career that included stops at Dillonvale (1951-53) as head football and basketball coach and Dover (1954-57) as head basketball coach and assistant football coach. Then came a 33-year run at Massillon Washington, serving as an assistant coach that entire time while also being the head basketball coach for a decade (1960-70), compiling a 128-78 record.

He received an outstanding achievement award from the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Club in 1986; was inducted into the Massillon High School Sports Hall of Fame (2016) and the city of Massillon had "Nick Vrotsos Day" on October 23, 2009.

Ed McGlumphy (Class of 1949)



Although a top-notch multi-sport athlete, it was as a basketball coach where he made his biggest impact.

Over a career that spanned more than 40 years, he amassed a 456-311 record on the hardwood, earning "Coach of the Year" honors on 10 occasions.

He began coaching at Stone Creek High for two years before returning to Ferry High where he guided his alma mater for four years, posting a 58-29 record and leading the Purple Riders to the 1961 OVAC Class AAA championship.

McGlumphy then spent a year at Cambridge and had other Ohio prep stops at Marion and East Knox as well as Pennsylvania schools Hickory and Charleroi.

He was selected to the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1984 and received an Outstanding Achievement Award from the Dapper Dan Club of the Upper Ohio Valley in 1993.

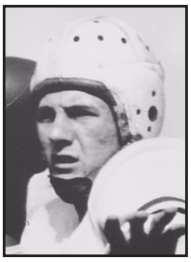
He conducted countless summer basketball camps in Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York and even in Brazil. During his career, he served as an athletic director for 10 years and also coached tennis, track, golf, basketball and football at various times.

He also authored two books on basketball and developed the Rim Hanger Rebounder training device.

McGlumphy earned his bachelor's degree from Washington & Jefferson College in 1954 and obtained a master's equivalence from the Pennsylvania Department of Education in 1972. He served two years in the U.S. Army during the Korean War before beginning his coaching career.

As a Purple Rider athlete, he was a multi-year letterman in basketball, football and baseball, earning all-Valley and all-Eastern Ohio recognition in hoops, and he was a two-time state runner-up in tennis. At W&J, he was a four-year basketball letterman and the team captain as a senior.

Karl W. Sommer II (Class of 1953)



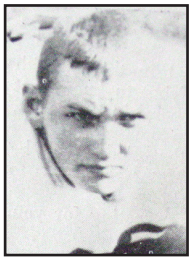
A hard-charging fullback, he was a three-year letterman for the Purple Riders and one of the earliest to wear the coveted No. 44 uniform as a senior. He earned all-Eastern Ohio honors on the gridiron.

Sommer was a member of the Ohio State Buckeyes' football team, coached by the legendary Woody Hayes, which captured the 1954 National Championship with a 10-0 record including a victory over USC in the Rose Bowl. He graduated from The Ohio State University in 1957 with a BS in Business Administration.

Sommer then graduated from the Franklin University College of Law in 1963 with an LLB degree. A member of the Ohio State Bar Association and Belmont County Bar Association, he was admitted to practice law before the Ohio Supreme Court in 1967 and the U.S. Supreme Court in 1967.

A veteran of the U.S. Air Force, Sommer served the City of Martins Ferry as law director for 16 years; assistant city prosecutor for Columbus for one year; assistant county prosecutor for Belmont County for nine years and was a member of Martins Ferry Civil Service Commission, the Martins Ferry Booster Club and an honorary member of the Alert Engine Company of the Martins Ferry Fire Department. He passed away in early 2015.

Dan McGrew (Class of 1955)



He was a four-year member of the football, basketball and track teams, with the grid sport as his best.

"Dangerous Dan" was named the Purple Riders' "Outstanding Player" and honorary team captain as senior when Ferry posted a 7-3 record and upon graduation, he played in 1954 OVAC All-Star Game and the Ohio North-South All-Star Game.

McGrew, a 6-2, 250-pounder, continued his excellence on the gridiron at Purdue University, lettering there as a senior.

Drafted in the 20th round by Detroit Lions of the NFL in 1959, played for the Buffalo Bills and made the all-American Football League second team as center in 1960.

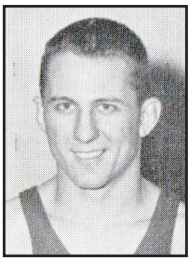
After being replaced with the Bills, he went on to play semi-pro football with the Wheeling Ironmen and was inducted into the Minor Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2009.

McGrew was a school football coach at Chopticon (Maryland), St. John Central, Meadowbrook, Akron Hoban and Weirton. After retiring, he remained active as a junior high coach at Sherrard (WV) Middle School.

He was the Intelligencer/News Register Football Coach of the Year in 1963 (St. John's) and 1983 (Weir) and he coached in the 1964 OVAC All-Star Game.

MARTINS FERRY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Keith A. Sommer (Class of 1959)



A standout in wrestling, football and track, he has the distinction of being the Purple Riders' first state place-winner on the mat as he was the runner-up in Ohio in the 175-pound weight class with a sparkling 32-1 record. Along the way, Ferry's team captain was also the OVAC and District champion that season.

Also a state qualifier as a junior, he was inducted into the Martins Ferry Wrestling Hall of Fame in 1996.

In football, Sommer - a game-appointed team captain during his senior year - was named to the All-OVAC Class AAA squad and was honorable mention All-Valley. He was selected to play in the Ohio-West Virginia All-Star Game, but opted instead to participate in the Ohio North-South Game in Canton.

In track, he qualified for the state meet as a member of the Purple Riders' 440-yard relay team as both a freshman and sophomore.

All told, Sommer collected 10 varsity letters — four each in football and track and two in wrestling (Ferry did not have a wrestling program until his junior year).

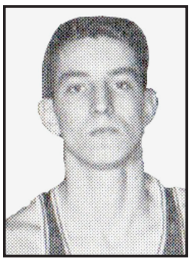
He went on to Bowling Green State University where he was a member of the 1959 football team which posted the school's first-ever unbeaten, untied season (9-0) and claimed the college division national championship. That team was inducted into the BGSU Athletic Hall of Fame in 2013.

He was also the Mid-American Conference runner-up in wrestling as a sophomore, sustaining just two losses that year, but an injury kept him from competing during his final two years.

After graduating from Bowling Green, Sommer attended the Moritz College of Law at The Ohio State University, earning a Juris Doctor in 1966. The lifelong Martins Ferry attorney is a member of the Belmont County Bar Association, the Ohio State Bar Association, the Ohio Supreme Court Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline and the Belmont County Community Improvement Corporation and Estate Planning Council of the Upper Ohio Valley. He received the Austin C. Furbee Award from the Eastern Ohio Alumni Chapter of Ohio University in 2014

He was inducted into the OVAC Hall of Fame in 2024.

Bob Patton (Class of 1960)



The Purple Riders' basketball captain and MVP as a senior, the 6-4 forward played on team that won the OVAC Class AAA championship and finished as the district runner-up with an overall 16-6 record. He led the team in scoring with 315 points and rebounds with 328.

For his efforts, he was named the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association "Player of the Year". He also was named All-OVAC Class AAA first team and played in the Ohio-West Virginia All-Star Game.

Patton also was a four-year member of the MHFS track team.

He earned a scholarship to New York University where he was a three-year letterman and regular who played in two NCAA Tournaments.

He had tryouts with the New York Knicks of the NBA and the Kentucky Colonels of the ABA. A career military man, he went on to play professional basketball in Europe.

He also organized and ran several college basketball showcase-type tournaments in Las Vegas. He is retired and lives in Ona, West Virginia.

Bob Bruney (Class of 1960)



Known as "Bullet Bob", he excelled in both football and wrestling for the Purple Riders.

On the gridiron, he was a combination of speed and power as a running back/defensive back. As a senior, he received honorable mention All-Ohio Class AA at defensive back; was second team All-OVAC Class AAA and all-Eastern Ohio selection.

In wrestling, Bruney posted a 22-1 record as a senior co-captain, finishing third at the Ohio State Tournament while winning the district title and the OVAC championship along the way.

Bruney then went on to a fine career at The Ohio State University, earning two varsity letters as a defensive back.

Bruney also served as Ferry's head wrestling coach (1976-77), football coach (1974-78) and athletic director (1985-94) and was a wrestling official for 17 years. His record with the Riders was 26-24 and prior to that, he spent six years as head coach at Ironton (1966-71) with a 29-29-2 mark including 9-1 in his final season there.

He received the OVAC's prestigious "Mr. Mat" award in 1995 and was inducted into the Martins Ferry Wrestling Hall of Fame in 1997and the OVAC Hall of Fame in 2022.

Charlie Mamula (Class of 1960)



"Big Charlie" was the most honored player from the Purple Riders' 1959 squad which posted a spotless 10-0 recored, winning the OVAC Class AAA championship and gaining a No. 9 ranking state-wide. He was a first team Class AA All-Ohio selection as an offensive tackle and was a Senior Scholastic All-American selection. Mamula was also a three-time first team All-OVAC Class AAA selection and was the captain of the All-Valley "big school" squad in 1959.

Mamula went on to play three years and earn two varsity letters at The Ohio State University under legendary coach "Woody" Hayes. He played in the Blue-Gray All-Star Game after his senior season.

He passed away in early 2015.

Don Veloski (Class of 1960)

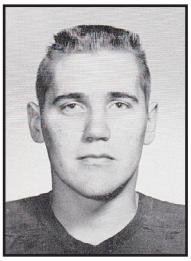


A four-year starter, he was yet another key member of the Purple Riders' 1959 undefeated team which won the OVAC Class AAA title and ranked ninth in Ohio.

A feared defender known for his vicious tackles, Veloski's postseason accolades on the gridiron included second team All-Ohio and first team All-Eastern Ohio.

He received an athletic scholarship to Iowa State University where Coach Lou McCullough called him "the toughest player he's ever coached".

MARTINS FERRY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME



Bill Lude (Class of 1961)

Regarded as one of the best ends in Purple Rider football history, he was equally adept on both sides of the football, known for his golden hands on offense and his vicious tackling on defense.

His talents earned him Senior Scholastic All-American recognition in 1963. His all-star accolades as a senior included first team All-Ohio Class AA along with being selected captain of the All-OVAC, All-Valley and All-Eastern Ohio teams.

Lude was also a key member of Ferry High's basketball team which captured '61 OVAC championship, the school's first in 17 years which ended the regular season ranked 12th in the state. He scored 363 points and grabbed 224 points in 21 games that year.

In basketball, Lude tallied 363 points and had 221 rebounds in 21 games as a senior forward.

All told, he was a four-year member of the football and basketball teams; a three-year track performer and a one-year member of the golf team as a junior.



Ted Torok (Class of 1961)

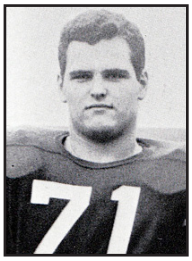
A talented blocker and tackler on the interior line, he was a key member of the 1960 team which fashioned a perfect 10-0 record, won the OVAC Class AAA championship and was ranked No. 8 in Ohio.

The 6-4, 215-pound Torok received several post-season accolades as a senior including second team Class A All-Ohio defensive tackle; first team All-OVAC, All-Eastern Ohio and All-Valley.

While at Ferry High, he was a four-year member of the football and basketball teams; a three-year performer in track and a one-year member of the baseball team.

He went on to the University of Virginia where the 6-5, 250-pound offensive tackle was a three-year letterman and team captain as a senior, playing under Coach Bill Elias, a native of Martins Ferry.

After receiving a tryout with the NFL's Baltimore Colts, he played five years (1965-69) with the Norfolk Neptunes of the Continental Football League.



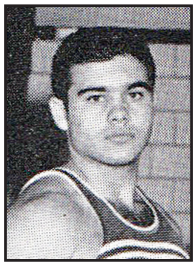
Joe Minder (Class of 1962)

A four-year football letterman, he was a fixture on the offensive line for three-and-a-half seasons. He moved into the starting lineup for the last four games of his freshman year and remained their for the rest of his prep grid career. He started nearly every one of the games during the Purple Riders'memorable 32-game winning streak which netted Fery High three OVAC football championships.

Minder was part of the popular "Five Tons of Fun Plus One" which also included Phil Ward, Bill Lude, Frank Stauffer, Larry Duck plus quarterback Charlie Coss. A team co-captain as a senior, he was an All-OVAC and All-Valley "Big School" selection.

In track, he was a three-year letterman and a co-captain as a senior, with his specialty the discus throw where he set the school record of 141 feet, 7 inches as a junior and qualified for the state meet as a senior. He also participated in wrestling for two years.

He went on to West Virginia University on a football scholarship, playing offensive line for three years. Later, he obtained his degree from West Liberty State College. Minder entered the coaching fraternity in the mid-1960s, first as an assistant football coach at St. John Central and soon thereafter as the head track coach for five years. Minder spent nine years as Martins Ferry's Recreation Director followed by 13 years as Service/Safety Director and was a member of the Martins Ferry Board of Education for several years. He passed away in 2003.



Vic Rose (Class of 1962)

He was a multi-sport standout who played football four years, basketball three years, track two years and baseball one year for the Purple Riders.

In football, he gained more than 1,000 yards during both his junior and senior seasons despite playing only one-half in several games due to the lopsided scores. He also was a feared defender and was the team's punter.

Rose earned second team Class AA All-Ohio honors during his senior season as a linebacker and was a two-time All-OVAC and All-Valley selection, serving as co-captain of both teams along with Rider teammate Larry Duck as a senior. He also was selected to play in the Ohio North-South All-Star Game.

He was a member of five OVAC championship teams with the Purple Riders —three in football and two in basketball. Rose was the third-leading scorer on the basketball team as a senior.

He received a full-ride scholarship to the University of Indiana.



Bill Yeager (Class of 1962)

He was a member of the wrestling squad all four years and the football team for three years while also participating one year each in baseball and track.

In wrestling, he served as the team's co-captain as a senior, leading the Purple Riders to the district championship.

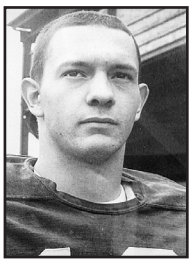
He was the OVAC champion as a junior (154 pounds) and senior (175) pounds while winning the district title and qualifying for the Ohio State Wrestling Tournament as a senior.

In football, he earned second team All-Ohio Class AA accolades as senior; received all-Ohio Valley Athletic Conference recognition and was co-captain of the WWVA All-Valley team and he played in the Ohio North-South All-Star Game.

Yeager attended the University of Tennessee and was a member of the Volunteers' football team.

MARTINS FERRY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Bob DiStefano (Class of 1964)



His versatility is evident in the fact that he was a four-sport standout for the Purple Riders, including four years of football and basketball and three years of baseball and track.

Known for his unpredictabilty on offense, "The Dipper" led the Purple Riders to a 9-0-1 record as a senior quad-captain and a No. 5 ranking state-wide. He was also a talented defensive player, recording many key interceptions from the secondary.

He was selected as the first team All-Ohio Class AA quarterback and "Back of the Year", and he was also first team All-Valley and All-OVAC. DiStefano also gained national attention as a 1963 Senior Scholastic and Wigwam/Wiseman All-American selection.

In basketball, he was reknown for his dribbling wizardry and he was the team's second-leading scorer.

He went on to play football at Purdue University, earning the starting QB job on the freshman squad with his back-up none other than future Pro Football Hall of Famer Bob Griese.

DiStefano was inducted into the OVAC Hall of Fame in 2019.

Rich McFarland (Class of 1964)

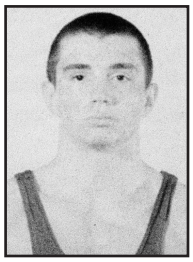


"Mac" made his mark on the gridiron for the Purple Riders. He started out as a sophomore middle guard on the undefeated 1961 team and then became a two-way standout during his final two years as a halfback-cornerback. He served as quad-captain of the '63 squad as a senior when the Riders went 9-0-1 under Coach Bob "Smokey" Wion, outscoring their opponents by a 321-62 margin.

He accounted for more than 1,100 yards of offense as a senior - over 800 rushing and 300 receiving - and scored 88 points which was third-best in the district. For his efforts, he received second team all-Ohio Class AA honors and was first team all-OVAC Class AAA.

He received an athletic scholarship to Memphis State University.

John Scordos (Class of 1964)



This Purple Rider standout reached the pinnacle of wrestling in Ohio by winning the school's first state championship in 1964 as a 175-pounder.

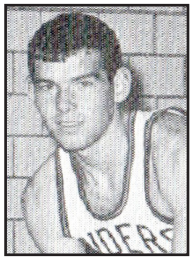
He was a three-time district champion and state qualifier (1962, '63, '64), not only winning the title as a senior but also finishing third as a junior. Spearheaded by the performance of team captain Scordos, Ferry finished ninth as a team at the Ohio State Wrestling Tournament in 1964.

Scordos also won three Ohio Valley Athletic Conference championships and finished his career with a sparkling 75-5 record.

He was inducted into the Martins Ferry Wrestling Hall of Fame in 1995.

He also was a three-year member of the Purple Riders' football team, playing utilizing his cat-quick moves and strength as a middle guard on defense.

Dave Reasbeck (Class of 1968)



One of the finest basketball players to don the Purple and White, he led the team in both scoring (23 points per game) and rebounding as a senior captain in leading the team to a 15-7 record, a Sectional championship and a District runner-up finish.

A three-year letterman in hoops, he shares the school record for points in a game (51) with fellow Hall of Famer Ron "Cy" Godfrey. Reasbeck was selected second team Class AA All-Ohio as senior and earned UPI honorable mention All-American accolades. He was captain of the All-OVAC Class AAA first team as senior after making the second team as a junior; and he was first team All-Eastern Ohio for two years.

He was a multi-sport performer for the Purple Riders, lettering four years in golf and gaining all-OVAC honors as a senior while also lettering twice in baseball as a pitcher.

Reasbeck received a basketball scholarship to Kent State University where he lettered as a freshman and sophomore before leaving school.

His all-around athletic ability is further evident in that he later won several of the Ohio Valley's top amateur golf tournaments including the Bernhardt's Amateur, and he was club champion at Belmont Hills Country Club. He has recorded a hole-in-one on three occasions and in yet another sport, he owns one "300" game in bowling.

Reasbeck also served as a boys' basketball coach in Martins Ferry from the seventh grade through junior varsity level for a five-to-six-year period.

Shelly Carroll (Class of 1988)



The all-time leading scorer in a Purple Rider uniform (girls or boys) with 1,626 points, the 5-11 wing was unstoppable.

She averaged 27.9 points, 12 rebounds, four assists and four steals as a junior, earning second team all-Ohio accolades. She also had a career-high 38 points in a game against Bridgeport.

As a senior, Carroll tallied 29.8 points and 10.6 rebounds per game while contributing five assists and five steals, gaining first team all-Ohio recognition from UPI and third team honors from AP.

In District 12, Carroll gained honorable mention as sophomore before being selected to the first team as junior and senior, gaining "Player of the Year" honors as a senior and playing in the District 12 All-Star Classic.

She earned all-OVAC honors three times, including serving as first team captain as a junior and senior. She was a two-time first team all-Eastern District and all-Valley honoree, named captain of the latter both years.

Carroll was selected to participate in the International Sports Exchange Basketball Festival in Budapest, Hungary in 1987 following her junior campaign and played in the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association's North-South All-Star Game in Columbus in 1988 after he senior season.

Also a standout volleyball and softball player at Ferry, she received an outstanding achievement award from Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Club in both 1989 and 1993.

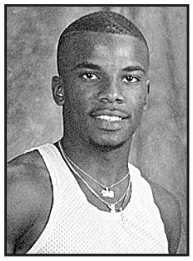
Carroll received a full athletic scholarship to the University of Tennessee/Chattanooga where she was a four-year starter, graduating in 1993. She scored 1,013 career points there (ninth at the time of graduation) with a 51.4 field goal percentage and grabbed 564 rebounds. Carroll was named second team all-Southern Conference in 1992 and was selected to the All-Tournament Team at the 1991 Comfort Inn Downtown Atlantic Classic at Georgia Tech and the Harris Teeter Carolina Classic at North Carolina.

During her career, UTC played in the NCAA Tournament twice (1989 and '92) and was Southern Conference champion three times (1989, '91 and '92).

She was inducted into the District 12 Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2012 and the OVAC Hall of Fame in 2019.

MARTINS FERRY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Maurice Jordan (Class of 1991)



"Reece" was the Ohio Division II State Track Champion in 300-meter hurdles in 38.26 seconds as a senior.

He set the Ohio Division II, Region 7 record in the same event a week earlier with a 37.87 clocking, a mark which is still the second-fastest all-time in the Ohio Valley, and he was fourth in the 200-meter dash (22.76) and fifth in the 100 (11.33). He was a triple-winners at the district meet, capturing the 100-meter dash, 200-meter dash and the 300-meter hurdles, the latter in a meet record 38.9 seconds.. He also scored a "triple" at the Belmont County Relays; won the Bellaire EarlyBird in a record 39.0 seconds and finished second at the OVAC Class AAA Championship Meet. Jordan was co-captain of the All-Valley Track Team in 1991.

He also played football and basketball for the Purple Riders. On the gridiron, the 130-pounder was a two-year letterman who was a big-play receiver, leading the Ohio Valley in yards-per-catch average as a senior.

After high school, he enrolled at Glenville State College on a track scholarship and later attended Youngstown State University. He then entered the United States Air Force in 1993, serving as a Medical Technician stationed at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton. He died as the result of an automobile accident in 2000.

Floyd Baker (Boys Basketball Coach)



A graduate of Wittenberg University, Baker left his boys' basketball coaching imprint on the Ohio Valley from 1932-45.

First, he put Bridgeport High on the roundball map during a golden era from 1934-40 when the Bulldogs had three straight 20-win seasons (20-5, 27-4 and 23- 3, all by Baker), five sectional crowns (three by Baker), and four straight Ohio state tournament berths (three by Baker), reaching the semifinals in 1936 and 1938, a team that included OVAC Legend John Blatnik. His seven-year Bulldog coaching record was 118-56.

Baker then moved over to rival Martins Ferry, where he enjoyed even more success and became the only area coach to guide two different schools to the Ohio state tournament, highlighted by the 1941 Ohio championship squad.

He started the Purple Riders' golden era in basketball, which lasted from 1939-54 and included 12 sectional titles, six by Baker-coached teams. His final six Ferry teams won more than 20 games. From 1941-45, his teams went 122-9. That included the 29-2 record title team of 1941, led by Hall of Famer Lou Groza, and followed by records of 22-3, 24- 1, 25-1 and 21-2. A 33-game winning streak ended in 1942. The 1944 team (26-1), led by Hall of Famer Alex Groza, won the first OVAC Class AA title.

Baker's seven-year Ferry record was 159-21 and his 14-year Ohio Valley coaching record was 277-77, with seven Ohio state tournament berths. He left Ferry for a job in Richmond, Indiana.

Baker was honored as an Ohio Valley Athletic Conference "Legend" in 2010.

Gordon Downie (Track/Cross Country Coach)



He enjoyed a highly-successful 34-year career as a track/cross country coach, including the last 20 at Ferry High. He first coached 12 years at Wooster and then two years at Wheeling before coming to MFHS.

Downie-coached Rider teams won 11 OVAC championships, including seven in boys' track and two each in girls' track and boys' cross country. His track teams also won seven sectional titles, eight district crowns; 14 Belmont County Relays and 12 Martins Ferry Relays.

His record in dual meets was 172-45 in track and 108-51 in cross country.

Among his coaching honors were being named "Coach of the Year" by the Ohio Association of Track & Cross Country Coaches for boys' cross country in 1982 (he was also nominated for National Coach of the Year honors) and 1992 for boys' track; the OVAC Cal Giffin Track Award in 1992; and an Achievement Award from the Dapper Dan Club of the Upper Ohio Valley.

He was a member of the Eastern District Track and Cross Country Association for 30 years, serving as secretary for six years, and he was inducted in to the Wooster High School Hall of Fame in 1990.

A 1953 graduate of Dennison High School, Downie was also a track and cross country official, working several district and regional meets and serving as executive secretary of the Ohio Valley Track Officials' Association. He was a member of the Ohio Valley Runners' Club; participated in the West Virginia Senior Classic track meet numerous times and competed in the 2005 National Senior Olympics in Pittsburgh.

Coach Downie passed away in early 2015.

Robert 'Smokey' Wion (Football Coach)



All told, he was a teacher for 34 years and a football coach for 23 years. He coached at four schools in Ohio (Covington, Barnesville, Martins Ferry, Worthington) and one in Indiana (Thomas Carr Howe Community High School) in the 1950s, '60s and '70s. He won seven "Coach of the Year" awards and led his teams to a total of 11 conference titles. He coached in the Ohio North-South All-Star Game twice.

He was at Ferry High for five years, compiling a record of 39-10-1 (10-0 in 1960; 10-0 in 1961; 7-3-1 in 1962; 9-0-1 in 1963; 3-7 in 1964). His Rider-coached teams won OVAC Class AAA championships in 1960, '61 and '63.and he was the coach for the last 21 victories of the memorable 32-game winning streak of 1958-62.

A graduate of Roosevelt High School in Dayton, he attended Rio Grande College for three years; graduated from the University of Dayton and obtained a Master's degree from Purdue University.

He was inducted into the Rio Grande College Athletic Hall of Fame in 1975, the Ohio High School Football Coach's Hall of Fame in 1983 and the Covington High School Hall of Fame in 2001.

He was featured in November 1962 issue of LIFE Magazine "Rocky Cradle of Football" while coaching the Purple Riders. His biography, "It's Gotta Hurt" was published in 2014.

He passed away in 2014 In Florida at the age of 86.

MARTINS FERRY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

1930 Baseball Team (Ohio Class A State Champions)



Coach Fred Hart led the Purple Riders to a 21-1 record in winning the Ohio Class A State Championship.

Ferry edged Bedford (1-0) in the Class A semifinal game and then rolled past Cincinnati Woodward (13-4) in the championship game.

The state title was part of a three-year run of success on the diamond as Ferry also reached the state tournament in 1929 and 1931.

Members of the team were John "Cy" Thomas, Pete Stupak, John Groza, Steve Santa, Johnny Almashy, John Vargo, Paul Lucas, Scotty Lewis, Alex Horvath, Irwin "Peanuts" Carson, Clarence "Kay" Reynard and Mike Hodick.

Hart's assistant coach was Dwight Lafferty; the athletic director was Frank W. Bowen.



1941 Boys Basketball Team (Ohio Class A State Champions)

Coach Floyd Baker led the Purple Riders to a 27-2 record in winning the Ohio Class A State Championship.

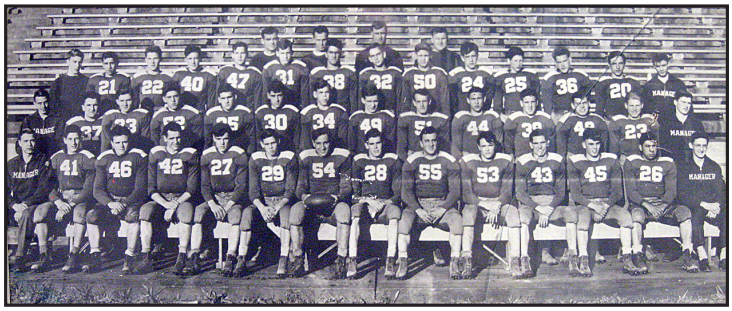
In the Class A State Tournament, Ferry beat Xenia Central (36-34) in the semifinals and then downed Lakewood (37-30) in the championship game.

The title was part of a remarkable run of four state tournaments in five years (1940, 1941, 1943 and 1944).

Members of the team were Bill "Willie" Elias (captain), Lou Bevilacqua, Lou Groza, Ed "Half Pint" Joseph, Bill Young. Joe Domyan, Armand Long, Bob Bowen, Bill Monios (Santonas) and Bob McIlvain.

Harold Leffler was Baker's assistant coach and Frank W. Bowen was the athletic director.

1941 Football Team (Ohio Class A Co-Champions)



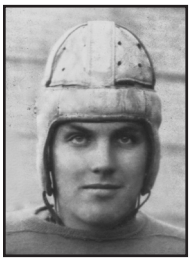
The Purple Riders turned in a dominating performance on the gridiron throughout the regular season, outscoring their 10 opponents by a whopping 333-19 margin. That included an incredible seven shutout victories for Coach Gomer Jones, who was in his first year at MFHS.

There were no playoffs back then, but as a result of their phenomenal season, the Purple Riders were invited to face Toledo Libbey in the "Glass Bowl" in Toledo, with the winner to receive the mythical title of state champions. The game ended in a 14-14 tie, thus Ferry and Libby were declared state co-champions.

Here's a look at the scores from that season: St. Clairsville (41-0); Bridgeport (12-0); Wheeling (34-6); Triadelphia (50-0); Moundsville (9-0); Bellaire (27-0); East Liverpool (54-7); Steubenville (39-6); Marietta (27-0); Alliance (33-0); Toledo Libbey (14-14).

Class of 2016

Cyril Letzelter (Class of 1925)

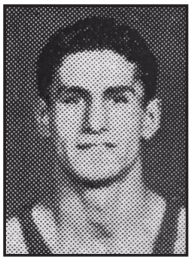


A versatile performer in the early days of Purple Rider football, he was regarded as the best fullback in the Ohio Valley and he also excelled as a defensive back and punter/placekicker.

During the 1923 season as a junior, he scored 102 of the team's 188 points (14 touchdowns, 3 field goals, 9 PATs). Captain of the 1924 Ferry squad, his all-star accolades included being named captain of the all-Valley and all-Eastern Ohio teams.

He went on to play collegiate football at Carnegie Tech (coached by former Ferry High coach Earl Loucks) and scored a touchdown against Notre Dame in what was regarded as one of the biggest college football upsets of all-time in 1926 at Forbes Field in Pittsburgh, Pa. Later, he earned All-America honors from the Intersectional Board of Football Coaches in 1928 which included at that time the likes of Knute Rockne and Glen "Pop" Warner. Letzelter was named to the all-time team at what is now called Carnegie-Mellon University. He also played a year at West Point for the Army football team before a question arose over his age eligibility. He then served as an assistant coach at Army until 1941.

Bill "Willie" Elias (Class of 1941)



A three-sport standout for the Purple & White (basketball, football and track), he made his biggest impact on the hardwood.

Elias was a starter on back-to-back Ferry teams that reached the Ohio State Boys' Basketball Tournament, first as a junior and then as a senior when he served as captain of the 1941Ohio Class A State Championship squad that posted an overall record of 27-2. He went on to play two years at guard on the University of Maryland football team in 1945 and '46.

Elias enjoyed a fine coaching career at all three levels.

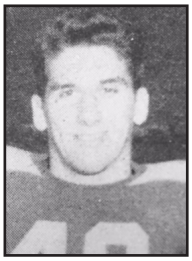
He began at Richmond (Indiana) High School where he coached from 1950-52, winning two North Central Conference titles and putting together a 22-game winning streak.

From there, he became an assistant coach at Purdue University (1953-59); was head coach at George Washington (1960) where he had a 5-3-1 record; head coach at the University of Virginia (1961-64), going 16-23-1; and head coach at Navy (1965-68) with a 15-22-3 mark.

His final stop was as an assistant coach (defensive backs) with the Boston Patriots of the AFL/NFL (1969-70). He passed away in 1998.

MARTINS FERRY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Bob Plotz (Class of 1946)



He was one of the finest interior linemen to don the Purple and White, but he was equally talented on the track, earning three varsity letters in each sport.

In football, he was the co-captain of the 1945 squad coached by fellow Hall of Famer Fred Thomas that posted a 9-1 record and captured an OVAC championship. For his efforts, he was named a first team all-Ohio tackle (there was only one class back then) and was first team all-OVAC Class AA (the largest of the two-division setup). He also played in the first Ohio North-South All-Star Game.

On the track, he again served as team co-captain and among his accomplishments was a third place finish in the OHSAA Regional Track Championships in the low hurdles.

He received a scholarship to the University of Pittsburgh where he made an immediate impact, starting on the line as a 17-year old freshman and remaining in the starting lineup all four years. He was named all-East as a freshman and honorable mention All-American as a senior.

Plotz was selected in the 11th round of the 1950 NFL Draft by the Cleveland Browns, but he was also "drafted" by the U.S. Army to serve in the Korean War.

He was inducted into the OVAC Hall of Fame in 2018.

Bill Almashy (Class of 1953)



The Purple Riders' team captain in basketball as a senior, he earned first team all-OVAC Clas AA (largest class) honors as a senior after gaining second team laurels as a junior.

He was also a stellar football player for the Riders, earning all-OVAC Class AA recognition as a senior end/safety.

The multi-talented Almashy's exploits also extended on to the track where he won district and regional titles en route to qualifying for the state meet in the 100-yard dash, 220-yard dash and high jump.

Almashy went on to a fine college career in hoops at the University of Dayton where he was a three-year letterman.

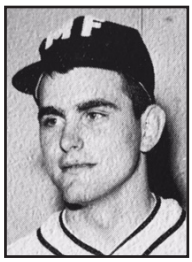
During his sophomore year, Dayton was 25-4, ranked ninth in the nation and finished as the runner-up of the National Invitation Tournament (NIT) which was the premier college tournament at that time. He played in 15 games, averaging 2.2 points and 2.2 rebounds per game.

As a junior, Almashy played in 24 games with averages of 3.6 points and 3.0 rebounds, with Dayton going 25-4, gaining a No. 3 ranking nationally (the Flyers' highest-ever ranking in hoops) and again claiming the runner-up spot in the NIT.

His averages as a senior were 5.2 points and 3.7 rebounds with UD posting a 19-9 mark and reaching the NIT quarterfinals.

Although primarily a basketball player, his overall athletic ability earned him a tryout as a wide receiver and punter with the Cleveland Browns. He played with the Daytona Beach Thunderbirds and Orlando Broncos of the Southern Football League (1962-64) and one season with the Wheeling Ironmen of the Continental Football League (1965).

Mike Lucas (Class of 1964)



He was a standout in both baseball and basketball for the Purple Riders, earning four varsity letters on the diamond and two on the hardwood.

In baseball, he received all-Ohio and all-OVAC honors as a senior captain when he was the pitching ace of Ferry's Class AA District Championship team. Remarkably, he earned two sectional tournament wins on the same day, tossing a complete-game in the morning and coming on in relief after three innings of the afternoon game to get the victory. He did the same thing the next week in the district, with his two wins earning the district title for the Riders.

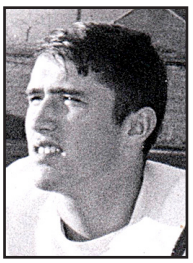
He played in the All-Ohio East-West All-Star Game in Columbus (the only Eastern District player selected that year) and he got the pitching win in the first game of the series.

In basketball, he again served as team captain as a senior. He averaged 17 points per game to earn all-OVAC honors (only five players were selected to the team at that time) as well as all-Eastern Ohio. He is also remembered for hitting the game-winning buzzer-beater to end a nine-overtime game against St. Clairsville, the longest game in the history of Ohio high school basketball in 1963.

Lucas earned a baseball scholarship to the University of Cincinnati where he letter two years. He was also invited to walk on to the Bearcats' basketball team.

Lucas returned "home" as a teacher/coach at MFHS, serving as an assistant basketball coach from 1972-77 and 1993-2000; assistant baseball coach from 1972-75, 1989-96 and 2006-2010 (the last two stints assisting his sons, Josh and Ryan); and he was eighth grade basketball coach from 1984-91.

Louis "Kess" Keys (Class of 1965)



A three-year letterman in football, the 6-2, 218-pound two-way lineman possessed exceptional speed and agility and was a key member of the 1963 Purple Rider squad (his junior year) which posted a sparkling 9-0-1 record (marred only by a tie with New Philadelphia) which captured the OVAC Class AAA championship and finished sixth in the UPI state poll.

As a junior, Keys was named a first team all-Ohio Class AA offensive tackle by The Associated Press and a first team defensive tackle by United Press International. He also gained first team honors on the all-OVAC Class AAA, all-Eastern Ohio and all-Valley "Big School" teams.

Keys was named co-captain of the team as a senior, earning preseason first team High School All-American recognition at tackle. He went on to earn honorable mention all-Ohio, first team all-Eastern Ohio and second team all-OVAC accolades.

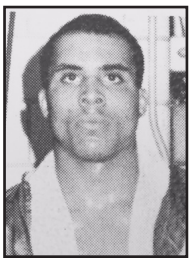
Legendary coach Bob "Smokey" Wion called Keys the "best tackle he'd ever coached" to that point in his career and noted that the talented two-way lineman made an estimated 60 percent of the team's total tackles during his junior campaign.

Keys played on the freshman basketball team; was on the junior varsity squad as a sophomore and a varsity letterman as a junior, but did not play during his senior year due to injury.

After being heavily recruited for college, he received a full football scholarship to Ohio University. He played for the Bobcats for two seasons, but injuries prevented him from playing during his final two years in Athens.

MARTINS FERRY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Steve Scipio (Class of 1967)



A three-sport performer, he made his biggest impact on the wrestling mat where he compiled a sparkling 70-3 overall record. He was not only a three-time Ohio Valley Athletic Conference champion (1965, '66 and '67), he also captured the Ohio Class AA District title all three years to earn trips to the OHSAA State Wrestling Championships.

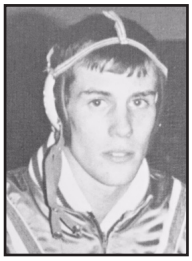
At Columbus, he earned all-Ohio status by placing twice – taking third as a sophomore in 1965 and second as a junior in 1966.

Scipio, who served as team captain as both a junior and senior, was inducted into the Martins Ferry Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2000.

He was also a standout in track. Among his credits was being a part of the school record-setting shuttle hurdle relay team (58.9 seconds) along with Dave Rutter, Larry Smith and Walter Dombroski.

Scipio was also a co-captain of the Purple Riders' football team as a senior.

Jeff Sommer (Class of 1970)



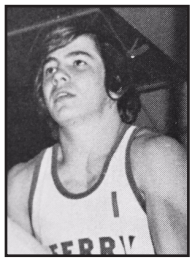
This Purple Rider made his mark on the wrestling mat, compiling a varsity record of 80 wins and only seven losses.

He was a three-time champion at the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Wrestling Tournament (1968, '69 and '70) and a three-time Ohio Class AA Sectional and District champion and a State Tournament qualifier.

In Columbus, he earned all-Ohio status twice – finishing as the runner-up in 1969 as a junior and placing fourth in 1970 as a senior.

A team captain as a senior, Sommer was inducted into the Martins Ferry Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2000.

Rich Heil (Class of 1974)



Back in the heyday of high school gymnastics, Heil was simply among the best around.

A four-year letterman under Coach Dave McKim, he led the Purple Riders to the Ohio Valley Gymnastics Championship by winning five events – the vault, freestyle exercise, high bar, parallel bars and rings – and finishing fourth on the side horse.

Heil propelled Ferry to the Ohio Region 7 title two years in a row and a fourth-place finish at the OHSAA State Gymnastics Championships.

His prowess in the sport earned him a scholarship to Western Michigan University where he enjoyed a stellar four-year career. He was a three-time champion in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) and captured one league title in vaulting.

Keith Vrotsos (Class of 1979)



A talented three-sport standout with 10 varsity letters (four in baseball, three in basketball and three in football), it was baseball where he made the most noise and continued to excel at the college level.

Vrotsos was a starting outfielder with a .330 batting average as a freshman on the 1976 team which posted a 19-11 record and advanced to the Ohio Class AA Regional Championship Game, the first Purple Rider team to make the regional in a dozen years.

He again hit .330-plus as a sophomore and then posted a lofty .458 average as a junior to earn all-OVAC, all-Eastern District and all-Valley "Big School" honors.

His senior numbers included a .386 average with 26 hits and 21 RBI, earning him repeat honors on the all-OVAC, all-Eastern District and all-Valley squads.

He was also a four-time participant in the Eastern Ohio Baseball League All-Star Game.

In basketball, he handled the point-guard spot and averaged 6.6 points as a sophomore; 10.1 as a junior and 9.2 as a senior.

The Purple Riders won Class AA Sectional titles in both his junior and senior years, and he was a second team all-OVAC Class AAA selection who played in the OVAC All-Star Basketball Classic.

In football, he was primarily the placekicker as a sophomore, converting 19 PATs and one field goal. As a junior quarterback, he completed 49-of-100 passes for 530 yards and added 250 yards rushing while as a senior he completed 56-of-111 attempts for 581 yards with 423 yards rushing.

He was named all-Ohio Class AA second team by UPI and first team all-OVAC Class AAA, all-Eastern District Class AA and all-Valley "Big School" and played in the OVAC All-Star Football Game.

Vrotsos continued his baseball career at Ohio University where he was a four-year letterman and co-captain as both a junior and senior.

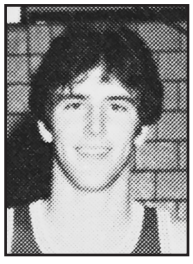
He was second team all-Mid-American Conference and the team MVP as a fifth-year senior (he had to red-shirt after being injured four games into the 1983 season) with a .341 batting average (57-of-167) with 12 doubles, one triple, seven home runs, 40 runs scored, 32 RBI and 12 stolen bases.

He finished his career at OU with a .311 average and was in the top 10 in several categories at the time of his graduation in 1984.

Vrotsos' baseball talents also made him a mainstay on the Martins Ferry American Legion Post 38 team and perennial power Maynard of Ohio Valley Baseball League.

He was inducted into the OVAC Hall of Fame in 2018.

Jeff Kepreos (Class of 1980)



He carried the load on the 1979-80 Purple Rider hoop squad as the only returning letterman, leading the Ohio Valley in scoring with a 25.0 per game average while also collecting 13 rebounds a game to lead the team to the OVAC Class AAA and Ohio Class AA Sectional championships.

"Kep" received third team all-Ohio Class AA honors and was also first team all-Eastern District, all-District 12, all-OVAC Class AAA and all-Valley. He finished his career with 807 points.

He was also a team co-captain as a senior on Ferry's unbeaten (10-0) football team and was an all-OVAC and all-Valley selection.

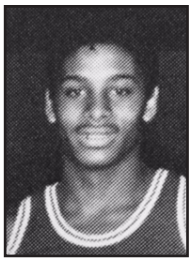
Kepreos was a four-year letterman on the Wheeling Jesuit University men's basketball team, scoring 1,244 career points. He earned second team all-West Virginia Conference honors as a sophomore and was honorable mention all-WVIAC as both a junior and senior, serving as team captain in his final two seasons.

He was inducted into the Wheeling Jesuit University Athletic Hall of Fame in 1990.

Kepreos also coached at WJU and was the 2002 WVIAC "Coach of the Year" while at West Virginia Tech.

MARTINS FERRY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Chuck Allen (Class of 1983)



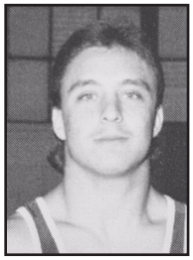
One of the most gifted, fun-to-watch basketball players in Purple Rider history, he was a three-year starter who finished with 999 career points.

Allen was a major part of the 1982 team coached by Larry Duck that captured sectional and district crowns and reached the Ohio Class AA Regional finals where they dropped a heartbreaker to Wheelersburg, the farthest a Ferry team had advanced since 1944, and finished with a 20-5 overall record. During his senior season, the team lost in the district championship game on a last-second shot by Wellsville (48-47).

As a senior, in addition to his superior ball-handling skills which led to countless assists, he averaged 16.4 points per game. For his efforts, he was named third team all-Ohio Class AA by UPI; special mention all-Ohio Class AA by UPI; first team all-Eastern District, all-OVAC, all-Valley and all-District 12.

Allen was equally as talented on the track as he was a two-time state qualifier in the 100-meters, 200-meters and on the 4x100-meter relay team. He set the school record in the 100 at 11.0 seconds.

Babe Sidon (Class of 1990)



One of the most talented wrestlers to hit the mat for the Purple Riders, he reached the pinnacle as a junior in 1989 when he captured the Ohio Division II State Championship at 135 pounds with an 8-3 decision over Joe Julian of Chesterland West Geauga in the title bout. He nearly made it back-to-back state titles as a senior when he dropped a heartbreaking overtime loss to Jim Jones of Canfield in the finals.

Sidon also enjoyed success in the OVAC Tournament, winning the 135-pound weight class as a senior and receiving the prestigious David Bierkortte Memorial Award as the outstanding wrestler of the event. He was an OVAC runner-up as a junior and placed fifth as a sophomore.

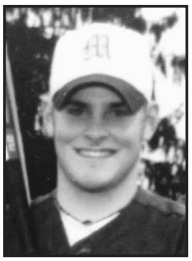
He won 37 matches as a senior and finished his career with 121 victories. He was inducted into the Martins Ferry Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2008.

Sidon was also a two-year letterman in football, serving as a team captain as a senior and earning honorable mention all-OVAC Class AAA honors.

He received a scholarship to The Ohio State University, but sustained a broken jaw during his freshman year which ended his mat career.

He served as head coach of Ferry's wrestling team from 200-208, leading the Riders to the OVAC Class AAA title in 2000; winning the OVAC Class AAA Dual Meet title in 2002; sectional titles in 2000, '01, '05 and '06; district crowns in 2000, '01, '02 and '05; and a third place finish in the OHSAA Division III State Meet in 20002 (his teams were seventh in the state in '01 and '02 and ninth in '03). He has since served several years as a wrestling official.

Cory DelGuzzo (Class of 1997)



One of the best hitters to don the Purple & White on the baseball diamond he was a three-time selection on the OHSBCA all-Ohio squad. He sported a lofty .512 batting average as a senior, collecting 41 hits including five doubles, three triples and eight home runs; had 29 RBI, 31 runs scored, 19 stolen bases a .950 slugging percentage and a .604 on-base percentage. He also had a 4-1 pitching record as a senior.

Primarily an outfielder/third baseman who also saw action at shortstop, second base, pitcher and catcher, he was also a four-time all-OVAC Class AAA first team selection, a three-time all-Valley "Big School" and an all-Eastern Ohio Baseball League honoree. For his career, he collected 136 hits and 108 RBI.

DelGuzzo was also a talented multi-year letterman on the Purple Riders' football team. A 5-8, 180-pound fullback-linebacker for Coach Dave Bruney, he was second team all-Ohio Division V, first team all-East District Division V and first team all-OVAC Class AAA as a senior.

After first attending The Ohio State University, he went on to a stellar career at West Liberty State College, gaining first team all-West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WVIAC) honors as an outfielder in 1999, 2000 and 2002. He is the Hilltoppers' all-time career batting average leader with a lofty .489 mark; career hits leader with 214 and career doubles leader with 47. He was inducted into the West Liberty Athletic Hall of Fame in 2025.

Fred Thomas (Football/Track/Cross Country Coach)



Coach Thomas began his career at Adena High for five years (1929-33), with his teams losing just seven games during that time. He then came to Martins Ferry as an assistant coach for 10 years, taking over as the head coach in 1943 and serving in that capacity for 10 years (1943-52) with a career record of 63-32-5. That included an undefeated 9-0-1 season in 1948 and just two losses in a decade to arch-rival Bellaire. Thomas-coached football teams won OVAC Class AA championships in 1944 and 1945.

He resurrected the Purple Riders' track program and served as the head coach from 1941-1970, leading the squad to OVAC titles in 1947, '48 and '49 and winning Eastern District crowns in 1944, '47, '48 and '49.

Thomas also started the school's cross country program, coaching that sport from 1953-1970, and was an assistant coach for two years in basketball during the same time he was a football assistant.

He organized the Eastern Ohio Coaches Association, serving as its first president; was a charter member of the Ohio Track and Cross Country Coaches Association; a lifetime member of the Ohio Football Coaches Association; and co-founder of the Steel Valley Track League.

He served as President of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference in 1960-61 and was the first recipient of the OVAC's Cal Giffin Memorial Award for service to track and field.

Thomas was inducted into the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Club's Hall of Fame in 1983 and the Purple Riders' current track facility is named "Fred Thomas Track" in his honor.

MARTINS FERRY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

1942 State Champion Tennis Doubles Team
Bob Bowen (Class of 1942) and Ken Kadar (Class of 1943)



This dynamic duo captured the Ohio State Doubles Tennis Championship in 1942 in only the third year of the sport at Martins Ferry, with Bowen (a senior) and Kadar (a junior) defeating Charles Thomas and Andy Kittle of Cincinnati Hughes (3-6, 7-5, 6-2) in the championship for what still stands as the only Ohio Valley state net title on the Ohio side.

They also led the Purple Riders to the district championship that season. Kadar was a four-year member of the tennis team and a two-year basketball player who went on to play in countless amateur tennis tournaments including the prestigious West Virginia Open at Oglebay Park.

"Frosty" Bowen was a four-year tennis and basketball player and was a second team all-Ohio Class A (largest class) hoopster (fellow MF Hall of Famer Lou Groza was on the third team) as a member of the 1941 team that captured the Ohio Class A State Championship. He went on to The Ohio State University where he started for three years in basketball.

1999 State Champion 4x100-Meter Relay Team
Rich 'JR' Thomas, Ron Hill, Tony Collette, Julius 'Jay' Wallace



This high-flying quartet turned in a blistering 42.50-second clocking to capture the OHSAA Division II State Track Championship in 1999. Collette and Hill were also on the 4x100-meter relay team that finished third at the state meet in 2000 in 43.55 seconds (a group that also included Zack Bruney and John Yoder); and Thomas and Collette were on the 4x100-meter relay team that placed sixth in the 1998 state meet in 43.87 seconds (the others were Fred Ray and Chad Brinker).

Wallace also posted the second-fastest time in the Ohio Valley in the 110-meter hurdles (14.10 seconds, a school record) and was a first team all-OVAC in football as a tailback/defensive back as a senior.

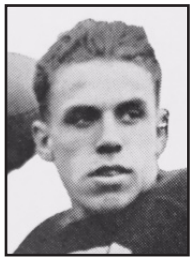
Collette was also first team all-Ohio Division IV as a linebacker and first team all-OVAC as a tailback/linebacker as a senior while gaining honorable mention all-OVAC as a sophomore and junior.

Thomas also gained honorable mention all-OVAC in football as a senior.

Thomas graduate in 1999 while Hill, Collette and Wallace all graduated in 2000.

Class of 2017

Frank Swiger (Class of 1938)



A four-year letterman in football, he was the star player as a junior on the 1936 unbeaten (10-0) Purple Riders, one of only five unbeaten teams in the state, and he served as team captain as a senior.

He was a do-it-all player who was an adept runner, passer, blocker, tackler and kicker. He was also a two-year member of Ferry's basketball team.

He went on to play collegiate football at Duke University, playing halfback and earning a varsity letter. He was drafted in the ninth round (the 76th overall pick) by the Washington Redskins to become the first-ever Purple Rider drafted, although he never played in the NFL.

Eddie Sterling (Class of 1943)



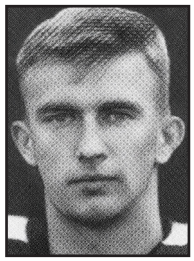
A talented all-around athlete, it was on the basketball court where he made his biggest impact.

As a senior, the 6-1 forward earned first team All-Ohio Class A (largest class) in basketball while scoring 448 points (17.9 ppg) to lead the Purple Riders to an unbeaten regular season and an overall 24-1 record, sectional, district and regional titles before losing to Newark in the Class A State Tournament. He scored a season-high 34 points vs. Bellaire in a sectional tournament game.

He also participated in track three years, specializing in the broad jump, and played one year of baseball and football. Sterling then became a three-year starter in basketball at West Virginia University, serving as team captain as senior. He was known for his superior ball-handling and driving ability as well as his accuracy on set shots and free throws.

He also played professional basketball for the Wheeling Blues of the Tri-State Pro Basketball League and years later, he returned to the area and coached basketball at Cadiz High, winning OVAC championships in 1959 and 1960.

Frank "Pedro" Twardoski (Class of 1948)



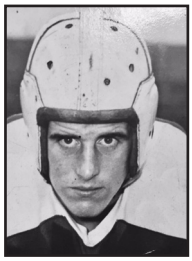
He was a three-sport standout for the Purple Riders – football, basketball and track – serving as co-captain in each.

In football, he was one of the players who wore the coveted No. 44 jersey and a senior on the Riders' 7-2-1 record squad. He was all-OVAC Class AA three years; was twice named all-District and WWVA All-Valley and received All-Ohio honorable mention as a senior.

In basketball, he was an excellent ball-handler and shooter, playing on a district runner-up squad as a senior; and in track, he was part of an OVAC record-setting 880-yard relay team along with Bill Kavender, Alex Komons and Eugene Pfeifer.

MARTINS FERRY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Charlie Probst (Class of 1954)



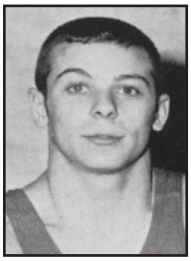
He was a three-year letterman/starter at center and linebacker, serving as co-captain of the 1953 team coached by Hall of Famer Fred Thomas. Probst was named first team all-Eastern Ohio, receiving more votes than any other lineman, and was also first team all-OVAC and all-Valley. He was selected to play in the OVAC All-Star Game, but declined.

Probst also was a three-year letterman in baseball as a pitcher-first baseman, and captain of the team his senior year. He also ran the one-mile in track, lettering as a freshman, and was on the mile relay quartet that finished third in the OVAC Track Championships.

He received a full-ride scholarship to Mississippi State University, but when head coach Darrell Royal left to take the job at the University of Texas, he decided not to go to MSU.

Probst later played in The Times Leader Baseball League (the forerunner to the Ohio Valley Baseball League) where he was among the top performers for several years.

Jerry McDaniel (Class of 1961)

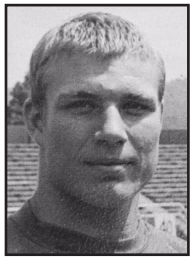


This talented wrestler packed a lot of punch into a small frame. A four-year letterman on the mat, he compiled a career record of 56-11. He was a four-time state qualifier (1958, '59, '60 and '61), finishing as the OHSAA Class A state runner-up at 103 pounds in 1960. He was a two-time OVAC Tournament champion (1960-61) and a two-time District champion (1960-61).

McDaniel was a key member of the 1961 squad which captured Ferry's first OVAC Wrestling Tournament championship, ending Bridgeport's stranglehold on the title, and which also won the OHSAA Class A District title.

He was inducted into the Martins Ferry Wrestling Hall of Fame in 1997.

Rich Weiskircher (Class of 1969)



After a stellar three-sport performer with the Purple Riders, he went on to excel as both a college athlete and then during a long and distinguished coaching career.

At MFHS, Weiskircher was a three-year letterman/starter at quarterback and safety on the football team, earning honorable mention all-OVAC and all-Eastern District recognition.

He was a three-year letterman in basketball, serving as team captain as a senior, and gained all-OVAC honorable mention. In track, he again lettered three times, competing in various events including the 400, high jump, long jump, 4x100, 4x200 and 4x400. He was a member of the school-record 4x400-yard relay team and earned all-OVAC honorable mention.

Weiskircher went on to a fine career on the gridiron at West Virginia University, earning three letters and starting two years at cornerback under Coach Bobby Bowden. He obtained his bachelor's degree in physical education, health and recreation with minors in speech communication and driver's education.

He cut his coaching teeth as a Purple Rider assistant from 1974-85, also serving as the head girls' basketball coach from 1978-85.

He became head football coach at Buckeye North High for three years (1984-86), posting a 28-4 record. He was named OVAC and AP Eastern District Coach of the Year in 1985 and '86 for leading the Huskies to the OHSAA playoffs and was tabbed the Ohio Division IV Coach of the Year in 1986.

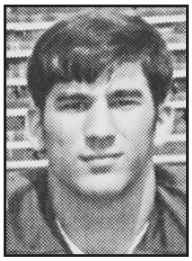
Weiskircher moved on to Marysville High in central Ohio where he coached from 1987-2006 with a 122-80 record. His teams reached the OHSAA playoffs five times (1991, '94, '99, 2000, '01).

He was named Ohio Capital Conference Coach of the Year five times (1991, '94, '99, 2000, '01); Ohio Region 10 Coach of the Year twice (1991 and 2000); Central District Football Coaches Association twice (1999, 2000) and he was an assistant coach for the Ohio Big 33 All-Star Team in 2000. He was also an assistant boys' track coach at Marysville for six years.

His overall high school head coaching record was 150-84.

He was a member of The Ohio State University coaching staff beginning in 2007 as program assistant (football recruiting and academics); academic encourager for football (2008-2012); and academic assistant for football (2012-2014).

Sam Twardoski (Class of 1970)



A versatile three-sport performer just like his father – Hall of Famer Frank "Pedro" Twardoski - he earned a total of 11 varsity letters including four each in football and basketball and three in track.

In football, the 6-3, 185-pounder was a three-year starter at quarterback for the Purple Riders. As a senior co-captain, he col lected 1,467 yards of total offense with 20 touchdowns. He rushed for 699 yards with 13 TDs while completing 54-of-109 passes for 768 yards and seven TDs. He scored 92 points (13 TDs, 14 PATS to finish as the second-leading scorer in the valley behind St. Clairsville running back Jeff Rice.

Twardoski received a host of post-season accolades on the gridiron, including special mention all-Ohio as a senior. He was a three-time all-Eastern District (honorable mention as a sophomore and junior, first team as a senior); three time all-OVAC (first team as a sophomore and senior and second team as a junior); and a three-time all-Valley selection. He played in the Ohio North-South All-Star Game and recorded an interception followed by the game-winning PAT kick to lead the Buckeye squad to a 7-6 victory.

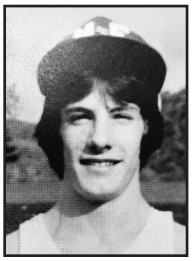
In basketball, he was only the third Purple Rider to reach the 1,000-point scoring plateau, finishing his career with 1,052 points which still ranks seventh on the all-time list. He was honorable mention all-Ohio as a junior and special mention as a senior; a three-time all-Eastern District selection; a three-time all-OVAC selection (honorable mention as a sophomore; first team as a junior and senior); and a two-time all-Valley choice (second team as a junior; third team as a senior). He led the Riders in scoring as a senior captain with 322 points – a 16.9 average.

In track, he displayed excellent speed including a 10.1-second 100-yard dash and a 19.5-second effort in the 180-yard low hurdles. He was second in the OVAC in the hurdles and third in the OHSAA Class AA District Meet and was named to the all-Valley Track Team in the 180-yard hurdles. After graduating from MFHS, Twardoski went to the University of Miami (Florida) and then after being injured, transferred to Marshall University where he played one season. Eventually he transferred to Ohio University Eastern and played basketball for two seasons.

Twardoski spent several years in coaching (basketball and volleyball), with stops at St. John Central, Union Local, Buckeye Local, Martins Ferry and St. Clairsville along the way.

MARTINS FERRY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Mark Hayes (Class of 1980)



A four-year letterman in both track and cross country, this former Purple Rider could run circles around just about everybody.

In track, he held MFHS school records at one time in five different events – the 880-yard run (1:59.5), 1-mile run (4:28.5), 1 mile-relay (3:29.9), 2-mile relay (8:23.6) and 4-mile relay (19:03.4), the latter an all-time Ohio Valley record with running mates Randy Webb, Curtis Hayes (his brother) and Mike Chesonis.

Hayes was a two-time OHSAA State Track & Field Championships qualifier. As a sophomore, he won the 1-mile at the district meet to advance and then as a junior, he was on the 4x400-meter team that finished eighth for all-Ohio honors, teaming with Paul Leluika, Mark Kryah and Fred Hocker to set a school record of 3:27.8. As a junior, he won the 800-meters to reach the district and also qualified in the 1600 and 4x400-meter relay.

He was the high scorer at the Belmont County Relays as both a sophomore and junior and finished as the runner-up as a senior by one-half point. He set the 800-meter run record in that event as a senior. He was also the 880-yard run winner three times at the Shadyside Relays.

In cross country, Hayes was a three-time all-Eastern District selection.

He finished as the district runner-up as both a junior and senior to qualify for the OHSAA State Cross Country Championships where he placed 33rd as a junior and 35th as a senior.

Hayes won the OVAC Class AAA individual title and was second in the first Ohio Valley Cross Country League Championship Meet.

He served as team co-captain as a junior and senior, and during those years Ferry was the OVAC cross country champion, going undefeated in dual and tri-meets during his senior season.

He went on to Malone College – a small school running powerhouse at the time – and lettered in track as a freshman reaching the indoor nationals in the 600-meter run.

He left school to join the U.S. Army where he served 31 years - 24 in active duty - including time in Iraq and Kuwait.

Jill Myers (Class of 1984)



A standout three-year letterwinner in basketball and a four-year letterwinner track as a Purple Rider, she went on to an ultra-impressive collegiate hoop career.

At Ferry, Myers was a basketball standout who scored 967 points and grabbed 760 rebounds during her three-year career. She earned all-Ohio Class AA honorable mention as a senior as well as first team all-Eastern District, all-District 12 and all-OVAC. She played in the OVAC All-Star Basketball Classic and the District 12 All-Star Basketball Classic.

In track, she was a standout hurdler, setting what were school records at the time in the 300-meter hurdles (50.4) and 100-meter hurdles (15.9) and was on the record-setting 4x400-meter relay team (4:24). She won both the OVAC and OHSAA District titles in the hurdles and was a regional qualifier.

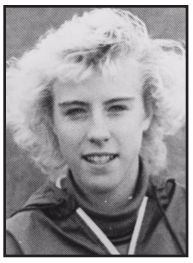
Myers went on to excel in hoops at Ohio Wesleyan University where she was a four-year letterwinner and a four-time all-North Coast Athletic Conference selection, earning Kodak Regional All-American honors as a senior. She led the NCAC in scoring (18.7 ppg), rebounding (12.8 rpg) and shooting percentage (51.8%) as a senior, posting school record totals of 486 points and 333 rebounds that year.

When she graduated, she was OWU's all-time leader in points, field goal attempts, field goal percentage, free throw attempts, rebounds and games played. She led the team in scoring as a sophomore (403 points) and senior (486) points and in rebounding all four years (274/395/315/333) and still stands as the school's career leader in rebounds with 1,217 (12.0 per game for her career). She finished with 1,612 points (currently fifth all-time).

She also lettered two years in track at OWU, earning all-conference honors as a member of the 4x100-meter relay team.

Myers, who had a short stint as head girls' basketball and volleyball coach at MFHS, was inducted into the OWU Athletic Hall of Fame in 1993.

Vanessa Sikora (Class of 1989)



A phenomenal distance runner, she was a big-time performer on the Purple Riders' cross country and track teams, earning all-Ohio honors twice; capturing the OVAC Cross Country Championship all four years while winning numerous conference titles in track and also gaining all-Ohio status on the oval.

In cross country, she started out as a freshman earning all-OVAC and all-Eastern District honors and placing 19th at the OHSAA State Meet in 19:53. As a sophomore, she was an all-OVAC and all-Eastern District selection (named the district's Female Runner of the Year) who finished first at the district and third at the regional before finishing eighth at the OHSAA State Meet in 19:31 to become Martins Ferry's first-ever female all-Ohio harrier. Her junior season again included all-OVAC, all-Eastern District (repeating as the Female Athlete of the Year), all-Valley all-OVCCL accolades; first place finishes at the district and regional and culminated in a runner-up finish at the state meet in a school record time of 18:51 to repeat as an all-Ohioan. As a senior, she was again all-OVAC, all-Eastern District ('threepeating' as Female Athlete of the Year after winning the district title for the fourth consecutive year), all-Valley and all-OVCCL, but she became ill at the regional meet and failed for the first time to qualify for the state meet.

In track, she was an Ohio State Meet qualifier two years in the 3200-meter run and was on the Purple Riders' fourth place 4x800-meter relay team which posted a time of 9:41.40 to earn all-Ohio recognition.

She was the OVAC champion in the 800, 1600 and 3200-meter runs, earning high-point scorer in the OVAC Track Championship Meet and the Belmont County Meet while being named the Eastern District Runner of the Year.

She competed in the Midwest Meet of Champions after her junior year and represented the Midwestern United States in an international meet in Germany following her senior season.

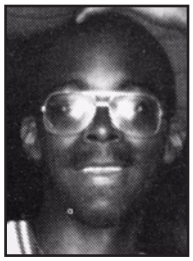
Sikora continued her career at Morehead State University in Kentucky on an athletic scholarship, but received a two-year ROTC scholarship and transferred to Frostburg State University in Maryland where she qualified as a junior for the NCAA Division III Nationals, finishing in 50th place overall.

She graduated in December of 1993 with a commission as an active duty 2nd lieutenant and in February, 1994 received her active duty orders into Air Defense Artillery where she worked with the PATRIOT missile system for the next five years.

During that time, she continued running and when she returned to civilian life in February of 1999, moved to Columbus and competed in the 2000 Columbus Marathon.

MARTINS FERRY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Ricky Ray (Class of 1991)



He was one of the rare four-year varsity lettermen in basketball in that era, becoming a major force as both a junior and senior, Ray finished his career with an impressive 1,203 points, which ranks No. 3 on the Purple Riders' all-time boys' scoring list behind fellow Hall of Famers Ron 'Cy' Godfrey (Class of 1956) and Alex Groza (Class of 1943) who tallied 1,338 and 1,284 points, respectively.

After scoring 88 points as a freshman, he boosted that total to 172 as a sophomore and then enjoyed two stellar campaigns with 442 as a junior and 552 as a senior, the latter resulting in an impressive 29.2 per game average.

As a senior, Ray was selected to the third team all-Ohio Division II team by The Associated Press. He also received first team all-Eastern District Division II; all-OVAC Class AAA; all-District 12 Division II and all-Valley "Big School" accolades as both a junior and senior.

He continued to excel in hoops at the next level as a four-year letterman at Wheeling Jesuit University. Ray tallied 1,0001 points mark in college, earning third team all-WVIAC honors as a sophomore. He graduated from WJU in 1996 and earned his master's degree in 2001.

He was inducted into the District 12 Basketball Hall of Fame in 2021.

Jim Duncan (Class of 1992)



This guy could probably hit a baseball in his sleep. A four-year letterman for the Purple Riders, he posted a lofty .461 career batting average which included .316 as a sophomore; .552 as a junior and .444 as a senior.

He was a three-time all-Eastern District selection, gaining "Player of the Year" honors as a senior; and he was also a three-time first team all-OVAC Class AAA, all-Valley "Big School" and all-Eastern Ohio Baseball League honoree. He capped his career as an all-Ohioan by virtue of his selection to the prestigious Mizuno All-Star Series.

Duncan also was a lineman on the Riders' varsity football team as a sophomore and senior.

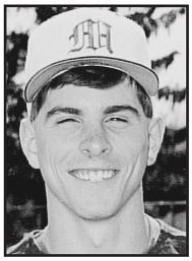
After a year at the University of Toledo, Duncan transferred to West Liberty State College and enjoyed a successful career on the diamond there with a sparkling career batting average of .350.

A three-year letterman for the Hilltoppers, he batted .400 as a sophomore with 46 hits, 33 RBI, eight home runs, four triples and 23 runs scored (all team highs); as a junior had 33 hits, 22 RBI, 10 doubles and two triples (all team-highs); and as a senior, had 62 hits, 30 RBI, four home runs and 37 runs scored (again, all team-highs). His career numbers in 115 games over three years included a .360 batting average with 141 hits in 391 at-bats, 19 home runs, 29 doubles, eight triples, 76 runs scored and 94 RBI

Duncan was a two-time first team all-West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WVIAC) selection and a two-time all-North Atlantic Region honoree who gained honorable mention All-American recognition as a senior.

He spent several years competing in the Ohio Valley Baseball League, playing for both Maynard and Barton.

Josh Lucas (Class of 1993)



A standout on the diamond and the gridiron, he was a four-year letterman in baseball and a three-year letterman in football.

In baseball, Lucas was a terror at the plate with a .416 career average with the Riders, scoring 106 runs, driving in 72 runs and stealing 74 bases while anchoring the infield as a sure-handed shortstop. He hit .395 as a freshman; .463 as a sophomore; .405 as a junior and .400 as a senior.

Lucas received all-Eastern Ohio Baseball League honors three times and was a two-time all-OVAC and all-Eastern District selection. He played in both the OVAC George Kovalick Baseball All-Star Game and the EBOL All-Star Game, collecting five hits in the latter.

During Lucas' senior season when he served as team captain, the Purple tied the school record for wins, going 19-6 and winning the OVAC Class AAA regular season title and finishing as the tournament runner-up.

In football, he was the Riders' starting quarterback for two-and-a-half seasons and a team captain as a senior. He passed for more than, 2,500 yards and 26 touchdowns and ran for more than 1,000 yards with 10 TDs.

Lucas' all-star honors in football included first team all-OVAC and all-Eastern District and he played in the OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game.

Also a two-year letterman/starter on the basketball team, he was the recipient of the Tony Suriano Award in 1993 voted on by all of the varsity coaches for the best athlete/student/commitment/effort combination at MFHS.

After graduating from Ohio University, he transitioned into coaching, first at Grove City High, serving in several capacities including girls' and boys' freshman basketball coach, girls' varsity basketball assistant and varsity baseball assistant. He returned to his alma mater and was the Riders' head baseball coach from 2006-2010, winning two sectional titles and finishing as the OVAC runner-up once. He also was the Riders' girls' varsity basketball assistant for three years.

Chrissy Martin (Class of 1994)



A four-year letterwinner in both track and cross country, she was one of the Purple Riders' premier female sprinters of all time.

Martin had MFHS girls' track records in the 100, 200 and 400-meters when she graduated, and still holds the marks in the 100 and 400 more than 20 years later.

She was a two-time OVAC champion in both the 200 and 400 (junior and senior years) and won the conference 100-meter title as a senior. She was also on several OVAC place-winning relay teams during her career. Martin was an OHSAA Division II State Track & Field Championships qualifier as a junior in the 400-meters and as a senior in both the 400 and 100.

In cross country, Martin earned all-OVAC, all-Eastern District, all-Belmont County and all-Ohio Valley Cross Country League honors. She was also the valedictorian of the Class of '94.

Martin continued to run throughout her years at Muskingum College as a four-year letterwinner in both indoor and outdoor track and a two-year letterwinner in cross country.

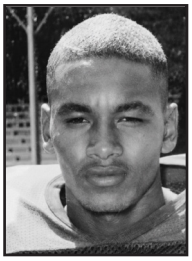
In track, she was all-Ohio Athletic Conference all four years; was a provisional qualifier for the NCAAA Division III Nationals in the indoor 400-meters and on Muskingum's indoor 4x200-meter relay team which set a school record.

She kept on running, winning a host of local 5K races as well as the PNC Park Pirates 5K (out of 2000 female runners). She also was the eighth female finisher in the Nashville Half-Marathon (25,000 runners) and had Boston Marathon-qualifying performances three times (Toledo Marathon, Pittsburgh Marathon, Disney Marathon).

Martin has been a teacher/coach at Martins Ferry for more than 20 years, serving as head cross country coach and as an assistant track coach. Her teams have won multiple OVAC, Buckeye 8 and District titles.

MARTINS FERRY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Mikale Roby (1994)



Whether on the basketball court or the football field, this Purple Rider was exciting to see in action.

In basketball, he was a three-year letterman who finished his career with 893 points. As a senior captain, Roby averaged 20.3 points per game and was awarded second team all-Ohio Division III accolades by The Associated Press. He was also first team all-OVAC Class 3A, all-Eastern District and all-District 12. Among his highlights was a spectacular 37-point effort in the '94 Sectional finals against Steubenville Catholic when he was a perfect 15-of-15 on field goals.

He was selected to play in both the OVAC Samuel A. Mumley All-Star Basketball Classic and the Pepsi/District 12 All-Star Basketball Classic.

As a junior, Roby had earned second team all-OVAC, third team all-Eastern District and honorable mention all-District 12 honors.

In football, he also earned three varsity letters in the Purple & White as a tailback/safety.

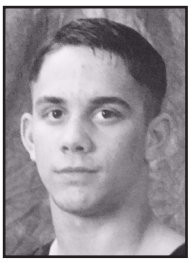
Despite playing at less than 100 percent in a half-dozen games during his career, the 6-2, 185-pound Roby still managed to amass nearly 1,500 yards rushing including just under 800 yard with 10 TDs as a senior.

He is regarded as one of the all-time best safeties at MFHS, having collected 258 career tackles.

He was special mention all-Ohio Division IV and received first team all-OVAC Class AAA, all-Eastern District and all-Valley recognition. He played in the OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game and scored two TDs for the Ohio squad.

Roby went on to play football at Central State University, but nagging injuries shortened his gridiron career but opened the door for a return to hoops where he tallied an impressive 1,843 points at Ohio University Eastern.

Lamont Tucker (Class of 1995)



This talented wrestler placed in the OHSAA State Wrestling Championships and the OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships three times each, reaching the pinnacle in the state of Ohio as a senior when he captured first-place honors in the 112-pound weight class.

He had placed fourth as a sophomore at 103 pounds and third as a junior at 112 pounds, making him a three-time all-Ohio honoree.

In OVAC action, he was third as a sophomore and then stood atop the podium as the individual champion as a junior and senior.

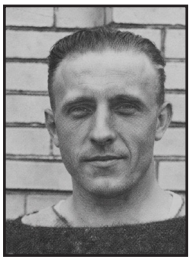
Tucker finished his career with 113 career victories, winning 40 matches as a junior and 38 as a senior. He was credited with 61 career pins (24 during his junior season).

With Tucker as a member of squad, the Purple Riders went 46-6 in duals; won four OVAC Class 3A titles; two OVAC dual meet titles; one district championship and finished in the top 10 at the state meet twice.

He was previously inducted into the Martins Ferry Wrestling Hall of Fame.

Tucker went on to wrestle at West Liberty State College and earn four varsity letters, compiling a career record of 79-27 (15-9, 27-10, 27-6, 10-2). He still ranks in the top 10 in three statistical categories for the Hilltoppers – career takedowns (237), near falls (49) and tech falls (13).

Fred Hart (Baseball/Football Coach)



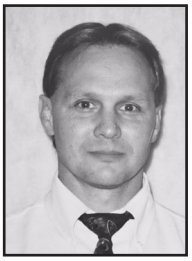
He began his time as a Purple Rider as the head football coach for just two years, but enjoyed tremendous success as the team posted a 7-1-1 record in 1919 and went 9-1-1 in 1920.

Hart then served as the head baseball coach for two decades, including a three-year run of Ohio State Tournament appearances in 1929, 1930 and 1931, wining the state Class A championship in 1930 with a sparkling 21-1 record.

Hart-coached Ferry teams also won Ohio Valley championships in 1922, '24, '25 and '27 and came up one game shy of claiming titles in '23 and '26). The 1924 team put together a 15-game winning streak at one point.

He later served as Ohio Valley Athletic Conference President during the 1954-55 school year.

Jeff Oberdick (Class of 1976/Wrestling Coach)



He enjoyed tremendous success during his 16 year as head coach of the Purple Riders' mat squad (1984-99 and 2007-08. His teams won the overall OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Tournament championship three times (1993, '98 and '99); were Class 3A titlists seven times (1992, '93, '94, '95, '96, '98 and '99); and OVAC Class 3A Dual Meet titlists three times (1992, '94 and '98).

"Obie" guided the Ferrians to six OHSAA Sectional crowns (1992, '93, '94, '95, '98 and '99) and two District championships (1995 and '99). Ferry was 10th at the OHSAA Division III State Tournament in 1990; seventh in 1992; fourth in 1995; 10th in 1997 and third in 1999.

He was a four-time Eastern/Southeastern District Coach of the Year selection (1991, '94, '95 and '99); the 1999 Ohio Division I II State Coach of the Year; and the 2000 NFHS Mideast Section Coach of the Year.

Oberdick received the OVAC's prestigious "Mr. Mat" award for contributions to wrestling in 2004 and was inducted into the Martins Ferry Wrestling Hall of Fame – which he founded – in 2007.

As an athlete, he could very easily have been a Hall of Famer. The 1976 MFHS graduate excelled on the mat, registering a career record of 84-22-1, which at the time was the school record for victories. A four-time OHSAA Sectional champion, he was fourth in the OVAC Wrestling Tournament as a freshman; first as a sophomore, second as a junior and third as a senior. He was also a four-time OHSAA Class AA Sectional champion; a two-time District champion and a three-time OHSAA State Tournament qualifier.

Also a two-year letterman on the Riders' football team as a wide receiver/defensive back, he went on to wrestle West Liberty State College for three seasons.

Oberdick was a special education teacher at MFHS for 15 years (1980-95); high school assistant principal for four year (1995-99); and high school principal for 16 years (1999-2015).

MARTINS FERRY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Class of 2018

John Bennett (Class of 1937)

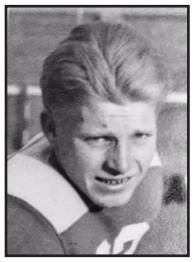


Considered the greatest fullback at Martins Ferry up to that point, he was also an outstanding passer and punter who served as captain of the 1936 Purple Rider squad that posted a perfect 10-0 season, outscored its opponents by a whopping 285-27 margin (five shutouts) and was regarded as the unofficial champion of the Ohio Valley.

He was named to the first-team, one-class, 11-player all-Ohio team that year and was also an all-Valley selection.

A four-year member of the football team (the Riders were 35-4-1 under Hall of Fame coach Earl Loucks during Bennett's career), he also played basketball and baseball for three seasons.

Charlie Becca (Class of 1943)



A three-year letterman at fullback where he was the team's primary offensive weapon, Becca earned all-Ohio honors and played on the 1941 state co-championship team that tied Toledo Libbey in the unofficial title game following an unbeaten regular season.

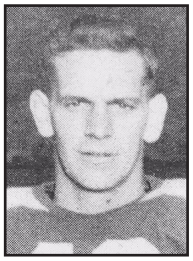
Becca went on to play college football at West Virginia University, playing running back, punter and strong safety for the Mountaineers. He played on WVU's team which beat Texas-El Paso (UTEP) in the 1948 Sun Bowl in El Paso, Texas 21-12 to finish with a 9-3 record. He was fourth on the team that year in rushing with 38 carries for 129 yards and a TD along with eight pass receptions for 150 yards and a TD.

Also a three-year baseball standout for the Purple Riders, he went on to play minor league baseball for Oil City (Pa.) in the Middle Atlantic League as a pitcher.

He later was the head football coach at Brilliant High School, leading the team to a pair of 8-1 seasons during his stay and he coached Ohio in the 1959 OVAC All-Star Football Game. Becca also served as an assistant coach at Yorkville, Mount Pleasant and Wintersville.

He later built and owned Bec-Wood Hills Golf Course near Mount Pleasant.

Ralph Short (Class of 1946)



A four-year performer in football, basketball and track for the Purple and White, "Ramrod" served as co-captain of the 1945 football team along with fellow hall of famer Bob Plotz which posted a 9-1 record and outscored its opponents 167-39 under Coach Fred Thomas (MF was 25-4-1 during his three varsity seasons). Short was named second team all-Ohio Class A (the state had only one class at that time) and he was an all-Valley and all-Eastern Ohio selection as well, serving as co-captain of the latter with Plotz. As a senior, he scored seven TDs and 13 PATs and also threw 12 TD passes.

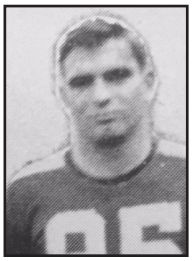
In basketball, he was a Riders' co-captain as a senior and he was named third team all-Ohio Class A and first team all-OVAC Class AA (largest class) as both a junior and senior.

Short played four years at the University of Pittsburgh where he went on to obtain a master's degree in education. He saw limited action during his freshman and senior seasons and was listed on the roster at various times as quarterback, center and tackle.

Short spent many years as a football/track coach at Hempfield Area (Pa.) High School, with coaching stops at Mercer (Pa.) and Steubenville as well.

An avid Pitt Panther booster, he also spent many years as a referee. Short passed away in 2003 in Greensburg (Pa.).

Dick Thomas (Class of 1949)

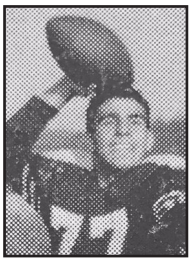


The son of legendary hall of fame coach Fred Thomas who played football, basketball and track all four years at MFHS, he earned all-Ohio Class A first team honors at end playing on the 1948 football team that posted a sparkling 9-0-1 record (only a 0-0 tie with Triadelphia prevented a perfect season) and outscored its opponents by a 247-19 margin. He was a two-time all-OVAC Class AA (largest class) selection.

Thomas also sparkled on the track, becoming the first Ferry High athlete to place at the OHSAA State Meet, finishing third in the 220-yard low hurdles in Class A as a senior.

In basketball, he was a strong rebounding center for the Purple Riders who also ran the floor well on the fast-break. He went on to letter two years in football at The Ohio State University where he was a standout offensive-defensive end.

Bob Joseph (Class of 1950)

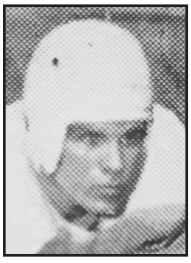


A talented three-sport athlete (football, basketball, track), Joseph was probably best-known for his exploits on the gridiron.

Described as a "fast, cool-headed, swivel-hipped running back, he earned second team UPI and INS all-Ohio recognition and was a third team pick by The Associated Press and he received honorable mention All-American honors. The Purple Riders' team captain as a senior (Ferry went 6-4 that year after 7-2-1 and 9-0-1 marks the two previous seasons), "Rapid Robert" also earned all-OVAC and all-Eastern Ohio accolades in football.

In basketball, the 5-9 guard scored 293 points as a senior to lead the Purple Riders to a 15-8 record season. Also an outstanding defender, he earned first team all-Eastern Ohio honors three straight years.

Raymond "Bill" Dorsey, Jr. (Class of 1952)



One of the most feared, hardest hitting lineman of his era, Dorsey was a rare three-year, two-way starter and letterman under Hall of Fame coach Fred Thomas.

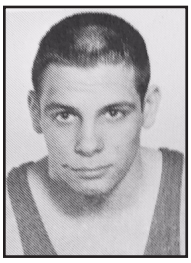
He started on both sides of the line at offensive guard, earning first team all-OVAC and all-Valley accolades and he was selected for the initial OVAC All-Star game in 1952 but declined due to gaining employment to support his education.

Dorsey also was a three-year letterman in track, with the 440-yard dash among his better events, and he played basketball as a freshman and sophomore.

In 1953, Dorsey attended Kiski Prep School in Pittsburgh, starting both ways and leading the defense in tackles and fumble recoveries. He was then offered a full-ride scholarship at Ohio University by Coach Carroll Widdoes, playing for the Bobcats for one season at offensive guard before enlisting in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict.

MARTINS FERRY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Joe Reasbeck (Class of 1963)



Wrestling has truly been a major part of his life for more than half a century dating back to his days on the mat with the Purple Riders.

A four-year grappler at MFHS, he was a two-time Ohio Valley Athletic Conference champion (1962 and '63); a district champion and state qualifier in 1963.

An inductee into the Martins Ferry Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2003, he was also a three-year member of the track team and played one year of baseball.

He went on to compete at the University of Wisconsin-Superior from 1963-67 where he was a two-time Wisconsin State University Conference champion and twice was runner-up in the State Intercollegiate Wrestling Championships. His college career also included a fourth-place finish in the Midwest AAU championship.

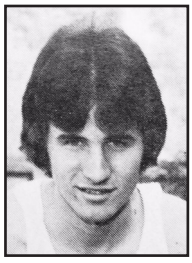
After graduating in 1968, he placed fourth in the tryouts for the 1968 Olympic Games and won the 1970 Inservice Championship for the Marine Corps while also coaching the team.

Returning to UW-Superior, Reasbeck spent the 1971-'72 season as assistant wrestling coach for the conference champion Yellowjackets. He then began a 20-year stint as wrestling coach at Superior Senior High School, and during those years he taught, earned a master's degree in 1976, and officiated at college wrestling matches. At UW-Superior, he directed the Mertz Mortorelli Memorial Wrestling Camps and Tournaments and the Wisconsin USA Wrestling Camps.

He was inducted into the UW-Superior Athletic Hall of Fame in 2008 both as an individual and as part of the 1966-67 team which reached the NAIA National Championships and the National Wrestling Hall of Fame-Wisconsin Chapter as an Outstanding American in 2022.

He was the USA 2002 National Wrestling Championships Masters Division National Champion at 213 pounds (this was his fourth national tournament win competing in the Master's Division starting in 1997); won 213 pound division/45-60 age group at Greco Gran National Wrestling Tournament in Shreveport, Louisiana, qualifying for FILA World Championships in Iran, but team did not attend due to conflict in that part of the world at the time; and he was also an AAU "Ironman" champion.

Mike Frazier (Class of 1975)



One of the finest distance runners in Purple Rider history, he excelled in both track and cross country.

In cross country as a four-year letterman and three-year captain, he started out as the fourth man as a freshman and then as a sophomore he finished eighth in the OVAC, eighth in the Martins Ferry Invitational, 18th in the Class AA Sectional and 14th in the District. As a junior captain, he became a force and set course records in winning the Martins Ferry Invitational (9:41); Belmont County Championships (10:02), Sectional (9:05) and District (9:27) before finishing 14th at the OHSAA State Cross Country Championships (10:11). The first MFHS harrier to reach the state meet, he also finished fourth in the OVAC Championships as a junior.

During his senior season, battling teammate and fellow Hall of Famer Bruce Smith toe-to-toe in every event, he was second in the OVAC (one-tenth of a second behind Smith), Belmont County, Sectional (9:19) and District before earning all-Ohio honors with a sixth place finish (9:54) at the OHSAA State Meet.

A three-year letterman in track (he missed his freshman season recovering from a broken ankle sustained in basketball), he won every dual meet in the one-mile run as a sophomore, placing second in the OVAC and fifth at the district (4:38). As a junior, he again won every meet in the one-mile except one, posting a school-record time of 4:31.8 during that season and winning Steel Valley League titles in the mile and 880-yard run.

As a senior co-captain, despite suffering shin splits, he again won every dual meet one-mile and the majority of the 880 events and had a first-place finish in the Belmont County Relays among his credits.

Frazier went on to letter four years in both sports at West Liberty State College (graduating there in 1980), serving as a co-captain as a senior.

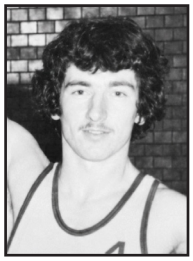
He was a seven-time all-West Virginia Conference (WVIAC) honoree – three in cross country by placing fifth in the conference meet as a sophomore, third as a junior and second as a senior – and four times in track.

He was a three-time National qualifier; a three-time WVIAC runner-up (one in cross country, two in track); a school record-holder as a member of the four-mile relay team (18:03); and a member of six WVIAC championship teams (three in each sport). His college PRs include 25:04 in the 5-mile; 14:40 in the 3-mile; 4:05 in the 1500-meters and 30:05 in a 6-mile road race).

He was inducted into the West Liberty Athletic Hall of Fame in 2024.

Frazier then became a fixture on the local road racing scene for next 10 years, and among the highlights were competing in Runner's World Eastern Championship 24-Hour Relay Race in 1975; and placing 85th (out of 1700 runners) in 1984 Elby's Distance Race 20K in Wheeling (1:15.49)

Dale Schaal (Class of 1975)



He was one of the premier gymnasts during the heyday of the sport at Ferry High, earning four varsity letters under Hall of Fame coach Dave McKim.

Schaal began to emerge as a sophomore when he turned in a strong effort at the Region 3 Meet, finishing third in the floor exercise, fifth on side horse, seventh on high bar and 11th in vaulting helping the Riders to an 8-0 dual record, a first place finish in the region meet and a fourth place showing at the OHSAA State Gymnastics Championships.

As a junior, Schaal gained honorable mention all-Region 3 in the all-around, high bar, parallel bars and rings, helping the Riders to a first place finish in the region and a fifth place effort at the state meet along with the Ohio Valley championship. Following his junior year, he gained a berth in the U.S. Gymnastics Federation National Championships by finishing second in the all-around at regional competition in Wheaton Illinois, also posting a runner-up finish in the parallel bars and a third place finish on the side horse.

Schaal elevated his performance as a senior, helping MFHS to the regional championship and a fourth place finish at the state meet, earning the runner-up finish as the Ohio High School Gymnast of the Year. He was second at the state meet in the all-around, scoring in five of his six events – fourth on the side horse, sixth on parallel bars, eighth on high bar, rings and vaulting.

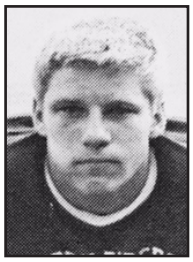
At the Ohio Valley Gymnastics Championships that year, he was the all-around champion and first in four events – vaulting, free exercise, high bar and parallel bars – and finished second on the side horse and rings. He was a Region 3 All-Star selection in rings, parallel bars, high bar, side horse and all-around and gained honorable mention in free exercise and vaulting

At the Ohio Gymnastics Coaches Invitational, he took first on the side horse and parallel bars; third on the high bar and in the all-around; and sixth in free exercise and rings; and he was the Kettering Invitational's all-around champion.

He was also a one-year letterman in baseball.

MARTINS FERRY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

John Miller (Class of 1976)



A 5-10, 182-pound guard-linebacker and special teams regular, Miller is one of a handful of players credited for helping lay the foundation for the resurgence of Purple Rider football after more than a decade of lean years (MF had only one winning season and two .500 records between 1964-74).

As a senior tri-captain, "Chow" led the Riders to a 6-4 record (with losses in the final two games to 9-1 record teams Cambridge and Bellaire) and he was regarded as one of the finest linebackers in the Ohio Valley.

His all-star accolades on the gridiron included first team all-OVAC and all-Valley "big school"; second team AP all-Eastern District Class AA and special mention UPI all-Ohio Class AA. He was selected to play in the OVAC All-Star Football Game and was voted by his teammates as a co-captain.

A two-year letterman regarded as a "late bloomer" who benefitted greatly from the off-season weight program, among his highlights was a "pick-six" for the game-winning TD against St. John Central.

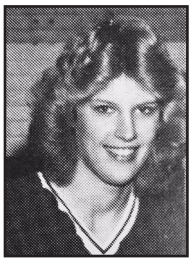
A track letterman as a senior, he placed in several meets and had marks of 50-foot in the shot put and 140-foot in the discus to his credit to help the Riders claim sectional, district and Belmont County championships and finish as the OVAC runner-up.

Miller received the prestigious "182 Percent Award" given to a senior athlete for preparation, effort and performance. He was also a Buckeye Boys State representative, National Honor Society member and the recipient of the Senior Citizenship Award given by the MF Rotary Club.

He went on to solid football career at Capital University. After suffering an ankle injury in the final scrimmage of his freshman season resulting in limited playing time, he was a starting linebacker for the next three seasons, leading the team in tackles with 63 total stops and two fumble recoveries as a sophomore and 74 tackles and one interception as a junior. He served as a team captain as a senior, remaining in the lineup despite another ankle injury and a separated shoulder and recording a pair of interceptions. The Crusaders had a winning record in each of his four years with a combined record of 21-14-1.

Miller also competed for two years as a weightman on the track team at Capital, graduating in 1980 with a dual major in business administration and secondary education.

Diana Swearingen (Class of 1980)



A tall and talented four-year letterwinner on the basketball court, she was the second 1,000-point scorer in MFHS girls' hoops history (the first was Hall of Famer Peri Powell one year earlier) – finishing with 1,017 points which still ranks sixth on the all-time list nearly 40 years later. For her efforts, Swearingen became the Lady Riders' initial first team all-Ohio selection, tabbed to the Class AA unit as a senior after gaining honorable mention as a junior.

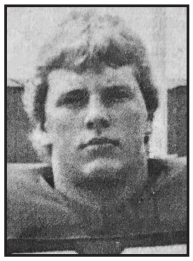
She was also a two-time all-Eastern District Class AA, all-District 12, all-OVAC Class AAA and all-Valley "big school" selection.

Swearingen gradually increased her point production during her career, scoring 142 points as a freshman (9.3 average); 224 as a sophomore (12.4); 314 as a junior (15.7) and 322 as a senior (15.8) for a career average of 13.5. She averaged a "double-double" as a senior by collecting 16 rebounds per outing.

The Lady Riders posted a four-year record of 65-10 during Swearingen's career, including an 18-3 mark and the school's first-ever OVAC girls' basketball title during her senior year when she served as a tri-captain. MF also made three trips to the OHSAA Class AA District Tournament during her career.

Also a three-year letterwinner in volleyball, Swearingen received the purple Rider Booster Club Award presented to the top senior female athlete. Swearingen went on to play both basketball and volleyball for two years at Wheeling Jesuit University. She becomes the third member of the Swearingen family selected to the "hall", joining her brothers Doug and Dennis who were members of the charter class in 2014.

Mike Kuri (Class of 1985)



This 6-5, 275-pounder stands tall in the history of Ferry football lineman, not only excelling in high school as a two-way starter at offensive/defensive tackle, but working his way in the starting lineup at The Ohio State University.

Kuri – a three-year letterman on the gridiron – first team all-Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class AAA as a senior (he was honorable mention as a junior) and was also a first team all-Eastern District Class AA selection. He gained honorable mention all-Ohio Class AA and was special mention on the all-Valley "big school team. He was also selected to play in the annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game.

He joined the track team as a senior, with a shot put toss over 50 feet at the Bellaire Relays among his season highlights. Recruited by several Division I colleges including Pittsburgh, Maryland and Purdue, Kuri opted to become a Buckeye and he played in Columbus the next four years, lettering as a junior and senior.

A versatile lineman who could play center, guard and tackle, he started two games as a junior in 1988 and saw regular duty in many other games, and then became a co-starter at guard with Carl Coles as a senior, shuttling in the plays from Coach John Cooper.

After participating in the Ohio State "pro day" and trying out for the World Football League team in Pittsburgh, he went to grad school and received his teaching license. He was a teacher/assistant football and track coach at Dublin Coffman and then moved on to Dublin Scioto and was a part of the 1995 OHSAA Division II State Championship team. Since then, he's been an administrator at Findlay, Thomas Worthingon and McCord Middle School (Worthingon).

MARTINS FERRY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Kelly Kish (Class of 1994)



A three-time All-Ohioan in high school and a four-time NCAA Division II All-American in college, she could simply run like the wind.

Her four-year track career started rather quietly as she placed third in the D-II District in the 400-meters (1:03.6) and qualified for the D-II Regional as a freshman, but she elevated to all-Ohio status as a sophomore by placing sixth at the OHSAA Division II State Track Championships in the 800-meters in a school-record time of 2:18.56. She had earlier placed first in the OVAC (2:28), Belmont County (2:30), D-II District (2:20) and regional (2:19). She was also the OVAC champion in the 400 (1:03.17) and as a member of the Riders' 4x800-meter relay team (10:18).

During her junior year, Kish was first in the D-II District in the 1600-meters (5:21) and fourth in the regional (5:23), but was unable to compete in the state meet due to a stress fracture. She was also first in the OVAC in the 1600 (5:14.8) and 3200 (11:35.7) – both school records – and was named the East District Female Athlete of the Year.

Her final year on the track again saw her claim all-Ohio honors, this time finishing fifth in D-II in the 3200-meter run (11:27.10 after winning the district title (11:45) and placing fourth in the regional. In the OVAC, she was first in the 3200 (11:41), second in the 1600 (5:29) and second in the 800 (2:32) while in the Belmont County Meet, she took first in the 3200 (11:39) and second in the 1600 (5:27).

In cross country, Kish letterered three years.

As a sophomore, she was ninth in the OVAC (21:22), second in Belmont County (20:22), 12th in the district (21:05) and 26th in the regional (21:24). She gained all-Eastern District and all-OVCCL honors. As a junior, she placed second in the OVAC (20:24), second in Belmont County (19:09), second in the district (20:42), sixth in the regional (19:46) and ninth in the state (19:05) to gain all-Ohio status. She was the East District Co-Athlete of the Year. As a senior, she was fourth in the OVAC (21:08), first in Belmont County (19:31); third in the district (21:17) and a regional qualifier.

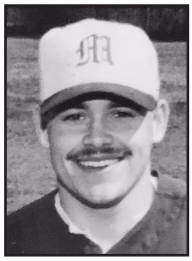
She also went on two outstanding years at Ashland University before being sidelined due to injury.

Kish was a two-time NCAA Division II All-American in track as a freshman – finishing fourth in the 10K (36:22.59) and seventh in the 5K (17:32.92). She is the women's outdoor 5,000-meter record-holder (17:10.65) and has several freshman records – outdoor 3,000-meters (9:58.64), 5,000-meters (17:10.64), 10,000-meters (35:47.06); and indoor 5,00-meters (17:33.06).

She was also a two-time NCAA Division II All-American in cross country, finishing 21st in the as a freshman (18:45) and 27th as a sophomore. She earned All-Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference honors in 1994 and was the GLIAC Women's Runner of the Year in 1995.

After graduating and recovering from her injury, Kish competed in the 2001 Raleigh (North Carolina) Marathon (3:51); was a three-time winner of the Tour De Ashland Half Marathon; ran the Ogden Newspapers 20K in Wheeling in 2002 and 2008; ran the Columbus Half Marathon in 2011, finishing second in her age group (1:29); along with numerous 5K and 10K races. She began crossfit training in 2014, competing in the 2017 Crossfit Open. She has a personal best dead lift of 345 pounds.

Brian McFarland (Class of 19995)



This multi-year, two-sport letterman was known for his hard hitting, both in football and baseball.

On the gridiron, this talented running back/linebacker capped his senior season by being selected to The Associated Press all-Ohio Division IV first team defense. A co-captain of the Riders' 8-2 record squad which outscored its opponents 344-119, he also gained first team all-Eastern District, all-OVAC Class 3A and all-Valley "big school" accolades.

He received all-OVAC honorable mention honors as a sophomore and was a second team pick as a junior; all-Valley second team as a junior and all-Eastern District honorable mention as a junior.

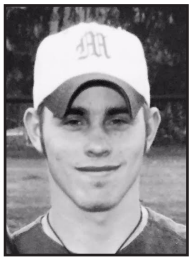
On the diamond as a pitcher/third baseman, McFarland helped the Riders to a 16-7 record and an OVAC Class 3A runner-up finish as a senior. He received all-Ohio Division III honorable mention along with first team all-Eastern District Division III, all-OVAC Class 3A, all-Valley "Big School" and all-Eastern Ohio Baseball League honors.

As a sophomore, he was first team all-Eastern District and special mention all-Valley and as a junior he gained first team all-Eastern District and all-EOBL and special mention all-OVAC.

McFarland attended Waynesburg College for two years, playing two seasons of baseball and one season of football. He was a first team all-Presidents Athletic Conference selection with a two-year pitching record of 12-4, earning conference Pitcher of the Year honors in 1998. He was also an Academic All-American selection.

He transferred to Youngstown State University and played two more years of collegiate baseball, serving as a team captain as a senior and posting a two-year pitching mark of 11-10 McFarland also played four years with the Maynard American Legion Post 666 team and he also played for the Columbus All-Americans in the Wooden Bat League in 1999.

Ryan Lucas (Class of 1996)



Another versatile, three-sport Purple Rider standout (baseball/football/basketball), he becomes the third member of his family selected for the "hall".

In baseball, Lucas finished with a career batting average of .355 with 15 home runs, more than 80 RBI and 15 pitching victories as a four-year letterman. As a senior captain, he posted a 7-1 mark on the mound with a sparkling 0.61 earned-run average and was selected first team all-OVAC as a pitcher-shortstop. A three-time all-Eastern Ohio Baseball League selection, he played in both the OVAC and EOBL all-star games.

In football, he was a three-year letterman who played multiple positions during his career (wide receiver/quarterback/safety/kicker/punter/and kick-off/punt returner). As a senior captain, he collected more than 600 yards receiving with an average of 25 yards per catch and two TD receptions. He also made four field goals including a game-winner against Cambridge in the season opener.

His gridiron all-star accolades includes honorable mention all-Ohio Division IV and first team all-Eastern District, all-OVAC and all-Valley and he was named the team's 182 Percent Award winner.

In basketball, Lucas was a three-year letterman, averaging 12 points per game for his career, and was the team captain as a senior when the Riders reached the OHSAA Division III Regional semifinals. He had the school record for single-game, season and career three-pointers from the time he graduated until the marks were broken in 2008.

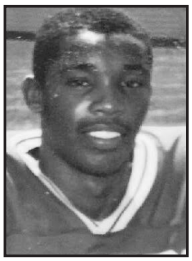
Lucas was named the Ohio District 12 Student-Athlete of the Year as a senior and he also received the Tony Suriano Award at MFHS that year for the best student, athlete, commitment and effort as voted on by the coaches.

He earned a scholarship to play Division I baseball at Drexel University in Philadelphia where he was a four-year letterman/starter (two years at shortstop; two years at third base) and the team captain as a senior. He had a career batting average of .280 with 150-plus hits, 16 home runs and 112 RBI.

He returned to his alma mater as an assistant baseball coach under Jason Marling (2003-05) and his brother, Josh Lucas (2006-10).

MARTINS FERRY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Fred Ray (Class of 1999)



A four-year performer in three sports (football/basketball/track), he was a co-captain and the quarterback of the Purple Riders' first OHSAA football playoff team in 1998. That team posted a perfect 10-0 regular season and earned the No. 2 ranking in the final AP Division IV state poll before falling 69-44 to Youngstown Ursuline in the playoffs.

The 6-2, 185-pound Ray was named first team all-Ohio Division IV along with first team all-Eastern District, all-OVAC and All-Valley "Big School".

He was also the starting QB as a junior, leading the '97 squad to an 8-2 record.

He earned all-Ohio honors in track as a member of the Riders' 4x100-meter relay team that placed sixth in the OHSAA State Track Championships in 43.87 seconds during his junior campaign (also on that team were Rich 'JR' Thomas, Tony Collette and Chad Brinker). He was the OVAC long jump champion (21-5) as a senior and a member of the conference record-setting 4x100-meter relay team (43.2) along with Thomas, Collette and Jay Wallace that spring as well.

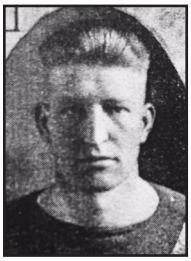
In basketball, Ray averaged 10 points and nine rebounds per game and was named all-Eastern District, all-District 12 and second team all-OVAC Class 3A as a senior.

He was named the Ohio Valley "Athlete of the Year" by The Intelligencer as a senior and was named all-Valley in all three sports.

Ray went on to a fine four-year career as an option quarterback at Ohio University. His career statistics included 129-of-249 passing for 1,607 yards with 10 TDs and six interceptions along with 231 rushes for 949 yards and 18 TDs.

Ray then played for the Ohio Valley Greyhounds of the Indoor Football League and then started to play for the Huntington Hammers of the Ultimate Indoor Football League, but switched over to becoming the team's offensive coordinator instead. He was an assistant coach at Martins Ferry in 2007, at Fairview High in Kentucky from 2009-2012 and at River Valley High in Bidwell (O.) in 2013 before returning to Fairview as head coach in 2014 and becoming Bridgeport's head coach in 2018,

Earl Loucks (Football Coach)

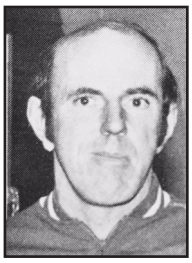


One of two coaches in Purple Rider football history who had two separate stints in charge, he's second on the all-time victory list behind Dave Bruney with a stellar overall eight-year record of 65-13-3 including two undefeated seasons.

His first go-round lasted three years from 1921-23, with the Riders putting together a run of 9-1, 8-1-2 and 7-3 seasons and outscoring their opponents by a whopping 602-172 margin.

Loucks returned to MFHS in 1933 and kept the ball rolling with a 9-1 mark that year followed by 10-0 in 1934, 6-3-1 in 1935 and 10-0 in 1936 before going 6-4 in his final year in 1937. The '34 unbeaten team gave up just nine points all season and the '36 squad yielded only 27.

Dave McKim (Gymnastics Coach)



A 1952 graduate of Ferry High who was a three-sport athlete (track, football and basketball), he returned to his alma mater as a teacher/coach and established one of Ohio's premier gymnastics programs over a decade before the sport eventually faded away state-wide.

He joined the MFHS staff in 1970 as a physical education/driver's education teacher, and in the first year of gymnastics (1971) he led the Riders to the regional championship and a berth in the state meet. What followed under McKim's intense leadership was an 8-0-1 dual record, first place in the regional and fifth place in the state in 1972; 8-0 in duals, first in the regional and fourth in the state in 1973; first in the regional, fifth in the state and the Ohio Valley champions in 1974; first in the regional and a state qualifier in 1975; third in the regional and Ohio Valley champions in 1976; third in the regional, fifth in the state and the OVAC champions (the only year the conference had a gymnastics meet) in 1977; and third in the regional and eighth in the state in 1978, the final year of the program.

McKim also served as the head track coach in 1971 and was an assistant for several years.

Class of 2019

William H. "Bill" Dorsey (Class of 1933)



A four-year starter and letterman as a fullback/end – a rarity in that era – he served as team captain of the Purple Riders under Coach John Cox during an 8-1-1 record season in 1932. During his four years on the gridiron, Ferry posted a combined 36-3-4 record.

He was also a four-year letterman in track, setting what was then the school record at 48 feet. He also lettered three years in basketball, serving as captain as a senior, and played one year of baseball.

The uncle of 2018 Hall of Fame inductee Raymond "Bill" Dorsey, he was recruited by and signed with the University of Pittsburgh (1934-35), but transferred to Manhattan College where he started for two seasons (1936-37). He was selected as a College All-American in 1939 and played in the College vs. Pro All-Star Game against the New York Giants.

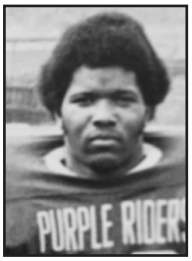
The 6-2, 200-pounder was drafted by and played end for the Newark Bears of the American Professional Football Association, a "farm team" for the NFL's Chicago Bears, in 1939.

He became head football coach of Powhatan High School in 1940, leading the team to a 9-0 record and tied the valley/state record as the only unbeaten/untied/unscored upon high school team (the other was Steubenville). He was co-coach in the Ohio-West Virginia All-Star Game (the precursor to the OVAC All-Star Game).

Dorsey then served as a Commander in the U.S. Navy from 1942-56, and later became head football coach at St. John Central (1947-50), posting an 18-19-1 record with his 1950 team going 8-2, and finally as head coach at Linsly Military Institute in Wheeling.

MARTINS FERRY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Mike Goudy (Class of 1974)



"Bear" was the prototypical fullback in the era of grind-it-out, run-oriented football at Ferry High and he was also force at linebacker.

Goudy was selected first-team all-Ohio Class AA by United Press International at linebacker and third-team all-Ohio Class AA at running back by the Associated Press. He was a three-time all-Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class AAA honoree, named honorable mention as a sophomore before gaining a first-team selection as a junior and senior; first team all-Eastern District as a junior and senior; and first team all-Valley "big school" as a junior and second team as a senior.

The 6-foot, 225-pounder represented the Purple & White in the OVAC All-Star Football Game.

Goudy finished his career with more than 1,500 yards rushing and 20 touchdowns, with 772 yards and 13 scores coming during his junior season.

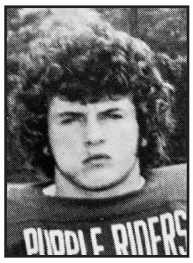
One of the area's premier performers in the shot put in track, he set what was then the school record during his junior season at 52 feet, 1¼ inches. He was the Ohio Class AA District champion and a state qualifier as a sophomore; second in the district (49-10) and a state qualifier as a junior; and sixth in the district as a senior.

Goudy was the OVAC Class AAA champion as a junior (51-0½) and finished fourth as a senior; and won the Belmont County Relays as a junior (49-0½) and finished second as a senior.

Other top efforts as a junior included first in the Martins Ferry Relays (51-2) and second in the Shadyside Relays (52-1¼).

Also a basketball letterman as a senior, he went on to play football at the University of Iowa.

John Schuller (Class of 1977)



"Schu" was the embodiment of intensity, both on the football field and on the wrestling mat.

In football, as a wingback/nose guard, he is among a select few players credited for helping lay the foundation for the resurgence of Purple Rider football after more than a decade of lean years (MF had only one winning season and two .500 records between 1964-74).

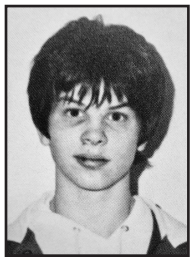
For his performance on the gridiron, he received recognition on the all-Eastern District, all-Ohio Valley Athletic Conference and all-Valley teams and played in the OVAC All-Star Football Game.

As a wrestler, he was a qualifier for the OHSAA State Wrestling Championships as a junior and again as a senior, taking it a to All-Ohio status in his final campaign by finishing in third place in the 175-pound weight class in Class AA. That performance capped a 28-1 record season for the Purple Riders' captain.

Schuller was also the OVAC champion at 175 pounds as a senior after finishing as the runner-up during his junior season. He was inducted into the Martins Ferry Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2005.

He went on to play football at Waynesburg College for four years, serving as team captain as a junior and senior.

Jesse Outward (Class of 1984)



Pound for pound, Outward ranks among the best Purple Rider wrestlers of all-time, overcoming adversity to shine during his time on the mat.

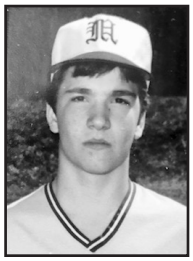
As a junior, he posted a sparkling 25-5 record and captured first place in the sectional and district tournaments en route to a runner-up finish at 105 pounds in the OHSAA State Wrestling Championships in Columbus. In doing so, Outward became Ferry High's first state finalist since Jeff Sommer in 1969.

Outward was a three-time finalist in the OVAC Wrestling Championships, finishing as the runner-up as a sophomore and junior before claiming the title as a senior. He was also a three-time sectional champion and a two-time district titlist.

Outward finished his prep mat career with a 64-16 record and he went on to wrestle for a year at The Ohio State University.

He was inducted to the Martins Ferry Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2006.

Jason Pollock (Class of 1993)



A talented right-handed pitcher who could also swing a mean bat, he played a key role as a senior on a team that posted a 19-6 overall record, won the OVAC regular season title and finished as the tournament runner-up.

He worked 61 innings that season and recorded 82 strikeouts while walking just 21 batters. No doubt his highlight game was a nine-inning, 19-strikeout, one-hit shutout against Cambridge. When not on the mound, he played third base and his senior numbers at the plate included a .438 batting average with 32 hits (nine doubles), 30 RBI and 25 runs scored.

For his efforts, Pollock received first team all-East District, all-OVAC and all-EOBL honors and was named second team all-Valley. He played in the OVAC George Kovalick All-Star Game and the EOBL Kyle Rose All-Star Classic.

Pollock went on to an outstanding career at West Liberty State College, earning first team all-West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WVIAC) in 1995 and '96. As a junior, he led the Hilltoppers in innings pitched (62), complete games (6), wins (4) and strikeouts (81). His strikeout total led the nation. As a senior, the 6-foot-3 Pollock led WLSC in innings pitched (61), wins (5), strikeouts (950 and ERA (1.92).

He also enjoyed success on the diamond in the summer with the Martins Ferry American Legion Post 38 and Mountaineer Palomino teams.

Pollock was drafted in the 24th round of the Major League Baseball Draft by the St. Louis Cardinals. He played one year for the New Jersey Cardinals in the New York-Penn League and posted a 3-7 record.

MARTINS FERRY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Dana Schell (Class of 1999)



Twenty years after graduating from MFHS, Schell still ranks third on the all-time girls' basketball scoring list with 1,405 points, trailing only Shelly Carroll (Class of 1988, 1626 points) and Jessica Kinney (Class of 2013, 1452 points) in school history.

A four-year letterwinner on the hardwood, she first received second team all-OVAC Class AAA honors as a sophomore.

She stepped into the spotlight as a junior, averaging a lofty 23 points per game to earn second team all-Ohio Division III honors from The Associated Press along with first team all-East District Division III, all-OVAC Class AAA and all-District 12 Division III honors.

Her scoring average swelled to 26.1 points per game as a senior and she again received all-state honors, this time making third team in Division III. She repeated as a first team all-East District Division III and all-OVAC Class AAA selection and was named to the all-Valley "big school" team.

Following her senior season, she played in the OVAC Samuel A. Mumley All-Star Basketball Classic and the Pepsi/District 12 All-Star Basketball Classic.

Schell was also a two-year letterwinner on the Lady Riders' volleyball and track teams.

Natalie Vinci (Class of 2002)



The talented right-handed pitcher could bring the "heat" from the "circle", evident by her career numbers that included 54 victories in four years.

Vinci posted 16 career shutouts including a no-hitter against Union Local. She had 557 career strikeouts, with 18 games of 10 or more 'Ks' to her credit, and she averaged just one walk per game.

After earning second team all-OVAC honors as a freshman, she helped the Lady Riders to the OVAC Class AAA title during her sophomore season and received honorable mention all-Ohio Division III as well as first team all-OVAC and all-East District recognition.

As a junior, she elevated to second team all-Ohio Division III honors and was against first team all-OVAC Class AAA and all-East District and was named to the initial All-Times Leader Team.

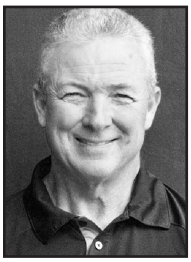
Vinci became a first-team all-Ohio Division III selection as a senior, also earning first team all-East District and all-OVAC Class AAA (named Player of the Year in the conference) and serving as captain of the All-Times Leader Team after leading MFHS to the sectional championship and a district-runner-up finish to Steubenville Catholic. She also played in the OVAC All-Star Softball Game.

She was also a member of the Lady Riders' basketball team for two years.

Following graduation, Vinci attended Ohio Dominican University in Columbus. She pitched for the NCAA Division II Lady Panthers for two years before suffering a career-ending back injury. In 16 appearances, she posted a 2-4 record with five saves, two complete games and an earned-run average of 1.24.

She began her teaching career at St. Clairsville and returned home to MFHS in 2007.

Dave Bruney (Class of 1969/Football Coach)



If ever there was someone who bleeds purple, it's "Coach Dave".

During 40 years on the sidelines including 39 at his alma mater, Bruney amassed an impressive overall record of 284-135 (275-134 at Ferry High) which ranks among the top 20 in OHSAA history.

Bruney-coached Purple Rider teams made the OHSAA playoffs 14 times in a 20-year span starting in 1998 ('98, '99, 2000, '02, '03, '04, '06, '08, '09, '10, '11, '13, '14, '17) and had only six sub-.500 seasons in 39 years with only one after 1990. The Purple Riders fashioned four undefeated regular seasons under Bruney (1979, 1998, 2002 and 2004), with the '04 team winning the OHSAA Division IV, Region 15 championship before falling to Youngstown Cardinal Mooney (27-6) in the state semifinals.

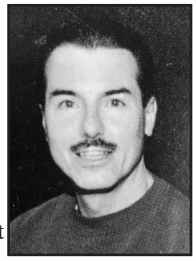
His teams also won six Ohio Valley Athletic Conference championships (1999, 2002, '04, '08, '11 and '13) and he coached in the OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Games four times.

Bruney sports an impressive list of honors, including being named to the OHSFCA Hall of Fame in 2010 and the OVAC Hall of Fame in 2019. He also received the Ohio Coaches Achievement Award from the Minor Pro Football Hall of Fame in Pittsburg in 2014; the entire Bruney family was honored by the Lou Holtz Upper "Ohio Valley Hall of Fame with the Heritage Family Award in 2010; and Martins Ferry's Dave Bruney Football Complex was named in his honor.

Bruney's coaching career began in 1973 as an assistant at Buckeye North under Bill McHugh. He then served as an assistant at Ferry three years (1974-76) under his cousin, Bob Bruney and then spent a year as a graduate assistant at Marshall University under Frank Ellwood (1977). His first head coaching stop was at neighboring Bridgeport where he guided the Bulldogs to a sparkling 9-1 season.

As an athlete, Bruney was an all-Ohio honorable mention and all-OVAC first team selection as a member of the Purple Riders' football team. He went on to Ohio University (graduating in 1973) where he was recruited by Ferry graduate Cliff Hefflefinger and played for the Bobcats under Coach Bill Hess.

Jeff Sabatino (Class of 1972/Boys Basketball Coach)



He took the reins following a rough couple of years in Purple Rider boys' basketball history and went on to become the school's all-time winningest coach by a wide margin, guiding MFHS from the 1992-93 season through 2015-2016 to an impressive 321-214 record (he was 329-229 overall including one year at Cadiz High).

A 1972 graduate and a 1976 product of West Liberty State College with a master's degree in education from Walden University, his coaching career began as an assistant basketball/football/track coach at Meadowbrook High under the tutelage of well-known Ohio Valley mentors Rich Saffield and Dan McGrew. After one year there, he left for Bellaire High where he coached 13 years at various levels from varsity assistant under Mark Matz and Gene Ammirante, also assisting in football and track; then left for a one-year stint as head coach at Cadiz High – going 6-15 - before taking the head coaching job at Ferry.

"Sab" led the Purple Riders to 13 sectional titles; four district crowns leading to four trips to the OHSAA Regional Tournament (1995-96, 1997-98, 2012-13 and 2013-14); and two Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 3A championships (1998 and 2002).

Named "Coach of the Year" in District 12 and the Eastern District on several occasions, he received the OVAC Earl Haberfield Coaches Award in 2017, the same year his father, the late Irwin "Nat" Sabatino, received the OVAC Robert Dawson Officials Award. He coached in the OVAC Samuel A. Mumley All-Star Basketball Classic six times.

Sabatino was inducted into the District 12 Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2018.

As an athlete at MFHS, he was a multi-year letterman in track and basketball. When he graduated, he was the school record-holder in the 2-mile run (10:14) and on the distance medley relay team (8:21.8) and he was the OVAC Class AAA record holder in the 2-mile run (10:23.5).

MARTINS FERRY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Class of 2020

Jeff Jones (Class of 1960)



A three-year letterman in wrestling who se rved as team co-captain as a senior, Jones capped his high school career with a third-place finish in the OHSAA Class AA State Tournament in the 112-pound weight class.

He also captured the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference championship and was an OHSAA District champion as a senior, finishing with an overall record of 18-1 with the only loss coming in the state semifinals.

Jones was a key member of Ferry's team under Hall of Fame coach John 'Corky' Vrotsos that finished with an 11-2 dual record; finished second in the OVAC and OHSAA District; and tied for fifth in the OHSAA State Tournament.

Jones was inducted into the Martins Ferry Wrestling Hall of Fame in 1997.

Bill Bruney (Class of 1970)



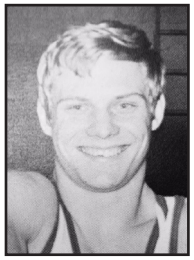
He was an intelligent, football savvy coach who spent his entire career in the background as an assistant, but his knowledge of the game was widely recognized far beyond his alma mater.

Bruney was a three-year letterman in football, wrestling and track for the Purple Riders, and he went on to Ohio University where he played football as a freshman and graduated from there in 1974.

He began what would be a storied 41-year coaching career at Alliance High School for one season before returning to the Ohio Valley and coaching four years each at Bridgeport and Bellaire. He then headed north to Steubenville where he spent 11 years on the highly-successful Big Red staff before getting the call to return "home" to his home town where he spent the next 21 years on the Ferry High staff alongside his brother, Hall of Fame head coach Dave Bruney while also serving as a guidance counselor at MFHS.

Bruney's coaching expertise went beyond the gridiron. He was also an assistant wrestling coach at both Bridgeport and Bellaire; assisted in track and baseball and Steubenville; and spent several years coaching his daughters in softball in the Martins Ferry Civics Athletic Association.

John Jasper (Class of 1973)



Jasper was the first of the premier gymnasts to don the Purple and White during the sport's 10-year run at MFHS under Hall of Fame coach Dave McKim.

As a sophomore in the first year of the program (1971), he led the Riders to the Region 3 championship and a spot in the Ohio State Meet. At the regional, he was third in the all-around, fifth in tumbling and free exercise and sixth on the high bar and side horse.

Jasper served as co-captain as a junior, finishing third in the all-around at the state meet as Ferry finished in fifth place as a team after taking the runner-up spot at the regional and posting an 8-0-1 dual record. At the Region 3 meet, he was second in the all-around; first in tumbling and vault; and second in free exercise, parallel bars, high bar, rings and side horse. He also placed third in the all-around at the Ohio Gymnastics Coaches Invitational. He was tabbed all-Region 3 in seven events (all-around, high bark, vault, rings, tumbling, side horse, free exercise and parallel bars).

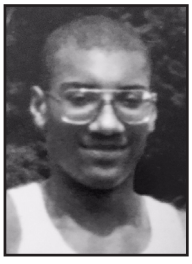
He again was co-captain of the team as a senior (MF went 8-0 in duals), and elevated to the Region 3 all-around champion, also placing first in the floor exercise, vaulting and rings; third on parallel bars and side horse; and sixth on high bar for a total of 105 points to lead the Riders to the title. Unfortunately, he was unable to compete in the state meet due to a stomach injury, but the team still managed a fourth-place finish.

He was tabbed co-captain of the all-Region 3 team, earning spots six events (all-around, free exercise, side horse, vaulting, rings and parallel bars). In addition to his exploits in high school gymnastics, Jasper was a member of the Ferry Gym Club, competing on a team that won the senior division of the U.S. Gymnastics Federation Meet in Columbus. In that event, he placed first in the all-around; second in vaulting and parallel bars; and third in free exercise, high bar and side horse.

He also competed in the Charleston AAU Junior Olympics Meet, finishing first in the all-around, high bar, rings and parallel bars; second on side horse; third in free exercise and tied for fourth in vault.

Jasper was also a pole vaulter on the MFHS track team.

Marc Freeman (Class of 1989)



Regardless of the sport, this talented athlete could really soar.

On the basketball court, as part of a well-balanced three-pronged attack, Freeman was a three-year letterman/starter for Coach Joe Gala. He finished with more than 900 career points and his all-star recognition included honorable mention all-Ohio Division II; first team all-Eastern District; first team all-OVAC Class AAA; first team all-District 12 Division II; and first team all-Valley "Big School". He played in the District 12 All-Star Game, leading the East with 23 points and 18 rebounds, and in the OVAC All-Star Game. During his senior season, the Riders finished with a 14-8 record and captured the Division II Sectional championship. He was also first team All-OVAC as a junior.

He participated in track for only one year, making a major impact as a sprinter and high jumper.

Teaming with Sean Banal, Dan Covington and Pete Sinclair, he earned All-Ohio Class AA honors with a third place finish in the 4x100 relay (43.30) in the OHSAA State Track Championships.

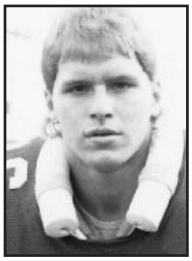
Freeman set a meet record in the high jump with a leap of 6 foot, 7 inches at the Class AA District Meet and claimed the district title in the 4x100 relay (43.4) with the above trio, again winning the 4x100 relay at the Class AA Regional (43.12) while finishing fifth in the high jump (6-5) to narrowly miss a state berth.

At the OVAC Cal Giffin Track Championships, he was first in the high jump (6-6) and on two winning relay teams - 4x100 (44.25) and 4x200 (1:32.93); and he also captured the high jump at the Belmont County Relays (6-4).

He set the school record in the high jump (6-9) at the Shadyside Relays where he was also on the winning 4x200 relay team (1:32.5). At the Martins Ferry Relays, Freeman placed first in the high jump (6-0) and was on three winning relay teams – 4x100 (48.0), 4x200 (1:38.0) and sprint medley (1:43.4).

MARTINS FERRY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Scott Joseph (Class of 1990)



A member of one of Martins Ferry's best-known athletic family trees, Joseph excelled in both football and track.

In football, he was a three-year letterman and a hard-hitting linebacker (offensively, he played guard, tackle and fullback during his career) who earned first team All-Ohio Division III recognition as a senior. He was also first team All-Eastern District Division III and All-Valley "Big School" while receiving first team All-OVAC Class AAA honors as both a junior and senior along with honorable mention as a sophomore. He represented the Purple Riders in the OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game, with Ohio winning by a 42-0 score.

His defensive numbers each year were impressive: 142 tackles, six QB sacks and two interceptions as a sophomore; 165 tackles, seven QB sacks and two interceptions as a junior; and 172 tackles, eight QB sacks and four interceptions as a senior captain. As the fullback during his senior campaign, he rushed 142 times for 879 yards and seven TDs and caught 12 passes for 211 yards.

In track, as a three-year letterman, he sparkled in the shot put – taking first place in the OVAC Cal Giffin Track Championships (50 ft. 0 in.); the Belmont County Relays (47-4) and the Martins Ferry Relays (50-½). In OHSAA postseason action, he was the Division II District champion (49-4 ¾) and finished sixth in the Regional (51-9 ¼).

He also competed in the 100 and 200 as well as the 4x100 relay, with the latter earning a regional berth during his senior season.

He also lettered as a freshman in baseball and three years in wrestling.

Joseph then played football at Ashland University, graduating in 1994 with degrees in Criminal Justice and Psychology. He was a four-year letterman and two-year starter, earning team player of the week honors at linebacker and on special teams. An injury cut short his senior season with the Eagles.

He signed to play with the Steel Valley Smash/Ohio Valley Greyhounds of the Indoor Football League, but additional injuries ended his career.

Kari Peterson (Class of 1990)



This track star could run with the best of them, and she could overcome any "hurdle" in her way, too. In fact Peterson was in the Purple Rider record books at one time in no less than seven events.

Peterson was the standard-bearer for the girls at one point in the 100 hurdles (17.4), 300 hurdles (47.0), 800-meters (2:23.5) and as member of the 4x100, 4x200, 4x400 and 4x800 relays teams.

As junior, she became an All-Ohioan with a fourth place finish in the Class AA 4x800-meter relay (9:41.40) along with teammates Trina Richardson, Vanessa Sikora and Debbie Wisell, setting what was then an all-time record in the Ohio Valley. That group was second in the district (10:06.3) and fourth in the regional (9:49.5).

Individually, Peterson placed first in the district in the 300 hurdles (47.1) and sixth in the regional (47.0); and second in the 300 hurdles in both the OVAC Track Championships (49.35) and Belmont County Relays (49.5).

Other top relay performances that year includes winning the 4x800 in both the OVAC (10;17.47) and Belmont County (10:40.1) events with the above mentioned group and the 4x400 in the OVAC (4:31.84) and Belmont County (4:22.4) with Wisell, Richardson and Judy Zingo.

As a senior, she was first in the 300 hurdles (48.1) and sixth in the 4x800 relay at the OVAC; first in the 800 (2:27.6) and sixth in the 4x800 relay at the Belmont County Relays; second in the Division II District in the 800 (2:25.9) and fourth in the Regional (2:224.0) to become an OHSAA State qualifier.

Also a varsity cheerleader, she took part in state competitions and the NCA Nationals in Dallas, Texas.

Zac Bruney (Class of 2000)



Bruney was a three-sport performer for the Purple Riders who went on to a stellar career on the gridiron at the University of Mount Union before becoming a top-notch coach at the college level.

In football, Bruney was a three-year letterman at MFHS, guiding the Purple to a 9-2 record, a 437-117 edge in points scored and a second straight OHSAA playoff appearance while passing for 2,184 yards and 21 TDs.

Bruney was named second team All-Ohio Division IV as well as first team All-Eastern District D-IV, All-OVAC Class 3A and All-Valley "Big School" and he played in the OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game.

In track, Bruney was a four-year letterman who earned All-Ohio honors as a member of the Riders' 4x100-meter relay team which also included Tony Collette, Ron Hill and John Yoder that posted a third-place finish (43.55 seconds) in the 4x100-meter relay at the OHSAA Division II State Track Meet after winning the Regional title. He also teamed with Collette, Ron Wilson and Ron Hill to win the Regional in the 4x400-relay.

In basketball, he was a two-year letterman/starter, earning All-OVAC Class 3A second team and third team All-Eastern District honors as a senior.

Bruney went on to excel at the University of Mount Union where he was a four-year letterman and two-year starter at quarterback (he graduated in 2005 and later earned his master's degree from the University of Toledo).

After seeing limited action his first two years, he passed for 2,439 yards (145-of-234) with 28 TDs and rushed 81 times for 349 yards and three TDs as the Purple Raiders posted a perfect 14-0 record, winning the Ohio Athletic Conference title and going on to claim the NCAA Division III National Championship.

He followed that up with 2,662 yards (170-of-270) with 31 TDs plus 90 rushes for 450 yards and six TDS, with The Mount finishing 12-1, winning another OAC title and reaching the NCAA D-III semifinals.

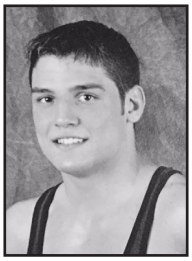
Bruney's career totals included 5.769 yards passing (8th all-time at MU as of 2020), 64 TDs (7th all-time), 360-of-574 (10th in completions/8th in attempts) and in the top 10 in several other passing statistics. He also had 1,075 career rushing yards with 11 TDs.

His list of awards at Mount Union includes the 2004 Gregory Award winner as the top offensive back in the OAC; first team all-OAC quarterback; finalist for the Gagliardi Award as the Most Outstanding Player in NCAA Division III; and the 2005 OAC Clyde Lamb Award winner as the top male scholar-athlete in the OAC. He was also named second team All-American by Senior Football Gazette and third team by D3Football.com and he was also Academic All-OAC as a junior and senior and second team CoSIDA/Sporting News Academic All-American as a senior.

Bruney's coaching career (as of 2020) includes assistant at Mount Union (2005-07); graduate assistant at the University of Toledo (2007-09); offensive coordinator at Mount Union (2009-12); assistant coach at Martins Ferry HS (2012); assistant coach at Ohio Dominican University (2013-16), serving as QB coach, recruiting coordinator, offensive coordinator and assistant head coach during his time there; and then he was named the first head coach at Wheeling University in 2017.

MARTINS FERRY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Scott Roth (Class of 2000)



One of Ferry High's all-time best on the mat, Roth culminated his career in style by winning the OHSAA Division III state championship in the 145-pound division after capturing D-III Sectional and District crowns along the tournament trail. Roth's title led the Purple Riders to a third-place finish in the state tournament.

Roth, who finished third as a junior in the state at 140 pounds as a junior (MFHS was third in the state as a team that year as well), was also a two-time titlist at the OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships (1999 and 2000) and he was awarded the Dave Bierkortte Memorial Award as the tournament's most outstanding wrestler as a senior.

He also won several tournaments as a senior, including the St. Johns Invitational, Barnesville Invitational, Buckeye Local Panther Classic and the Steubenville Catholic Dual Tournament.

Roth had 155 career victories, including a school –record 44 as a senior. His career consistency included 35 wins as a freshman, 41 as a sophomore and 35 as a junior. He also registered 256 career takedowns and 17 tech falls as a senior – both school marks.

Roth showed his wrestling prowess early, winning the Ohio Valley Junior High Wrestling Tournament crown as an eighth grader. He was inducted into the Martins Ferry Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2017.

He wrestled four years at Cornell University (2001-2004) where he was a two-time team captain and a three-time NCAA Division I Tournament qualifier. Roth's career record at Cornell was 85-49.

Dirk Fitch (Track Coach)



Although he started out playing for the rival Bellaire Big Reds, Fitch became a valued member of the Purple Rider coaching fraternity.

During his tenure as head track coach, the Riders won a combined seven Ohio Valley Athletic Conference championships – claiming Class 3A boys' titles in 1994, '98, '99 and 2000 and capturing Class 3A girls' crowns in 1993, '94 and 2000.

The MFHS boys were Belmont County champs twice (1998 and 1999); won the Shadyside Relays in 1999 and 2002 and scored the most points by an OVAC team in the Bellaire Relays in 2000. The girls' teams took top honors in the Shadyside Relays in 1993 and 1994 and tied for the crown in 2000.

Fitch was named Eastern District Track & Cross Country Association's Division II Girls "Coach of the Year" in 1998 and received the district boys' "Coach of the Year" honor in 1999.

He had 11 OHSAA State Track Meet qualifiers, including two state champions (Maurice Jordan in the 300-meter hurdles in 1991 and the 4x100-meter relay team of J.R. Thomas, Ron Hill, Tony Collette and Jay Wallace in 1999).

Fitch – a 1979 graduate of Bellaire High School and a 1983 product of Bowling Green State University who earned his master's degree from Franciscan University and his superintendent's degree from Salem International University – served as an assistant coach at Frontier High School (1983) and then as Hall of Fame coach Gordon Downie's assistant at Ferry (1984-91) before assuming the head coaching post.

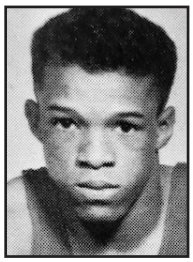
He also had a long run as an assistant under Hall of Fame football coach Dave Bruney, serving on the Riders' staff from 1984-2017.

At Ferry High, he was a special education teacher, assistant principal and superintendent. He became the Assistant Game Director for the OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game in 2019 and served as Game Director in 2020. He was also an assistant football coach at Wheeling University. He was inducted into the Ohio Valley Football Coaches Hall of Fame as an assistant coach in 2023.

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Class of 2021

Allen Jackson (Class of 1963)



One of the best lightweight wrestlers in MFHS history, this 112-pounder capped his prep career by finishing fifth in the OHSAA State Tournament to earn All-Ohio recognition.

He was a two-time Ohio Valley Athletic Conference champion as a junior and senior and a two-time OHSAA District champion and state qualifier.

Jackson posted a sparkling 24-3 record as a senior, serving as co-captain of the 1962-62 squad which captured the OVAC championship and the OHSAA District championship, finished tied for 11th in the OHSAA State Tournament and posted an 11-1 record in dual matches under Hall of Fame coach John 'Corky' Vrotsos.

He was inducted into the Martins Ferry Wrestling Hall of Fame in 1998.

Walter Dombroski (Class of 1967)



If ever someone was born to jump over hurdles, it was Dombroski. He enjoyed a stellar career on the Purple Riders' track squad, serving as team captain as a senior for Hall of Fame coach Fred Thomas.

Dombroski captured the Steel Valley League and Ohio Valley Athletic Conference championships and placed in the prestigious Bellaire Relays in the 180-yard hurdles; won the OHSAA Class A District championship and placed fourth in the Regional meet.

He posted a school-record time of 19.5 seconds in placing sixth at the OHSAA Class A State Track Championships in Mansfield, just missing out on All-Ohio honors. That record (which was also the Ohio Valley record at the time) was retired at MFHS since the 180-yard hurdles are no longer contested. Dombroski also had the school's second-fasted time in the 120-yard hurdle event.

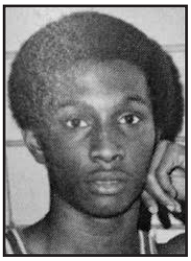
Dombroski was also the anchorman on the Riders' school-record setting shuttle hurdle relay team that also included Steve Scipio, Allen Woods and Dave Rutter which posted a blistering time of 57.5 seconds. That foursome was champions of the Steel Valley League, Wintersville Relays and the OVAC Track Championships.

He was named co-captain of both the Times Leader and News-Register All-Valley track teams.

Dr. Dombroski has been a physician specializing in Family Medicine for 43 years, with his practice located in Salem (O.) He graduated from Universidad Autonoma DeGuadalajara Facultad De Medicina in 1978.

MARTINS FERRY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Larry Allen (Class of 1974)



He was among the premier sprinters of the Ohio Valley, and he could get up and down the basketball court in a hurry, too.

On the hardwood, Allen was a three-year letterman who served as the Purple Riders' team captain as a senior. He tallied 956 career points, averaging 13.7 points per game as a sophomore, 13.2 as a junior and then elevating to 20.7 points along with 10 rebounds per game as a senior. His career averages included 16 points, five rebounds and four assists.

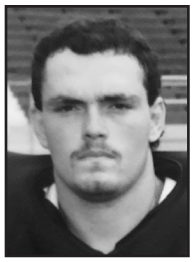
As a senior Allen received All-Ohio Class AA honorable mention accolades while also earning first team All-OVAC Class AAA and All-Valley "big school" and second team All-Eastern District Class AA recognition.

He was also first team All-OVAC as a junior and an honorable mention pick as a sophomore.

In track, he was again a three-year letterman and senior captain. He was the top scorer in the Belmont County Relays, finishing first in the 100 (10.4 seconds, tying the meet record at the time); first in the 220 (22.8, setting a record), third in the high jump and on the third place sprint relay team. He also placed third in the OHSAA Class AA Sectional in the 100.

He attended Waynesburg University.

John McFarland (Class of 1992)



Quite often, the guys in the "trenches" on the football team don't get noticed, but this "big fella" certainly did.

Ferry's team captain during the fall o 1991, he made his 6-3, 270-pound presence felt game in and game out on both sides of the ball, earning a host of postseason accolades including special mention all-Ohio Division IV as well as first team all-Eastern District Division IV, all-OVAC Class AAA and all-Valley "big school". He also brought back memories of Lou "The Toe" Groza, also serving as the Purple Riders' placekicker with one field goal and 19 extra-point kicks to his credit.

"Mac" played in the OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game, kicking the deciding point in Ohio's 7-6 victory; and in the OHSFCA North-South All-Star Game, playing both offensive and defensive tackle while kicking a field goal and an extra-point in the South's 10-0 victory.

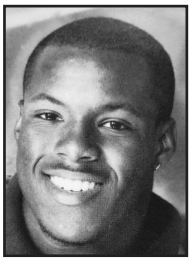
His talented weren't limited to the gridiron as he was also a standout wrestler and baseball player.

On the wrestling mat, he qualified for the OHSAA State Tournament as both a junior and senior, advancing through sectional and district competition with second and third place finishes, respectively. He also placed third in the heavyweight division of the OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Tournament as a senior.

In baseball, he was a four-year letterman with his top performances including seven home runs as a sophomore (second in the Ohio Valley), and a three-home run, seven-RBI game against River as a senior. McFarland also lettered one year in basketball at MFHS.

He attended the University of Toledo for one year and is currently the Chief of Police in Martins Ferry.

Nate Jackson (Class of 1996)



This speedster brought the "action" to Purple Rider athletics, particularly on the gridiron and on the track.

In football, the 5-9, 160-pound three-year letterman was a dual threat offensively, completing 72-of-125 passes for 1,283 yards and eight touchdowns and rushing 71 times for 603 yard and six scores as the Purple Riders' quarterback and he was credited with 60 total tackles as a defensive back. Jackson received special mention all-Ohio Division V as a senior along with first team all-Eastern District D-V, all-OVAC Class AAA and all-Valley "Big School" honors. He played in the OHSFCA North-South All-Star Football Game.

As a junior, he saw most of his action at receiver, notching 20 catches for 290 yards and earning all-OVAC honorable mention.

In track, Jackson capped an outstanding four-year career with an impressive senior season.

The OVAC Cal Giffin Track Championships saw Jackson finish first in the 100 (11.5), 200 (22.4, a meet record at the time), 400 (50.3) and the 4x400 relay (3:37.4) and he captured the same four events at the Belmont County Relays to earn the high point award for running events – 100 (11.1, tying the meet record at the time), 200 (23.0), 400 (50.5) and 4x400 (3:34.7).

In OHSAA competition, he started out with victories in all four events in the Division II District – 100 (10.7, which remains the school record as of 2020), 200 (22.4), 400 (50.3) and 4x400 (3:31.4), with the latter victory featuring the Riders trailing by 15 meters as Jackson's anchor leg began. In the D-II Regional, he finished fourth in the 100 (11.25) to qualify for the state meet and the 4x400 relay team (which also included Kurt Pettit, Gary Jackson and Chad Brinker) placed fifth (3:27.08), just missing out on a trip to Columbus. In the OHSAA State Track Championships, Jackson ran a solid 11.11 in the semifinals, but failed to advance to the finals.

Jackson was also a two-year letterman in basketball as the starting point guard and he played baseball during his freshman year.

He was a member of the University of Toledo football team for one season.

Lindsay Coyne (Class of 2003)



A four-year letterwinner and team captain as a senior, Coyne ranks fifth on the all-time Lady Riders' basketball scoring list with 1,378 career points.

As a senior, she received first team all-Ohio Division III honors after averaging 20.2 points per game, becoming only the third MFHS girl to receive that honor (HOFers Diana Swearingen in 1980 and Shelly Carroll in 1988). She was a second team all-state selection as a junior when she averaged 19.8 per outing and special mention all-Ohio as a sophomore

Coyne also receive first team all-Eastern District and all-OVAC honors three times and was all-District 12 and all-Valley as a senior. During her career, the Lady Riders won OHSAA Division III Sectional and District titles and an OVAC Class 3A crown.

In volleyball, Coyne was a multi-year letterwinner and captain as a senior when the Lady Riders compiled the school's only unbeaten regular season (20-0) and won the OHSAA Division III Sectional title before falling in the D-III District finals. She was first team all-OVAC and all-District 12 as a junior and senior while playing in both the OVAC and District 12 All-Star Matches.

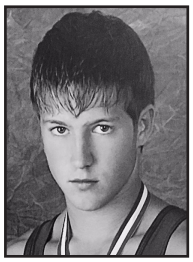
She was also a two-year letterwinner in track competing primarily in sprints and relays and was a one-year letterwinner in softball as a catcher/left fielder on the Riders' OVAC Class AAA championship team.

Coyne, the class Salutatorian at MFHS, went on to play hoops at Wheeling Jesuit University where she was a four-year letterwinner, graduating in 2007. In 114 career games, she tallied 502 points, 250 rebounds, 157 assists and 85 steals. During her junior year, the Lady Cardinals posted a 27-5 record and reached the NCAA Division II Regional. She later earned a Doctorate from Wheeling Jesuit in Physical Therapy.

She returned to her alma mater and coached the girls' basketball team five seasons from 2012-2017.

MARTINS FERRY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Clay Tucker (Class of 2005)



The most decorated wrestler in MFHS history, he was the school's only four-time state place-winner/All-Ohioan and one of a select few four-time Ohio Valley Athletic Conference champions.

The four-year mat letterman finished with a superb 169-10 career record, the most wins in school history, and he established standards for career tech falls (47) and single season (18).

In OHSAA Division III competition, he was fourth at 103 pounds as a freshman; second at 125 pounds as a sophomore; captured the state championship at 130 pounds as a junior; and placed sixth at 140 pounds as a senior (he was forced to default his last match due to illness). He was also a four-time OHSAA Division III Sectional and District champion.

In addition to winning the four OVAC titles, Tucker was voted the winner of the David Bierkortte Memorial Award as the Most Outstanding Wrestler of the 2005 tournament; competed in the Eastern Ohio All-Star Meet three times; earned All-OVAC honors four times and was the News Register's Ohio-side Wrestler of the Year as a senior. He was inducted into the OVAC Hall of Fame in 2025.

His year-by-year win totals were 42 as a freshman; 43 as a sophomore; 46 (school record) as a junior and 38 as a senior.

Tucker was the NHSCA Senior Nationals runner-up at 140 pounds, becoming the first Ferry wrestler to earn All-American recognition.

In football, Tucker was a three-year letterman as a wide receiver-defensive back for Hall of Fame coach Dave Bruney. After earning all-OVAC honorable mention as a junior, he elevated to first team all-OVAC and as a senior when he had more than 500 yards receiving with five TDs while serving as a co-captain of the Riders' team which reached the OHSAA Division IV State Semifinals, finished with a 12-1 record, outscored its opponents by 466-111 and captured the OVAC Class AAA title. He was selected to play in the OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game.

Tucker was a four-year letterman at Ohio University with a career record of 71-66. He posted an 11-20 record as a freshman, finishing fourth in the Mid-American Conference Tournament; was 13-17 as a sophomore; went 21-16 as a junior, finishing third in the MAC Tournament at 157 pounds and being selected as the team's Most Valuable Wrestler by his teammates; and closed out his career with a 25-14 record as a senior, again placing third in the MAC.

He spent three years as an assistant coach at Wheeling Park before taking the head coaching reins in 2015 for three years, then returning to the assistant's role.

Kim Appolloni (Girls Basketball Coach)



She enjoyed a tremendous 10-year run as head coach of the Lady Riders, amassing a 137-78 record.

Under Appolloni's guidance, Ferry captured Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class AAA championships in 1997 and 2002 and reached the OHSAA Division III Regional semifinals in 1998.

Appolloni was selected as the AP Eastern District and District 12 "Coach of the Year" in 2003.

She also spent several years as the athletic director at MFHS and after yielding the girls' coaching post, spent several years as a boys' assistant coach under Jeff Sabatino and Derek Edwards.

Prior to her years at Ferry, Appolloni was the head coach at St. John Central and posted a 105-32 record, winning five OVAC titles (1989, '90, '91, '92 and '94) and lead the Lady Irish to one OHSAA Regional appearance. At SJC, she was the Eastern District and District 12 "Coach of the Year" in 1991 (21-2 record) and 1992 (21-3 record).

With a combined 242-110 head coaching record, she received the OVAC's Rich Saffield Girls' Basketball Coaches Award in 2008.

A 1982 product of St. John Central where she was the school's first 1,000-point scorer while receiving all-OVAC, all-Eastern District and all-District 12 accolades, she went on to graduate from The Ohio State University in 1988 and earned her master's degree from Marygrove College in 2004.

Jeff Harrison (Class of 1977/Media-Contributor)



Harrison was a member of the Ohio Valley sports media for 43 years and made countless contributions to his alma mater beyond newspaper coverage of countless sporting events. He also served as public address announcer for Purple Rider football and boys' basketball games for seven years; authored a book entitled *700 Victories and Counting: The History of Martins Ferry Football* in 2017; and is a member of the Martins Ferry Athletic Hall of Fame Selection Committee, serving as the primary researcher/biographer for that group and producing the annual program.

His journalism career includes 18 years at *The Times Leader* in Martins Ferry, 19 years at *The Daily Jeffersonian* in Cambridge and finally for four years at *The Journal-Leader* in Caldwell, He also was the Communications Director for the Noble Local School District.

He was a member of the East District Selection Committee for football/boys' basketball/girls' basketball, serving as chairman from 2009-2023; was an AP state poll voter for many years; a member of the Ohio High School Athletic Association Media Advisory Committee and a member of the Ohio Prep Sportswriters Association. He was the 2006 recipient of the Eastern Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association's Media Award; District 12's selection for the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Honor in 2015; was inducted into the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Hall of Fame in 2017 and the Ohio Prep Sportswriters Association Hall of Fame in 2018; received the Ohio School Boards Association Media Award in 2020 and the OHSAA/East District Media Award in 2021.

Harrison originated the concept of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Hall of Fame in 2004, served a member of the selection committee and was charge of producing the program for that event through 2025. He was also a long-time member of the OVAC Softball Committee and OVAC Coach of the Year Selection Committee.

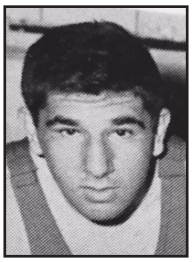
Harrison was also the catalyst behind the formation of the District 12 Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2008, serving as Chairman of the Hall of Fame Selection Committee.

A 1977 graduate of Martins Ferry High School who attended Ohio University he also authored the book *Holding Court: The Gene Ford Story* (2005), the biography of the legendary Cambridge High School boys' basketball coach.

He's also served as public address announcer for Meadowbrook girls' basketball and the District 12 All-Star Basketball Classic; was a radio analyst for several sporting events with WOMP-AM, AVC Communications and Kaleb Graham Productions; and was a youth baseball/softball coach for 22 years in the Martins Ferry Civics Athletic Association and the Guernsey Valley Baseball Association.

MARTINS FERRY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Class of 2022



Jack Kardules (Class of 1961)

A four-year letterman in wrestling, he served as co-captain of Ferry's first Ohio Valley Athletic Conference wrestling championship team under Hall of Fame coach John 'Corky' Vrotsos.

Kardules was a two-time OVAC champion and a two-time OHSAA Class District champion who capped his prep career with a fourth-finish in the OHSAA State Tournament at 145 pounds to earn All-Ohio honors.

He finished with a career record of 41-18-4.

Kardules was also a two-year letterman in track at MFHS.

He went on to compete at the collegiate level for one season, posting a 6-6 record at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

Kardules – who passed away in 1993 - was inducted into the Martins Ferry Wrestling Hall of Fame in 1998.



Denny Lucas (Class of 1971)

He was a team leader in two sports in the early 1970s, serving as team captain as a senior in basketball and baseball.

In basketball, he lettered three years and scored more than 800 points – averaging 18 points per game as a senior – and collected more than 400 rebounds and 300 assists.

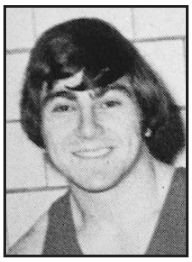
Lucas' senior year all-star recognition included special mention All-Ohio Class AA; first team All-Eastern District and first team All-OVAC Class AAA. He was special mention All-OVAC as a junior.

In baseball, Lucas was a four-year letterman who was a shortstop and pitcher. He batted .399 for his career and was selected to play in the Eastern Ohio Baseball League's All-Star Game three times.

He also lettered in football as a junior.

Lucas went on to play basketball at California (Pa.) State University, earning freshman MVP honors when he averaged 20 points per game.

He spent several years in coaching, starting at Cadiz where he was junior high girls' basketball coach (1984-85); head girls' basketball coach (1986); junior high boys' coach (1987-88); and JV boys' coach (1989-91). He then coached JV boys' hoops at Union Local (1997-99) and was the Martins Ferry girls' JV coach (2000-01).



Tom Suriano (Class of 1973)

He enjoyed success as a two-sport athlete and also spent many years as a coach at Ferry High in four sports.

As an athlete, Suriano was a three-year letterman in football, serving as a tri-captain as a senior when the Riders ended an eight-year stranglehold on the 'SPARKY' trophy which originated back in 1964. He played slotback on offense, primarily blocking for hall of Fame fullback Mike Goudy, and middle guard on defense where he led the team in tackles. He received special mention all-OVAC Class AAA honors and played in the OVAC All-Star Football Game (he later coached in that game as well).

In wrestling, Suriano was a four-year letterman, again serving as a senior captain. A 167-pounder, was a two-time OHSAA State Tournament qualifier after winning Sectional and District titles and he was a three-time place-winner in the OVAC Wrestling Tournament, winning the championship as senior when he posted an overall 24-2 record. He was inducted into the Martins Ferry Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2016.

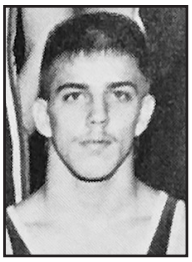
Suriano went on to play football at West Liberty State College (graduating there in 1977), earning three letters as an offensive guard and gaining honorable mention all-WVIAC honors.

He had two stints as an assistant football coach at MFHS (1977-84 and 1988-97) and was also an assistant in wrestling (1975-85) and basketball.

He was the head volleyball coach for four years (1999-2002), with the highlight coming in 2002 when the Lady Riders had a record-setting season, posting a spotless 20-0 regular season; reaching the OVAC Class AAA Tournament semifinals; winning the OHSAA Division III Sectional title and finishing as the D-III District runner-up. That year, Suriano was named OVAC and District 12 "Coach of the Year".

He also was one of the founders of the OVAC All-Star Volleyball Match which began in 2000.

Suriano, who spent 37 years in the education field, also served as an assistant coach at Steubenville and Cadiz along with one year on the staff of the local professional indoor football team, the Steel Valley Smash.



Jeff Smith (Class of 1993)

One of the best Purple Rider grapplers of the '90s, he posted an impressive 91-27-1 career record.

As a senior, he fashioned a sparkling 36-1 record, with the only loss in the OHSAA Division II State Championship match where he dropped a 92 decision to Brian Singleton of Mantua Crestwood to finish as the state runner-up at 125 pounds.

He also captured the OVAC crown at 130 pounds after finishing as the runner-up at 125 pounds as a junior.

Smith was a three-time D-II Sectional champ and a two-time D-II District champ.

He was captain as a senior of a squad that won the OVAC Overall and Class 3A titles and the Division II Sectional crown while finishing fourth in the D-II District and seventh at the OHSAA D-II State Tournament.

During his junior year, the Rider grapplers were OVAC Overall runner-up and Class 3A champions sand OVAC Class 3A Dual Meet champions; OHSAA Division II Sectional champions and D-II District runners-up along with a 10-0 dual record.

Smith also was a member of the 1992 Ohio AAU All-Star Wrestling Team which competed in Hawaii, Australia and New Zealand.

He was also a three-year letterman on the Purple Riders' football team where he played wide receiver and defensive back.

Smith went on to a stellar college wrestling career at West Liberty State College where he was a three-year captain of the Hilltoppers' mat squad.

He was an NAIA All-American as a freshman in 1994, placing eighth at 126 pounds in the national tournament, and he was an NCAA Division II Regional champion as a senior. His senior year record at 134 pounds was 25-7, which still shares the mark for most wins in a season.

Smith finished his WLSC career with a record of 73-34.

MARTINS FERRY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Angela Cerasoli (Class of 2005)



This talented softball pitcher packed a lot of punch in her right arm, and she was a pretty good hitter as well.

A four-year letterwinner, she had 10 pitching victories as a sophomore with 93 strikeouts and a 2.90 E.R.A. and then as a junior, she posted a 15-6 record in the circle with 132 strikeouts and a 1.32 E.R.A. At the plate, she hit .317 with 26 hits, five doubles, three triples and a .451 slugging percentage. Those numbers earned Cerasoli first team All-Eastern District Division III and All-OVAC Class 3A recognition and she was selected to play on the Eastern District team in the OHSFCA Underclass All-Star Games. She had also been named All-Eastern District as a sophomore.

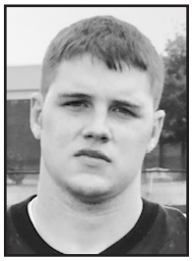
As a senior Cerasoli elevated her pitching to a 19-4 record, 204 strikeouts and a 2.09 E.RA while hitting .378 with 25 RBI, five doubles, five triples, one home run and 12 stolen bases.

Cerasoli again was named first team All-Eastern District Division III and All-OVAC Class 3A – named Player of the Year in the District - but this time she received first team All-Ohio Division III status. She played in the OVAC Softball All-Star Game.

She led the Lady Riders to OHSAA Division III Sectional and District Championships and the school's first appearance in the softball Regional where they dropped a tough 4-3 decision to Sycamore Mohawk in the semifinals to finish with a 24-4 record.

Cerasoli also played two years of volleyball at MFHS and went on to The Ohio State University where she played club fast pitch softball.

Chas Yoder (Class of 2005)



Yoder was a rare two-time, two-sport All-Ohioan, achieving that status in both football and wrestling.

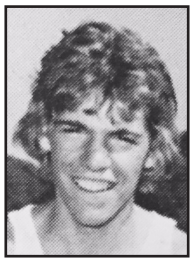
In football, he was a two-time first team All-Ohio Division III selected at linebacker. Also the Purple Riders' fullback, Yoder gained first team All-Eastern District Division III honors, All-OVAC Class 3A and All-Valley "Big School" honors as a junior and senior and was honorable mention All-OVAC as a sophomore.

In wrestling, he earned All-Ohio Division III honors twice, finishing sixth in the 171-pound weight class as a junior and taking the runner-up spot at 189 pounds as a senior. He was a two-time champion of the OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships as well (2004 and 2005).

Yoder continue his football career at the University of Mount Union where he was part of three Purple Raider NCAA Division III National Championship teams. He was a first team All-Ohio Athletic Conference linebacker and earned Academic All-OAC first team honors as well.

He joined the Purple Rider coaching ranks, serving as head wrestling coach from 2013-2018 and then, at age 30, was named to succeed legendary football coach Dave Bruney, who he assisted for nine years, in 2018. He coached the Riders for four seasons before stepping down to become the middle school principal, finishing with a 19-22 record and two OHSAA playoff appearances (2018 and 2020).

Joe Ellis (Class of 1974)



Ellis was a key part of a golden era of cross country at Ferry High, the senior statesman alongside fellow Hall of Famers Bruce Smith and Mike Frazier under legendary coach Gordon Downie.

A three-year letterman, he enjoyed a solid junior year where he placed 14th in the OVAC Cross Country Championships, 30th in the OHSAA Class AA Sectional and 49th in the OHSAA District with a season-best time of 10:16.

Ellis blossomed as a senior captain, finishing seventh in the OHSAA Class AA Sectional, fifth in the District (9:45) and qualifying for the OHSAA State Cross Country Championships where he finished in 32nd place.

He placed fourth in the Belmont County Meet, sixth in the OVAC and had top 10 finishes in invitationals at Martins Ferry, Brooke, Dover, Bellaire and John Marshall and was 12th in the giant West Liberty Invitational. His season best time in his final year was 9:28.In track, he was a three-year letterman who served as captain during his senior campaign.

In track, Ellis was a captain as a senior for the Riders who finished sixth in the OVAC Class AAA Meet, second in the OHSAA Class AA Sectional and 15th in the District while posting a 6-1-1 dual meet record and finishing in the top six in six invitationals.

Ellis placed first in the 880-yard run at the Steel Valley Track League Championship Meet and he was fourth in the same event in the OHSAA Class AA Sectional, missing a district berth by one spot.

Ellis continued running at West Liberty State College (graduating there in 1977) where he was a member of six WVIAC championship teams (three in cross country, three in track) and competed in the Cross Country Nationals as a junior and senior.

A four-year letterman in cross country and three-year letterman in track, he served as captain of the Hilltoppers' cross country team as a senior.

He finished ninth in the WVIAC Championships as a junior and placed 18th as a senior despite competing with a foot injury.

He also competed in countless local road races both during and after his high school and college days, including running in the prestigious Boston Marathon in 2015.

Ellis was also very successful as Ferry's head cross country coach from 1989-94 and 1997-2002. Under Ellis, the Riders won five OVAC girls' championships (1991, '93, '98, '99 and 2000) and the four boys' titles (1991, '92, '93 and '98). He also had several Belmont County championship teams and regional-qualifying teams and five state qualifying teams (girls in 1992 and 2000; boys in 1992, '93 and '99).

He also served as an assistant track coach (1985-95 and 1998-2000) , working primarily with the distance runners. In between, he was head cross country coach at West Liberty State College (1995-97).

Nick Stankovich (Class of 1977 - Contributor)



Stankovich enjoyed a solid athletic career in high school and college, but his contributions to Martins Ferry athletics extend far beyond his playing days.

On the field, he served as an assistant football and track coach of the Purple Riders for 30 years, coaching the line under Hall of Fame football coach Dave Bruney and coaching the weight men in track.

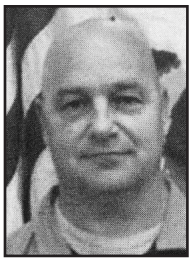
He began his career in education as a teacher at North Elementary in 1981, becoming the principal there from 1984-96. He then served as assistant superintendent from 1996-99 and elevated to Superintendent of the Martins Ferry School District from 1999-2010. Upon his retirement, he then became a member of the Martins Ferry Board of Education starting in 2012.

Along the way, Stankovich was very instrumental in obtaining the funds for the field house located inside the Dave Bruney Football Complex, having turf placed on the field and other renovations at Ferry Stadium as well as at the Fred Thomas Track Facility on the MFHS campus.

As an athlete, Stankovich was a three-year letterman in football; a three-year letterman in track who shined in the weight events, including a toss of 53-9 in the shot put and 146-2 in the discus; and a one-year letterman in wrestling. He went on to play football for four years at Capital University.

MARTINS FERRY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Jess Cordery (Softball Coach)



He coached the Lady Riders' softball team for 11 seasons, compiling a solid career record of 169-100.

Cordery coached Martins Ferry's first regional qualifying team, leading the 2005 Lady Riders to the OHSAA Division III Sectional title by defeating St. Clairsville (12-3) and Steubenville Catholic (4-3); and District crown by upending Indian Valley (6-2) and Ridgewood (4-1).

That led to the D-III Regional semifinals where Ferry dropped a heartbreaking 4-3 decision to eventual state champion Sycamore Mohawk, leaving the Lady Riders with the school's best record ever at 24-4.

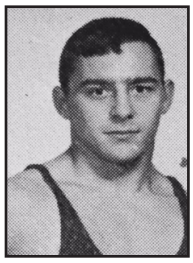
That squad also won the OVAC Class 3A championship that season.

Cordery – who was the ROTC instructor at MFHS - was named OVAC Coach of the Year twice (2000 and 2005) and the Eastern District Division III Coach of the Year in 2005.

He coached three All-Ohioans during his tenure – Natalie Vinci, Angie Cerasoli and Kayla Lewis.

Class of 2023

Bill Padgelek (Class of 1965)



He was a four-year member of the Purple Riders' football team and wrestling squads, serving as captain of both sports as a senior, and he was a three-year participant in track.

In wrestling, Padgelek was a two-time OHSAA Class AA District champion and state qualifier (1964 and 1965) and a two-time Ohio Valley Athletic Conference champion (1964 and 1965) at 152 pounds.

During his mat career, Ferry won four straight OVAC team titles under Hall of Fame coach John "Corky" Vrotsos.

Padgelek was inducted into the Martins Ferry Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2002.

In football, he was a two-way end for the Riders on teams coached by Hall of Famer Robert "Smokey" Wion. Although MF was only 3-7 in his senior season, he played on a 7-3-1 squad in 1962 and a 9-0-1 team in 1963.

His specialty in track was the hurdles and he finished third in the 200-yard high hurdles (16.1) at the OVAC Track Championships as a senior.

Mike Deaton (Class of 1969)

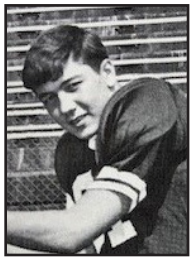


Deaton was among a select group of Purple Rider wrestlers during his four-year career. He was a four-time Ohio Valley Athletic Conference finalist, winning the championship twice (as a junior in 1968 and senior in 1969) after taking the runner-up spot twice (as a freshman in 1966 and 1967).

He also sparkled in postseason tournament competition, finishing as a three-time Sectional and District champion and qualifying for the OHSAA State Wrestling Tournament each year (1967, '68 and '69).

Deaton, who went on to wrestle in college at Morehead State University, was a 2003 inductee into the Martins Ferry Wrestling Hall of Fame.

Bob Krone (Class of 1970)



He was a standout for the Purple Riders in three sports – football, baseball and basketball – before going on to play college football.

In football, Krone was a three-year letterman/starter as a split end and defensive back, serving as captain of the 1969 Riders. He led the OVAC in receptions (45) and receiving yards (715) as a senior and earned first team all-OVAC Class AAA, all-Eastern District Class AA and all-Valley "Big School" honors.

In baseball, he was a four-year letterman/starter (Krone actually started at all nine positions during his career) and was team captain as a senior. He posted a .300-plus career batting average, including a lofty .416 mark as a senior. Krone was named second team all-Valley at shortstop as a senior and all-Eastern Ohio Baseball League as both a junior and senior.

In basketball, he lettered three years and started two, including once again serving as a captain as a senior.

Krone averaged 10 points per game as a senior and received all-Eastern District Class AA honorable mention.

Krone received a full scholarship to the University of Toledo where he was the leading receiver on the freshman team.

He transferred to Marshall University where he played three years as a defensive back, leading the team in interceptions as a senior with four and also recording 80 tackles. He was a member of the 1971 Young Thundering Herd team that was featured in the 2006 movie "We Are Marshall" which depicted the aftermath of the 1970 plane crash that killed 75 people including 37 players on the MU football team.

He was honored by the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Club for collegiate achievement in football in 1975.

Margie Kunze (Class of 1981)



Kunze was a force in three sports, putting her size and strength to full use in track, basketball and volleyball.

In track, she excelled in the discus and was also solid in the shot put.

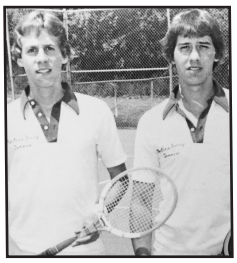
As a sophomore, Kunze earned all-Ohio Class AA honors with a sixth place finish (108-4) at the OHSAA State Track and Field Championships. She placed first in the section al (100-8) and second in the district (99-7) to advance. As a junior, she set what was then an Ohio Valley record in the discus with a toss of 116-1. She finished first in the OVAC Class 3A Meet (111-7) and first in the Class AA Sectional (116-0) As a senior, she repeated as OVAC Class 3A champion in the discus (106-2); won the Class AA Sectional (115-5) and finished third at the district (111-3) to qualify for the state tournament. She also won the discus at the Martins Ferry Relays (103-2) and finished sixth in the shot put.

In basketball, Kunze was a co-captain and key player on the Lady Riders' team that went 16-5 and finished as the OVAC Class 3A runner-up her senior year. She averaged 10 points and an impressive 14 rebounds per game to earn second team all-OVAC Class 3A honors and she also was selected to play on the Ohio squad in the OVAC Samuel A. Mumley All-Star Basketball Classic. Ferry also won the OHSAA Class AA Sectional championship all four years she played.

Kunze also was a two-year letterwinner in volleyball who served as a co-captain as a senior.

MARTINS FERRY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Brad Rinderer/Barry Voytecek (Class of 1981/1982)



When this tandem reached the OHSAA Division II State Tennis Tournament in 1981, they became only the second Martins Ferry netters to advance to that level. They joined the 1942 state champion doubles duo of Bob Bowen and Ken Kadar in that elite club.

Along the way, Rinderer and Voytecek captured the OHSAA Class AA/A Sectional and District titles. They won two matches in the Sectional at Cambridge and then swept three matches in the District at Lancaster to reach the state "final eight" where they lost twice to finish with an overall 18-4 doubles record.

The "Dynamic Duo" also fared well individually on the court that season, with Voytecek finishing with a 16-6 record, winning an OVAC title at No. 2 singles and finishing fourth in both the Sectional and District while Rinderer was 14-4 in singles, the OVAC runner-up at No. 1 singles as well as the Class AA/A Sectional runner-up and third in the District.

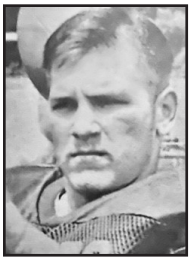
A year earlier (1980), both qualified for the Class AA/A District in singles (Rinderer was second in the Sectional and Voytecek was 4th), both reaching the semifinals before being eliminated. Voytecek was also the OVAC No. 2 singles champion as a sophomore and the No. 1 singles runner-up as a senior.

Including a host of summer tournament appearances, the Rinderer-Voytecek tandem combined for an impressive 85-8 record in doubles.

Both were also solid contributors to the Purple Riders' basketball program, each earning two varsity letters.

Rinderer was the starting point guard as a senior, earning honorable mention all-OVAC Class 3A honors after averaging 12 points per game, and he also lettered as a receiver in football as a senior. Voytecek was the seventh man and a 6.5-point per game scorer on Ferry's 20-5 record team that won OHSAA Class AA Sectional and District title before falling to Wheelersburg (71-69) in the Regional Championship Game.

Jack Becker (Class of 1995)



Becker was a talented multi-sport athlete, earning a combined 10 varsity letters in football, basketball and baseball.

On the gridiron, he was a three-year letterman and two-year starter at quarterback, guiding the Purple Riders to a combined 14-5 record during those two seasons. After completing 63-of-129 passes for 962 yards and seven touchdowns as a junior, he went 56-for-110 for 1,090 yards and nine TDs as a senior.

Those numbers earned Becker special mention all-Ohio Division IV recognition along with first team all-Eastern District Division IV and all-OVAC Class 3A, and second team all-Valley honors.

He played in both the OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game and the Ohio North-South All-Star Game.

On the hardwood, the 6-0 wing was a three-year letterman/starter who scored more than 600 career points including a 10.8 average as a senior to help the Riders to a 17-7 overall record, a third place finish in the OVAC Class 3A standings and an OHSAA Division III Sectional championship.

He was named special mention all-Eastern District Division III and honorable mention all-OVAC Class 3A.

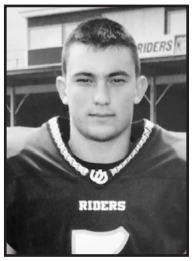
On the diamond, he was a four-year letterman as a centerfielder/pitcher. The Riders went 16-7 during his senior season and were the OVAC Class 3A runner-up and Becker was selected to play in the Eastern Ohio Baseball League All-Star Game.

Becker originally planned to play basketball at Ohio University-Eastern, but opted for Waynesburg College for football.

He became a four-year letterman for the Yellow Jackets, spending his first two-plus years at strong safety before transitioning to quarterback.

On defense, he was credited with 108 tackles, 10 interceptions and 19 pass break-ups and earned second team all-Presidents Athletic Conference as a junior. He became the starting quarterback as a senior, also serving as a team captain, and passed for 1,792 yards and 22 touchdowns in nine games while also having five rushing TDs and one receiving TD and once again, he was named second team all-PAC.

Trevor Bruney (Class of 2004)



A running back in football and relay sprinter in track, Bruney is the latest in a long line of talented performers one of Ferry's storied football families.

In football, he was a three-year letterman and co-captain as a senior. The 5-11, 185-pounder led the area in rushing as a senior with 1,804 yards along with 20 touchdowns. Bruney helped lead the Purple Riders to the school's first-ever playoff victory against Proctorville Fairland before they lost to Coshocton in the second round to finish with a 9-3 record.

Bruney was named first team AP all-Ohio Division IV; first team all-Eastern District Division IV and the Offensive Player of the Year; and first team all-OVAC Class 3A. He was also the 12th member of the Bruney family to participate in the OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game.

As a junior, he was a member of the Riders' team that finished unbeaten in the regular season and 10-1 overall, falling to Coshocton in the first round of the playoffs. MF also won the OVAC Class 3A championship that year.

In track, Bruney was a four-year letterman who was a mainstay in relay events.

As a junior, he was on the third place 4x100-meter relay team that finished third in the OVAC (44.62) and also had several other top five finishes including second at the Union Local Invitational (44.75), third at the Shadyside Relays (44.94) in the 4x100 and fifth in the Bellaire Relays in the shuttle hurdles (1:02.9).

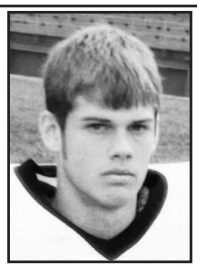
As a senior, Bruney and the Riders were first in the OHSAA Division II District Meet and a Regional qualifier in the 4x100 (44.10 and first in the OVAC (44.62) and placed in three big meets in the shuttle hurdles – fourth at the Shadyside Relays (1:02.1), fourth at the OVAC (1:01.83) and sixth at the Wheeling Park/Dick Dei Classic (1:02.48).

He continued his gridiron career at the University of Mount Union, lettering all four years despite battling injuries. His career rushing totals included 95 carries for 474 yards and two TDs; 19 catches for 271 yards and 2 TDs; and five kickoff returns for 59 yards.

He was a member of three NCAA Division III championships teams and as a senior was the lead blocker for college football's all-time rushing record-holder (all divisions) – Nate Kmic.

MARTINS FERRY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Ryan Church (Class of 2005)



The 6-3 Church came up big on both the football field and basketball court for the Purple.

In football, he was a two-year letterman who became the starting quarterback in the second game of his junior year, earning honorable mention all-OVAC Class 3A on a team that posted a 9-3 record, losing in the first round of the OHSAA playoffs to Coshocton.

As a senior, he was the signal-caller for the Riders who went unbeaten (9-0) in the regular season and advanced farther than any MF team had in the OHSAA playoffs ever, winning the Division IV, Region 15 championship by defeating West Muskingum, Bellaire and New Albany. Ferry lost to Youngstown Cardinal Mooney in the state semifinals, finishing the year with a 12-1 record and outscoring its opponents by a whopping 466-111 margin.

Church earned first team all-Ohio Division V accolades; was first team all-Eastern District and the Offensive Player of the Year; and first team all-OVAC Class 3A.

In basketball, he scored 1,024 career points, averaging 22 points per game as a senior.

He was named to the all-Ohio Division III third team and was first team all-Eastern District Division III, all-District 12 Division III, all-OVAC Class 3A and all-Valley.

As a junior, Church received first team all-District 12, second team all-Eastern District and all-OVAC and was honorable mention all-Ohio.

Kayla Lewis (Class of 2008)



One of the best softball players to wear the Purple & White, Lewis was a four-year letterwinner who was team captain and MVP as a senior.

Lewis batted a lofty .438 as a senior with 35 hits, one home run, nine doubles and 27 RBI. For her career, she hit .430 and had a whopping 101 RBI.

She was named to the OHSFCA Division III All-Ohio squad three times – honorable mention as a sophomore, second team as a junior and first team as a senior.

Lewis was also a three-time first team all-Eastern District D-III selection, named the district "Player of the Year" as a senior. She also received first team All-OVAC Class 3A all four years; was a two-time All-Valley selection and a two-time All-Times Leader team captain. Following her senior year, she played in the OVAC Softball All-Star Game.

She was a key member of the 2007 Lady Riders softball team that posted a 21-4 record, winning both the OVAC Class 3A and Buckeye 8 championships.

Lewis also was a two-year letterwinner in volleyball.

She went on to play softball at Kentucky State University. As a junior, she batted.353 (41-of-116) with 10 doubles, 7 home runs and 29 RBI while as a senior, she hit .322 (38-of-110) with 13 doubles, 3 home runs and 36 RBI. At KSU, she received a student-athlete award for Outstanding Achievement in Political Science.

Class of 2024

Steve Santa (Class of 1931)



More than 90 years ago, during the Golden Era of Martins Ferry baseball under Hall of Fame Coach Fred Hart, you didn't have to wait until Christmas to see Santa come through!

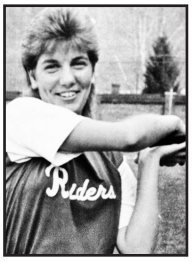
This talented pitcher was part of not one, not two, but three state tournament teams, serving as the "iron man on the mound" and combining to form a formidable "battery" with Hall of Fame catcher John Vargo on the 1930 Purple Rider squad that captured the Ohio Class A championship. This was Ferry's first state championship in any sport and one of only three in school history (the others were the 1941 boys' basketball team and the 1941 football team).

As a junior, Santa reportedly pitched all three games over a two-day span to lead the Ferrians to the state crown with an overall 21-2 record. The Riders defeated Cincinnati Woodard, 13-4, in the title game which was originally scheduled for nine innings but shortened to seven by "mutual agreement" of the coaches. Santa pitched all seven innings, giving up four runs and six hits with six strikeouts and three walks while also leading the way at the plate with a double, five RBI and two runs scored.

He also pitched in a 6-0 win over Canton McKinley in the first round and a 1-0 shutout of Bedford in the semifinals.

MFHS also reached the state tournament in 1929 when Santa was a sophomore, beating Cleveland Garfield 6-3 before losing 12-1 to Canton McKinley in the semifinals; and after winning it all in 1930, returned in 1931 during his senior season, falling 2-0 to Toledo Waite in the first round.

Jodi Janetski (Class of 1985)



She was one of the premier discus throwers in the Ohio Valley and only the second female state place-winner in the OHSAA State Track Meet, finishing in sixth place in the discus as a junior to earn All-Ohio honors.

As a freshman, Janetski finished second in the Class AA District (94-3) to qualify for the regional and then as a sophomore, she took second in the Class AA District in the discus (97-11) and shot put (32-3½) to qualify for the regional in both events. At the OVAC Class AAA Championships, she was third in the discus (101-4) and fifth in the shot put (29-2½) as well as fourth in the discus at the OVAC Cal Giffin Track Classic (103-9).

Her memorable junior campaign featured first in the discus (106-9) and fifth in the shot put (31-8½) at the Class AA District; second in the discus (115-2) at the Class AA Regional and culminated with the sixth place finish at the OHSAA State Meet (119-9). She was also first in OVAC Class AAA in the discus (117-11) and fourth in the shot put (31-8); and first in the Belmont County Relays in the discus (112-3) and third in the shot put (33-0).

As a senior, Janetski broke her own OVAC Class AAA record in the discus (118-11) and placed second in the shot put (31-8½); placed first in the Class AA District in the discus (113-0) and third in the shot (31-10¼) to qualify for the Class AA Regional in both events.

She also set what still stands (as of 2024) as the school record in the discus her senior season with a toss of 129-6.

On the basketball court, Janetski was a three-year letterwinner who earned honorable mention All-OVAC Class AAA as a senior after averaging 11.5 points per game. She tallied seven points a game as a junior.

MARTINS FERRY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Tony Rose (Class of 1986)



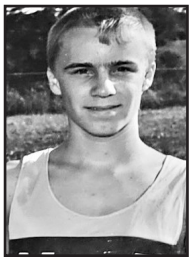
A three-year letterman who played tailback and defensive end, Rose finished his career with 2,533 yards rushing which was second in MFHS history at the time he graduated and still ranks fifth all-time as of 2023 (behind Jeremy Murray, Chad Brinker, Jimmy Johnson and Tony Collette). That included back-to-back 1,000-yard seasons – 1,285 as a junior and 1,080 as a senior.

As a senior co-captain, the 5-7, 185-pound Rose helped the Purple Riders to a 6-3 record and received several post-season honors including second team All-Ohio Class AA; first team All-Eastern District Class AA and first team All-OVAC Class AAA. He played for Ohio in the 1986 OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game.

As a junior, Rose was honorable mention All-Ohio Class AA and first team All-Eastern District Class AA.

Also a member of the Purple Riders' basketball team, he went on to Otterbein University where he was a two-year letterman in football.

Pete Beck (Class of 1994)



One of the best distance runners in Purple Rider history, he was a four-year letterman in both cross country and track.

In cross country, Beck earned All-Ohio status as a senior when he finished 13th in the OHSAA Division II State Cross Country Championships and set the school record at the 5K distance with a time of 16:11.

After finishing 11th in the Belmont County Meet and 15th in the OVCCL Meet (18:08) as a freshman (16:47), Beck began to make his presence felt as a sophomore by finished second in the Belmont County Meet (16:01), second in the OVCCL (17:04), fifth in the OVAC (17:21) and fourth in the Division II District (17:26) to qualify for the Regional.

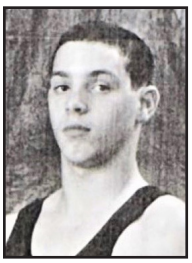
As a junior, Beck placed fourth at the district (17:21), 24th at the regional (17:02) and ran 16:42 at the OHSAA State Meet; placed second in the county meet (16:27), third in the OVCCL (17:53) and fourth in the OVAC (17:22). He also won the Martins Ferry Invitational (17:38) and was second in the Malone Invitational (16:51).

As a senior, he was fifth in the District (16:47) and 17th in the Regional (17:17) before running a sharp 16:11 to place 13th in the state meet and gain All-Ohio honors. He also was the champion in the OVAC (16:50) and Belmont County (15:37) events and fourth in the Malone Invitational (16:28).

In track, Beck's career began as a freshman with fourth place finishes in the Belmont County Relays in the 3200 (10:51) and 1600 (4:53) and a fifth place effort in the D-II District (10:46) which qualified him for the D-II Regional.

As a sophomore, he was first in the district in the 3200 (10:00) and fourth in the regional (10:02) to qualify for the state meet; placed third in the OVAC (10:12) and was second in the Belmont County event in the 3200 (10:02) and 1600 (4:44).

Bobby Tucker (Class of 1995)



A four-year letterman in wrestling, he served as co-captain as a senior when the Purple Riders won the OVAC Class 3A championship, the OHSAA Division III Sectional and District titles and finished fourth in the OHSAA Division III State Tournament.

Tucker's four-year varsity record was an impressive 92-26 and he was a two-time Division III Sectional and District champion. He qualified for the state tournament as a junior and capped his senior season by finishing as the OHSAA Division III State Tournament runner-up at 119 pounds.

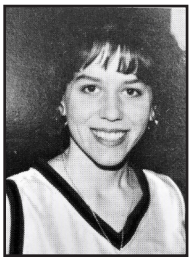
In the OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships, he placed second at 125 pounds as a senior; second at 119 pounds in as a junior and sixth at 112 pounds as a sophomore.

During his career, the MF grapplers won four OVAC Class 3A Tournament titles, three OHSAA Division III Sectional crowns, two OVAC Class 3A Dual Tournament titles, went 46-6 in dual meets and won 17 tournaments.

He continued his wrestling career at West Liberty University where he was a four-year letterman (1996-99). With the Hilltoppers, Tucker compiled a 79-38 record and qualified for the 1997 NCAA Division II National Tournament.

Tucker was inducted into the Martins Ferry Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2012.

Heather Baker (Class of 1997)



A multi-sport performer who collected 11 varsity letters, Baker was the fourth player in Lady Rider basketball history to reach the prestigious 1,000-point mark, finishing her career with 1,008 points.

A four-year letterwinner/starter, not only could Baker score, but she was also a quality defender and passer.

As a sophomore, she averaged 17 points per game, receiving second team All-Valley 'Big School', special mention All-OVAC Class 3A and honorable mention All-Eastern District Division II recognition.

Baker tallied 13.9 points per game as a junior, landing second team All-OVAC Class 3A, third team All-Eastern District Division II and honorable mention All-District 12 Division III.

As a senior, she checked in with an 11-point average on an OVAC Class 3A championship squad that posted a 19-1 record and finished fifth in the AP Division III state poll. Baker was awarded second team All-Eastern District, third team All-Valley 'Big School' and honorable mention All-OVAC Class 3A and All-District 12 Division III.

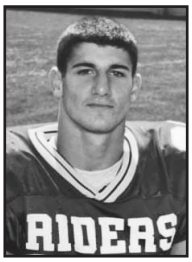
Baker was also a four-year letterwinner in softball and a three-year letterwinner in volleyball.

On the softball diamond, as a pitcher-third baseman, she received second team All-OVAC Class 3A honors as a junior and first team recognition as a senior.

She lettered one year in basketball at Marietta College before transferring to Ohio University Eastern where she finished her playing career, scoring 750 points with 225 assists and 200 rebounds at OUE.

MARTINS FERRY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Tony Collette (Class of 2000)



Collette lettered in four sports, but it was in football and track where he made his biggest impact as a Purple Rider.

On the gridiron, he was a three-year starter/letterman who posted back-to-back 1,000-yard seasons and helped the Riders to a three-year mark of 32-5, including the school's first two playoff appearances. For his career, he amassed an impressive 2,729 yards rushing and 4,065 all-purpose yards while scoring 43 touchdowns.

During his sophomore campaign, he had 406 yards rushing and 686 all-purpose yards with seven TDs, earning All-OVAC, All-Valley and All-Eastern District honorable mention.

As a junior, he racked up 1,207 yards on the ground and 1,425 all-purpose with 12 TDs with his accolades including special mention All-Ohio, first team All-Eastern District, first team All-Valley and honorable mention All-OVAC.

His senior season numbers included 1,116 yards rushing and 1,954 all-purpose yards with 24 TDs and 11 two-point conversions while on defense, the Riders' co-captain had 60 tackles, two interceptions (both returned for TDs), two fumble recoveries and a punt return TD.

Collette's senior accolades included AP All-Ohio Division IV first team; first team All-Eastern District and the Defensive Player of the Year; first team All-OVAC and first team/co-captain of the All-Valley "Big School' squad. He represented MFHS in the OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game.

He also enjoyed tremendous success on the track, highlighted by being part of the state champion 4x100-meter relay team that posted a blistering 42.5-second mark (an Ohio Valley record) and was inducted into the MF Athletic Hall of Fame along with teammates Rich 'JR' Thomas, Ron Hill and Julius 'Jay' Wallace in 2016.

As a sophomore, he was part of the Riders' 4x100 quartet that won the Belmont County Relays and finished sixth in the OHSAA Division II State Meet (43.87) for All-Ohio honors.

In addition to the state title in the 4x100 relay, Collette's junior year included first place in the 100 and second in the 200 at the D-II District; second in the D-II Regional in the 4x100; first in the 100 and 4x100 at the Belmont County Relays; and first in the OVAC in the 100.

As a senior, he was on the 4x100 relay team that finished third (All-Ohio) at the D-II State Meet (43.55) and a state qualifier in the 4x400 relay; second in the 200 and on the winning 4x100 and 4x200 relay teams at the OVAC; first in the Belmont County Relays in the 100 and 4x100 relay.

He was All-Eastern District in the 100, 4x100 and 4x200 and on the All-Valley team in the 100.

He was also a three-year letterman in basketball (MF was OVAC, Sectional and District champion during his sophomore season and Sectional champion during his senior year) and he also lettered as a freshman in baseball.

Collette was a two-year letterman at Ohio University as a defensive back/special teams player.

Mandy Bruney (Class of 2001)



One of the best female distance runners in Purple Rider history, Bruney was a four-year letterwinner and All-Eastern District selection in both track and cross country who capped her career with a runner-up finish in the 3200-meter run at the OHSAA Division II State Track Championships with a school-record time of 11:14.38.

As a freshman, Bruney had three top three finishes in the OVAC Class 3A Championships – first in the 3200 (11:554.52), second in the 1600 (5:28.75) and third in the 800 (2:32.42); won the 3200 (12:03.3) in the Belmont County Relays; was first in the Division II District in the 3200 (11:52.3) and fourth as a member of the 4x800 relay team (10:02.5); and third in the D-II Regional in the 3200 (11:54.29) to qualify for the State Meet.

As a sophomore, she was first in the OVAC in the 3200 (11:44.58) and third in the 1600 (5:38.40); second in the Belmont County Relays in the 3200 (12:06.5) and third in the 1600 (5:38.8); first in the district in the 3200 (11:40.0) and third in the regional in the 3200 (11:33.19) to return to the state meet.

As a junior, she won 1600 (5:32.85) and 3200 (12:06.58) at the OVAC; finished second in the 1600 (5:57.7) and 3200 (12:28.1) at the Belmont County Relays; took second in the D-II District (12:23.83) and second in the D-II Regional (11:45.11) to reach the state meet yet again.

As a senior, she won the OVAC in the 1600 (5:33.35) and 3200 (11:41.63) and on the 4x800 relay team (10:08.55); was second in the county meet in the 1600 (5:35.6) and 3200 (11:56.1) and on the winning 4x800 relay team (10:30.4); took second in the 3200 (11:40.0) and 4x800 relay (10:09.57) at the district; was third in the 3200 (11:15.1) and 4x800 relay (9:53.52) at the regional to qualify for the state where she finally reached the podium with her state runner-up finish in the 3200.

In cross country, as a freshman, she was 12th in the OVAC (20:56); eighth in the Belmont County Meet (19:44); 8th in the district (20:30); 15th in the regional (20:17) and a state qualifier.

As a sophomore, she was seventh overall in the OVAC (2nd in Class 3A/20:42); 8th in the OVCCL (20:07); 7th in the Belmont County Meet (20:05); 2nd in the district (19:46); 5th in the regional (19:54) and 16th in the state meet (19:20.0).

As a junior, she was 2nd in the OVAC (20:02); 1st in the OVCCL (19:55); 1st in the Belmont County Meet (20:57); 4th in the district (19:40); 11th in the regional (20:24) and 27th in the state meet (19:56).

As a senior, she was 1st in the OVAC (20:18); 1st in the Belmont County Meet (21:11); 5th in the OVCCL (20:34); 2nd in the district (20:32); 17th in the regional (20:31) and 48th in the state meet (20:02).

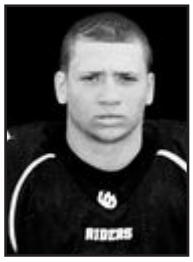
She was also a four-year letterwinner/three-year starter on the Lady Riders' basketball team.

Martins Ferry Athletic Hall of Fame Committee

Jeff Harrison
Dirk Fitch
Joe Mamone
Mike Lucas
Greg Harkness
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Chrissy Lewis

MARTINS FERRY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Jeremy Murray (Class of 2009)



An electrifying performer on the football field and the track, Murray was a four-year letterman in both sports.

In football, the 5-9, 180-pound quarterback/running back set all-time records at MFHS with 4,807 rushing yards while scoring a whopping 73 touchdowns.

After earning OVAC Class 3A honorable mention as a freshman while rushing for 486 yards and six TDs in just five games, Murray rushed for 1,780 yards with 34 TDs as a sophomore to gain second team All-Ohio Division V, first team All-Eastern District Division V and honorable mention All-OVAC Class 3A recognition.

Injuries limited his playing time as a junior, but he still managed to play part of six games and collect 380 yards with six TDs, gaining first team All-OVAC Class 3A honors.

He bounced back with vengeance as a senior who switched to quarterback, rushing for 2,181 yards with 27 TDs and was named first team All-Ohio Division V, All-Eastern District Division V (Player of the Year) and All-OVAC Class 3A. The Riders posted an 11-2 record that season, reaching the OHSAA Division IV, Region 15 Championship Game and winning the OVAC Class 3A championship.

In track, Murray enjoyed tremendous success in the OVAC Cal Giffin Track Championships, earning all-conference honors nine times during his career.

As a freshman, he was on the Class 3A second place 4x200 relay team (1:34.73) with teammates William Antill, Matt Smith and Justin Smith; and second place 4x100 relay team (44.94) with Antill, Matt Smith and Dustin Smith.

As a sophomore, he was fourth in the 100 meters (11.81); fifth in the 4x800 relay (3:37.81) with Ryker Hill, Brad Becca and Cameron Gasmire; and sixth in the 4x100 relay (46.75) with Rawn Driver, Gasmire and John Martin.

As a junior, Murray was on two place-winning relay teams – fourth in the 4x400 (3:38.31) with Anthony Phillips, Becca and Gasmire); and sixth in the 4x200 (1:36.65) with Anthony Phillips, Casey Bain and Gasmire.

As a senior, he again was on two relay teams that placed – fourth in the 4x200 (1:35.81) with Driver, Bain and Tyrel Simmons; and sixth in the 4x100 (51.95) with Bain, Simmons and Phillips).

In Buckeye 8 competition, Murray was on the sixth place 4x100 relay team (48.91) as a junior with Cody McGeen, Gasmire and Bain while as a senior, he took fourth in the 100 meters (11.96); was on the winning 4x200 relay team (1:36.49) with Driver, Bain and Simmons; and second in the 4x100 relay (45.80) with Driver, Bain and Phillips.

In OHSAA Division II District action, he took eighth in the 100 (12.13) and was on the fifth place 4x200 relay team (1:34.60 with Antill, Matt Smith and Justin Smith as a freshman; placed seventh in the 100 (11.46), third in the 4x400 (3:34.14) with Gasmire, Hill and Becca and seventh in the 4x100 relay (46.17) with Driver, Gasmire and Martin as a sophomore; and was second in the 4x100 relay (44.90) with Simmons, Phillips and Bain, with that quartet going on to place fifth in the D-II Regional (44.36) to just miss a state berth.

His personal best marks of 11.81 in the 100 and 24.02 in the 200 rank in the top 10 in MFHS track history.

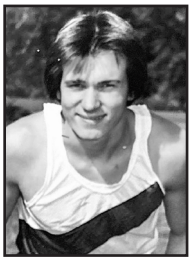
Murray went on to play running back for two years at the University of Mount Union, compiling 3,346 yards rushing and scoring 45 touchdowns.

As a freshman, he earned second team All-Ohio Athletic Conference honors with 1,616 yards rushing and 21 TDs along with 15 pass receptions for 156 yards and two TDs.

As a sophomore, he received first team All-OAC recognition after gaining 1,730 yards rushing with 20 TDs and 20 catches.

Class of 2025

Ken Sokolowski (Class of 1983)



One half of the terrific twins of distance running from the early 1980s, Ken Sokolowski made his biggest impact at the longest distance in track – the 3200-meter run.

As a junior, he placed first in the 3200 (9:45) and second in the 1600 (4:33) at the Class AA District; took the top spot in the Class AA Regional (9:48) and just missed All-Ohio honors by placing seventh at the OHSAA Class AA State Championships (9:42). He also won the OVAC Class 3A title in the 3200 (9:49.7, setting the meet record), took second in the 1600 (4:33) and placed second in the 4x800 relay (8:23); and at the Belmont County Relays he was first in the 3200 (9:48), third in the 1600 (4:44) and on the winning 4x800 relay team (8:15).

He joined his brother Kevin as well as Dennis Swearingen and Bruce Woods on the school record-setting 4x800 relay team (8:16.6), a mark that stood until 2017.

As a senior, Sokolowski was first in the Class AA District in the 3200 (9:51) and fourth on the 4x800 relay team (2:05); third in the Class AA Regional in the 3200 (9:42) to earn a second trip to the state meet. At the OVAC 3A Championships, he was third in the 3200 (9:59), fourth in the 800 (2:05) and on the third place 4x800 relay team (8:41).

During his senior season, Ferry won every dual meet and finished first in the Belmont County Relays as well as invitationals at Wintersville and Martins Ferry. The Riders were OVAC champions during his freshman, sophomore and junior seasons under Hall of Fame coach Gordon Downie.

He was also a four-year letterman in cross country, serving as a team captain as a senior of the Purple Rider squad that captured the OVAC Class AAA championship, went undefeated in duals, finished first or second in every team event all year long until placing third at the OHSAA Class AA District Meet. The Riders also took the top spot in the OVAC Class 3A Championships, the Belmont County Championships and the Ohio Valley Cross Country League Championships.

As a senior, he finished second behind Kevin in the Belmont County Meet (15:50); third in the OVCCL (15:53) and just outside the top 10 in the Class AA District Meet.

He won the Belmont County Meet as a junior (15:53) and finished second in the OVCCL.

MARTINS FERRY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Kevin Sokolowski (Class of 1983)



A four-year letterman in track, he was the Ferry High record holder in the 800-meter run (1:59.0) and 1600-meter run (4:22.4) until both were broken by Jacob Bishop in 2017, and a member of the 4x800-relay team (with Dennis Swearingen, Bruce Woods and his twin brother Ken/8:16.6) which also stood until 2017.

During his senior season, Ferry won every dual meet and finished first in the Belmont County Relays as well as invitationals at Wintersville and Martins Ferry. The Riders were OVAC champions during his freshman, sophomore and junior seasons under Hall of Fame coach Gordon Downie.

As a junior, he was first in the OVAC Class 3A Championships in the 3200 (9:48, a meet record), second in the 1600 (4:33) and on the second place 4x800 relay team (8:23); finished first in the 800 at the Belmont County Relays (2:02, a meet record) and first in the 4x800 relay; placed second in the Class AA District in the 4x800 relay (8:19) and first in the Class AA Regional in the 3200 (8:18) to qualify for the OHSAA Class AA State Meet

As a senior, at the OVAC Class 3A Championships' he was first in the 1600 (4:34), second in the 800 (2:06.6) and second in the 3200 relay (8:41) and fourth in the OVAC Cal Giffin Track Classic in the 1600; at the Belmont County Relays, he was second in the 1600 (4:30) and fourth in the 3200 relay; at the Class AA District, he was second in the 1600 (4:28) and fourth in the 3200 relay (8:41); at the Class AA Regional, he was 4th in the 1600 (4:24) and qualifier to the OHSAA Class AA State Meet where he finished seventh. Sokolowski also placed second in the prestigious Bellaire Relays in in the 1600 in what was a valley record time of 4:22.4.

He was also a four-year letterman in cross country and team captain as a senior of the Purple Rider squad that captured the OVAC Class AAA championship, went undefeated in duals, finished first or second in every team event all year long until placing third at the OHSAA Class AA District Meet. The Riders also took the top spot in the OVAC Class 3A Championships, the Belmont County Championships and the Ohio Valley Cross Country League Championships.

Sokolowski finished first in the Belmont County Championships (15:42) as a senior after a runner-up finish to his brother as a junior; fourth in the OVCCL (15:54) and ninth in the OHSAA Class AA District Meet.

Frank Valentine (Class of 1994)



A four-year letterman in wrestling, he was a two-time All-Ohioan thanks to a sixth place finish at 140 pounds as a junior and a fifth place finish at 145 pounds as a senior at the OHSAA Division II State Tournament.

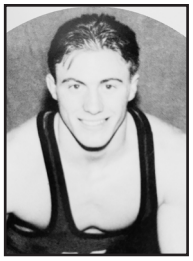
Valentine was a three-time place-winner in the OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships, highlighted by winning the 145-pound weight class as a senior. He placed sixth at 130 pounds as a sophomore and fifth at 145 pounds as a junior. He was also an Ohio Division II Sectional and District champion.

As a senior, he served as a co-captain of the Riders' mat squad that won the Division II Sectional championship, finished as runner-up at the D-II District, placed 13th at the OHSAA Division III State Tournament and won the OVAC Class 3A title. During his career, Ferry won three OVAC Class 3A crowns. three OHSAA Division II Sectional titles and several invitationals.

He was inducted into the Martins Ferry Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2011

In football, he was a multi-year letterman who played receiver and defensive back.

Dan Jones (Class of 1998)



A four-year letterman in wrestling, he finished his career with 114 victories highlighted by his runner-up finish at 135 pounds at the OHSAA Division III State Tournament (he dropped a narrow 6-4 decision to Jerry Stratos of Mogadore in the finals).

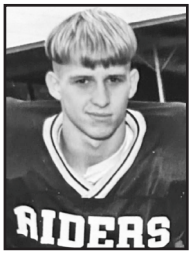
Jones was a three-time Division III Sectional and two-time Division III District champion. He was a four-time place-winner in the OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championships, finishing eighth at 119 pounds as a freshman (at Linsly), placing fourth at 119 pounds as a sophomore, second at 135 pounds as a junior and claiming the 135-pound title as a senior.

Jones served as co-captain as a senior as the Rider grapplers captured the overall team championship at the OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Tournament, won the OHSAA Division III Sectional title and finished as the runner-up in the Division III District, and finished fourth in the OHSAA Division III State Dual Tournament. MFHS also won the OVAC Class 3A crown during Jones' junior season.

He was inducted into the Martins Ferry Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2014.

In football, he was a multi-year letterwinner at outside linebacker and tailback who played on the 1997 team that posted an 8-2 record and finished No. 13 in the final AP Division IV state poll.

Nick Yourkovich (Class of 1998)



While he was a talented receiver on offense, it was as a defensive back where Yourkovich shined the brightest for the Purple Riders' football team.

A multi-year letterman, he enjoyed strong junior season with nine pass interceptions from his spot in the secondary, earning honorable mention All-Ohio Division IV, first team All-Eastern District Division IV and first team all-OVAC Class 3A recognition.

He followed that up with a strong senior campaign, serving as a co-captain and posting seven more pass thefts while also contributing offensively with 23 catches for 502 yards and a TD to help the Riders to an 8-2 record and a No. 13 ranking in the AP Division IV state poll.

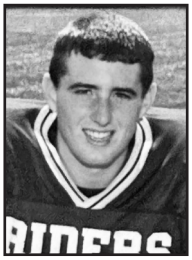
Yourkovich was selected to the first team on the AP All-Ohio Division IV squad at defensive back and he was also named first team All-Eastern District D-IV, first team All-OVAC Class 3A and first team All-Valley.

In basketball, Yourkovich was a two-year letterman who was sixth man for the Riders. He averaged seven points per game and did the "dirty work" on the 1998-98 team coached by Hall of Famer Jeff Sabatino that posted an overall 21-4 record, winning OHSAA Division III Sectional and District championships and advancing to the Regional semifinals where they lost to Chesapeake in Athens while also capturing the OVAC Class 3A title.

He also participated in track, primarily competing in relay events.

MARTINS FERRY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Craig Bruney (Class of 1999)



He was a force both on the wrestling mat and in the football trenches for the Purple Riders, earning four letters in the mat sport and three on the gridiron.

In wrestling, he finished his career with 106 victories, earning him induction into the Martins Ferry Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2016.

As a sophomore, Bruney was the OHSAA Division III Sectional runner-up and a District qualifier at 171 pounds, helping the Riders to the OVAC Class 3A championship (fourth overall) and a runner-up finish in the D-III Sectional.

As a junior he took second in the Sectional and third in the District to qualify for the OHSAA Division III State Tournament and he was the runner-up at 189 pounds in the OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Tournament. That year, Ferry was OVAC Overall and Class 3A champions, D-III Sectional champions, District runner-up and fourth in the OHSAA D-III State Tournament.

As a senior, he became an All-Ohioan by placing third in the OHSAA Division III State Tournament, going 4-1 in Columbus to cap a 34-3 record season. He placed third in the Sectional and first in the District to advance, and also was the OVAC champion at 189 pounds. The Riders were OVAC overall and 3A champions and took third as a team in the D-III State Tournament.

Bruney received the George Kovalick Wrestling Scholarship from the Ohio Valley Wrestling Coaches Association as a senior.

On the football field, Bruney excelled as a 6-0, 215-pound center-defensive tackle.

As a senior co-captain, he played a major role in the historic 1998 season which marked the Riders' first OHSAA playoff appearance, a No. 2 ranking in the final AP Division IV State Poll and was the highest scoring team in school history (580 points for a 52.7 per game average). After a 10-0 regular season, the Riders fell to perennial powerhouse Youngstown Ursuline in the playoffs.

Bruney was named second team on the AP All-Ohio Division IV squad along with first team All-Eastern District D-IV and All-OVAC Class AAA. He also represented MFHS in the OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game and was an All-Valley Scholar Athlete.

Ashley Bruney (Class of 2002)



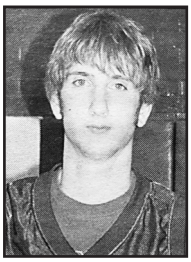
During her career, Bruney played three sports - basketball, softball and track and field - and she will be forever known as a selfless, hardworking, gritty and often unsung Purple Rider and a vital member of OVAC championship teams in each sport.

She was a four-year letterwinner and two-time team captain in basketball for Coach Kim Appolloni. A point guard who ranks in the top five in assists at MFHS, she is one of the few athletes to start every game her entire four years. Bruney earned All-OVAC Class AAA honors twice – honorable mention as a junior and first team as a senior and she was also selected to the All-Times Leader team after her final season. That year, the Lady Riders posted a 22-3 overall record and not only won the OVAC Class AAA crown but also captured Sectional and District titles and reached the OHSAA Division III Regional Tournament.

Bruney was also a four-year letterwinner in track, serving as a captain as a senior for Coach Dirk Fitch's squad. She was a hurdler, running a leg on one of the school's best shuttle hurdle teams, and she also ran legs on sprint relay teams and competed in the long jump. She earned several OVAC Championship titles in the shuttle hurdles and was a four-year place-winner at the area's premier track meets including the Bellaire Early Bird, the Bellaire Girls Invitational, the Shadyside Relays, Burger King Invitational, OVAC, Union Local Invitational and Belmont County Relays. As a freshman, she earned a trip to the OHSAA Regional as part of the 4x100-meter relay team.

In the spring, she was a dual sport threat as she not only competed on the OVAC Class AAA championship team in track, but as a sophomore she was also a catcher on the softball team that was OVAC Class AAA champions under Coach Jess Cordery - often participating in both sports on the same day.

Scott Mirich (Class of 2006)



A three-year letterman in basketball, the 6-5 Mirich finished his career with 1,194 points which ranks fifth behind 2025 graduate Alex Reese and Hall of Famers Ron 'Cy' Godfrey, Alex Groza and Ricky Ray. He also collected 265 career assists.

Mirich, who averaged 24 points per game as a senior along with 10 rebounds and six assists, earned honorable mention All-Ohio Division III recognition as a junior and elevated to a second-team All-State selection as a senior. He was a two-time first team All-Eastern District Division III, All-District 12 Division III and All-OVAC Class 3A selection, also earning third team All-Eastern District Division III and honorable mention All-OVAC as a sophomore. He also received second team All-Valley honors as a senior and second team laurels as a junior.

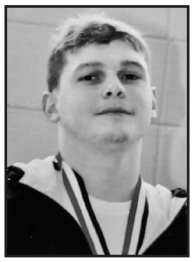
He also played in the OVAC Samuel A. Mumley All-Star Game (19 points/10 rebounds) and the Pepsi/District 12 All-Star Game (17 points/8 rebounds).

In track, Mirich competed in the high jump, finishing third in the OVAC Class 3A Championships (6-0), third in the Belmont County Relays (5-8), fifth in the OHSAA Division II District Meet (5-6) and sixth in the Buckeye 8 Championships (5-8) as a senior. The 6-0 effort ranks in the top five all-time at MFHS.

Mirich continued his basketball career at West Liberty University where he was a four-year letterman. During his career, he scored 902 points and collected 460 rebounds, 301 assists, 119 steals and 20 blocks; connected on 339-of-628 field goal attempts, 32-of-80 three-pointers and 192-of-295 free throws.

The Hilltoppers won the WVIAC championship during his senior year and finished as the NCAA Division II Atlantic Region runner-up. WLU had a four-year mark of 100-21 during Mirich's career.

MARTINS FERRY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME



Tyler Chesonis (Class of 2008)

This four-year letterman made his mark in the pool with several school records and multiple first place finishes in the OVAC Swimming Championships.

During his career, he set school marks in the 500-freestyle (4:57.47); the 400-freestyle relay (3:30.35 with teammates Ryan Longenette, Andrew Chesonis and Markus Sievers; and the 200-medley relay (1:45.99) with the same three teammates.

He also posted the second-fastest time in the 200-freestyle (1:51.10); third fastest in the 100-butterfly (59.77); fifth fastest in the 100-backstroke (1:04.48); sixth fastest in the 200-IM (2:15.82); sixth fastest in the 200-IM (2:15.82); ninth fastest in the 100-breaststroke (1:13.99) and 10th fastest in the 50-freestyle (25.14).

As a freshman, he was first in the 500-freestyle (5:14.59); second in the 100-butterfly (1:00.18); fourth in the 200-medley relay (2:00.19) with teammates Longenette, Andrew Chesonis and Tom Donley; and fourth in the 200-freestyle relay (1:43.74) with Andrew Chesonis, Donley and Stefan Fuhrmann in the OVAC and finished 19th in the 500-freestyle and 26th in the 200-freestyle at the OHSAA Division II Sectional.

As a sophomore Chesonis took first in the OVAC in the 500-freestyle (5:14.87), first in the 200-freestyle (1:57.07); first in the 200-medley relay (1:47.62) with teammates Sievers, Andrew Chesonis and Longenette; and first in the 400-freestyle relay (3:37.55) with that same trio. At the District, he was 13th in the 500-freestyle; 14th in the 200-medley relay; 15th in the 400-freestyle and 19th in the 200-freestyle.

As a junior, his OVAC accomplishments included first in the 200-freesstyle (1:54.36); first in the 500-freestyle (5:01.43); ninth in the 200-medley relay (2:05.12) with Mikey Lewis, Longenette and Chris Lutz; and 12th in the 200-freestyle relay (1:50.01) with the same trio. At the District, Chesonis was sixth in the 500-freestyle 4:57.50) and 18th in the 200-freestyle.

As a senior, he took first in the 200-freestyle (1:51.40) and first in the 500-freestyle (5:03.86) at the OVAC along with sixth in the 200-medley relay (2:02.78) with Travis Couture, Lewis and Caue Zendron and eighth in the 200-freestyle relay (1:45.57) with the same trio. At the District, he was 12th in the 500-freestyle; 21st in the 200-freestyle and 28th in the 200-freestyle relay.

He was named captain of the All-Times Leader Swim Team as a senior.

Chesonis continued his swimming career at Ashland University, competing there for four years (2008-2012).

While there, he recorded what is still (as of 2025) the 16th fastest time in school history in the 1650-yard freestyle (16:32.47) in 2010 and the 21st fastest time in the 1000-yard freestyle (10:00.69) in 2008.

Martins Ferry High School Alma Mater

On the shores of old Ohio
Where the coal and iron meet,
Stands our dear old Ferry High School
Full of joys and memories sweet.
And the spirite that we find there
Growing up so strong and true,
Brings us back to friendships made there,
Ferry High, we stand for you.
Ferry High School, Ferry High School,
We'll always think of you,
Agnd no matter what befalls us,
Ferry High we'll e'er be true.





Be sure to follow the Martins Ferry Athletic Hall of Fame site on Facebook where all of the biographies of the past inductees are located. It's also the first place you'll learn of the new inductees each year.

Purple Rider fans both past and present are invited to submit names of potential future candidates for the "Hall" to the selection committee with the candidate's name, year of graduation and as many details of their athletic accomplishments while at MFHS as possible (letters, all-star accolades, statistics, etc.) and anything sports-related beyond graduation (college athletics, coaching, etc.) to committee member Jeff Harrison via email (viking_rider@msn.com).





Martins Ferry High School Athletic Department 'Wall of Honor'

The Martins Ferry High School Athletic Department appreciates the contributions to Purple Rider athletics over the years by these individuals and wishes to recognize them as a part of our athletic history.

2016
Jim Knellinger
Bill Meyers
Bill Pratt
Dr. Divikar Bangera

2017
John Applegarth
Fred Beck
Henry McCue
Robert 'Shorty' Wilson

2018
Frank W. Bowen
Annie C. Tanks
Robert McNabb
Larry Deaton

2019
Russ Armstrong
Tony Collette
Warren Hood
Tony Suriano

2020
Larry Green
Gail Horner
Heloise Knapp
Bob Zilai

2021
Jack Boston
Ron Holzopfel
Larry Riser
Dr. Harold Meyer

2022
Evert Briggs
Ken Campanizzi
Bob Hill
Joe Kosar

2023
Dwayne 'Bubba' Coleman
Joe Gala
Edmund 'Half Pint' Joseph
Roxie Siburt

2024
Roger Best
Vance Deihl
Paul Matuska
Nancy Shaffer

2025
Ron Hill
Bill 'Lon Boy' Leach

2026
Carol Burda
Jimmy Hood

WALL OF HONOR

Martins Ferry High School Athletic Department 'Teams of Distinction'

2014
None Selected
2015
None Selected
2016
1917 Football
1959 Football
1960 Football
1961 Football
1929 Baseball
1931 Baseball
1939 Baseball
1940 Boys Basketball
1941 Tennis
1943 Boys Basketball
1944 Boys Basketball
2017
1908 Football
1912 Football
1913 Football
1951 Boys Basketball
1961 Wrestling
1979 Football
2018
1930 Football
1934 Football
1936 Football
1974 Cross Country
1998 Football
1999 Wrestling
2019
1948 Football
1963 Football
1975 Cross Country
1976 Baseball
1982 Boys Basketball
1993 Wrestling
2020
1998 Wrestling
2002 Volleyball
2002 Football
2004 Football
2005 Softball
2021
1976 Boys Track
1994 Girls Track
1999 Boys Track
2022
2002 Girls Basketball
2023
1991 Girls Cross Country
1991 Boys Cross Country
1992 Girls Cross Country
1992 Boys Cross Country
2024
1982 Boys Cross Country
1986 Girls Basketball
2025
1993 Boys Cross Country
1998 Boys Basketball
2026
2010 Girls Swim
2011 Golf

TEAMS OF DISTINCTION

Martins Ferry High School





Then.....and now



Thank You

Hanover Fuel Stop

for catering and donating

the Hall of Fame Luncheon!

HALL OF FAME

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THE MARTINS FERRY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME PRESENTED BY UNIFIED BANK

MARTINS FERRY PURPLE RIDER ATHLETICS

HALL OF FAME

HALL OF FAME



Congratulations to all of the inductees in the Martins Ferry Athletic Hall of Fame.

Your contributions to Purple Rider Athletics will never be forgotten.

MARTINS FERRY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME PROGRAM
PRODUCED BY JEFF HARRISON (MFHS CLASS OF 1977)