

CLASS OF 2002

# Jennings Boyd



Born in Leemaster, Virginia, on Aug. 1, 1933, Boyd became a state and national record-setting championship boys basketball coach in West Virginia. As coach of the Northfork High School team from 1966-81, the Blue Demons won nine state Class AA championships, including a national record eight consecutive titles in his final eight years at the helm (1974-81). Overall, his teams sported a 307-62 record, which included three unbeaten regular seasons, a 48-game post-season tournament victory streak, an overall 40-game win streak, and 100 consecutive wins versus Class AA teams from 1974-81. The 1974-75 team was 26-0. He also coached junior varsity teams to a 10-year record of 139-21. The Northfork High School and Concord College graduated was the first West Virginia native to be inducted into the National High School Sports Hall of Fame in 1984.

CLASS OF 2000

# Robert Wilson Jr.



Born in Clarksburg on March 8, 1926, Wilson became one of the most honored high school and college basketball players of the segregated school era and a pioneer in professional basketball. The three-time all-star led Kelly Miller High of Clarksburg to a record three state tournament titles (1942-44), including 50 consecutive in-state wins. At West Virginia State, the All-America honoree led his team to national tournament titles in 1948-49, including a 23-0 record in 1948. Wilson and Hall of Fame teammate Earl Lloyd became two of the first four black players to sign an NBA contract and played in 1952 with the Milwaukee Hawks before a career-ending knee injury. He played for Hall of Fame coach Mark Cardwell in high school and college. In 1997, he was selected as one of the 50 greatest all-time players in the Colored Intercollegiate Athletic Association.

CLASS OF 2000

# William R. “Bill” Young



Born in Dunbar on July 31, 1924, Young became the first to coach boys basketball teams to state tournament titles in three classes: Burch (26-1 record) in Class B in 1957 and alma mater Dunbar in Class AAA (24-2) in 1966 and Class AA (23-4) in his final season of 1985. His 34-year coaching career included six seasons as football coach at South Charleston. He also coached baseball and football at Dunbar. A three-sport athlete and all-state track performer at Dunbar High, Young was inducted into the armed services before he could perform in the West Virginia North-South all-star football game. Upon discharge, he played football at Marshall College and was a running back on the 1947 team that competed in the Tangerine Bowl in Orlando, Fla.

CLASS OF 1998

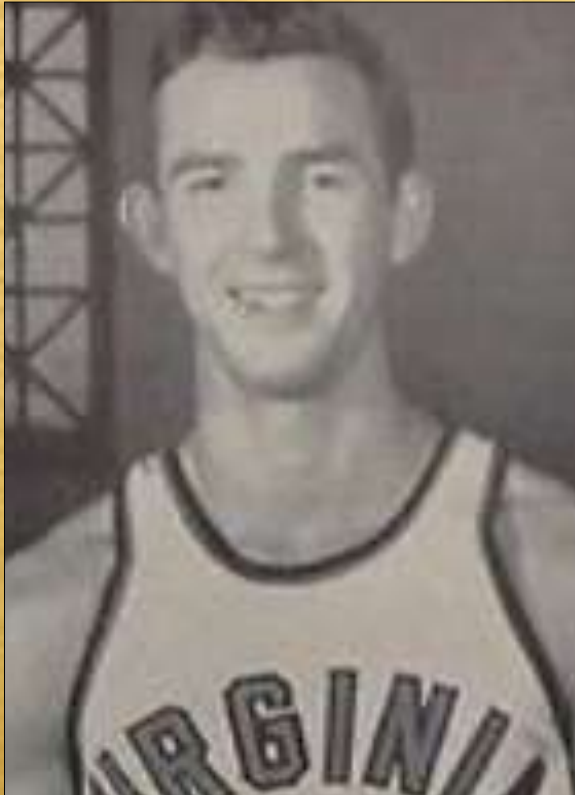
# Samuel A. LeRose



Born in Boomer on May 10, 1916, LeRose coached football and track for 27 years at alma mater Gauley Bridge and St. Albans. His football teams – which never experienced a losing season – compiled an overall record of 194-62-11, including a 124-35-3 mark at St. Albans and 70-27-8 record at Gauley Bridge. At St. Albans, the 1955 team won the Class A state championship and he was voted West Virginia Coach of the Year. The 1968 team finished unbeaten. His St. Albans boys track team won four state titles (1969-70, 1972-73) before he retired in 1974. LeRose coached the South to a 40-2 win over the North in the 1955 West Virginia North-South All-Star game. Despite weighing less than 160 pounds, LeRose played football at Gauley Bridge High and West Virginia Tech. He received a master's degree from West Virginia University.

CLASS OF 1998

# Richard W. “Buzz” Wilkinson



Born in Welch on Nov. 18, 1932, Wilkinson became the most prolific and season average basketball scorer in Atlantic Coast Conference history. The 6-foot-2 University of Virginia team captain averaged an ACC record 32.1 points in 1955 and ended his three-year career with a conference record 28.6 average. He ranked second in the nation in scoring average in 1954 and 1955, scored 2,233 career points – a school record for 26 seasons – including a high of 48 in one game and more than 30 in 43 games. He was the first basketball player to have his jersey number (No. 14) retired by the school. He was drafted by the Boston Celtics of the National Basketball Association. An all-state athlete at Pineville High, he prepped at Greenbrier Military before earning All-America honors at Virginia, where he also received a law degree. He was selected to an all-sports ACC 50th Anniversary team.

CLASS OF 1996

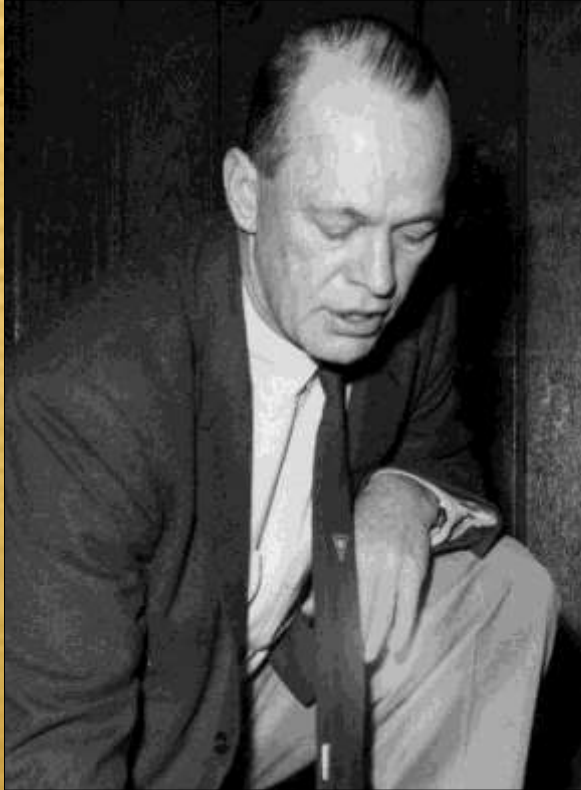
# Ray McCoy



Born in Logan on Oct. 8, 1908, McCoy coached Huntington High School to six state championships in boys track and two in cross country during a career from 1944-71. Five other Pony Express track teams earned state meet runner-up honors. After retiring, the West Virginia Sports Writers Association originated a state Trackperson of the Year Award and named it in his honor. He coached or taught more than 19,000 Cabell County students from 1936-71, including numerous state championships and state record-setters. He organized and directed regional and invitational meets for 25 years. A Huntington High graduate, he played football at Marshall College from 1928-31 and earned two degrees.

CLASS OF 1996

# Roy Williams



Born in Lamont on Sept. 8, 1907, Williams coached alma mater East Bank High School to state championships in basketball (1956) and football (1964). His 1956 basketball team was led by Hall of Famer and all-time college and professional great Jerry West. Williams coached three unbeaten football teams in seven years and his 16-year record of 102-46 included nine conference titles. The 1964 football title team allowed 38 points with seven shutouts in 11 games. His 14-year basketball record was 202-120. A 10-letter East Bank High athlete in football, basketball and baseball, Williams played football at Georgetown University and received two degrees from West Virginia University.

CLASS OF 1994

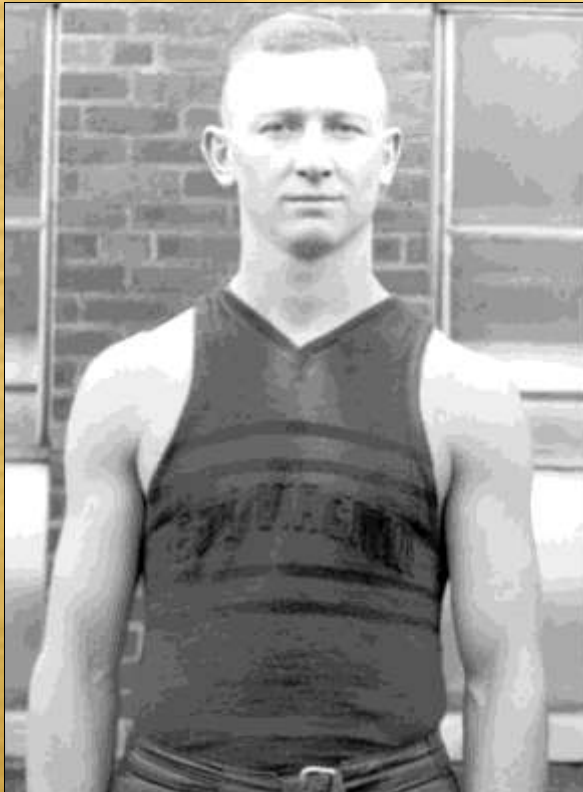
# Robert “Bob” Dutton



Born in Morgantown on Dec. 23, 1921, Dutton became one of the state's most successful two-sport coaches at Parkersburg High School and is the first prep wrestling coach inducted into the Hall. A graduate of Weston High School, where he competed in football and wrestling, Dutton enrolled at West Virginia University and was the 1943 team captain. After military service, he started the wrestling program at East Liverpool (Ohio) High School before reviving the sport at Weston. He went to Parkersburg in 1951 and became head wrestling coach in 1956, coaching 36 individual champions and earning 25 team trophies, including six state championships. Dutton compiled a 165-61-5 record for the Big Reds before retiring in 1976. In addition to wrestling, Dutton also coached golf teams to nine state titles and 27 trophies before retiring in 1985. The state's Wrestler of the Year Award is named for Dutton.

CLASS OF 1994

# Wilbur J. Sortet



Born in Vincennes, Indiana, on June 25, 1909, Sortet became a two-sport standout at West Virginia University and a two-way performer on the first eight Pittsburgh Steeler teams (1933-40). A Huntington High graduate and teammate of Hall of Fame coach Ben Schwartzwalder, Sortet was a football and basketball all-state selection before enrolling at WVU, where he earned six Mountaineer letters in football and basketball and served as the 1932-33 basketball team captain. Sortet joined the new pro football Pirate team in Pittsburgh, which later became the Steelers, and played two-way end and served as team captain. He led the team in pass receiving in 1936 with 14 catches for 197 yards. He shared team scoring honors of 24 points in 1938 with Byron "Whizzer" White, who later became a U.S. Supreme Court Justice.

CLASS OF 1994

# Carl K. Ward



Born in Kenova on June 13, 1929, Ward became the state's winningest high school football playoff coach during a 28-year career at alma mater Ceredo-Kenova High School. He coached the Wonders to a state-record 10 championships in Class AA and into 16 playoffs with a postseason record of 23-6, including 10-3 in state title games. His overall won-loss mark of 244-61-1 set a state record for victories at one school. The Wonders, one of only a few state schools with more than 500 all-time wins, won titles **under Ward in 1963, '65, '67, '71, '74, '75, '78, '80, '81, '83.** Ward guided Ceredo-Kenova to a 58-6 record between 1962-67, including 19 consecutive victories. Ward also coached the Wonders to two state boys basketball championships and one track and field title. He was elected to the Hall in his first year on ballot.

CLASS OF 1992

# Stanley E. “Stan” Romanoski



Born in Homestead, Pennsylvania, on Aug. 2, 1918, Romanoski coached West Virginia University's track and cross country teams from 1958-1981 and produced seven All-Americans – distance runners Carl Hatfield, Mike Mosser, Don Sauer, and Alex Kasich, hurdler Garnet Edwards, and pole vaulters Jack Carter, and Hall of Famer Dave Tork, who later set a world record. A state pioneer in track and field, Romanoski founded the Mountaineer Relays and the WVU Invitational cross country meet for high school runners and led the effort for new indoor and outdoor track facilities at WVU in the 1970s. A graduate of Triadelphia High School in Wheeling, where he played football and was the state 880-yard track champion, Romanoski played three sports at Belmont Abbey College in North Carolina for two years before graduating from WVU. He was a member of WVU's 1941 one-mile relay team which set a school record that lasted for more than 30 years. Romanoski began his coaching career at Ansted High School and his three football teams were 24-5, including 9-0 in 1947. In nine seasons at Dunbar High School his football teams went 52-33-1 and his 1957 track team won the state title. At WVU his track teams were 70-39-1 and his cross country teams were 128-64. He was inducted into the City of Wheeling Hall of Fame in 2013.

CLASS OF 1991

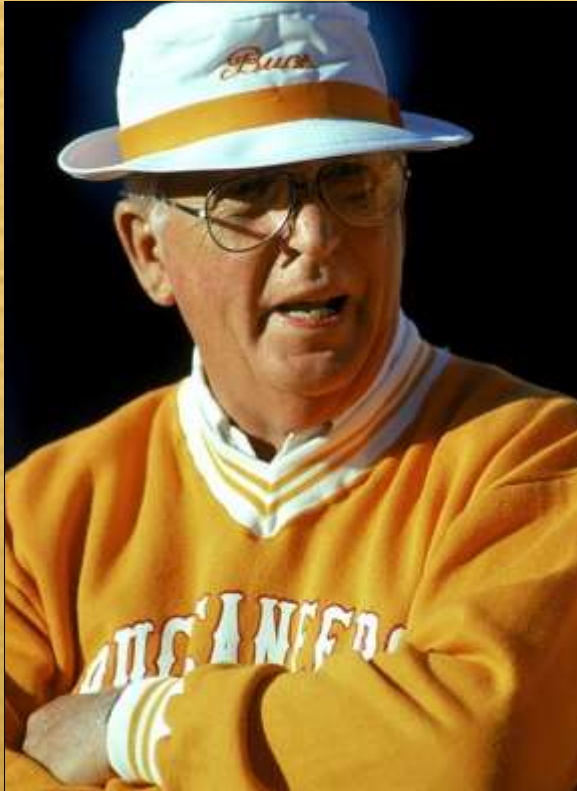
# Willie D. Akers



Born in Ironton, Virginia, on July 1, 1937, Akers became an honored high school and college basketball player in the Mountain State before recording one of the most successful prep coaching records at Logan High School. He coached the Wildcats to four Class AAA state championships and four runner-up finishes from 1962-83 while his teams sported a 402-116 record (77.6 percentage). Logan won titles in 1964, 1977, 1978, and in his final season of 1983. At Mullens High School he was a rare three-time all-tournament selection at the state tournament and twice won all-state recognition. As a junior, his Rebels won the Class AAA state title in 1955. He played on three West Virginia University teams which recorded won-lost marks of 26-2, 29-5, and 26-5 and was co-captain as a senior with All-American Jerry West. The Mountaineers were ranked No. 1 in wire service polls in 1958 and were NCAA runners-up to California in 1959. After graduation, he played one professional season with the Cleveland Pipers of the American Basketball Association before turning to high school coaching in the Mountain State.

CLASS OF 1991

# John H. McKay



Born in Everettville on July 5, 1924, McKay became a nationally known college and professional football coach who led the University of Southern California to four national championships and guided the Tampa Bay Buccaneers to the 1979 National Football Conference title game. He played football and basketball at Shinnston High School and starred as a two-way back at Purdue and Oregon before turning to coaching at Oregon. After 10 seasons as an assistant at Oregon and USC, he became USC head coach in 1960 and guided the Trojans to national titles in 1962, 1967, 1972, and 1974. In 16 years at USC, McKay coached 40 All-Americans, including Heisman Trophy winners O.J. Simpson and Mike Garrett. He moved to Tampa Bay when the expansion team joined the NFL in 1976 and took the Buccaneers to the playoffs three times, including 1979 when they lost the NFC title game to the Los Angeles Rams. His college record of 127-40-8 included five Rose Bowl wins and nine conference titles. He was elected to the College Football Hall of Fame in 1988.

CLASS OF 1990

# Burdell L. “Jim” Carey



Born in Point Marion, Pennsylvania, on Sept. 19, 1906, Carey became one of West Virginia's most successful three-sport high school coaches by guiding Weir High to five largest-class state championships in football, boys basketball, and baseball – the first Hall of Famer to accomplish that feat. After coaching alma mater Follansbee High 10 years, he moved to Weir to assist Hall of Famer Carl Hamill and start a 25-year Red Rider coaching career. His 1957, 1960, and 1961 football teams won state titles. His 1959 baseball team won the one-class title and his 1963 basketball team captured the Class AAA crown sandwiched between runner-up finishes in 1962 and 1964. His six-year Weir football record was 52-11 and the Red Rider stadium is named in his honor. Carey's 13-year Weir basketball record was 178-115 with four state tournament teams. He coached five baseball teams to the state tournament, including his final 1970 squad. A 1925 Follansbee graduate, he played football, basketball, and baseball at George Washington University and graduated from West Liberty State. His Weir High athletes include **Hall of Famer and West Virginia University and NBA player Ron “Fritz” Williams** plus future NFL players Bill Tucker and Tony Jeter and Kennedy Award winner Bob Kelley. He was inducted to the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Hall of Fame in 2012 and the City of Weirton Hall of Fame.

CLASS OF 1990

# Berridge Long Copen



Born in Huntington on Oct. 28, 1936, Copen dominated the West Virginia women's amateur golf scene from 1952 to 1961 with seven state championships before she was 24 years old. She won her first State Amateur title in 1952 at age 15, the first of a record-tying five straight. She also won in 1958 and 1961. Her five consecutive titles matched the mark of Fritzi Stifel Quarrier, a record 10-time champion and the first woman elected to the **West Virginia Sports Hall of Fame**. **Copen's seven titles equals the record of another Hall of Famer and tournament rival, Sally Carroll.** At the age of 15, she advanced to the Women's Western Open Junior semifinals and was a semifinalist in the Women's Western Amateur in Los Angeles the same year. She also was a finalist in 1953 and 1954 in the Women's Western Junior tournament and, in 1955, advanced to the finals of the Women's National Collegiate event. In 1958 she was second low amateur at the Women's Western Open. She attended Marshall High School in Huntington and Mount Vernon Seminary in Washington, D.C., and graduated from Marshall College with a history degree.

CLASS OF 1989

# James R. “Jim” Braxton



Born in Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania, on May 23, 1949, Braxton became one of West Virginia University's all-time great football players at two positions before playing eight seasons in the National Football League. At WVU (1968-70), the 6-foot-1, 230-pounder was a regular fullback the first two seasons and scored 113 points in 1969 to rank eighth in the nation and third all-time at WVU as the Mountaineers capped a 10-1 season with a Peach Bowl victory over South Carolina. As a senior, the team co-captain – who was also a placekicker the last two seasons – was moved to tight end and earned first team Associated Press All-America honors before playing fullback in the East-West Shrine Bowl. Despite playing only two seasons in the backfield, he was No. 5 on the all-time school all-purpose yards list for three-season players when he graduated. Drafted in the third round of the NFL Draft by the Buffalo Bills, he served primarily as a blocker for O.J. Simpson, who became the NFL's first 2,000-yard rusher in 1973. Braxton gained almost 3,000 yards and reached nearly 1,500 yards in pass receptions before retiring in 1979 after one season with the Miami Dolphins.

CLASS OF 1989

# William “Bill” Calvert



Born in Chelyan on July 4, 1905, Calvert became an outstanding football and baseball coach at East Bank High School from 1933-43. His football teams won 64 games, lost 22, and tied 9. His baseball teams won a state-record 50 consecutive games over three seasons, including the 1941 one-class state title. East Bank honored him by naming the high school field in his memory. He was president of the West Virginia High School Coaches Association and originator of the Mountain State North-South All-Star Football Game in 1934. He served as personnel director of the state's showcase high school football event until entering military service. He was an outstanding football player at Cabin Creek District High School (later East Bank) from 1922-24 and at New River State College (later West Virginia Tech) from 1926-27. He organized East Bank's first baseball and track teams and night football at the school.

CLASS OF 1989

# Franklin C. “Hank” Ellis



Born in Bluefield on Aug. 18, 1921, Ellis became an all-time great basketball coach at West Virginia Wesleyan College from 1950-71 and also coached football, baseball, track, cross country, and golf before retiring in 1986. A graduate of Buckhannon High School, he played baseball and basketball and earned All-West Virginia Conference honors at Wesleyan before serving with the U.S. Navy in World War II. He played professional basketball for Baltimore, Kansas City, and Chattanooga of the Basketball Association of America and for three seasons with the minor league Wheeling Blues. He replaced Press Maravich as Wesleyan coach in 1950 and his basketball and baseball teams won more than 300 games. The school baseball field is named for him. His 1958-60 basketball teams won 87 of 100 games and the 31-2 club of 1959 reached the NAIA Tournament quarterfinals. Three teams won West Virginia Conference tournaments and he coached four All-Americans – Jim McDonald, Bill Smith, Ken Remley, and Gary Hess, who later became the Wesleyan coach. He also served as Wesleyan's athletic director and taught in the Department of Health and Physical Education.

CLASS OF 1989

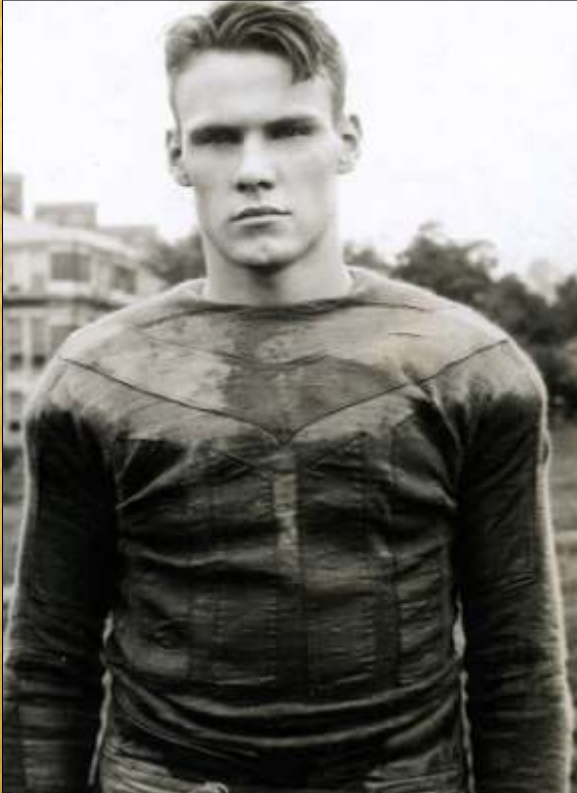
# Louis J. “Lou” Romano



Born in Clarksburg on Aug. 8, 1916, Romano became an honored NAIA basketball player at Glenville State and coach to some of West Virginia's best basketball teams at Charleston High School from 1961-79. He guided the Mountain Lions to a combined 318-77 record and state championships in 1968, 1973, and 1974, including two 25-0 squads. Two other teams lost in overtime of state title games. He attended Washington Irving High School in Clarksburg but was told he was too small to play basketball. However, at 5-foot-7 he became an All-American by leading Glenville State to four consecutive West Virginia Conference championships from 1937-40 and played in two NAIA tournaments where he earned all-tournament twice. He coached Clarksburg St. Marys High before entering military service. In 1947, he began an 11-year junior high coaching career in Kanawha County before moving to Charleston High in 1958.

CLASS OF 1988

# William “Bill” Karr



Born in Ripley on March 29, 1911, Karr was one of the all-time football greats in Mountain State history. A graduate of Ripley High School, he played prep football at Ravenswood because Ripley didn't field a team. The 6-foot-1, 195-pound star played football, baseball, and boxed at West Virginia University from 1929-32 and was selected to WVU's all-time team for the 1930-49 era. Karr played with the Chicago Bears from 1933-38 and was an All-Pro selection in 1935. In 1933, he caught two touchdown passes in the first NFL championship game, a 23-21 Chicago victory over the New York Giants. The Bears were also runners-up in 1934 and 1937. Overall, the two-way end scored 120 career points and his teammates included Hall of Fame backs Bronko Nagurski and Red Grange. In 1955, Bears' owner George Halas selected Karr to his all-time Bears' team. Karr left professional football to become a West Virginia state policeman and served in the Navy from 1943-45 during World War II. He lived in Clendenin for many years.

CLASS OF 1987

# William A. “Bill” Bonsall



Born in Philadelphia, on Dec. 31, 1923. He was a pioneer in bringing gymnastics to the Mountain State. He inaugurated the sport at West Virginia University in 1949, a year after he competed in the 1948 Olympic Games in London. Twice the national collegiate runner-up, he was a three-time All-American and the national AAU vaulting and rings champion while at Penn State. He placed 12th among 285 Olympic vaulting entries in 1948 before becoming graduate assistant at WVU. Gymnastics was adopted as a varsity sport at WVU in 1954 and his 28-year record as head coach was 131-117-1. The 1962-63 team went 8-0 but his best squad was in 1966-67 when the 12-1 Mountaineers were ranked fifth in the nation. Before ending a 31-year teaching and coaching career at WVU in 1980, he gave numerous clinics and demonstrations at high schools and colleges nationwide. He also coached the 1956 All-America boys gymnastics team in Wheeling. All told, he devoted 51 years to the sport after getting his start at age six in the Philadelphia YMCA. A graduate of John Bartram High School and Penn State, he was enshrined in the U.S. Gymnastics Hall of Fame.

CLASS OF 1987

# Herman Ray “Hoss” Hoskins



Born in Red Jacket on July 6, 1913, Hoskins earned worldwide acclaim in 1956 as the first West Virginian to be elected president of the 14,000-member International Association of Approved Basketball Officials. He started his officiating career in 1934 and joined IAABO four years later. In 1947, he was elected president of the Southern West Virginia Board and two years later he was elected to the IAABO executive committee. After his retirement from officiating, he was named a life member and honorary executive director of IAABO. He also served as a football official. A graduate of Matewan High School, where he played four years of football and basketball, Hoskins served as team captain of both sports as a senior. He also ran track. Going on to Concord College, he was a four-year football standout (1932-36) and earned the unique distinction of becoming the first player in Mountain Lion history to play offense and defense at all four backfield positions. He played quarterback as a freshman, left halfback as a sophomore, right halfback as a junior, and fullback as a senior while also playing linebacker on defense and handling the punting and passing duties all four years.

CLASS OF 1987

# Joseph Retton Jr.



Born in Monongah on June 9, 1931, Retton is one of the most colorful and respected figures in basketball during his 19-year coaching tenure at Fairmont State College (1964-82). Retton's teams dominated the West Virginia Conference in the 1960s and 1970s. His clubs were 478-95 and won 12 conference titles, including eight in a row from 1971-78, which included eight tournament titles. Retton took his teams to the NAIA Tournament in Kansas City 12 times, during which the Falcons reached the Final Four on four occasions and the title game once, losing 61-58 to Central State (Ohio) in 1968. In 1976, he was named Associated Press small college Coach of the Year after guiding the Falcons to a 24-0 regular season record and the No. 1 ranking in the Associated Press small college poll. He was named conference Coach of the Year six times and NAIA Coach of the Year in 1969 and 1976. His teams won 20 or more games 18 consecutive times (1964-81). Only his last squad (17-11) in 1982 failed to win 20. At retirement, his winning percentage (83.6) was the best among active NAIA or NCAA coaches in the nation. Coaching at Barrackville High School, he won a state championship and earned a record of 147-19. He lettered in football, basketball, and baseball at Fairview High, and in baseball at Fairmont State before a shoulder injury after his freshman season forced him out of the sport. The Falcons' arena is named in his honor.

CLASS OF 1987

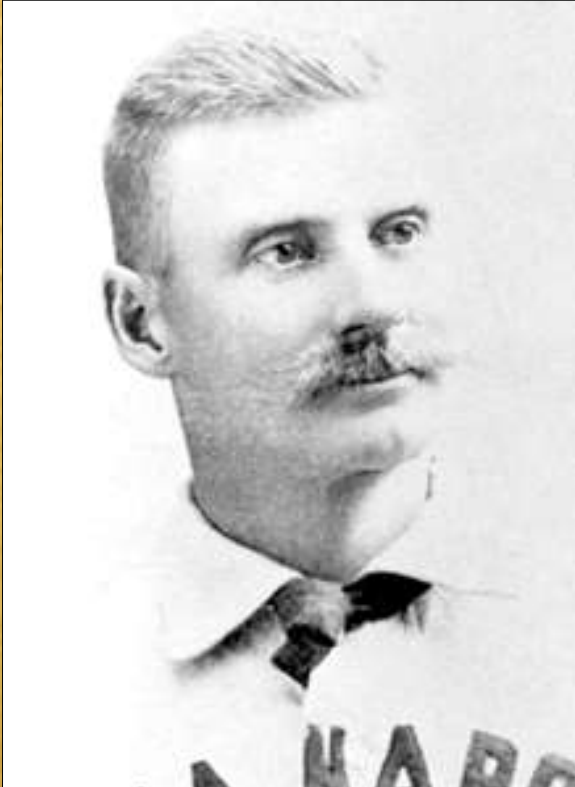
# Archie Bernard Talley Jr.



Born in Washington, D.C., on Aug. 10, 1953, Talley was the West Virginia Conference's all-time leading basketball scorer while at Salem College, and the league's most exciting player ever. He thrilled crowds with his long-range jump shots during his four-year (1972-76) career with the Tigers. The 6-foot-1 guard scored 3,720 points in 113 games and averaged 32.9 points. He scored 543 points as a freshman, 863 as a sophomore, 875 as a junior, and a conference record 1,439 points in 35 games as a senior in 1975-76. Renowned for his long-range shooting ability, he was deadly from 20-25 feet and often thrilled fans by taking the ball two or three steps past midcourt, dribbling behind his back, and then swishing 35-foot jump shots. He ended his career third in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) in career points per game (32.9) and single-season scoring average (41.1). He earned All-West Virginia Conference honors four times, and, in 1976, was named NAIA and WVC Player of the Year. He scored a career-high of 60 points against Alderson-Broadus during a tenure in which made he 1,619 of 3,283 field goals (49.3 percent) and connected on 482 of 590 free throws (81.7). He was drafted in the seventh round of the NBA Draft by the New York Knicks but his agent steered him to the Harlem Globetrotters, where he was cut just before they started their world tour. He tried out with the New York Nets in 1977 and then spent a varied professional career overseas, once scoring 116 points in a game while playing in Germany.

CLASS OF 1986

# John Wesley “Jack” Glasscock



Born in Wheeling on July 22, 1859, Glasscock left the sandlots of hometown Wheeling to become West Virginia's first Major League baseball player. In a career from 1879-95, he played in 1,736 games while wearing the uniforms of teams in Cleveland, Cincinnati, St. Louis, New York, and Washington. Labeled the "King of Shortstops" by media, he led his league in shortstop fielding nine consecutive years, including a record seven at the top of the National League. He set a Major League record for assists and an NL record for double plays in 1885 and 1886. He became the first shortstop to win a league batting title when he posted a .336 average for the New York Giants in 1890. He batted over .300 five times, while collecting 2,004 career hits. In his five seasons that stolen bases were recorded, he swiped 221. After a hand injury forced him from the Major Leagues, he continued to play in the minors until 1901 and batted .431 with St. Paul to lead the Western League in 1896. A 1984 Sports Illustrated article rated Glasscock the third-best Major League shortstop of all time. He was inducted into the City of Wheeling Hall of Fame.

CLASS OF 1986

# Wilford R. “Squibb” Wilson



Born in Fairview on Oct. 6, 1913, Wilson's exemplary career in athletics at Fairmont State College spanned five full decades as a student, coach, and administrator. After three years as a Marion County high school coach with a three-sport won-lost record of 181-60, he coached the Fighting Falcons to 12 West Virginia Conference championships – 10 of those in baseball from 1940-75 – and two West Virginia Conference basketball titles from 1940-52 during which time he also coached football. Wilson's three-sport college won-loss record was 489-371-5. After serving for nine years as the Falcons' athletic director, he was a tireless civic leader as well, originating Little League baseball in Fairmont in the early 1950s. He was responsible for establishing the first 44 leagues in the state as well as the first Pony League program in West Virginia. He invented the Z-Bar, an isometric exerciser. He was elected to five terms in the West Virginia House of Delegates.

CLASS OF 1985

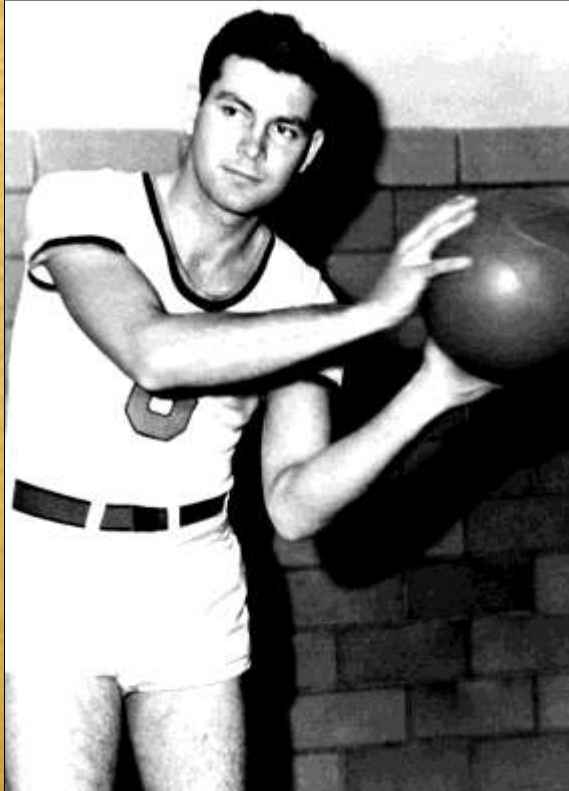
# Verlin T. “Sparky” Adams



Born in Williamson on July 14, 1918, Adams was one of the all-time great athletes at Morris Harvey College as well as a dedicated coach and official. He starred in football, basketball, and baseball at Morris Harvey from 1939-43 after a standout three-sport career at Williamson High School. He played three years with the New York Giants of the NFL before returning to the Mountain State as a coach – first at Sissonville High School and later at Morris Harvey. His Golden Eagle teams won six league baseball titles. Adams also served as an assistant football coach at Morris Harvey and with the professional Charleston Rockets. He later officiated football, basketball, and baseball.

CLASS OF 1985

# Leland Byrd



Born in Lynch, Kentucky, on April 8, 1927, Byrd excelled as an athlete, coach, and administrator. A basketball player at Matoaka High School who went on to become a standout at West Virginia University in the mid-1940s, Byrd led the Mountaineers to a 72-15 record and three National Invitation Tournament berths. He was the school's all-time leading scorer when he graduated and was selected first team All-America and the state's Amateur Athlete of the Year in 1947. He later coached basketball and football at Hinton High School and Glenville College. In 1972, he was named athletic director at West Virginia University, a post he held until 1979, when he became the first commissioner of the Eastern Athletic Association (later the Eastern 8 and Atlantic 10). In 1985, he was named athletic director at Western Michigan University.

CLASS OF 1985

# Merrill Gainer



Born in Latonia on Jan. 27, 1913, Gainer coached 10 unbeaten high school football teams and five state championship squads during his sterling career as a prep coach in West Virginia and Virginia. His 22-year record at four West Virginia high schools was 181-32-7, including an outstanding 87-6-1 mark and four state titles at Bluefield (1959-67). The mentor of three unbeaten teams at Big Creek High, he led his squads to a perfect record five times at Bluefield, where his teams won a then-state record 32 consecutive games. The first triple winner of the state's High School Coach of the Year award in football, he ended his career at Patrick Henry High in Roanoke, Va., compiling a 59-25-7 record with two unbeaten teams and one state crown.

CLASS OF 1985

# Abe McLaughlin



Born in Maxwellton on May 27, 1907, McLaughlin served with distinction for many years as a football coach and administrator at Alderson and Greenbrier East high schools. A standout prep athlete at Hillsboro High School, he also was a top performer at Roanoke College and New River State (later West Virginia Tech). Before his retirement in 1961, he compiled a 214-58-19 record including 26 seasons at Hillsboro High School (1931-35) and Alderson (1936-61). During that time, his teams won or shared 12 conference titles and averaged seven wins a season. He also coached basketball and track at both schools. He organized the Greenbrier Valley Conference and served as its commissioner for 20 years. He was the first athletic director at Greenbrier East High School.

CLASS OF 1984

# Rudy Baric



Born in Benwood on May 24, 1920, Baric served as captain of the 1942 West Virginia University basketball team which won the National Invitation Tournament championship and then coached the Mountaineers a year later. The 6-3 Baric was WVU's only player taller than 6 feet but led the Mountaineers to a 16-4 record and a bid to the eight-team NIT in Madison Square Garden in New York City – then more prestigious than the NCAA Tournament. He was selected the NIT's Most Valuable Player, leading WVU in rebounding and finishing as its second-leading scorer. In 1943, with coach Dyke Raese in the armed services, Baric earned a 14-7 record as WVU interim coach. After World War II, he started a 19-year basketball coaching career at Penns Grove (N.J.) High School and recorded more than 300 wins, while winning or tying for 10 Tri-County Conference titles. The three-season varsity player at WVU, and a member of the school's era All-Time team, Baric was an all-state selection at Union High School in Benwood. He was inducted into the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Hall of Fame Legends.

CLASS OF 1984

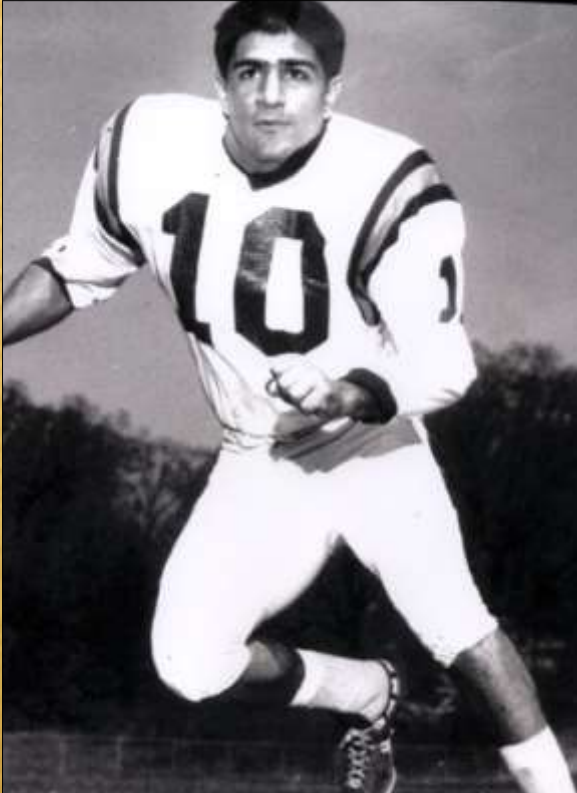
# Earl Eugene “Gene” Corum



Born in Huntington on May 29, 1921, Corum was a former football star, and long-time coach, at West Virginia University who devoted more than 40 years of service to his alma mater. Earning All-State honors as a guard at Huntington High School in 1939 under coach John Brickels, he enrolled at WVU and starred in two great WVU victories: the 1942 team upset previously unbeaten Penn State 24-0 at old Mountaineer Field, and as captain of the 1947 squad, he blocked a punt to set up a touchdown in a 17-2 conquest at the University of Pittsburgh, the first over the old rival in 19 years. He sandwiched a 42-month stint of Army service between his four years of varsity play, attaining the rank of first lieutenant and playing a year of football at Fort Benning, Ga. He obtained a bachelor's and master's degree from WVU in 1948 and began his coaching career at Point Marion (Pa.) High School. In 1950, he returned to WVU as freshman coach under new head coach Art Lewis. In 1951, he became varsity ends' coach, developing many great Mountaineers. In 1960, he was named head coach after Lewis left for a job with the Pittsburgh Steelers of the NFL. His teams combined for a 29-30-2 record with his best seasons coming in 1961, when the Mountaineers went 8-2, and 1964, when they were 7-3 and accepted a bid to the Liberty Bowl. He yielded his coaching duties after the 1965 season to devote full time to teaching and administrative work in the WVU School of Physical Education. He served as acting athletics director for a brief period in 1981 as well as spending five years on the WVU Athletic Council.

CLASS OF 1984

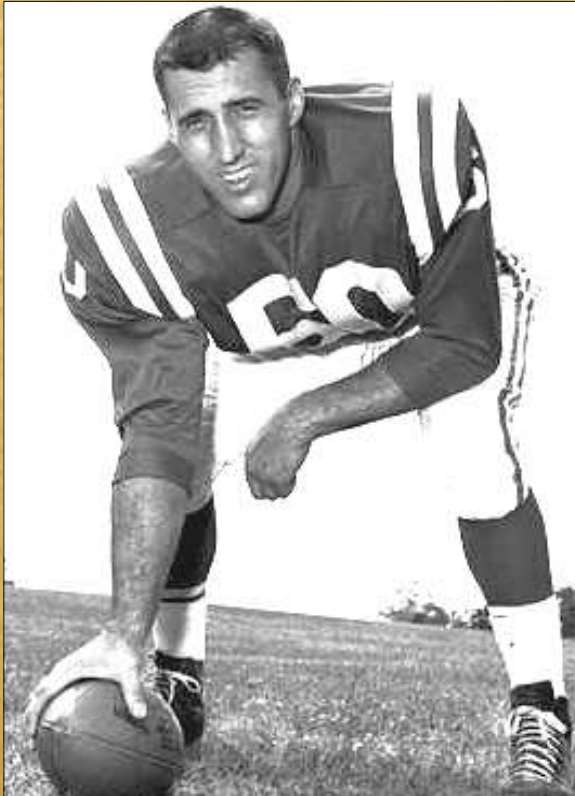
# Frank Loria



Born in Clarksburg on Jan. 6, 1947, Loria was, pound-for-pound, one of the most outstanding college football players of his day. Despite measuring only 5-foot-7 and 172 pounds, he was Virginia Tech's first consensus All-American. An all-state player at Notre Dame High School in Clarksburg, the defensive back played the game with abandoned determination for the Irish and the Hokies. His jarring tackles separated opponent and ball on many occasions. His uniform No. 10 became a focal point for Hokie fans from 1965-67. His intensity was such that he was used as a middle linebacker on crucial goal line defensive stands. He started all 31 games during his Virginia Tech career, helping achieve a 22-8-1 record that included a 14-7 loss to Miami in the 1966 Liberty Bowl. Also a punt returner for Tech, he ranked eighth in the nation as a senior, pulling in 30 kicks for 420 yards and four touchdowns. His 95-yard return for a TD against Miami in 1967 was a school record. Following his playing career, he joined the Marshall football coaching staff. He, along with most of the Marshall football team and staff, was killed on Nov. 14, 1970 when the plane in which they were flying crashed returning from a game with East Carolina. A member of the state of Virginia Sports Hall of Fame, Clarksburg's Frank Loria Memorial Field in Clarksburg is named in his honor.

CLASS OF 1984

# Madison “Buzz” Nutter



Born in Summersville on Feb. 16, 1931, the All-Pro center in the National Football League earned much of his fame in the late 1950s when the Baltimore Colts won back-to-back NFL championships. He played his high school football at Vinson High in Huntington, starting three seasons as an offensive tackle and linebacker for coach Don Malcolm. In 1948, he anchored the Tiger team that won the state Class B title with a 28-6 win over Alderson, the first state title sanctioned by the West Virginia High School Athletic Association (now the Secondary School Activities Commission). Influenced by Friel Castle, who coached against Vinson teams at rival Wayne, he opted for Virginia Tech, playing center and linebacker for the Hokies. In 1953, he was drafted in the 12th round by the Washington Redskins and just missed making the squad. In 1954, he was contacted by Weeb Ewbank of the Baltimore Colts – in their third year after a two-year hiatus – and signed as a linebacker but soon moved to center to fill in for injured Tom Cosgrove. He was the starting center when the Colts captured the 1958 NFL title over the New York Giants, 23-17, in the first sudden-death overtime game in league history. In 1959, the Colts defeated the Giants again, 31-16 as Nutter lined up against Hall of Fame member Sam Huff. He played for the Colts from 1954-60 and was the center for all-time great quarterback Johnny Unitas. In 1960, he was traded to the Pittsburgh **Steelers and, in 1962, chosen to play in the Pro Bowl, the NFL’s all-star game.** He played his final season, 1965, in Baltimore.

CLASS OF 1984

# Gilbert “Gibby” Welch



Born in Parkersburg on Dec. 24, 1904, Welch was the only consensus All-America gridder to come out of Parkersburg High School. His exploits are still remembered at the University of Pittsburgh, where he played running back for the fabled Jock Sutherland. A 1923 graduate of Parkersburg High, he was all-state in football and basketball and a standout track performer. After graduation, he enrolled at Bellefonte Abbey, a proving ground for Panther athletes. After lettering at Bellefonte in his only year, he went on to Pitt, where he was coached his freshman year by Doc Carlson, the basketball coach who also tutored the Panther football yearlings. During his heyday at Pitt, he passed, ran, and blocked in the old single-wing attack. In his senior year, he led the Panthers to a Rose Bowl appearance after beating rival Penn State, 30-0, in the season finale. The captain of that team called all plays and defensively was a deadly tackler despite weighing just 180 pounds. He twice returned kickoffs for touchdowns his senior year. Coach Sutherland said, "In my 10 years at Pitt, Welch was my favorite player."

CLASS OF 1983

# William F. “Moon” Conde



Born in Charleston on October 13, 1926, Conde was a three-sport prep athlete and coached 27 years in high schools and colleges in West Virginia, Alabama, Kentucky, and Virginia. He starred in football, basketball, and baseball at Mullens and Charleston Catholic high schools. He went to the University of Kentucky, playing in the 1950 Orange Bowl, 1951 Sugar Bowl, and 1952 Cotton Bowl under legendary coach Paul “Bear” Bryant. **Conde had a key role in the No. 7 Wildcats' stunning 13-7 upset of second-ranked Oklahoma in the 1951 Sugar Bowl.** The 1950 Wildcats captured the Southeastern Conference title. He also experienced an ultra-successful career on the high school level and helped Mullens to the 1941 state championship. Following his college career, he entered the coaching field and enjoyed successful stints on the football staffs at Kentucky and Virginia Tech. He also served in the U.S. Navy during World War II.

CLASS OF 1983

# Jim Foti



Born in Jamestown, New York, on Oct. 15, 1910, Foti spent 38 years as a high school basketball coach and 20 seasons coaching football. He guided the Warwood High School basketball program for 27 years after spending time as football and basketball coach at Wheeling Central. He also coached at Bellaire (Ohio) High School for two years. He recorded 466 high school basketball wins. His Warwood teams captured 11 sectional crowns and seven regional titles and state tournament berths. In six seasons at Wheeling Central, his basketball teams won five state Catholic Tournament titles and compiled a record of 117-28. His 1943 Maroon Knights' football team posted a 9-1 record before losing a thrilling 20-19 decision to Rochester, Pa., in the Steel Bowl at Steubenville, Ohio. At Warwood, his Viking basketball teams had 14 winning seasons and his 1967 squad captured the state Class AA crown over Sophia in Morgantown. His final 1975 team was state runner-up to Northfork at Charleston. He holds the distinction of coaching championship clubs in three divisions of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference, the nation's largest prep league. He also coached West Virginia teams in the OVAC all-star basketball and football games. He coached many outstanding athletes, including Hall of Famer Chuck Howley. He graduated from John Carroll University, where he played football, basketball and hockey and is a member of the school's all-time football team. He was inducted into the City of Wheeling Hall of Fame in 1982 inductee and is a charter inductee into the OVAC Hall of Fame.

CLASS OF 1983

# Albert C. “Whitey” Gwynne



Born in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania, on June 12, 1912, Gwynne gained international prominence as athletic trainer at West Virginia University. He retired in 1976 after almost 40 years of distinguished service to his alma mater. During that span, he became widely known in a field which he helped pioneer but achieved his greatest fame as trainer of U.S. basketball teams for the Olympic Games, Pan-American Games, and World Cup championships. He also toured Poland, Russia, Czechoslovakia, and France with a State Department-sponsored all-star team. He played football as a freshman at WVU before breaking a leg. He then turned to wrestling and served as team captain during his senior year. He coached Mountaineer wrestling for eight years after his graduation in 1934 and had an unbeaten team in 1936. Upon returning from Navy service in World War II, he became head trainer of all sports in 1946. He was elected to the Helms Foundation Hall of Fame in 1965 and was a charter member, past president, and director of the National Athletic Trainers Association which he helped organize in 1949. The first full-time trainer inducted into the Hall, he joins several of the all-time Mountaineer athletes he trained.

CLASS OF 1983

# Fred A. Schaus



Born in Newark, Ohio, on June 30, 1925, Schaus' career in athletics included 19 years as a head coach in major college and professional basketball and eight years as a player in college and pro ball. He was the first West Virginia University player to reach 1,000 career points, and his three-year total of 1,009 (1947-49) included a single-game school record of 34 points and single-season mark of 442 points. During that span, the Mountaineers won 54 of 66 games with one appearance in the National Invitation Tournament. Schaus left WVU after his junior season to sign with the Fort Wayne Pistons of the National Basketball Association. At the age of 29, after four years with the Pistons and three with the New York Knicks, he returned to WVU as head basketball coach and was, at the time, the winningest coach in school history with a six-year mark of 146-37. The Mountaineers won six Southern Conference titles, six bids to the NCAA Tournament, and finished 1958 on top of both national wire service polls and were NCAA runners-up in 1959. Schaus returned to the NBA in 1961 as head coach of the Los Angeles Lakers, guiding them to a 315-245 record in seven seasons and four NBA finals appearances. His WVU and Laker teams featured Hall of Fame member Jerry West. Schaus left coaching to become general manager of the Lakers for five years, which included 1972 when they captured the NBA title. He returned to college coaching at Purdue University. In six seasons there, he guided the Boilermakers to a 105-59 record and an NIT title. His 12-year record for college coaching was 251-96. He served three years as associate athletic director at Purdue before becoming AD at WVU in 1981.

CLASS OF 1983

# Fred M. Wyant



Born in Weston on April 26, 1934, Wyant earned his niche in the Hall as an outstanding college athlete and football official. He became the first three-time Academic All-America in West Virginia University history as its quarterback from 1952 through 1955. He directed those teams to a 30-5 record and a Sugar Bowl appearance opposite Georgia Tech. He came off the bench in the opening game of his freshman season and started every game thereafter until a knee injury kept him out of the final two games of his senior year. He also played defense his last three years, doubling as a safety or linebacker. Arch Ward, sports editor of the Chicago Tribune, wrote, "Many football men consider Fred Wyant the best split-T quarterback in the country." During his four years at WVU, he completed 174 of 401 passes for 2,663 yards and 21 touchdowns. He also rushed 303 times for 793 yards and 20 TDs. He earlier played football, basketball, and baseball at Weston High School and also played semi-pro baseball at age 13. He played two years of pro football – one with the Washington Redskins and another with Toronto in the Canadian Football League – before turning to officiating in 1958. He began at the high school level, moved to the small college ranks a year later, then started working major college games in 1963. He became an NFL referee in 1966 and worked 27 years as an NFL official.