The 12 Annual Induction Ceremony

The 1st Commemorative Directory of:

# ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME



Remember The Middie Magic!





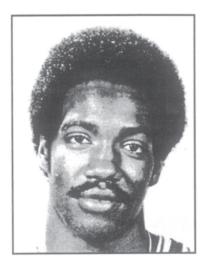
As the brainchild of the late Middletown High School Coach, Athletic Director, and Hall of Fame Member, Ed "Skeeter" Payne, the Middies Athletic Hall of Fame was formed in 1998 to ensure a way to preserve the legacy of Middie Magic. The athletes induced into this select group are all true examples of excellence both on/off the field of play. We hope you enjoy reading the exploits of these fine Middie Athletes.

# 2010-2011 Ed "Skeeter" Payne Middie Spirit Award Winner Flo Randall



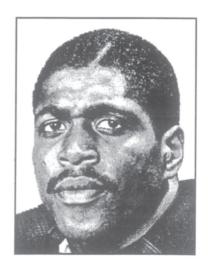
Flo Randall was officially the Athletic Department Secretary but she actually served as a surrogate mom to hundreds of MHS students throughout the years. Her years of service include 25 years at MHS, 23 of those in the Athletic Department. Flo and Ed "Skeeter" Payne, Athletic Director through most of her career, organized sectional tournaments for volleyball, girls basketball, wrestling, football and softball. Flo did her regular duties then doubled as scorekeeper, concession stand worker, ticket seller or anything else needed to complete an event. She also helped each year with special olympics. Since retirement, Flo has served on numerous committees from the All American Weekend, Boosters Club, Pigskin/Roundball and this very Hall of Fame Committee. Her current love brings joy to thousands every holiday season--Light Up Middletown.





#### ARCHIE ALDRIDGE

Archie earned Ohio "Player of the Year" honors and posted the highest shooting percentage as a senior with the Middies. He is the second all-time leading scorer for the Middies. Archie later became Miami University's all-time career points' leader and was the hero in the school's greatest upset, scoring all the overtime points in beating defending NCAA champion Marquette in the tournament in Indianapolis in 1978. Several times he scored 50 points in a game and averaged 34 points per game as a senior. Aldridge is a member of the Butler County Sports Hall of Fame and the Miami University Sports Hall of Fame.



#### TODD BELL

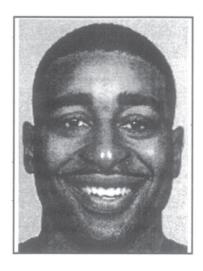
Todd was an outstanding athlete in football and track at Middletown High School. He won the long-jump state championship three straight years. Todd drew national attention when he broke Jesse Owens' long-jump record that had stood for almost half a century. Bell also played basketball and football for the Middies. In 1976 he was named all-Ohio as a linebacker and made several national publication teams. Todd played in the annual North-South All-Star game. He played in the defensive backfield at Ohio State, the National Football League with the Chicago Bears, and in the Pro Bowl. Bell later played for the Philadelphia Eagles. Todd is a member of the Butler County Sports Hall of Fame.



#### CLARENCE "BUTCH" CARTER

Butch is third in career scoring in basketball with the Middies. Carter played with the 1976 team that reached the state tournament finals. He was named Ohio "Player of the Year" in 1976. Carter shot the winning basket for Indiana in the 1976 NIT title game. He was co-captain of the Hoosiers as a senior and was drafted in the second round by the Los Angeles Lakers. After six seasons in the NBA he returned to coach the Middies in 1986 and in 1988 was named Ohio "Coach of the Year." Butch is the only person to win both top player and top coach honors in Ohio. Carter became assistant coach at Dayton and then with the Milwaukee Bucks in the NBA before being named head coach of the Toronto Raptors.





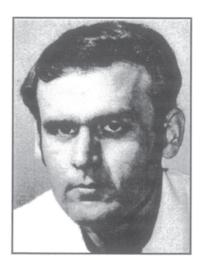
#### CRIS CARTER

Cris was all-Ohio in both football and basketball with the Middies and played on the 1983 state tournament team. He earned all-American honors as a wide receiver at Ohio State in 1986. Cris held the OSU record for receptions (168) and touchdown catches (27) and appeared in the Rose Bowl as a freshman. Carter was drafted by the Philadelphia Eagles in 1987 and joined the Minnesota Vikings in 1990. He caught an NFL record 122 passes in 1994 and repeated that total in 1995. Cris holds most Viking records for pass receptions and is listed among the top 10 all-time receivers in NFL history. He was second team all-NFL in 1995 and set the league record with two or more TD's in four straight games.



#### **GLENN "TIGER" ELLISON**

A graduate of Middletown High School, Tiger later returned to launch a coaching career with the Middies. He became head football coach in 1945 and in 18 seasons compiled a 124-46-9 record. Ellison was Ohio "Coach of the Year" and coached eight quarterbacks who earned all-Ohio honors. He developed the Run & Shoot offense that gained national acclaim in high school, college and professional ranks. Tiger wrote one book on the offense and was later asked to update the offense in a second book. He also wrote a book on public speaking for coaches. Tiger later became an assistant to Woody Hayes at Ohio State and traveled the country as a public speaker.



#### **JOHN FRALEY**

John made his mark as a basketball player with the Middies, earned three varsity letters, was named all-Ohio as a junior and senior, and Ohio "Player of the Year" as a senior. He averaged 29 points as a junior and 30 points as a senior. Fraley twice scored 50 or more points in a game and holds the Middie record with 40 straight successful free throws. John played in the 1968 North-South All-Star Game. He also earned three varsity letters in track and two varsity letters in cross country. John played college basketball at University of Cincinnati and University of Georgia and has coached track and cross country during a long teaching career at Miamisburg High School. Fraley is a member of the Butler County Sports Hall of Fame.





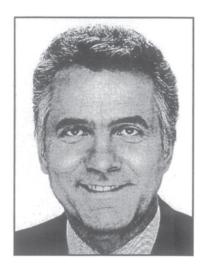
#### **ELMO LINGREL**

For 40 years Elmo served as a Middie coach and athletic director, setting the formula for athletic success that lasted a half century. He started coaching in Walla Walla, Wash., after serving with the infantry in World War I. Lingrel returned to Ohio to coach at Dayton Stivers and started his Middie career in 1923. His football teams won 149 games and lost only 32, tying 19 other games. His 1934 team went undefeated in 10 games. His 1936 team was undefeated and unscored upon. He also coached Middie basketball from 1923 to 1929. He is a member of the Otterbein College and Butler County Sports Halls of Fame. Elmo earned 11 varsity letters in sports at Otterbein.



#### SHELBY LINVILLE

Shelby helped the Middies to two state championships, including the 1945-46 team that went undefeated. He was a member of the 1946-47 state champs and as a senior made all-Ohio. Linville was an exceptional shooter for a center. He later played for the fabled Adolph Rupp at the University of Kentucky and was a member of the Wildcats' 1950-51 national champions. Shelby was the team's second leading scorer with 355 points and had the best free throw average of 75.7. His basket with 17 seconds remaining against Illinois put the Wildcats in the finals against Kansas. Shelby coached high school basketball in Kentucky and Ohio before joining the ministry. He is a member of the Butler County Sports Hall of Fame



#### JERRY LUCAS

Jerry led the Middies to 76 straight wins and two state championships (1956, 1957) and was "Ohio Player of the Year" in 1958. He was a member of Ohio State's national champions in 1960. Jerry was three-time all-American and a member of the U.S. Olympic championship team (1960) in Rome. Lucas became National Basketball Association "Rookie of the Year" in 1965 as a member of the Cincinnati Royals. He became the first player in the country to be a member of championship teams at high school, college, Olympic and professional levels. His NBA championship came as a member of the New York Knicks in 1973. Jerry holds the Middie record for career points, averaging 32 points per game during his three seasons. Lucas ia a member of the Butler County Sports Hall of Fame.





#### ED "SKEETER" PAYNE

Skeeter holds the distinction of having played on two Middie state championship basketball teams (1952-1953). He played varsity football and held many pass-catching records. Payne played for the South in the annual All-Star football game. He served as assistant coach in football and basketball and head baseball coach before being named athletic director for MHS. Sheeter was AD for 15 years, helping the Middies implement the Title IX program. He is a member of the Butler County, William Jewell College, and Southwest District Athletic Directors Sports Halls of Fame. Skeeter was named Southwestern Ohio "Athletic Director of the Year" and Ohio "Athletic Director of the Year" in 1987.



#### JIM SEXTON

Jim lettered in football and basketball for three straight years with the Middies and played halfback on the Middie team which was unbeaten and unscored upon in 1936. He was named second team all-Ohio. Sexton played football and baseball at Ohio State and lettered three years in each sport. He was a Navy aviation instructor during World War II and served four two-year terms in the Ohio House of Representatives. Jim played with the American Legion Post 218 baseball team that won the Ohio State championship and the U.S. sectional crown. He also played with the Armco baseball teams for many season, including the Armco Vets from 1945 to 1949.



#### PAUL WALKER

Paul holds the state record for state championships with five (1947, 1952, 1953, 1956 and 1957). His Middie teams made a total of eight trips to the state tournament. He compiled a 564-137 record in 30 years as Middie coach, including 76 straight wins from 1955 to 1958. His 41-year coaching record was 693-163. Paul was named national "Coach of the Year" by the National High School Coaches' Association in 1973 and was named to its Hall of Fame in 1986. He is also a member of the Butler County Sports Hall of Fame. Three times Walker was named Ohio "Coach of the Year" by the Associated Press. Paul helped found the Ohio High School Basketball Association and served as its first president and long-time secretary.





#### TOM BLAKE

Tom Blake, who graduated from MHS in 1945, lettered three years in football and track, playing guard, tackle, end, and linebacker. He was captain of the defensive team and was selected all-league and all-state as a senior. During his junior and senior years he was a captain of the track team, was the leading scorer, and held the discus and shotput records. At the University of Cincinnati where he played three seasons as an offensive tackle and linebacker, he was a member of the 1946 team which won the Sun Bowl. He was selected to the All-Midwest Team and received All-American mention his senior year when he was co-captain of the Bearcats.



#### RICHARD "CHICK" BOXWELL

"Chick" was a member of the 1942 undefeated Middie reserve basketball team. He received three varsity letters in basketball as a center and in baseball as a shortstop. In 1943 the basketball team won the GOL and the district championships and played in the state tournament. After repeating as GOL and district champions in 1944, the basketball squad with "Chick" as captain won the Class A Ohio State Basketball Tournament championship. "Chick" earned all-state honorable mention honors and was selected to the All-Star Five Tournament Team.



#### WESLEY "BABE" CALHOUN

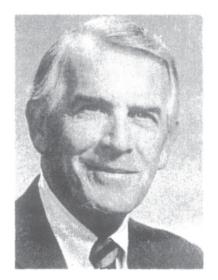
"Babe" was touted the greatest athlete in the history of McKinley Junior High School, where he earned eleven varsity letters before taking his talents to MHS. He graduated from Middletown in 1949, acquiring three varsity letters in football and track while playing halfback and kicking extra points for the Middies. As a senior, he was selected to the all-state first team and played in the North-South All-Star Game in Massillon, OH. He left West Virginia State University when his baseball talents earned him a tryout with the Brooklyn Dodgers. After arm trouble short-circuited his career in the minor leagues, he spent many years coaching Pee Wee football teams in Middletown.





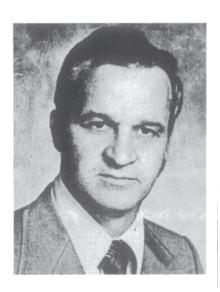
#### CAROLYN WIKOFF DISHUN

Although Carolyn, who graduated from MHS in 1957, played both tennis and basketball for the Middies, tennis was her major sport. Not losing a set, she was undefeated in tennis for six straight years in junior high and high school and played number one singles for five of the six seasons. For her prowess, she was awarded the R.C. Todd Memorial Trophy in 1952. Carolyn was named to the 1957 Junior Wightman Cup Team. Three years in high school she was selected captain of the Western Intersectional Team. In 1953 she was crowned the U.S. Lawn Tennis Association's National Doubles Champion. Nationally ranked eleven times in singles and doubles, she was the 1958 Ohio Collegiate singles and doubles champion. Carolyn has won over 200 tennis tournaments. At MHS she was also a member of the National Honor Society.



#### ROBERT "BOB" GRIMES

A 1949 graduate of Middletown High School, Bob Grimes is one of the few Middletown athletes to have earned nine varsity letters--three each in football, basketball, and baseball. As captain of the basketball team and co-captain of the football and baseball teams his senior year, he won first team all-state honors in football and third team all-state honors in basketball. Bob participated in the North-South All-Star Football Game in 1949 and was selected to play for Ohio in the Ohio-Kentucky All-Star Basketball Game. He was a member of Middletown's 1947 State Basketball Championship team. Bob served as president of the Junior Class, a member of the National Honor Society, and a representative to Buckeye Boys' State.



#### JERRY HARKRADER

Jerry Harkrader, a 1952 MHS graduate, lettered in football and track. Although he started as a defensive back, he moved to halfback during his junior year. After serving as captain of the football team as a senior, he played in the North-South All-Star Football Game in Akron in 1952. At Ohio State he played for Woody Hayes' unbeaten 1954 team and was privileged to play in the Rose Bowl. He coached Fenwick High School to the football state playoffs five times. His 1973 and 1974 teams were the first in the state to win back-to-back state championships.





#### **DARIN HILL**

Darin, a 1980 MHS graduate, won letters in track and field for three years. He was the state champion in the 300-meter hurdles in 1978 and 1979 and in the 200-meter dash in 1980. In 1980 he also anchored the 4 x 100-meter relay team to a state record 42.0 and to the state championship. He was the state runner-up in the 110-meter hurdles in 1978 and 1979 and in the 100-meter dash in 1980. Undefeated in three years of high school competition in the 300-meter low hurdles, he won the GMC title three consecutive times in this event. Darin earned two district and regional championships in the 300-meter low hurdles and in the 110-meter hurdles. Because of his accomplishments, he was selected to the All-Ohio Track Team in 1978, 1979, and 1980 and to the All-American Track Team in 1979 and 1980.



#### **EDDIE MERCHANT**

A three-sport star who earned eight varsity letters at MHS, Eddie Merchant played football and basketball and ran track. He was a member of the 1950 basketball team that won the district champion-ship and played in the 1951 North-South All-Star Football Game. Upon receiving a scholarship, he played four years of football at Miami University where he was an outstanding running back. After two years for the Edmonton Eskimos in the Canadian Football League, he coached football at Cleveland East Tech where he was twice selected Cleveland's Coach of the Year. He also coached in the annual East-West All-Star Game.



#### PAUL PARDONNER

A fullback and linebacker for the legendary coach Elmo Lingrel, Pardonner graduated from MHS in 1929. The '27 *Optimist* stated, "Fullback---little but mighty, bear on defense"; his motto was "come up smilin'." He lettered three years in football and also played basketball. The '28 *Optimist* stated, "Gobo, as his friends call him, was the individual star of every game." Paul was elected president of the Junior class. At Purdue University he played three years of football and played in the East-West All-Star Game, for the College All-Stars against the Chicago Bears, and for the Chicago Cardinals in the National Football League.





#### MERLE WENDT

A 1933 graduate of MHS, Merle lettered four years in football and basketball. During the Dayton basketball tournament in 1931, he was named to the second team All-Stars of Southwesten Ohio. According to the 1932 *Optimist*, he was an iron man of his team, playing throughout every game. Merle not only was captain of the football and basketball teams as a senior, but also served as class president his junior and senior years. At Ohio State in 1934, 1935, and 1936, he was a three-time All-American end and captained the Buckeyes his senior year. He was selected to play in the annual East-West Shrine Game and for the College All-Stars in a 7-0 victory over Green Bay.







#### DON BARNETTE

Don, who graduated from Middletown High School in 1952, was co-captain of the 1952 MHS State Basketball Championship team. As a first team member of the Greater Ohio League All-Stars and of the All-Ohio State Tournament, he was presented the Armco Association Basketball Trophy for his outstanding play on the 1952 MHS team and was selected to play for the Ohio All-Stars in the Ohio-Kentucky basketball game. Don is a member of the Butler County Sports Hall of Fame and the Black Legends of Professional Basketball Hall of Fame.



#### DON BOLTON

A 1946 graduate of MHS who earned three varsity letters each in football, basketball and baseball, Don was an honorable mention selection to the all-state football team in 1945. In basketball the 1944 team (24-1) won the state championship, the 1945 team (24-1) was state runner-up, and the undefeated 1946 team (26-0) won the state championship. Don is a member of the Butler County Sports Hall of Fame.



#### ROBERT COLE

Said to have been one of the finest shooters to ever play basketball for the Middies, Bob was a member of the 1955 District Tournament team and the 1956 undefeated Ohio State Basketball Championship team. As a member of the all-district, all-regional, and all-state tournament teams in 1956, he was named a first team selection to the All-Greater Ohio League. Playing in the Ohio-Kentucky All-Star Game, he was voted the Most Valuable Player. Bob is a member of the Butler County Sports Hall of Fame.





#### TOM DILLMAN

A 1953 graduate, Tom earned three varsity letters in football and two letters each in basketball and baseball. He received an honorable mention to the all-state football team and played in the North-South All-Star Football Game in 1953. That same year he received the Paul Walker Award for the Most Improved Player and was selected to the All-Ohio State Basketball Tournament team and the Ohio All-Stars. Tom is a member of the Butler County Sports Hall of Fame



#### CLIFF HAFER

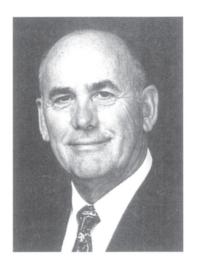
Cliff, who graduated from MHS in 1953, played two years of varsity football and won all-state honorable mention honors in 1951. Earning three letters in basketball, he was a member of the 1952 and the 1953 State Basketball Championship teams. In 1953 he was a Middie team captain, a first team all-Ohio and all-state tournament selection, and a second team High School All-American. Cliff played for the North in the McDonald's North-South All-Star Game. Cliff, who also lettered three years in track, is a member of the Butler County Sports Hall of Fame.



#### HAROLD HURSH

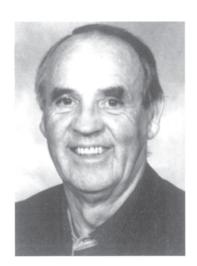
A 1937 MHS graduate, Harold participated in football, basketball, and track. His running, passing, and kicking abilities as a quarterback were largely responsible for the undefeated, untied, and unscored upon 1936 season. He was the 1936-37 basketball team captain, making the All-Ohio State Tournament second team, and was catcher on the 1936 Middletown American Legion baseball team that won the state and area championships. Harold, who is a member of the Butler County Sports Hall of Fame, gave his life for his country when his plane was shot down in World war II during the Wake Island campaign.





#### **PAUL JOHNSON**

Paul lettered three years in football and baseball and two years in basketball at MHS. A 1953 graduate, he was a member of the 1952 and 1953 State Basketball Championship teams and was selected to the All-Ohio State Tournament second team in 1953. That same year Paul played in the North-South All-Star Football Game and for the Ohio All-Stars in the Ohio-Kentucky basketball game. Paul, who also participated in track at MHS, attended Buckeye Boys' State.



#### **OWEN LAWSON**

A 1954 graduate, Owen earned three varsity letters in basketball at MHS. As a member of the 1952 and 1953 Ohio State Championship teams, he was a first team all-state tournament selection in 1953 and first team all-Ohio selection in 1954, when he also received the Armco Association Outstanding Player Award, setting a school season scoring record of 435 points. He played for the Ohio All-Stars in the Ohio-Kentucky game. Paul Walker said, "Owen would have to rank in the top ten of any All-Star list I picked from all the players I coached in my 30 years at MHS."



#### JIM OUSLEY

Jim graduated from MHS in 1966, earning varsity letters in football, basketball, and baseball. As a first team all-Ohio quarterback in 1965, he was 16-2 as a Middie starter and rewrote most of the passing records for MHS. A member of the 1966 District basketball champions, he was selected to the league all-star team in basketball and was an all-state baseball player. Jim is a member of the Butler County Sports Hall of Fame.





#### JOHN H. PETERSON

John, a 1986 MHS graduate, started thirty consecutive games in football and set the shot put record in track. In 1985 as the AAA Ohio Lineman of the Year, he was an all-American, all Ohio, and All-Greater Ohio League first team choice. John was elected captain of the South team in the North-South 1986 All-Star Football Game and represented MHS at the 1986 AAA State High School Track and Field Championships.



#### **JACK RECK**

Jack was an athlete and coach at MHS where he played football and baseball. On the undefeated 1944 team, Jack earned an honorable mention on the all-state team as an end. In 1945 as a senior, he led the baseball team in hitting with an average of .357. After starting his coaching career in 1956 as an assistant in football and track, he became the head track coach in 1963. His teams were District champions in 1964, '65, '66, and '67 and were District runners-up in 1963 and 1969. He was named the athletic director of the Freshman High School in 1969. Jack is a member of the Butler County Sports Hall of Fame.



#### LYNNE LAWSON WILEY

Lynne, a 1957 graduate, participated in basketball and tennis at MHS. She was president of the Girls Athletic Association, vice-president of the Senior Class, a member of the Nation Honor Society, secretary of the Student Council, and the 1957 MHS Homecoming Queen. In 1952-53 she was ranked 13th in the United States Lawn Tennis Association. Her tennis teams from the 7th to the 12th grade never lost a set while the Middlettes lost only one game in the three years she played basketball. Lynne is a member of the Butler County Sports Hall of Fame.





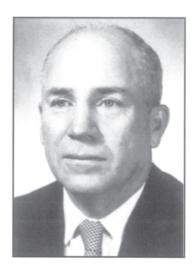
# Robert "Bud" Bierly

...graduated from Middletown High School in 1970. After playing on the 1966 Manchester Jr. High undefeated City Championship team, he earned six varsity letters at MHS. He lettered once in football, twice in track, and three times in basketball. As captain of the 1970 basketball team, Bud averaged 24 points and 13 rebounds a game and was the leading free throw shooter. He was given the Mighty Middie Award in 1969. Bud was 1st. Team All Greater Miami Conference in 1969 and 1970 and 2nd team All Ohio in the UPI Poll. He graduated the 3rd leading scorer in Middie basketball history.



# Dorsie Blankenship

...was a 1953 graduate of Middletown High School. He earned three varsity letters in football and track. Dorsie was 2nd team All Ohio in 1951 and 1st team All Ohio and a National High School All American in 1952. He was co-captain of the 1952 team and the South Team in the 1953 North-South All Star Game in Canton. In December of 1952 Dorsie was selected to the Columbus Junior Chamber of Commerce All Ohio High School Football Team. At one time he held the track pole vault and shot put records.



# Royner Greene

...was a teacher/coach at Middletown High School from 1929-1945. He was the head basketball and baseball coach and taught history and physical education. His basketball teams won 207 games while losing only 76. During his coaching career at MHS he won 7 league titles, 4 District Championships, 2 Regional Championships, and the first MHS State Title in 1944. In 1945 his team was State Runner up. He coached 2 first team, two second team, and 8 honorable mention All State basketball players during his days at MHS. Coach Greene had two undefeated regular seasons, 1940-41 (16-0) and 1944-45 (17-0).





# Janice (Bierly) Harshey

...graduated from Middletown High School in 1982. She earned nine varsity letters at MHS, three each in tennis, basketball, and softball. She was first team GMC in basketball, tennis, and softball in 1980, 1981, and 1982. Janice was All State Honorable Mention in 1981. She was a member of the District 15 All Star Basketball team in 1982 and Golden Triangle Player of the Year in 1982. She was Special Mention All State the same year. Janice graduated as the second leading scorer in Middletown Girl's basketball history. In 1981 she received the Marilyn Douglas Sportsmanship Award in tennis and was co-captain of the 1982 basketball team.



# Lynn Love

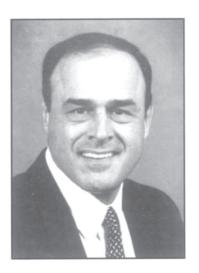
...was a 1979 graduate of Middletown High School. She lettered three years in volleyball, basketball, and track. She was a member of the 1978 District and Regional Championship Girl's Basketball Team, as well as the State Runner-Up Girl's Basketball team. Her senior year the team was GMC League Champions. The MHS track team placed first in the GMC in 1979 and Lynn established a school record in the shot put and the discus the same year.



## Linda (Nein) McGuire

...Linda graduated from Middletown High School in 1960. As a member of the tennis team, she played number one singles for three years and was undefeated all three years. Linda, captain of the Western Association Intersectional Team, placed first singles on the Grass Courts Circuit in the East. She was a member of the National Junior Wightman Cup Squad, and she also played in the National Championship at Forest Hills, New York. She was awarded the R.C. Todd Memorial Trophy for sportsmanship and outstanding play in 1960. Linda was also a cheerleader for three years.





# John Mail

...a 1966 graduate, participated in football and track, lettering three years in both sports. He was selected First Team All League and All District as an end and Second Team All Ohio in 1965. John was a member of the team that set the school record in the distance medley, the 880 yard, and the mile relay. The 1966 track team also won the Greater Ohio League Track Championship.



## **Bob Mucha**

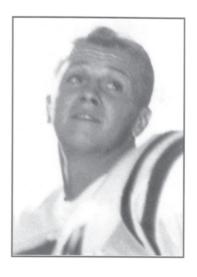
...was the Middie Track Coach from 1070-1983. During that time he coached seven state finalists. His men's teams won the Greater Miami Track Championship in 1970, 71, 72, 79, 80, and 81. The women's teams won in 1976, 78, 80, and 1983. The 1980 track team finished second in the Ohio State Meet. Coach Mucha's teams won District Championships in 1972, 76, 80, and 81. He is a member of the Ohio High School Track Coaches Hall of Fame and the Butler County Sports Hall of Fame. The all weather track at Middletown High School was named "The Bob Mucha Track and Field Complex" in 2000.



# Jim Nein

...graduated from Middletown High School in 1963. He was captain of the 9-1 1962 football team on the way to being selected Honorable Mention All Ohio. In 1961 he was the "Middie Lineman of the Year." He was a member of the Greater Ohio League All Star Team in 1961 and 1962. Both years the team tied for the league championship and in 1962 the football team finished 5th in the AP Poll. He also captained the 1962-63 basketball team to an undefeated regular season of 18 wins and no losses and the Greater Ohio League and District Championships. The 1962 basketball team was rated #1 all year in the AP Poll. Jim was the recipient of the Armco Association Award in basketball.





## Robert "Butch" Walden

...graduated in 1963 from Middletown High School, lettering three years in football, basketball, and baseball. He was a member of the 1962 football team that went 9-1 for the season and was rated 5th in the Football State Poll. Butch was selected 1st Team Greater Ohio League, 1st Team All District, and 1st Team All Ohio as an end. He received the Armco Association Award for his outstanding play. He graduated holding the MHS pass catching record. He was a member of the 1963 Middie basketball team going undefeated in the regular season and winning the district championship. He was named to the 1st Team GOL in basketball in 1963.



# Paul Walker, Jr.

...is a 1964 graduate of Middletown High School. He lettered three years in both football and basketball. He also played baseball and ran track. He was a two year starter in football, not able to complete his senior year because of an injury. He played on the 1962 team that placed 5th in the AP Poll with a record of 9-1. The same year he was selected 1st Team All Ohio at quarterback. He played the 1964 North-South All Star Football game in Canton, Ohio. Paul played on the 1962-63 team that went undefeated in the regular season and won the Greater Ohio League and District Basketball Championships. His team was GOL Champions again in 1964 and he was selected to the 1st Team All League. Paul received the 1964 Armco Basketball Award for his outstanding play.



# **Tom Wiley**

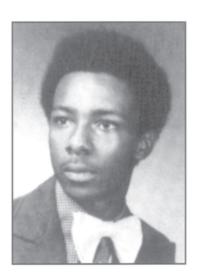
...a long time Middie supporter, graduated from Middletown High School in 1956. He played basketball and tennis. He was outstanding on the tennis courts, playing #1 singles his junior and senior years. In 1955 he teamed with his doubles partner to win the Greater Ohio League, the District and State Doubles Championship. In 1956, he once again teamed with his doubles partner to win the GOL and the District Championships. He has served as the President of the Middletown Boosters Club and Chairman of the All American Weekend. He is a member of the 1995 Gold Medal Club, honored as "Middie Man of The Year" during Middie Pride Week, and honored for his contributions made to the Southwestern District Football Coaches Association.





# Leann "Grimes" Davidge - 1974

Leann was noted for her outstanding performance in girl's tennis. She played singles three years for the varsity team and never lost a match. She was a national ranked player and a member of the first Greater Miami Conference Tennis Championship Team in 1974. She was captain of the varsity cheerleading squad her senior year. At her graduation she received the Charles R. Hook award for Citizenship and the Girls Athletic Association outstanding senior trophy. Her intramural volleyball team won first place. Leann was a member of the National Honor Society, Girl's Leader Club, and selected to attend Girl's State.



## Marlon Gates - 1974

He participated in basketball and track. He also participated in intramurals, varsity club, and Hi-Y. Track was his sport, as he qualified for the State Meet both his junior and senior year in the high and low hurdles. He finished 2nd in the high hurdles and won an individual State Championship in the low hurdles in 1973. In 1974 he finished 2nd in the high and low hurdles in the State Meet, setting a new MHS record in both events. He set a national high school record in a post-season track meet in 1973 in the high hurdles.



# Leroy Hardeman - 1942

He played football, basketball, and baseball during his high school years. He was selected Honorable Mention All State in basketball in 1940 and 2nd team All State tackle in football in 1941. He was a member of the 1941 District Basketball Championship team. The 1939 basketball team was co-champs of the Southern Ohio League and won the league in 1940 and 1941. Leroy was the leading hitter (.434) during the 1941 baseball season. He also led the team in hits, walks, triples, and home runs the same season.





## Paul K. Lawson - 1932

Paul played four years of varsity football and three years of varsity basketball. He played baseball with the American Legion team, since the high school did not have baseball. In 1928, during his freshman year, he was referred to by the Middletown Journal as "a 14 year old wonder." He served as captain of the football and basketball teams his senior year. The football teams recorded seasons of 9-1, 8-2, 8-1, and 9-1 from 1928-1932. In the 1930-31 basketball season the team was 12-4 and 3-1 in the tournament. While at MHS he was an M Letterman, a member of Hi-Y, and played a trumpet in the band.



# Matt Pledger - 1993

Matt was an outstanding tennis player for MHS, playing #1 singles. His senior year he won 31 of his matches and lost only one. He won the #1 singles tournament in the 1993 Greater Miami Conference Tennis Meet and he won the District Tennis Tournament #1 singles championship in the same year, advancing to the 1993 State Tennis Tournament, which he also won. He was selected to the GMC All League Team, the All Southwest District Team, and the All State Team. He was also picked on the All Star State Tournament team. Matt was a nationally ranked tennis player from 1983 to 1993, finishing 32nd nationally in his senior year. Matt also was a cheerleader at MHS.



## Howard L. Schueller - 1944

He played basketball and baseball in high school. He was a member of the first Boys State Basketball Championship Team in 1944 and was selected to the State Tournament All Star Team. Howard led the team in scoring and rebounding during the 1944 season. He was also in the M Letterman Club, participating in Hi-Y, and served on the Optimist Staff. Howard was a member of Middletown Board of Education for 8 years, serving as president 6 years.





## **Donald Stokes - 1957**

Mr. Stokes was manager of the 1956 and the 1957 Middletown State Basketball Teams. He also participated in track during his high school years. Don was one of the persons responsible for the formation of the Middletown High School Athletic Hall of Fame and has served on the Hall of Fame Standing Committee. He also participated in Hi-Y and intramurals while at Middletown. He has been a supporter of the Middletown School system and its extracurricular activities for many years.



## Dick Vice - 1952

Dick was co-captain of the 1952 Middletown State Tournament Championship Team. During the eight-team tournament he set the following records - most points scored - 59, most field goals - 23, and most free throws - 13. He was selected to the Associated Press All Ohio 2nd Team and to the 1952 All State Tournament Team. Dick was a member of the Ohio All Stars in a game against the Kentucky All Stars. He was also the table tennis champion of MHS from 1950 to 1952.



# Chris Wells - 1991

Chris was a baseball and football player for MHS, lettering three years in each sport. He was linebacker on the Greater Miami Conference All League Football Team his junior and senior year. He was 1st team All Butler County, All Southwest District, and All State in 1990. Chris was selected to play in the 1991 North-South All Star Football Game. He was captain of the 1990 team and a member of the GMC Championship football team in 1990. He was the leading tackler for the Middies all three years he played and the leading tackler in the GMC two years.





# James Calhoun - 1984

James was an outstanding football and baseball player for the Middies. In football he was selected 1st team All GMC and Honorable Mention Team All State for his senior year of 1983. He rushed for a school record 1,288 yards, scored 22 touchdowns, including 5 against Lima Senior. He played in the prestigious North-South All Star Game and was selected to several area and regional All Star teams. He earned three varsity letters in football and 2 in baseball. His senior year he recorded a team high .458 batting average.



# Jack Gordon -Head Football Coach 1963-1981

The Ol' Coach holds the record for the third most wins in Middie football history. His record was 117-59-1 over 18 seasons. He was selected GMC Coach of the Year in 1973 and coached the South team in the North-South All Star Game in 1977. Jack also coached the baseball and wrestling squads for a time. After retiring as coach, Jack became the "Voice of the Middies" on WPFB radio. His folksy style and knowledge of athletics have made him a legendary broadcaster. Former players and fans still call him "Coach". Jack has served Middie athletics with integrity, pride and distinction for over forty years.



# Robert "Rocko" Joslin - 1950

"Rocko" was an outstanding running back for one of the great Middie football squads. He was selected Honorable Mention All State in football his senior year and scored 2 touchdowns in a win over Hamilton that year. He played in the North-South All Star Game that year. Always known for his sportsmanship, he was elected to head up a group of students charged with improving problems caused by the spirited rivalry with Hamilton. Bob was also a member of the basketball, track and wrestling teams and attended Boy's State.



# Kathy Gordon Lindsey - 1974

Kathy was an outstanding all-round athlete at MHS. She played three years girls' varsity tennis, two years girls' varsity basketball, and two years girls' varsity golf. Her senior year the tennis team and golf team were undefeated. As a senior she was varsity basketball leading scorer and rebounder. She was selected as Girls' Basketball MVP her senior year. She won the GAA Outstanding Senior Athlete Award. Kathy also attended Girls' State and was a member of the National Honor society.





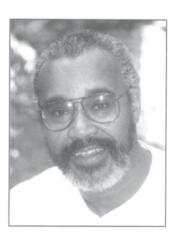
# Harold Mason - Coach

Coach Mason coached several sports at MHS. As an assistant to "Tiger" Ellison he helped develop the famed "Lonesome Polecat" offense. He also coached the boy's varsity tennis team for several years winning State Championships in 1952 and 1953. He was instrumental in bringing the local tennis program to national prominence. Harold was a wonderful influence on young people and was a large part of the group of coaches who made Middie athletics the envy of the State.



# Pete McCartt - 1978

Pete was an outstanding track and cross country runner. He was GMC Track and Cross Country Champion for three years. Sectional Mile Champion for three years and District Cross Country Champion for two years. He qualified for State five times and placed 5th his senior year in track. He also finished 16th that year in cross country. A "jack of all trades', he was fiercely competitive at any distance from the quarter-mile on up. He often filled in during meets at various distances. He was junior class president, student council VP and attended Boy's State.



# John McCluskey - 1962

John was an exceptional student at MHS. He earned varsity letters in both football and track. His senior year he quarterbacked the Middies to an excellent 8-1-1 record. He served as team co-captain that year. John was selected to the All-League Team and was chosen as 3rd Team All-State quarterback. He played in the North-South All Star game and was also selected Honorable Mention All-America by Parade Magazine. John was a member of the National Honor Society and was elected Senior Class Vice President.



# Eugene "Spec" McGraw - 1939

"Spec" was a 4 sport letterman at MHS. He played varsity football, basketball, baseball and ran track for all three years. He was captain of the football team for his junior and senior years. He was an outstanding guard on the basketball team for 3 years. He was a natural leader and elevated the play of all those around him. "Spec" was such a great baseball player that the Middie baseball team's Outstanding Player Award is named for him. One of the earliest of many great Middie athletes, he set a great example for those that followed in his footsteps.





# Marianne Morris - 1983

Marianne was a 2 sport star at MHS. She lettered in basketball and golf. An outstanding member of the basketball team, she was among the GMC leaders in rebounds, assists, steals and scoring. She once made 17 consecutive free throws. She played varsity golf for 3 years and was MVP for all 3 years. There was no Girls' State Tournament at that time, but Marianne usually achieved Individual Medalist honors in the invitational tournaments that ended their season. As a senior she capped an outstanding career at MHS by coming from 11 strokes back to win the Middletown Women's City Tournament.



# Benny Roberts - 1959

Benny was part of the "Golden Age" of Middie basketball. He lettered all three years. His sophomore and junior years they were State Champs and in his senior year he was the leader of an unheralded squad that reached the State Semi-Finals after losing 4 starters from the previous team. Benny captained the '58-'59 team. In 1959 he was selected GOL All-League 1st Team, All-State 1st Team, selected to play in the North-South All Star Game and also played in the Ohio-Kentucky All Star Game. During his 3 years the varsity basketball record was 73 wins and 6 loses.



# Al Sebald - 1950

Al was a 2 sport star at MHS, lettering in track and football. A swift and shifty running back, he played varsity football all 3 years. he was selected 2nd Team All State in 1949, played in the North-South All Star Game and was selected a Parade Magazine All-American that year.

A well rounded student, Al was Vice-President of his junior class, President of his senior class and a member of student council and the National Honor Society.



## Bill Triick - 1961

Bill was an all-round athlete at MHS. He earned 2 varsity letters in football, 3 in baseball and 1 for basketball. he was one of the first Middie quarterbacks to run the famed "Run and Shoot" offense for Tiger Ellison. He was selected GOL League his junior and senior years. Bill was selected Honorable Mention All State his junior year and 3rd Team All State Quarterback his senior year. He was a tough playmaker for the basketball team and an outstanding pitcher for the baseball squad. A natural leader, Bill was a member of the National Honor Society, Class President his junior and senior year, attended Boy's State and was selected to attend West Point upon graduation.





## Rick Combs - 1966

Rick was an outstanding track and cross-country runner. In track he specialized in the 880 and mile runs. He set the school record for the mile in 1965 at 4:24 and the 880 at a time of 1:57. In the mile and 880 he was G.O.L. champ in 1965 and 1966. He was District Champ in 1964, 1965, and 1966. He qualified for the State Meet in the mile run in 1964 and all three years in the 880. Rick was undefeated in both events in 1964 during regular season. In Cross country he was G.O.L. champ in 1965 and 1966, District champ in 1965 and 1966. He qualified for the State Meet in 1965 and 1966 and finished 11th in 1965.



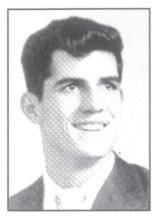
## **Tom Crowe - 1956**

Tom was a three sport star at MHS – Football, Basketball, and Baseball. An all-around athlete, he was MHS Defensive Player of the Year in 1954 and 1955 Offensive Player of the Year in football. He was Co-Captain of the football squad in 1955. Tom was the Middies leading hitter in baseball in 1955 and 1956. Tom also played two years of varsity basketball. He earned a total of eight varsity letters.



# Greg Davis - 1979

A terrific football player, Greg played three years of varsity ball. His Senior year he was selected 1st Team All-GMC and GMC Defensive Player of the Year. He was also selected Southwestern Ohio Defensive Player of the Year, Golden Triangle Defensive Player of the Year, and 2nd Team All-State as a linebacker. Perennial powerhouse Princeton High School selected Greg as their Outstanding Defensive Opponent for the 1978 season.



## Paul Lansaw - 1946

Paul was one of the very best players in Middletown's fabled basketball history. He was selected 1st Team All-State in basketball in 1945 and 1946. Paul was a unanimous 1st Team All-State pick in 1946, the equivalent of today's Player of the Year Award. Paul also played two years of varsity football for the Middles and he was Class President his Junior and Senior years.





# Doug Lewis - 1987

Doug was one of the best all-around athletes to ever compete for the Middies. A star in football, basketball and track, he earned nine varsity letters. His junior year he was MVP in football and track. His senior year he was selected MVP in all three sports, was Captain of each squad, and set season and career scoring and rushing records in football. He was named 2nd Team All-State at running back as a senior and was rated one of the top 100 players in the nation. In track, his senior year, Doug qualified for the State meet and placed 2nd in the 100 and 200M dash.



# Marty Miller - 1935

Marty was an outstanding football and basketball player for the Middies. In 1934 he was the quarterback of the football squad and led the Middies to an undefeated season. Marty was a long time supporter of Middie athletics. He was the statistician for Paul Walker's basketball teams for over 20 years. Marty was one of the most ardent and outstanding boosters of Middie athletics of all time. In 1989, after more than 50 years of selfless support to Middletown's athletic programs, he was honored with the football team's "Man of the Year, Purple Blood Award," and in 1993 he was inducted into the Pigskin/Roundball Gold Medal Club.



## **A.C. Mitchell - 1959**

A.C. was an outstanding basketball and track athlete. As a sophomore he broke the MHS high jump record in his first meet. His senior year he placed 2nd in the State in the High Jump. In basketball he followed Jerry Lucas as the teams' starting center and played in the State Tournament all three years. His senior season he was selected to the All-G.O.L. squad, All-District squad, All-State Tournament Team, and the Ohio All-Star team. A.C. continued to serve MHS as a member of the School Board of Education for 12 years and was elected President of the Board in 1995.



## Leon Mitchell - 1957

Leon was a great football player for the Middies. He played for the legendary "Tiger" Ellison and was a two year starter at end. Leon was the first Middie wide receiver to win the team's "Best Blocker" Award. His senior year Leon was elected Captain of the Middie football team. He was the first African-American to be elected to that position. That senior season Leon was honored as First Team All-G.O.L., Lineman of the Year, First Team All-State, and played in the All-Star Game in Canton, Ohio.





## Pam Goetz Mitchell - 1965

In a time before Girl's athletics had state tournaments, Pam was a nationally recognized and ranked tennis player. Pam played three years of varsity singles for MHS. By the time she was a senior, Pam was ranked #2 in the Ohio Valley, #7 by the Western Lawn Tennis Association (Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin), and #18 in the country by the U.S. Lawn Tennis Association. Pam also represented Middletown by playing on the Junior Wightman Cup Squad.



## Ted Stewart - Head Basketball Coach

Ted started at the Freshman High School and then became the JV Coach. He was head Basketball Coach from 1976 to 1984. Ted compiled a record of 131 wins and 48 losses. His teams won three GMC titles and were Co-Champs in two years. His 1983 and 1984 teams won District titles. Ted's 1983 team won the Regional title and went on to the State Tournament. During his tenure Ted had five players names to All-State Honorable Mention. Ted was elected to the Ohio Coaches Hall of Fame.



# Joni Urban - 1984

Joni was an outstanding tennis player at MHS. She was the State Champ as a Junior and odds on favorite as a senior bur unfortunately broke her hand, and was unable to compete. The USTA ranked her #1 in singles and doubles. Joni played in the 1984 Olympic qualifier and also played in the qualifier for the U.S. Open that year. An outstanding student, she was ranked 9th in a class of 369 and was a member of the National Honor Society.



# **Hamilton Watkins - 1963**

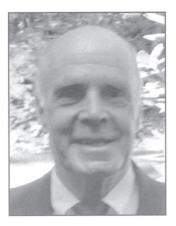
Hamilton was an outstanding Basketball player at MHS. He was the heart and soul of one of the best Middie squads of all time. He played varsity all three years of high school and was a starter as a junior and senior. As a senior he was the leading scorer on the top-ranked Middie squad that was undefeated until the Regionals. He was selected First Team All-Greater Ohio League and first Team All-State his senior year.





# Glenn Barker - 1962

Glenn was another in the long list of Middie basketball greats. He was a very versatile athlete with an exceptional touch as a shooter. He earned three straight varsity letters and capped off an outstanding senior season by being the Middies leading scorer. Glenn was named First Team All-G.O.L and First Team All-State as a senior.



# Walter Beatty - 1960

Walt was part of the "Golden Age" of MHS Tennis. He received three varsity letters. His senior year he was undefeated at #1 Singles for the Middies. He teamed with David Harrington to win the State Doubles Championship in 1960. Walt was also an outstanding student. He was named to the National Honor Society, was appointed as a Delegate to Boy's State and competed in the State Algebra Scholarship Competition.



# John Bryant - 1945

As a Middie student-athlete from 1943-45 Johnny Bryant was one of the best performers ever on the football field. As a three year starter and varsity letter winner for the legendary Elmo Lingrel, Johnny was the main spark on the undefeated 1944 Middies during his senior year. He was selected Third Team All State in 1944 at running back that season. His senior season, he also led the Middie baseball squad with a batting average of .410.



# Billy Crowe - 1961

Billy was a three-sport star as a student at MHS and on of the best all-around athletes in Middie history.. He earned seven varsity letters during his Middie career - two in football, three in basketball, and three in baseball. In football Billy excelled as a halfback, quarterback and receiver. for "Tiger" Ellison. In basketball he was an outstanding shooting guard for Paul Walker. In baseball he was the ace pitcher for Coach Stan Lewis. In 1960 he pitched a nohitter and received a full scholarship to Ball State University. His senior year Billy was named First Team All G.O.L. in both football and basketball.





## David Fultz - 1982

David was an outstanding track and cross country runner for the Middies during the 1980's. In track he was a two time District Champ and State Qualifier at 3200 meters. He was three time GMC Champion at 3200 meters and held the MHS school record until 2003. In cross country he was a two time District Champion, one time Regional Champion, and his senior year he finished second in the State Championship. He was a two time GMC Champ and a three time State Qualifier.



# Angela Johnson - 1986

Angela was a four year varsity letter winner as a diver for the MHS swimming and diving team. She was GMC Diving Champion her junior and senior seasons. She was a State Qualifier three times. Her junior year she received the State Top Ten Award. Her senior season she placed sixth in the State Championship and was named a High School All American. Angela was the MHS Most Valuable Diver all four years and was selected First Team All GMC her junior and senior years.



## Curt Jones - 1949

Curt was an exceptional all-around athlete at MHS. He played football, basketball, and ran track. In his two seasons as quarterback for the Middies he was the undisputed leader for one of the great Middie teams of all time. During those two seasons the Middies had a record of 17 wins, 2 losses and 2 ties. They outscored the opposition 661 to 148. Curt was named First Team All State as a quarterback and also named a high school All American for his senior season of 1948.



# Scott Pergram - 1988

Scott earned eight varsity letters during his career at MHS. Four in wrestling and four in cross country. As a freshman he placed second in the GMC, first in the District and third in the Regional and qualified for State. As a sophomore he was first in the GMC, first in the District, second in the Regional and qualified for State. Scott's junior year he placed first in the GMC, first in the District, second in the Regional and qualified for State. As a senior, he was first in the GMC, first in the District, first in the Regional, and first in the State Championships. Scott's four year record was 111 wins and only 8 losses. He was a four time High School All American.





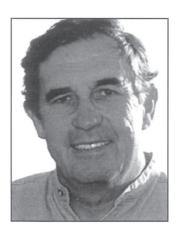
## *Tom Sizer - 1958*

Tom was a key member of the heralded Middie basketball squads of the mid-fifties. During his career, the Middies ran off a still record 76 consecutive wins and two consecutive State Basketball Championships. Tom earned six varsity letters, three each for basketball and golf. His senior season he was named a Parade Magazine All-American, Second Team All-State and played in the Ohio All Star Game, the Ohio/Kentucky All Star Game and the Ohio/Indiana All Star Game. Tom was also the recipient off a full Basketball Scholarship to the University of Cincinnati.



# Scott Spradling - 1974

Scott was on of the best linebackers in the storied history of Middie football. He was a two sport star, earning three varsity letters in football and three in track. In football Scott was selected First Team All-GMC as a running back in his junior year and First Team as a linebacker for his senior season. He was also the Middies Most Valuable Player and was named All Golden Triangle that year. For good measure, Scott broke the Middie shot put record held by Jerry Lucas, and also set the school discus record as a senior. He was also a member of the National Honor Society at MHS.



## Jack Wallace - 1958

Jack was another three-sport star for the Middies. He earned two varsity letters in both track and basketball. He played on the legendary basketball teams that won 76 consecutive games and two straight State Championships. Football was Jack's strongest sport. He received three varsity letters. His senior season he was named team captain, played in the Ohio All Star Game, was named First Team All State as a Defensive Back and was named an All-American by Scholastic Coach Magazine.







## Bob Bush - 1948

Bob was another of Middletown High School's legendary hardwood greats. He played for the State Championship squad of 1947 as a junior and was a scoring leader for the 1948 team that was upset in the State Tournament by Miamisburg. That team included fellow Hall of Famers Bob Grimes, Shelby Linville, Curt Jones, and Jesse Mayabb. He set the Middie single game scoring mark of 28 points during his senior year and was named All-State Second Team for his senior season.



# Jim Dillon - 1938, Coach, 1958-80

"The Bear" is synonymous with swimming in Middletown athletic history. A sparkplug guard on the 1937 football team, he was a leader on both the offensive and defensive lines. As swimming coach for 22 years he mentored hundreds of students and sent many to state meets. His 1965 team set 19 school records. Always an innovator and pioneer, he introduced a co-ed swim team in 1974. His daughter, Julie, was the first girl to qualify for district swim competition that same year. He was tireless in pursuit of college scholarships for deserving athletes. In addition to his outstanding record as a swim coach, he also coached cross-country and golf.



# Jenny Sprowls Clemens - 1994

A multi-sport star, Jenny earned 15 varsity letters at MHS: 4 in Track, 4 in Soccer, 3 in Swimming, 3 in Cross-Country, and 1 in Basketball. She currently holds school records in Cross-Country, Track and Swimming. She was named All-Ohio twice in Cross-Country. She was named all GMC in Track, Soccer and Cross-Country. In addition to her athletic excellence, Jenny was named to State All-Academic teams in Track, Soccer and Cross-Country. She was a member of the National Honor society and graduated with 4.061 g.p.a.



## Ken Feinthel - 1951

Ken was a two-sport star for the Middies. He was awarded 3 varsity letters in football and 3 varsity letters in baseball. In football, he played both end (as a junior) and quarterback (as a senior) earning Honorable Mention All-State at each position. In baseball, he was a standout shortstop. His senior year he captained both the football and baseball team. He was selected to play in the North-South All-Star Game his senior year. An outstanding all-around student, Ken was president of the junior class and was a member of the National Honor Society, Sports Editor of the Optimist and attended Buckeye Boy's State.





# Jesse Mayabb - 1950

Jesse was one of the most hard-nosed, tough-minded athletes to ever play for the Middies. A versatile player, he earned 6 varsity letters. He played basketball, baseball and football. A 2-year starter for the Middie cagers, he was the Co-Captain and second leading scorer his senior year. Because he was a tenacious defender, Coach Walker would always call on Jesse to stop the opposition's best scorer. He was a 3-year starter on the Middie baseball team. An all around student, Jesse was selected to attend Boy's State his senior year.



# Jerry Nardiello - Sportswriter, 1947 -

No one is more synonymous with the exploits and excellence of Middie athletes than Jerry. Since his arrival in Middletown in 1947, he has witnessed and reported on most of the accomplishments of the golden years of MHS athletics. He has been a tireless promoter of both the athletes and the athletic departments for almost 60 years. His "Off The Bench" column in the Middletown Journal was usually the first item that people would read daily. He recognized the power of the written word and has always been known for reporting events fairly and evenly. His stories and anecdotal references to Middies past and present have provided countless hours of enjoyment for Middie fans for generations. He truly is the "Voice of the Middies".



## Will Smethers - 1945

Will was an integral part of the first wave of outstanding basketball squads for the Middies. Quiet and unassuming off the court, he was a determined and tenacious performer on the court. From 1943 to 1945 the Middies had a record of 66-6. The 1944 team was the first State Championship basketball team in Middie history. They were State Runner-up in 1945. They were G.O.L. league champs all three years of his varsity career. In 1944 he was named to the First Team All-State squad and Honorable Mention All-State. His senior year of 1945 he was named Second Team All-State.



# Homer Sorrell - 1944

Homer Sorrell was one of the best all around athletes ever to play for the White and Purple. He earned 2 varsity letters as a guard in basketball, 2 letter as a halfback in football, and 2 as a sprinter in track. If not for his induction into the military in the fall of 1943 after the third game, he would have earned 3 letters in each sport. He set the Middie record for touchdowns in one game with 6 against Columbus Central in 1943. After returning from the service, he became a teacher and coach at Roosevelt Junior High. Since its opening in 1951, he has been the scoreboard operator at Barnitz Stadium. Homer is a prime example of the phrase "Once a Middie".





# Ann Tipton Riley - 1977

Anne was a three-sport star for the Middies. She earned 8 varsity letters during her career at MHS - 3 in basketball, 3 in softball and 2 in volleyball. In basketball, she lead the Middies to a #6 national ranking in 1977. She was All-GMC for three years and upon graduating held the school record for scoring, rebounding and field goal percentage. She was also named All-Ohio her senior year. In volleyball, she was All-GMC for 2 years and team MVP as a senior, leading the team to GMC and District Championships in 1976 and 1977. In softball, she was All-GMC for 3 years and Team MVP her junior and senior years.



# Tim Turner - 1979

Tim was an outstanding cross-country and track athlete for the Middies. He earned 6 varsity letters. In cross-country, he was a 2 time All-GMC performer. In track, he was a 3 time All-GMC performer. He was a 3-time GMC champion in the 2 mile run. A 3 time State qualifier and he held the Middie 2 mile record upon graduating. He was named All-State in cross-country in 1978 and placed third in the State Meet. He was Regional Champion in the 2 mile run in 1978. Named MHS Athlete of the Year in 1979, he received an athletic scholarship to Miami University.



# Larry White - 1973

Larry was a multi-sport star receiving 8 varsity letters, 3 in football, 3 in wrestling, 1 in track, and 1 in baseball. He was a 3 year starter in football and was named All-GMC as a linebacker his junior year and All-GMC and Honorable Mention All-State at guard his senior year. He was Team Defensive MVP his junior and senior years, and Team Captain his senior year. As a wrestler he was Sectional and District Champ and a State Finalist as a junior and senior, placing 4th both years. He was team Co-MVP as a senior His 3 year record as a wrestler was 108 wins and only 5 losses.







## Charles "Chuck" Asher, Class of 1948

Chuck was a two sport star for the Middies, earning 3 varsity letters in football, and 4 varsity letters in baseball. In football he was a two-way player throughout high school playing at guard and tackle for the legendary "Tiger" Ellison, and was captain of the team his senior year. That team was one of the top ranked teams in the state and finished with a record of 9-1. He was selected All G.O.L. and was chosen to play in the North-South All-Star game. In baseball he played four seasons as the catcher. He played for coaching legends Royner Greene, George Houck and Paul Walker. In addition to his outstanding athletic career, Chuck was vice-president of the junior class and president of the senior class. He attended Buckeye Boy's State and sang in the Glee Club for 2 years.



## Nancy Benedum, Class of 1952

Nancy was a pioneer in the field of women's high school athletics. During her time at MHS, girls' sports were just beginning to be recognized and accepted into the field of high school athletics. At that time there were only two girls' interscholastic teams; basketball and tennis. Nancy was a varsity starter for three years in basketball and was the leading scorer all three years. Accomplished in a wide variety of athletics, Nancy competed in track, tennis, softball and others. The highest award that could be given to a female athlete at that time was the "Best Athlete of the Year" award. It was based on participation in intramurals and on interscholastic teams and given to a senior. Nancy received the award in 1952. After graduating from MHS she enjoyed a successful tennis career at Miami University, and later was a highly regarded girls coach at Dayton Kettering High School.



## Jeff Cothran, Class of 1990

Jeff was a standout Middie football player. A swift, punishing runner, he earned 3 varsity letters. As a senior, Jeff was selected All GMC, and was named to the First Team All State squad. He was also runner-up in the statewide voting for "Mr. Football" in the state of Ohio. Not only was he adept at handing out punishment on the gridiron, he could play with pain as well. Jeff played his final game in the State Playoffs against Cincinnati Moeller with a broken hand. Jeff was also a two year member of the Middie track team. Upon graduating from MHS, Jeff received a football scholarship to Ohio State where he starred for the Buckeyes, and after college he was drafted and played professionally with the Cincinnati Bengals.



## Mark Current, Class of 1983

Mark was an all-round student athlete at MHS. He was an outstanding basketball and baseball player for the Middies. He was awarded 3 varsity letters in each sport for a total of 6 for his high school career. Basketball, however, is where he made his mark. He started every varsity game for three years. He amassed a total of 1,390 points which places him 4th on the list of all-time scorers for the Middies. He was selected First Team All GMC in 1982 and again in 1983. He was named to the District 15 All Star squad in 1983, and played in the North-South All Star game in 1983. To cap his outstanding senior season during which he averaged 23 points per game, Mark led the Middies to a Regional Championship victory over Dayton Alter and was selected Honorable Mention All State. Not do be outdone in the classroom, Mark was a member of the National Honor Society, and was elected class vice-president his junior and senior years.





## Merrill Hatfield, Class of 1949

Merrill was an all-round student athlete at MHS. He played basketball, baseball and golf earning 6 varsity letters. While he was a versatile athlete, it was on the hardwood that Merrill really excelled. He played all three years for the legendary Paul Walker. His senior year he was selected All G.O.L. and was selected to the All Tournament Team, The Cincinnati Post All Star team and was named Honorable Mention All State. If not for a knee injury that cost him several games during the year, he would have easily made First Team All State. Not content to excel in athletics, Merrill was a member of the National Honor Society, attended Buckeye Boy's State, served on student council and was a member of Hi-Y.



## Bobby Joe Love, Class of 1966

Bobby Joe was an outstanding multi-sport athlete at MHS, earning 8 varsity letters. He was a 3 year letterman in football, a 3 year letter winner in track, and lettered 2 years in wrestling. In football he was a two-way star playing wide receiver on offense and safety on defense. His senior year he was selected Honorable Mention All State. Bobby Joe was also an outstanding member of the track team. He qualified for the State Meet all three years in the high and low hurdles. He won the Districts in these events all three years. His sophomore year he placed 5th in the high hurdles at State. His junior year he was 3rd and his senior year he finished 2nd at the State Meet. For good measure he helped the mile relay team to a 6th place finish at the State Meet his senior year.



## Lawrence Mack, Class of 1977

Lawrence was another in the long purple line of Middie greats that excelled on the gridiron. He was a standout running back for the Middies and he accumulated 3 varsity letters while playing for legendary Middie coach Jack Gordon. He ran for over 2,000 yards during his career. In one game against powerful Cincinnati St. Xavier, he ran over, around, and through the Bombers for 225 yards. His senior season he led the Middies to a hard fought 7-0 win over the Massilon Tigers, at Massilon no less. Lawrence was the Middie Offensive Player of the Year in 1976 and 1977. He was named First Team All GMC in 1976 and 1977, and First Team All Southwest Ohio in 1976 and 1977. He capped his outstanding Middie career by being selected Third Team All State in 1977 and played in the North-South All Star game that year.



## Bill McGuire, Class of 1953

Bill was part of the great era of Middie athletics that spanned the 1940's through the early 1960's. Bill was another multi-sport athlete lettering in football, basketball and track. During his senior season of 1952, Bill set 6 new passing records at MHS. Among them was his 56% completion percentage. He also set single game and season yardage records of 258 yards/game and 1,113 yards/season. Bill threw 6 touchdown passes in one game, and teamed with fellow Hall of Famer Ron Stokely to break his own single game record with a total of 352 yards. All of this was accomplished under the leadership of Coach "Tiger" Ellison when football was more of a grind it out game and before the famed coach implemented his legendary run and shoot offense.





## Johnny Moore, Class of 1957

John Earl Moore is a perfect example of the old saying "Good things come to those who wait". A sprinter on the track team, Johnny was a reserve guard on the football team for the two years prior to his senior season. In the fall of 1956 he quickly became the starting left halfback for Coach Ellison's Middies because of his outstanding quickness and speed. A multi-faceted player he was a prolific scorer as a running back, receiver and punt and kick-off return specialist. In one game he set a Middie record for most yards gained by rushing with 240 yards, and he did so on just 12 carries, a nifty 20 yards per carry. He was selected All G.O.L. and All State as a senior and played in the North-South All Star Game. He received an athletic scholarship to Miami University and later played professionally with the Buffalo Bills.



## Jim Ratliff, Class of 1990

Jimmy was an outstanding basketball player for the Middies. He was a three year starter on the varsity squad. He was an integral part of 2 GMC Championship teams and one District Championship team. During his senior season, Jimmy averaged 24 points, 12 rebounds and 4 blocked shots per game. As a senior he was selected First Team All GMC, First Team All Southwest District and First Team All-Ohio. He was also selected to Who's Who in Sports. Jimmy was the 1990 Gatorade Circle of Champions Ohio High School Player of the Year and was nominated for the 1990 McDonalds All-American Team. For good measure he played in the Ohio North-South, Ohio vs. Michigan, and Ohio vs. Indiana All Star games and was selected MVP in each game. He ranks 8th on the Middies all-time scoring list with 1,070 points. Upon graduating Jimmy received a basketball scholarship to The Ohio State University and played on 2 Big Ten Championship teams.



#### Keri Connor Sennett, Class of 1987

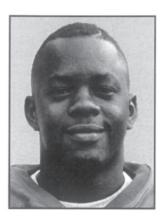
Keri was a multi-sport athlete at MHS, participating in golf, swimming and diving. It was on the diving board that Keri really excelled. She was a member of the diving squad for 4 years. She regularly finished at, or near the top in Meets, Sectionals, Districts, State, and Invitationals. Her junior year she was named Second Team All GMC and finished 7th in the State. Her senior year she was named First Team All GMC and finished 2nd in the State. Keri was also selected to the Cincinnati All Metro squad and was named a high school All-American as a senior. In addition to athletics, she also was an active member of the Y Leaders Club, served on Student Council, was elected to Homecoming and Prom Court and worked on All-American Weekend. Not one to rest on her laurels, Keri also found the time to be a cheerleader her sophomore and junior years. After graduation she received a diving scholarship to the University of Kentucky.



## Ron Stokely, Class of 1954

Ron was an outstanding student athlete at Middletown High School. He is one of the few Middle athletes to achieve the distinction of lettering in all three major sports, baseball, basketball and football as a sophomore, junior and senior. Ron was a standout basketball player for the legendary coach Paul Walker, and an exceptionally gifted footballer for the great "Tiger" Ellison. Ron was an integral member of the 1952 and 1953 State Champion basketball squads. Upon graduation from MHS Ron attended the University of Florida where he continued his academic and athletic careers.





## Dan Colson, Class of 1992

Dan played four years of Football for the Middies. An outstanding and vesatile athlete, it was on defense that he achieved his greatest fame. A three-year letterman at defensive back, Dan was known as a swift, punishing tackler with great closing speed. His senior year he was selected First Team All State, First Team All SW District, First Team GMC, All Butler County, MVP of the Middies at Fullback and was named as a starter in the Annual North-South All-Star Game.



## Roy Davidson, Class of 1952

Roy was one of the early standouts in a long list of tennis greats who played for the Middies. He teamed with doubles partner Don Hackney to win the Southwest Ohio District Title in 1952. They then proceeded to win the 1952 State Doubles Tennis Title becoming the first doubles champions in Middie athletic history. An all-around student, Roy also participated in Hi-Y, M Club and Intramurals.



## Paul Gates, Class of 1956

Paul was an outstanding student-athlete while attending MHS. He teamed with Tom Wiley in 1956 to win the G.O.L. Tennis Doubles Title. They then won the District Title and went to the State Tournament where they were finalists before being edged out in the Quarterfinals. Paul also had the unique accomplishment of setting the school record for the High Jump at 6', even though he wasn't on the track team! Paul was an involved student. He was a member of Hi-Y, attended Buckeye Boy's State, was a member of the National Honor Society, National Forensic League and National Thespians.



## Don Hackney, Class of 1952

Don was an outstanding student-athlete for the Middies. In 1952 he teamed with Roy Davidson to win the Southwest Ohio District Title in Men's Tennis Doubles and from there they went on to win the State Doubles Tennis Championship - the first ever for the Middies. Don also played Basketball for the Middies. He was involved in several extracurricular activities at MHS, among them Hi-Y, Junior Achievement, M Club, Middletonian, Optomist and Student Council.





## Sarah Lanham, Class of 1999

Sara played four years of Varsity Soccer and was selected Second Team All GMC in 1997. In Track she was a four year letter winner. She was selected First Team All GMC in 1996, 1998, 1999. She finished First in the GMC in the 100 and 300 Hurdles in '96, '98 and '99. First in the 4x400 in '98, '99 and the 4x800 in '99. Sara was District Champ in the 100 and 300 Hurdles in '96, '98, '99. She was Regional Champ in the 300 Hurdles in '99. A three time State Qualifier in the 100 and 300 she was named All State in '98 and '99 placing 6th in '98 and 5th in '99. A serious knee injury her sophomore year prevented Sara from even more accomplishments, but her comback showcased her great spirit and work ethic. An outstanding student, she was named four times to the GMC All Academic Squad.



## Jim Lindsey, Class of 1957

At 160 pounds, Jim was one of the smallest guards to ever wear the Purple and White for the Football Middies. This did not prevent Jim from being one of the most ferocious and efficient blockers for MHS. One of Tiger Ellison's most famous quotes - "It's not the size of the dog in the fight, it's the size of the fight in the dog" is a perfect description of Jim's attitude on the field. Jim was named All G.O.L. and was selected Second Team All State in Football his senior year. After graduation he followed in the footsteps of another Middie great, Skeeter Payne and attended and played Football at William Jewell College in Missouri.



## Mike Rowe, Class of 1977

Mike was a three year starter for the Middie Baseball Team. He was named First Team All GMC in 1975, '76, and '77. He captained the team and was named Butler County Player of the Year in 1977. He received the prestigious MHS "Speck" McGraw Award as Player of the Year in 1977. As a Senior Mike lead the team with a .452 batting average. 30 years after graduation he still holds 9 of 13 MHS batting records. Following his senior year Mike was named Second Team All American.







#### Joe Merritt - 1977

Hustle and Desire are the two words used by most coaches to describe Joe Merritt, a 3 sport letterman with the 1976-77 Middies Baseball,Basketball and Football teams. An All-GMC,All-district, and Honorable Mention All-State Football player,Joe played Both ways as a defensive back,Quarterback and Holder for Kicking team. He was a member of North-South Allstar game and named Co-MVP (along with Todd Bell), Joe was 6th man on the 1976-77 Basketball team that lost in the state finals,and led the 1977 team to a 15-3 regular season. Joe STILL holds the season record for most hits in a season for the Middies Baseball team. Playing for coach Fred Nori, the Middies were one game short of playing in the state tournament. Joe went on to a stellar career as a 4 year starter on defense for Bowling Green State University. Joe was also a member of Boys State,National Honor Society and Student council at MHS.



#### Cheryl Cofield(Wilson) - 1976

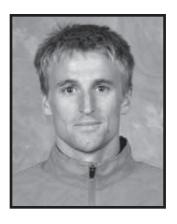
Cheryl Cofield(Wilson)-a 1976 Middie Graduate, Cheryl was a member of the First official girls track teams at MHS. Cheryl was a top performer, winning numerous events at large meets such as Roosevelt Relays and Buckeye Invitationals. A 3 event qualifier at the State level, she ran in the 220 yd dash, the first leg of the 440 relay and the all-important Anchor leg of the 880 relay team that posted some of the top times in class AAA in 1975 and 1976, she was also a member of Girls Volleyball squads and a Cheerleader as well. Cheryl was also very active in school organizations, most notably Forensic teams and Public speaking, along with student government.



#### Steve Raszka - 2002

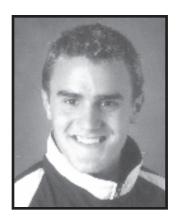
Steve Raszka earned twelve varsity letters while participating in swimming, baseball and golf at Middletown High School from 1999-02. Steve was All-GMC, All District, All-Sectional and All-Ohio in swimming. He was also MHS MVP and named to the Cincinnati Enquirer All Star Swim Team. He broke five Middle swim team records during his MHS swimming career. In baseball, Steve was a four year starter and led his team in home runs and RBI's. He was the MVP his senior year in baseball and earned the Jeff Wiley and "Spec" McGraw awards, as well as, the winner of the Pigskin Roundball award and the Joe Nuxhall Foundation Scholarship. Steve was named to the "Best 100" high school baseball players list in the Midwest. Other activities at MHS were student government, young life, homecoming and prom court. Steve was awarded a scholarship to play baseball and graduated from Bowling Green State University.





## *Jeff See - 2005*

Jeff See was one of the most outstanding distance runners to graduate from Middletown High School. During Jeff's career at MHS, he set seven track and cross country records and holds four individual state titles in track, and two in cross country. Jeff was part of the first place relay team in 2005 and a member of MHS state championship track team in 2002. A cross country champion in 2003 and 2004, he was also a member of the state champion cross country team in 2004. Holder of several indoor and outdoor track records, Jeff was all state all 4 years at MHS. A Nike All American and Gatorade Track & Field Athlete of the Year in 2005, Jeff earned a full scholarship and graduated from The Ohio State University earning 6 All American honors in track and cross country.



#### David Mail - 2001

David Mail swam for Middletown High School for four years setting four swim team records, where he still holds the 100 yard freestyle swim record. He was named All-Greater Miami Conference and All-District four years while at MHS and named to the All-Sectional Team, Cincinnati Enquirer All-Star Team, MHS MVP and All-Ohio his senior year. While at MHS, David was also a national qualifier representing the Middletown YMCA and swam in the short course championships in Ft. Lauderdale and the long course championships in Baltimore. David went on to swim for Wright State and graduated from Miami University. His other activities at MHS were football, cross country, student government, young life and show choir. After 9/11, David joined the Army National Guard and was honorably discharged after seven years of service. David is currently a swim coach and holds a Level 4 coaching status with the American Swim Coaches Association, which is the top 10% of coaches in the United States.



#### Eddie Forkner - 1947

Eddie Forkner was a very committed and versatile athlete. In 1947, under Coach "Tiger" Ellison, he was the first Middie football player to qualify for All State Ohio High School Football. He began his football career playing quarterback his sophomore year. As a junior and senior, he was switched to left guard. He excelled and was named All Ohio Guard. He was also selected to play with the Ohio High School All-Stars--North vs. South. Eddie also showed his strength and versatility in setting and holding the discus record from 1947 through 1956. He was also very competitive in wrestling and swimming.



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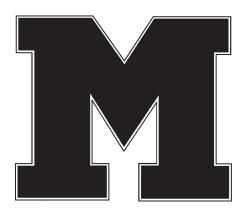
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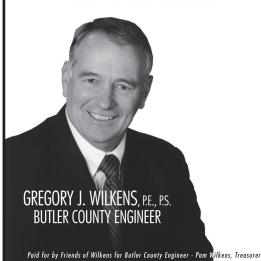
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