

Professional Athletes

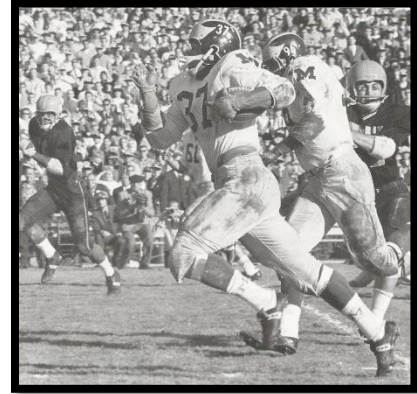
Mel Anthony '61 – Football

Canadian Football League Hamilton Tiger Cats, 1965

Continental Football League Montreal Beavers, 1966

Midwest Football League Ypsilanti Vikings, 1967

- At Roger Bacon Mel played on offense at the fullback position and on defense as a linebacker. In December 1960, he was selected by the UPI as a First-Team All-Ohio defensive player at linebacker
- He played football for the University of Michigan from 1962 to 1964. He played fullback and was Michigan's lead rusher in 1963 and 1964. As a senior, Mel was one of the leaders of the 1964 Michigan Wolverines football team that won the Big Ten Conference championship and defeated Oregon State in the 1965 Rose Bowl. Mel was named the Rose Bowl Most Valuable Player after he rushed for a career-high 123 yards, scored three touchdowns, recovered a blocked punt and averaged 9.5 yards per carry. He also set a Rose Bowl Game record (at that time) with an 84-yard touchdown run.
- Mel was selected by the Cleveland Browns in the 16th round (223rd overall selection) of the 1965 NFL draft. He signed with the Browns in early July 1965 but was cut in late August. He opted to play in the Canadian Football League. He was initially signed by the Edmonton Eskimos, but after being cut, signed with the Hamilton Tiger-Cats and helped lead the team to the 1965 Grey Cup championship (a 22-16 victory over the Winnipeg Blue Bombers). He played in 4 games and averaged 5.2 yards per carry on 44 carries.
- Mel was cut by the Tiger-Cats in August 1966 and played with the Montreal Beavers of the Continental Football League for the 1966 season. He rushed for 430 yards on 111 carries (a 3.9-yard average) and scored 4 touchdowns (including one reception).
- He played for the Ypsilanti Vikings of the Midwest Football League in 1967 and afterwards, retired.
- **Fun Fact.** Mel's younger brother Ty, graduated from Roger Bacon (Class of 1964) and also played professional football in the Continental Football league in 1968 as a running back for the Norfolk Neptunes and the Alabama Hawks.

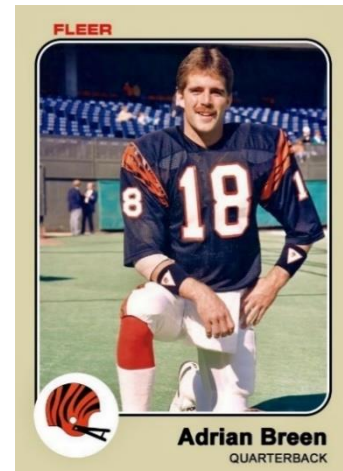


Professional Athletes

Adrian Breen '83 – Football

National Football League Cincinnati Bengals, 1987

- Adrian was named the Most Valuable Player and the Best Offensive Back on the football team his senior year at Roger Bacon, as well as being the GCL Offensive Back of the Year and a First Team All-GCL quarterback. He was inducted into the Roger Bacon Hall of Fame in 2009.
- After high school, Adrian went to Morehead State University in Kentucky on a football scholarship as a finance major and football quarterback.
- As a senior in 1986, Adrian led one of the nations' largest turnarounds – improving to 7-4 after a 1985 season record of 1-10. He set season school records for most offensive plays (475), most pass attempts (347) and most completions (202) while throwing for 2,301 yards and 16 touchdowns.
- In September 1986, Morehead State overcame a 35-3 halftime deficit and defeated Wichita State University 36-35. Adrian threw two touchdown passes in the final 1:54 and then ran for the winning two-point conversion himself with 27 seconds to play. *"This is the biggest win in the history of Morehead State football,"* said MSU coach Bill Baldrige. It was the first victory for Morehead State, a Division I-AA, over a Division I-A program.
- In 1987, Adrian was an undrafted free agent for the St. Louis Cardinals. Cut before the season started, the Cincinnati Bengals signed him to play quarterback before the 1987 football strike began. He played for the Bengals in two games before breaking a vertebra in his back. He started on October 4, 1987 against the San Diego Chargers and completed 3 of 5 passes for 9 yards and 1 touchdown in a 10-9 loss. In a 34-0 loss to Cleveland Browns on October 18th, he attempted 3 passes with no completions but rushed twice for 10 yards. After the 24-day football strike in 1987, the Bengals offered to bring Adrian back, but he declined.
- He graduated from Xavier University with a degree in Finance and worked at 5/3rd Bank for 12 years. Adrian is currently the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Bank of Missouri.
- **Fun Fact:** After his sophomore year at Morehead, he was elected a team captain. As captain, he went to Army basic camp for six weeks at Fort Knox to develop his leadership skills. He thought it would be cool to learn how to fly an Apache helicopter but his vision disqualified him. The boot-camp experience gave him a profound respect for the sacrifices military families go through.

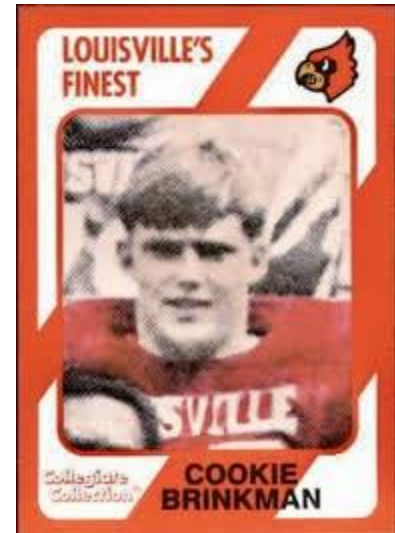


Professional Athletes

Charles “Cookie” Brinkman '67 – Football

National Football League Cleveland Browns, 1971-72 / Buffalo Bills, 1973

- Cookie starred on the football team under head coach Bron Bacevich as a defensive back and then a wide receiver. He was also a standout in golf, earning all-city honors after helping his team win the Greater Cincinnati League title as a senior. Cookie was inducted into the Roger Bacon Hall of Fame in 2015.
- He played college football for the Louisville Cardinals, where he emerged as one of the top receivers in the Missouri Valley Conference (MVC). Cookie was Louisville's Outstanding Senior in 1970. He played with the Cardinals in the Pasadena Bowl (a 24-24 tie) and finished his senior season with a team-high 48 catches for 647 yards and four touchdowns, earning a unanimous selection to the all-MVC team as well as Honorable Mention All-American honors from the Associated Press. He also recorded 26 punts for 853 yards, averaging 32.8 yards per punt.
- After going unselected in the 1971 NFL draft, Cookie signed as a free agent with the Cincinnati Bengals. He was released before the start of the season but was picked up by the Cleveland Browns and spent the year on the taxi squad. After cutting his weight and improving his speed, Brinkman was invited back to try out for the Cleveland Browns in 1972. He was released on September 12th during final roster cuts and signed to the practice squad. Brinkman was activated in December 1972 for one game against the Cincinnati Bengals.
- In May 1973, he signed with the Buffalo Bills but broke his arm and was placed on injured reserve. In 1974, after trying a move to a new position (safety), he was waived by the Bills.
- After leaving professional football, Cookie served as the Vice-President of Marketing at ASI Building Products in Tampa, Florida, and later became the Vice-President of Sales at Alcoa.
- **Fun Fact:** Charles was given the nickname "Cookie" by his older brother Gerard, who was 18 months older and could not properly pronounce "Charlie."



Professional Athletes

Edward “Moe” Burttschy '40 – Baseball

American League Philadelphia/Kansas City Athletics, 1950-51; 1954-56

- At Roger Bacon, Ed lettered in football, basketball, and especially baseball where his prowess attracted major league scouts. In 1997, he was inducted into the Roger Bacon Hall of Fame.
- In 1941, a year removed from his high school graduation, Ed signed with the Brooklyn Dodgers. In 1942 he was in the Cincinnati minor-league organization but his career was interrupted by World War II.
- Ed enlisted in the Navy in 1943 and spent three years in the service during World War II, most of it in the Pacific Theatre on the USS Ticonderoga, an Essex-class aircraft carrier. Ed was on board on January 21, 1945, when a Japanese kamikaze attacked the carrier's starboard side, killing or injuring 100 sailors. He was likely spared by being in the wrong place at the right time - the plane struck where he would normally would have been at that time of day.
- Following his military service, Ed returned to the minors in 1946 and, on June 17, 1950, he made his debut in the American League with the Athletics.
- He missed much of the 1951 season with elbow surgery, and was assigned to Triple-A for all of 1952 and 1953.
- Ed spent all of 1954 with the Athletics, his only full year in the majors. In 46 games pitched, tied for fifth in the American League, he won five, lost four, and notched four saves.
- After starting the 1955 season with the Athletics (two victories in seven relief stints in April and early May), he was optioned to the minor leagues. He rejoined the major league club in 1956 and, after going 3–1 during the season's early weeks, several tough outings resulted in him being part of a trade to New York Yankees. He was sent to Triple-A and did not appear in a game for the Yankees. After two years in the minors, he retired.
- In his 90-game MLB career, Ed compiled a 10–6 record, with 97 strikeouts, a 4.71 ERA, and four saves in 1851/3 innings pitched. After retiring, he worked as a freight salesman in the trucking industry.
- **Fun Fact:** Arguably one of the slowest runners in baseball, Ed earned the nickname “Molasses Shoe,” or “Moe” for short.

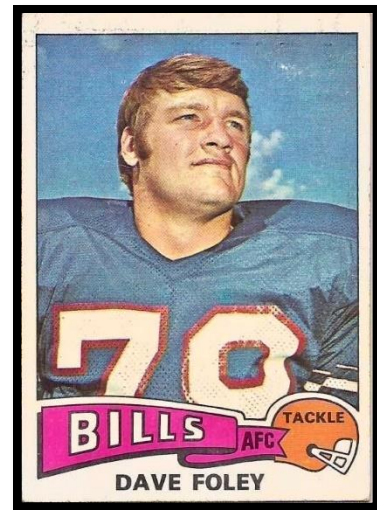


Professional Athletes

Dave Foley '65 – Football

National Football League New York Jets, 1969-71 / Buffalo Bills, 1972-77

- During his time on the Roger Bacon varsity football under legendary coach Bron Bacevich, the Spartans earned a record of 27-1-1, including undefeated seasons in 1962 and 1963. Dave also won the 1965 state championship in the shot put, and still holds the school record with a distance of 62'2.5." He was honored his senior year as a scholar-athlete by the Cincinnati Chapter of the National Football Foundation. He was elected to the Roger Bacon Hall of Fame in 1981.
- Dave was a three-year starter at offensive tackle for the Ohio State Buckeyes from 1966-68. His senior year he was a team co-captain and an All-America and All-Big Ten selection. The 1968 Buckeyes finished the season undefeated and were voted consensus national champions after defeating the University of Southern California 27-16 in the 1969 Rose Bowl. A three-year Academic All-American, he graduated with a 3.1GPA and was an Honor Cadet in the ROTC. He was elected to the Ohio State Varsity O Athletic Hall of Fame in 1984.
- Dave was selected in the first round (26th pick) of the 1969 NFL/AFL draft by the New York Jets. In the first game versus Buffalo, he ruptured ligaments in his right knee that required season-ending surgery, Foley went through rehab and was ready to play again in 1970, starting 11 games at right tackle. However, after the 1971 season in which he did not start a game, he was waived and picked up by the Buffalo Bills.
- He played for the remainder of his professional career as a Buffalo Bill. A Pro Bowl selection in 1973, he was the starting right tackle with the Bills' Electric Company. A fixture at left tackle, Dave started 79 of the 81 games at Buffalo during his six years there. During his 9-year professional career, he played in 110 games – starting 90 of those.
- While still an active player in 1972, he started Dave Foley & Associates which originally specialized in life insurance and health group benefits. Retirement plan third-party administration was added to its operations in 1986. The company expanded further in 1999 and was renamed Foley Benefits Group, LLC.
- **Fun Fact:** Dave was a member of the "Electric Company" – a name given to the offensive line of the Buffalo Bills during the mid-1970s that helped running back O. J. Simpson establish numerous NFL records. In addition to Dave who played tackle, the line consisted of center Mike Montler, guards Reggie McKenzie and Joe DeLamielleure, tackle Donnie Green and tight end Paul Seymour.

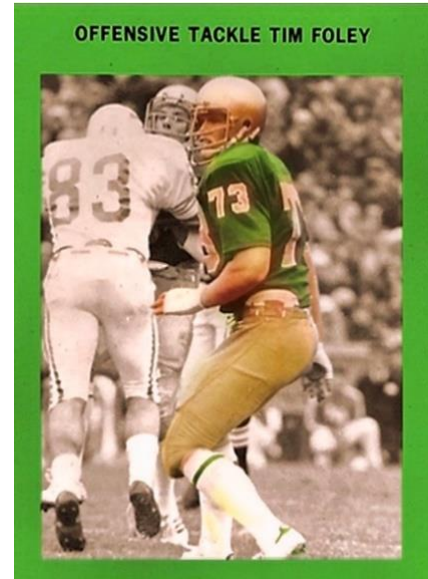


Professional Athletes

Tim Foley '76 – Football

National Football League Baltimore Colts, 1980-82

- At Roger Bacon, Tim was a 3-sport athlete – football, wrestling and track. He was inducted into the Roger Bacon Hall of Fame in 2000.
- Tim played college football at the University of Notre Dame. Playing under Coach Dan Devine, he played left tackle, was a 3-year starter, and blocked for future Hall of Fame quarterback, Joe Montana.
- In 1977, Tim was a sophomore starter on a Notre Dame team that ended the season with 11 wins and one loss and won the national championship by defeating the previously unbeaten and No. 1 ranked Texas Longhorns in the Cotton Bowl Classic by a score of a 38–10.
- During his senior year, Tim was named a team captain and was a consensus College Football All-American in 1979.
- He received his B. S. Degree in Sociology from Notre Dame in 1980.
- Tim was selected in the second round (51st overall) of the 1980 NFL draft by the Baltimore Colts. He appeared in 6 games during the 1981 season and ended his professional football career in 1982.
- An agent with Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company since 1984, he is a Life & Qualifying Member of the Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT).
- **Fun Fact:** Steve Heimkreiter, a 1975 graduate of Roger Bacon, was Tim's host on his recruiting visit to the University of Notre Dame. Tim and Steve ended up being teammates in high school (Roger Bacon), college (University of Notre Dame) and professionally (Baltimore Colts)!

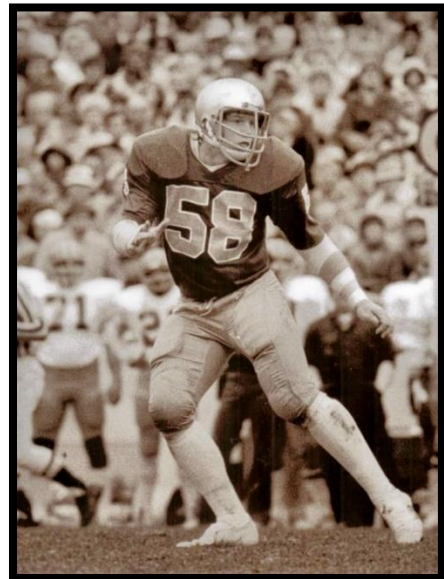


Professional Athletes

Steve Heimkreiter '75 – Football

National Football League Baltimore Colts, 1979-82

- Steve was a 2-sport athlete in football and baseball at Roger Bacon. Recognized as an All-American with All-State and All-GCL honors, he was inducted into the Roger Bacon Hall of Fame in 2019.
- Played for Notre Dame from 1975-1978 and was considered a popular choice for the “All-Underrated Notre Dame Football Team” (highly productive individuals who never received even honorable mention All-America notice). Known for his blue-collar toughness, “Kritter” had 398 career tackles - fourth most in Notre Dame's football history.
- In 1976, his 118 tackles led the team on a Notre Dame defense that set a school record for consecutive quarters not allowing a touchdown (21).
- Steve played a key role on the 1977 national champions. He was 3rd on the team in tackles during the regular season and added a momentum-changing interception that was instrumental in a 38-10 Cotton Bowl defeat of top-ranked Texas.
- Selected by the Baltimore Colts with the 197th pick in 1979, he played in 15 games during the 1980 season. Steve suffered an injury during an exhibition game in 1982 that ended his career.
- Steve recovered from his injury and returned to good health. Then, for more than three decades, he worked in fundraising as the CEO for *Special Events Incorporated* in his hometown of Cincinnati.
- **Fun Fact:** Steve said in an interview that one of his most unsettling moments was telling Ohio State's fiery head coach Woody Hayes that he was going to decide between Notre Dame and Tennessee. Steve was shocked at the response: “*For God’s sake, son, if you have to choose, go to Notre Dame,*” Hayes replied. Steve’s mom “*used to play me the Notre Dame Fight Song every morning before I would go to school,*” he recalled.



Professional Athletes

Corey Kiner '20 – Football

National Football League San Francisco 49ers, 2025 - Current

- Finished his career at Roger Bacon ranked #10 in Ohio High School Athletic Association history in rushing yards (7,130), and #3 all-time in scoring (772), rushing touchdowns (116) and total touchdowns (125). Led Roger Bacon to its first-ever regional championship in 2020, rushing for 1,866 yards and 35 touchdowns. In 2020, he was named Ohio Division V Offensive Player of the Year and Mr. Football in Ohio - only the second player in the Cincinnati area to be named Mr. Football in Ohio since 1992. Despite missing 34 quarters of action in the last two years due to lopsided wins, Corey still rushed for over 4,000 yards combined as a junior and senior. Roger Bacon won 19 of its 20 games by over two TDs in 2019 and 2020. He once scored eight TDs in a game against Christian Hills Christian Academy in October of 2019.
- Corey started his collegiate career at LSU in 2021 and earned valuable reps as a true freshman, totaling 79 carries for 324 yards (4.1 per carry) and two touchdowns. Transferred to the University of Cincinnati in 2022 and became one of the greatest running backs in Bearcat's history. In 2023 and 2024, he started 24 consecutive games as Cincinnati's primary running back. He became just the fifth Bearcat with consecutive 1,000-yard rushing seasons. His 2,562 career rushing yards at UC rank eighth in school history and his 13,100-yard games rank fifth. His 80 forced missed tackles ranked fourth nationally in 2024.
- An undrafted free agent, in April 2025 Corey signed a 3-year contract with the San Francisco 49ers.



Professional Athletes

Thomas Kramer '86 – Baseball

Major League Baseball Cleveland Indians, 1991 and 1993

- A 1986 graduate of Roger Bacon and a proud St. Bernard native, Tom played baseball for the Spartans from 1983 to 1986, earning First Team All-GCL and All-Cincinnati honors. He was inducted into the Roger Bacon Hall of Fame in 2022.
- After graduating from Roger Bacon, he attended John A. Logan College in Blairsville, Illinois, where his number was retired after just one season - becoming the first player from the school to reach the major leagues.
- Tom was drafted by the Cleveland Indians in the fifth round of the 1987 amateur draft and signed by the team on June 10, 1987. He made his major league pitching debut for the Indians on September 12, 1991. In 1991 he pitched in four games of relief, giving up nine earned runs in 4.2 innings pitched for an earned run average of 17.36.
- After a year in the minors, he was called up to the Indians for the 1993 season. Pitching mostly in relief until mid-May, he won his first game as a major league pitcher on May 24th, throwing a complete game one-hitter against the Texas Rangers. Tom finished the season with a record of 7 wins and 3 losses and an earned run average of 4.02. Following the season, he was sent back to the minor leagues and never returned to the majors. During his brief stint in the major leagues, Tom had a 7-3 record, appeared in 43 games (16 as a starter), pitched 125.2 innings with an earned run average of 4.51.
- All told, he spent 11 years in the minors with the Cleveland Indians, Cincinnati Reds, Detroit Tigers and Colorado Rockies farm systems, compiling a 95-55 record in 381 games, with a 3.72 earned run average over 1,310.1 innings pitched. He retired from baseball at the conclusion of the 1998 season.
- Tom was the pitching coach for the Roger Bacon varsity baseball team from 2008-2012.
- **Fun Fact:** On May 24, 1993, Tom started for the Indians against the Texas Rangers and Kevin Brown, one of the best pitchers in the league. In the top of the fourth, Julio Franco came up for the Rangers and smashed a pitch over the left-centerfield fence. It cut the Indians' lead to 3-1. That was it for the Rangers. When Tom got the final out, the scorecard reflected how close he came to a perfect game: one hit, one run, no walks, eight strikeouts, 28 batters faced. Not a soul besides Franco had reached first base.

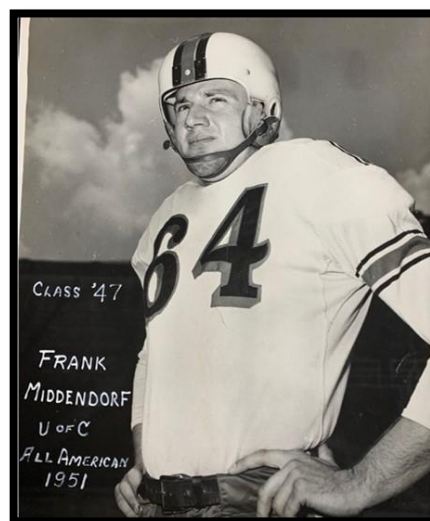


Professional Athletes

Frank Middendorf '47 – Football

National Football League Washington Redskins, 1954

- Frank was a member of the football program, but also played baseball, intramurals, and was a member of the Religious Council and the “B” Athletic Club. His senior profile reads: *“Big Frank’ is a rugged outdoor man. He has a liking for ice skating and hunting. Frank plus a pair of skates equals a streak of light. A fine center on the Spartan eleven. He should be a success in the business world. Could always be relied upon to remind Mr. L. that dinner time was near. Frank can best be described as an all-around swell fellow.”* Frank was inducted into the Roger Bacon Hall of Fame in 1994.
- Frank attended the University of Cincinnati (UC) where he played football and was the starting center for the Bearcats from 1949-51. He was both All Ohio and All Mid-American Conference selections both his junior and senior years. In 1951, he was named an Honorable Mention All-American. He was inducted into UC’s Athletic Hall of Fame in 1992.
- Upon graduation, he was drafted in the 12th round by the Washington Redskins in 1952. However, he joined the Army and served for 2 years in the northwestern United States.
- The Washington Redskins signed him to a contract in 1954, but he was released before the season began.
- Once discharged Frank was hired by United Parcel Service and had a flourishing career there for 38 years. Upon retiring, Frank moved to Florida and fulfilled his dream of fishing at leisure and spending time with family and friends.
- **Fun Fact.** To mark the 125th year of football at the University of Cincinnati, Enquirer reporter Bill Koch, assisted by Jim Kelly (long-time color commentary on UC football radio broadcasts) and Enquirer reporter Tom Groeschen (former UC beat reporter), put together an all-time UC all-star team. Frank was selected as an offensive lineman on the Second Team, All-Time University of Cincinnati football team.



Professional Athletes

Fred Moore '14 – Basketball

Portuguese ProLiga Sport Clube Beira-Mar, 2018-19

Panama Liga Profesional de Baloncesto (LPB) Caballos de Colce Aguadulce, 2021

The Basketball League Newfoundland Rogues, 2023

The Basketball League Cincinnati Warriors, 2024

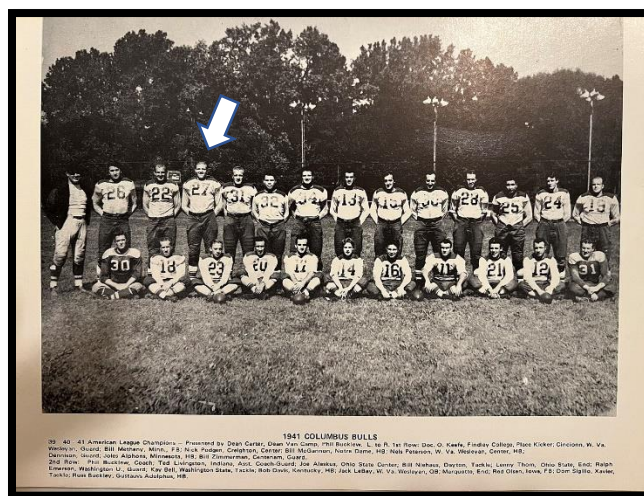
- Fred was a Cincinnati Enquirer Divisions II-IV All-Area selection in his senior season, as well as a First-Team All-Greater Catholic League (GCL) and First-Team OHSA All-Southwest District selection. He capped off his senior season as an All-State Honorable Mention selection. Roger Bacon won a Greater Catholic League championship in every season that Moore played at the varsity level. His senior year he led the Spartans to a 22-5 record and a Division III OHSA State Final Four berth.
- Fred attended Shawnee State and was a two-time All-Mid-South Conference honoree. He is a career 1000-point scorer at Shawnee State, one of only 18 players to do so at SSU. His senior year, he averaged 15.3 points (51% field goal percentage and 40% from 3-point range), 1.8 assists and 7.7 rebounds per game.
- Coming out of college Moore attended the SBS Pro Workout and also was named to the All-League team at the KPA Vegas Summer League. Both events were conducted by Free Agency Basketball.
- Fred signed a professional contract to play with Sport Clube Beira-Mar of the Portuguese ProLiga in 2018-19 where he averaged 18.7 points and 11.3 rebounds per game.
- In 2021, he signed to play with Caballos de Colce Aguadulce in the LPB Panama League – the top professional basketball league in Panama.
- Fred finished his professional career with stints with the Newfoundland Rogues (Canada) of The Basketball League (TBL) in 2023 and the TBL Cincinnati Warriors in 2024. In 14 games with the Warriors, he averaged 11.6 points and 4.4 rebounds per game.
- **Fun Fact:** In the summer of 2023, Fred was named Smith League MVP and led his team to the 2023 Smith League Championship after averaging 31.5 points per game. The Smith League is a premier summer basketball league based in Cincinnati, Ohio, founded in 2018. The league features a mix of talent, including NBA players, college athletes, and local standouts. It was established to bring high-level basketball entertainment to the Tri-State area, particularly during the NBA offseason, and to fill the void of professional basketball in the region.



Ralph Niehaus '35 – Football

American Football League Columbus Bullies, 1940-1941

- His senior superlative in the 1935 yearbook reads as follows: *“Possesses a blond streamline pompadour and keeps it slick with Sta-bac, Vaseline, and Joe Morrissey’s first-aid salve. Here’s one boy sure to be missed by the football team as well as the basketball squad.”*
- Ralph attended the University of Dayton. In 1936, he was named to the Associated Press Little College All-American Team – an honor given annually to the best small-college players at their respective positions. In 1973, he was inducted into the University of Dayton Athletic Hall of Fame where he played basketball, baseball and football from 1935-1939.
- Ralph was drafted in the 15th round (147 overall) in 1939 by the Detroit Lions of the National Football League. Before that season, he was traded to the Cleveland Rams. He played in 6 games for the Rams.
- In 1940 and 1941 he played for the Columbus Bullies of the American Football League (AFL), and was second-team all-league both years. The American Football League, also known retrospectively as the AFL III to distinguish it from earlier organizations of that name, was a professional American football league that operated from 1940 to 1941. It was created when three teams, the original Cincinnati Bengals, the Columbus Bullies, and the Milwaukee Chiefs, were lured away from the minor-league American Professional Football Association and joined three new franchises in Boston, Buffalo, and New York City in a new league. It competed against the National Football League (NFL), the oldest existing professional football league, which had been established in 1920 and reorganized in 1922.



- **Fun Fact:** As a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps, Ralph was awarded the Navy Cross and Purple Heart for “extraordinary heroism” during the battle for Guam in World War II. His citation reads as follows:

“The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to Second Lieutenant Ralph H. Niehaus (MCSN: 0-27011), United States Marine Corps

Professional Athletes

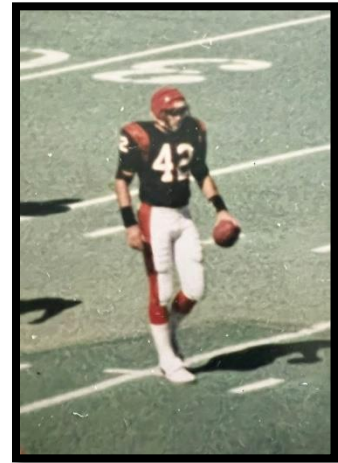
Reserve, for extraordinary heroism as Leader of a Rifle Platoon of Company K, Third Battalion, Twenty-First Marines, THIRD Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces on Guam, Marianas Islands, 26 July 1944. After strong hostile forces had enveloped his Regiment's right flank and had occupied a strategic position to the right rear of our lines, Second Lieutenant Niehaus boldly led his platoon in a determined night attack against this numerically superior Japanese force and, employing hand grenades and bayonets in a desperate hand-to-hand struggle, directed his men in killing a large number of the enemy and in driving the majority of the hostile force from the position. Although all but four of his men had been wounded and he had been wounded twice, he persisted in the attack until ordered to withdraw to permit shelling of the area. Then, personally covering the withdrawal of his men and the evacuation of the wounded although he, himself, was wounded a third time, he returned under heavy fire to carry the last of the casualties to safety, continuing in his efforts until loss of blood necessitated his removal to an aid station. By his aggressive fighting spirit, daring initiative and courageous devotion to duty, Second Lieutenant Niehaus prevented the Japanese from exploiting the envelopment of the Regiment's right flank, and his conduct throughout was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

Professional Athletes

Robert Niehoff '82 – Football

National Football League Cincinnati Bengals, 1987

- A multi-sport athlete at Roger Bacon (football, basketball and track), Rob played on the 1982 AAA State Champion Boys' Basketball Team and was named the "Most Improved Player." He was an All GCL selection in football as well. Rob was inducted into the Roger Bacon Hall of Fame in 2010.
- He attended the University of Cincinnati where he was a walk-on (non-scholarship player) on the 1982 Bearcat football team. Rob became a 4-year starter and was named U.C. Defensive Back of the Year in 1984. In 1985, he was awarded the MVP Player of the Game by Miami Radio WWNK in the Bearcats game against the University of Miami, Florida. He was named a tri-captain for the 1986 season.
- He was an undrafted free agent and signed with the Cincinnati Bengals on September 23, 1987.
- Rob played 3 games over his career and on October 11, 1987 in a 17-10 victory over the Seattle Seahawks, he intercepted a pass and returned it 19 yards.
- His last game with the Bengals was a 34-0 loss to Cleveland on October 18, 1987. He was released on October 19, 1987.
- **Fun Fact:** The 1987 NFL season featured games predominantly played by replacement players, as the National Football League Players Association (NFLPA) players were on strike from weeks four to six with week three being cancelled in its entirety. This remains the last NFL season in which regular-season games were impacted by a labor conflict (as well as the last season when non-union players were used as strikebreaking competitors).

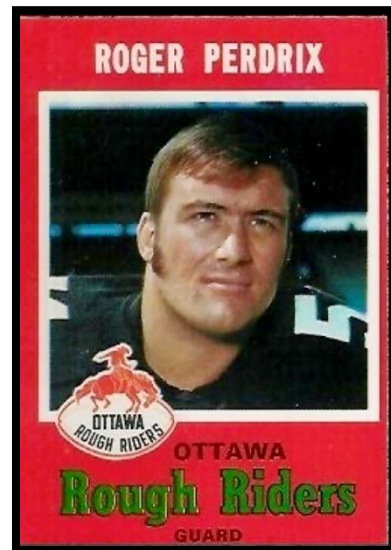


Professional Athletes

Roger Perdrix '61 – Football

Canadian Football League Ottawa Rough Riders, 1966-1974

- His senior year at Roger Bacon, he was a member of the GCL champion football team which included victories over Elder (51-0) and St. Xavier (22-6). He was inducted into the Roger Bacon Hall of Fame in 1997.
- Attended the University of Cincinnati where he lettered in football for three seasons. Named to the Missouri Valley Conference 2nd Team All-Conference Team in 1962 and 1963, he was named the 102nd best football player in the history of the University of Cincinnati.
- Roger graduated from the College of Education in 1964 with a Bachelor of Science in Education. In a speech at a banquet, he said *"I want to thank the university for what it's done to me the past four years."*
- Roger played for the Ottawa Rough Riders in the Canadian Football League (CFL) from 1966 through 1974. Named to the 1967 CFL All-Star Team, he played for three Grey Cup champions in 1968, 1969 and 1973.
- The 1973 championship was one of the most unlikely Grey Cup titles in franchise history. The 1973 Rough Riders were a team in transition. They had up-and-coming rookies mixed with veterans still remaining from the previous Grey Cup champions such as offensive lineman Tom Schuette, Roger, and Moe Racine, and star linebackers Jerry "Soupy" Campbell and Wayne Giardino. They started the season with an 0-4 record, but completely turned things around and became virtually unstoppable winning 10 of their 11 remaining regular-season games. The Rough Riders rode that wave of momentum all the way to the Grey Cup final in Toronto where they defeated the Edmonton Eskimos 22-18.
- **Fun Fact:** During the 1974 season, his last with the Rough Riders, Roger returned 2 kickoffs for a total of 33 yards – the longest being 18 yards! Not bad for an offensive lineman!

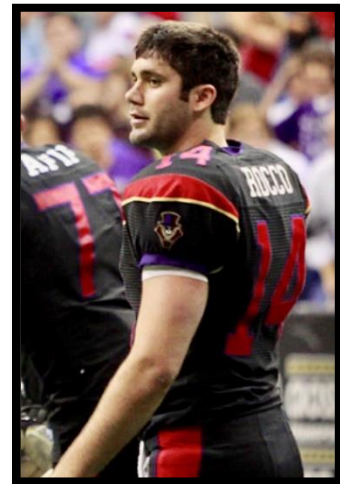


Professional Athletes

Kurt Rocco '06 – Football

Arena Football League Cleveland Gladiators, 2011 / New Orleans VooDoo, 2012-14

- His senior year, Kurt was the starting quarterback on the GCL North Co-Champion Spartans led by Coach of the Year Dan Starkey. He was a 1st Team GCL All-Star and an all-district selection.
- Kurt attended the University of Mount Union. In 2009, he was a 3rd Team Division III All-American and led the Raiders to the national championship game, a 38-28 loss to Wisconsin-Whitewater. A starter his senior year, he threw for 42 touchdowns, 3,929 yards and a completion percentage of 70.9. He won the NCAA passing efficiency award (201.87) and led the nation in passing yards.
- After going undrafted in the 2010 NFL draft, Kurt signed with the Cleveland Gladiators of the Arena Football League (AFL). He took over the starting quarterback role in the first game of the 2011 season and finished the season with 72 passing and 13 rushing touchdowns and a 112.64 quarterback rating. He guided the Gladiators to the AFL East Division Championship and a playoff berth.
- After being invited to the Miami Dolphins preseason camp for a private workout, Kurt signed with the New Orleans VooDoo for the 2012 season and had his best statistical year - 107 passing and 7 rushing touchdowns with a 115.40 quarterback rating. He helped the VooDoo clinch an AFL playoff berth. Kurt played two more seasons, finishing his AFL career with the Voodoo in 2014.
- For his 4-year professional career, he completed 1,012 passes (59.5%) for 13,227 yards, 267 passing touchdowns, 62 interceptions and a passer rating of 108.05. He also had 29 rushing touchdowns.
- **Fun Fact:** In March 2012, the VooDoo defeated the Utah Blaze 72-57 behind a record-setting night for Kurt. He completed 23 of 40 passes for 373 yards and 9 touchdowns – both setting VooDoo franchise single-game records. He tied the record for most touchdowns in a game twice later in the season when he threw for 9 touchdowns in a 68-61 victory over the Orlando Predators and a 78-77 overtime loss to the Tampa Bay Storm. He ended the 2012 season as the VooDoo single season recordholder for most passing yards (5,329) and touchdowns (107).

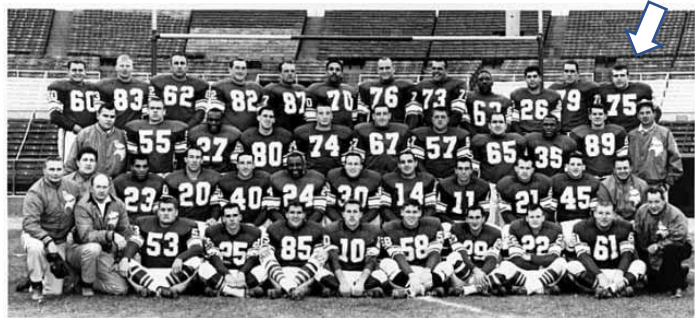


Professional Athletes

Pat Russ '58 – Football

National Football League Minnesota Vikings, 1963
Continental Football League Hartford Charter Oaks, 1965

- A 3-year starter on the varsity football team, Russ played for the legendary coach Bron Bacevich at the start of his tenure at Roger Bacon. The Spartans compiled a 20-5-4 record during this 3-year stint.
- He played college football for Purdue University from 1959 to 1961 and anchored the defensive line on the 1961 Boilermakers football team that was ranked No. 11 in the final UPI poll and led the Big Ten Conference in rushing defense, giving up an average of only 121 yards per game.
- Russ was selected by the Minnesota Vikings in the 14th round (185th overall pick) of the 1962 NFL draft. He was placed on waivers prior to the start of the regular season and spent the 1962 on the club's taxi squad.
- He played for the Vikings during the 1963 season, appearing in a total of 14 NFL games. He was with the Vikings during the 1964 pre-season but was cut in early September as part of the final roster cuts.
- He joined the Oakland Raiders of the American Football League in 1965 but was cut before the start of the regular season. He then played for the Hartford Charter Oaks of the Continental Football League (CoFL) during the 1965 season – appearing in 9 games.
- **Fun Fact:** Russ entered the NFL at a time when there were two professional competing leagues – the National Football League and the American Football League. Not only was he drafted by the Minnesota Vikings in the NFL, but he was also drafted by the AFL Oakland Raiders in the 16th round, 121st overall.



1963 MINNESOTA VIKINGS

First Row: Assistant Coach Tom McCormick, Assistant Coach Harry Gilmer, Mick Tingelhoff, Terry Dillon, Paul Flatley, Fran Tarkenton, Rip Hawkins, Karl Kasulke, Bill Butler, Larry Brown, Equipment Manager Jim Eason.
Second Row: Assistant Coach Walt Tworasky, Lee Calland, Tommy Mason, Tom Franchhauser, Tom Wilson, Bill Brown, Fred Cox, Ron VanderKelen, Chuck Lamson, Ed Sharckman, Head Coach Norm Van Brocklin.
Third Row: Trainer Fred Zambardi, John Campbell, Bob Reed, Jim Boylan, Dave O'Brien, Grady Alderman, Bill Jaska, Gerry Hult, Bob Ferguson, Jerry Reichow, Assistant Coach Darrel Brewster.
Fourth Row: Ray Winden, Don Hult, Bob Denton, Steve Stonebreaker, Gordy Smith, Jim Marshall, Paul Dickson, Errol Linden, Jim Battle, Terry Kosens, Jim Prestel, Pat Russ.

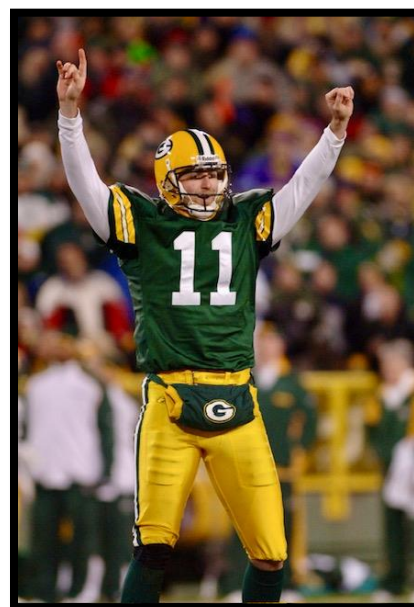
Professional Athletes

William Herbert “B.J.” Sander '99 – Football

National Football League Green Bay Packers, 2005-06

NFL Europe Hamburg Sea Devils 2005

- A letterman in football at Roger Bacon, he averaged 43.5 yards per punt as a junior. As a senior, was a first-team All-Ohio selection. He held the record for the longest field goal (60 yards vs Kettering Alter in 1998) until 2007. He was inducted into the Roger Bacon Hall of Fame in 2016.
- Attended Ohio State University and in 2003, was the first Buckeye to win the Ray Guy Award presented annually to college football's most outstanding punter. He averaged 43.3 yards per punt and was voted to the first-team, All Big Ten Team. Of his 82 kicks, a phenomenal 39 were downed inside the opposing 20-yard line – leading the nation in that figure. Two of his best efforts came against Purdue in Ohio State's final home game of the season where he punted 10 times, downing seven of those inside the 20 and five inside the 10. Sanders had five kicks of 60 or more yards, including a career best of 68 yards against San Diego State.
- He was selected in the third round of the 2004 NFL draft by the Green Bay Packers. He played in NFL Europe for the Hamburg Sea Devils in 2005 and then for the Packers during the 2005/06 season. He kicked a career-long **53-yard** punt on 2 occasions, the latest in a Green Bay Packers 20-10 loss against the Pittsburgh Steelers on November 6, 2005. He was released by the Packers in 2006 and briefly signed with the St. Louis Rams before retiring in 2006.
- **Fun Fact:** Once upon a time, B.J. posted a higher passer rating in a game than Brett Favre. On November 13, 2005 in a game against the Atlanta Falcons, the Packers found themselves with a 4th and 6 from the Atlanta 33-yard-line midway through the 3rd quarter. Coach Mike Sherman called on his secret offensive weapon and Sander completed a pass to tight end Bubba Franks for four yards. Brett Favre finished the day 26 of 39 for 252 yards, one touchdown, and one interception. His passer rating was just 82.4. But B.J. Sander? His perfect completion percentage and four yards through the air earned him a sparkling 83.3 passer rating, nearly a full point higher than Favre's.



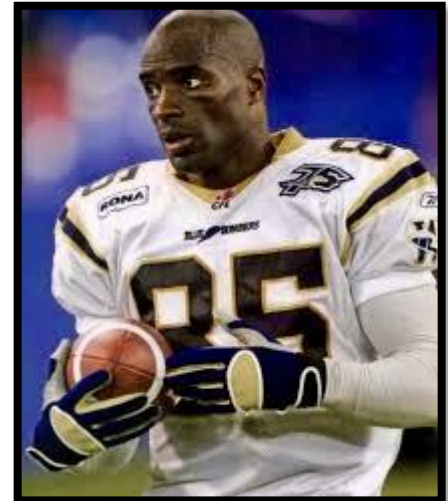
Professional Athletes

Milt Stegall '88 – Football

National Football League Cincinnati Bengals, 1992-95

Canadian Football League Winnipeg Blue Bombers, 1995-2008

- At Roger Bacon, Milt was an All-State football player, All-City basketball player and qualified for the state track meet his senior year. He was inducted into the Roger Bacon Hall of Fame in 2011.
- Milt attended Miami University, where he was a four-year football letterman from 1988 to 1991. A wide receiver, he finished with 106 receptions for 1,581 yards, and eight touchdowns. As a kick returner, he set a career record of 1,377 kick return yards which lasted until 2002. He was a three-time Mid-American All-Conference selection.
- Milt signed as an undrafted free agent with the Cincinnati Bengals. He played 21 games over 3 seasons, where he had four receptions for 43 yards and one touchdown. He was primarily used as a kick returner where he totaled 446 yards on 26 kickoffs. In the 1995 season, he was signed as a free agent by the Green Bay Packers, but was a late cut after a serious knee injury during the final days of training camp.
- Milt was an All-Star receiver for the Winnipeg Blue Bombers of the CFL. Spanning an illustrious 14-year career from 1995 to 2008, he held several major CFL records upon his retirement on February 18, 2009, including most career receiving yards (15,153), career receiving touchdowns (144), and most touchdowns scored (147).
- Considered by many to be the greatest receiver in Canadian Football history, in 2012, he was elected into the Canadian Football Hall of Fame. On August 3, 2016, at halftime of the Blue Bombers game against the Tiger-Cats, Stegall was inducted into the Winnipeg Blue Bombers Ring of Honour.
- In June 2009, Milt joined TSN as an analyst for their CFL broadcasts throughout the 2009 CFL season. He remains a prominent member of the CFL analyst panel on *CFL on TSN* broadcasts.
- **Fun Fact:** Milt's nickname is "Turtle Man." Arguably one of the most well-conditioned athletes in the CFL throughout his 14-year career with Winnipeg, he maintained a meticulous exercise and diet regimen, earning the nickname "Turtle Man" because his chiseled abdomen resembled the shell of a turtle.

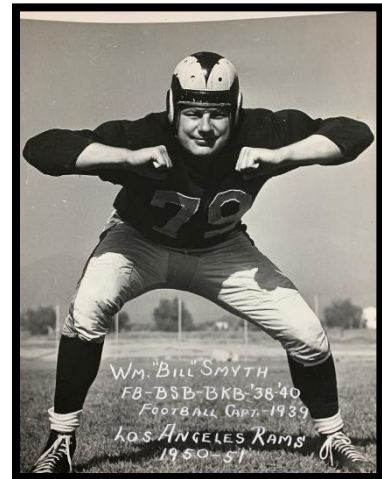


Professional Athletes

Bill Smyth '40 – Football

National Football League Los Angeles Rams, 1947-50

- At Roger Bacon, he won varsity letters in football, basketball, track, and baseball and was captain of the football team his senior year.
- In September 1940, he enrolled at Notre Dame University where he played for the freshman football team in 1940 and for the varsity as a reserve end in 1941. Due to an uncertainty with his draft status, he decided to leave Notre Dame and enrolled at the University of Cincinnati (U.C.) where he played for the 1942 Cincinnati Bearcats football team. In 1943, Bill enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and was assigned to the V-12 Navy College Training Program at Pennsylvania State University. He played for the 1943 Penn State Nittany Lions football and baseball teams.
- Bill later served in the Pacific Theatre of World War II and in February 1945, participated in the first day landings in the Battle of Iwo Jima. After 26 days of continuous combat on Iwo Jima, he was transferred to Hawaii to play for the Marines All-Star football and baseball teams.
- After leaving military service, he was offered a professional baseball contract, but decided to return Cincinnati. He played for the 1946 Bearcats football team and helped them win the Sun Bowl 18-6 over the Virginia Polytechnic Institute Gobblers – the first NCAA-sanctioned post-season football contest for U.C. Bill graduated with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Education in 1947.
- Bill was selected by the Los Angeles Rams in the seventh round (53rd overall pick) of the 1947 NFL draft. Over his four-year career (1947-50), he played both offense and defense. He appeared in 46 games and caught 13 passes for 123 yards and one touchdown.
- Bill began his coaching career in 1951 as an assistant football coach at Withrow High School and was the line coach at Xavier University in 1952.
- He served on the coaching staff of the Ottawa Rough Riders of the Canadian Football League (CFL) for 11 seasons (1956 to 1966) and won the Grey Cup in 1960. He was instrumental in recruiting fellow Roger Bacon alum Roger Perdrix '61 to play in the CFL for Ottawa.
- **Fun Fact:** Bill, along with other members of the Los Angeles Rams, appeared in the 1949 Hollywood film "Easy Living" which starred Victor Mature, Lucille Ball and Elizabeth Scott.

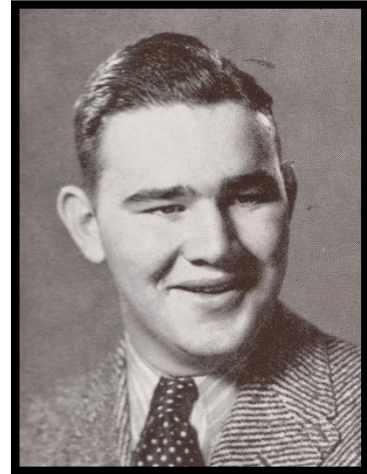


Professional Athletes

Jake Sweeney '40 – Football

National Football League Chicago Bears, 1944

- Jake played varsity football for 3 years at Roger Bacon. He was inducted into the Roger Bacon Hall of Fame in 1977.
- Played football for the University of Cincinnati in 1940-42. Due to World War II, the University of Cincinnati's 1943 and 1944 football seasons were canceled - the first time there was no football since 1884.
- In 1944, he signed with the Chicago Bears and played in 8 games – starting three.
- Following his year with the Chicago Bears, Jake returned to Cincinnati to begin building his own automotive career. After over 40 years, he decided to retire in 1987, selling his company to his two sons, Jake Sweeney Jr. and Greg Sweeney.
- **Fun Fact:** By 1969, as the Pontiac business grew, Jake Sweeney Pontiac was recognized as the largest new car dealer in the state of Ohio, selling around 1900 new Pontiacs a year, beating all other domestic and import dealers. Today, Jake Sweeney Automotive is still a family company, proudly ran by with the fourth generation of Sweeney family members.



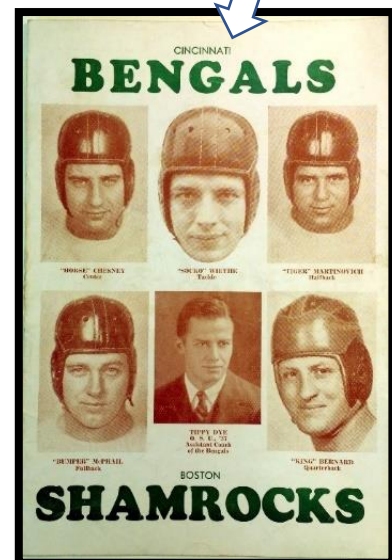
Professional Athletes

John "Socko" Wiethe '30 – Football/Basketball

National Basketball League Cincinnati Comelios, 1937-38

National Football League Detroit Lions, 1939-42

- John was a multi-sport star at Roger Bacon – football, basketball and baseball. The son of a Camp Washington grocer, he earned his nickname "Socko" at Roger Bacon for the hard-hitting way he played football. In 1971, he was the first individual inducted into the Roger Bacon Hall of Fame
- He attended Xavier University where he played football, basketball and baseball. In his junior year, he made the football All-Ohio Team at guard and also made the All-Carnegie Opponent Team. He switched to tackle his senior year and was chosen First Team All-Ohio, along with making Loyola's and Carnegie's All-Opponent teams. John is a member of the XU Legion of Honor for his football prowess. As a basketball player, in his senior year he was captain and MVP of the basketball team and was inducted into the XU Basketball Hall of Fame in 1982.
- From 1935-1939, John was a member of the faculty at Roger Bacon where he was the Director of Physical Education and taught Commercial Law IV, History I& III, Typewriting as well as coaching. While on staff, John coached (at various times) football, basketball, swimming, track and golf. He was head coach of the 1938 football team - the first undefeated season in school history.
- Between 1934 and 1938, he played professional basketball for a number of teams in Dayton and Cincinnati. He spent the 1937-38 season with the Richmond King Clothiers / Cincinnati Comelios of the National Basketball League (the precursor to the NBA) as a player/head coach. He averaged 5 points a game playing the center position.
- In 1938, he played for the original Cincinnati Bengals football franchise. Home games were at XU's stadium. The original Cincinnati Bengals professional football team was established as part of the American Football League in 1937. The AFL folded after the 1937 season, so the Bengals continued as an independent team until the formation of a new AFL in 1939. The program for the game with Boston points out that *"The Shamrocks, like the Bengals, are a big time, independent pro team. They are affiliated with no league, but play the best pro teams in New England and annually take a jaunt through the west to take on the best available teams."*



Professional Athletes

- In 1939 at age 26, he signed a contract with the Detroit Lions roster as a 195-pound offensive guard / linebacker – a time before two-platoon football when players often had to play offense and defense the full game. He played in 35 games over 4 years between 1939 and 1942. He was named First Team All-Pro in 1939 and 1940. One of his Detroit teammates was Byron "Whizzer" White, a former associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court recalled in a 1978 Enquirer interview: *"He was not indestructible, but almost. A terrific competitor, the kind you liked on your side."*
- In 1945, he took over as offensive line coach at the University of Cincinnati. He became the head coach of the mens' basketball team in 1946 and led the Bearcats for six seasons. From 1946-52, he compiled a 106-47 record (a winning percentage of .693), coached the Bearcats to five Mid-American Conference titles, had the school's first 20-win season and first team to be nationally ranked (1948-49), and first post season appearance in 1951 at the National Invitational Tournament (NIT). One of John's players during his tenure as basketball coach at the University of Cincinnati was Tay Baker, who went on to be one of the Bearcats' most successful basketball coaches himself. *"He coached like he did everything else,"* Baker said. *"There was no one like him. He really started the UC basketball program toward the big time. He recruited, he scheduled strong competition, and he brought in the business community to support the team."* He was elected to the University of Cincinnati Athletic Hall of Fame in 2006.
- Although he officially retired from sports before his 40th birthday, John still kept his sports interest. In 1967, he led a group with a bid for ownership of the Cincinnati Bengals, a bid which he lost out to Paul Brown.
- After coaching he became a successful attorney and started his own practice in Cincinnati. He entered politics and was the chairman of the Hamilton County Democratic Party for 34 years.
- Fun Fact:** The Cincinnati Model Shoes (John was the offensive line coach as well as coaching at Roger Bacon), a semi pro football team, had a great year in 1936 but had to scramble to get opponents to show up. One day the coach for a team from Fort Wayne called to cancel because he didn't have enough equipment for his players. The Cincinnati head coach, Hal Pennington, told him not to worry, then drove over to Roger Bacon where RB head football coach Wiethe let him raid the team locker room. When Fort Wayne took the field, a couple of fans from Roger Bacon commented on how familiar the Indiana uniforms were.

