

Association of Western Hills Alumni Athletes
AWHAA-Preserving and maintaining the rich tradition of
Western Hills athletics



Volume 11

Number 2

Summer 2014

UPCOMING EVENT
"HALL OF HONOR"
DINNER

Wednesday, March 18,
 2015

5:30 pm

The Meadows on Cleves
 Warsaw Pike
 Addyston, Ohio

Wednesday, March 18, 2015
is the date for the "Hall of
Honor" Dinner. Outstanding
West High alumni athletes
will be inducted at the event
to be held at The Meadows.
This is a fundraising event to
support the WHHS Athletic
Department and
maintenance of the "Hall of
Honor."

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Recap of 2013-2014 West High Athletics

by William J. Gerhardt, MD, Class of
 1946

What's the current status of athletics at Western Hills High School? Here is a summary of the past season:

FOOTBALL

The Mustangs finished with a 6-4 winning record, their first winning season since 2010 when they were 7-3 in Coach Paul Jenne's first season. Quarterback Kimani Murray passed and ran for 1,642 total yards, played safety and was the punter.

WRESTLING

Senior Josh Batchelor, who was First Team All-League in football, was Second Team All-League in wrestling with a career record of 60 wins, 42 pins in the 220 pound class. Two freshmen were league champions in the 106 and 113 pound weight class.

BASKETBALL

Although West High had a losing record of 3-18, junior Dejuan "Peanut" Sherman had a 23.7 point per game average which ranked him third in the Cincinnati Metro Athletic Conference (CMAC). He had two career-high 30 point performances and scored over

20 points ten times this season.

BASEBALL

West High had two no-hit games this past season for the first time in the history of the school. Senior Eduardo Rodriguez pitched a no-hitter in 2013 and again in 2014 as did junior Chris Reed in 2014. The Mustangs had a 16-9 record and were CMAC champions with a 10-1 record. Jim Holland has been the coach since 2008 and West High had its first post-season victory since he started coaching. Rodriguez was the winning pitcher in that game. As a pitcher/first baseman, he had an ERA of 1.9 and a 5-3 record with 50 strikeouts in 40 innings. His batting average was .500 with 30 hits and 26 RBI. Rodriguez was the Conference Player of the Year, the Enquirer's Second Team All-City, and he received a scholarship to play at Wabash College in Indiana.

SOFTBALL

Sophomore Sonja Rembort had a 2.15 ERA with 74 strikeouts and was First Team All-Conference with two more years to pitch. West High finished with an 8-4 record.

Good luck to the athletes at West High for the coming year!

2014 MUSTANG FOOTBALL SCHEDULE	
8/29	@Lakota East-7:30
9/05	@Turpin -7:00
9/12	@Roger Bacon-7:30
9/19	Edgewood -7:00
9/26	Woodward*-7:00
10/03	@Shroder Paideia*- 7:00
10/10	Taft*- 7:00
10/17	@Hughes*-7:00
10/24	Aiken*-7:30
Conference Game= *	

2014 VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE	
8/25	Mt. Healthy-6:30
8/26	@Shroder*-6:30
9/09	@Aiken*-6:30
9/09	Taft*-8:00
9/16	Woodward-6:30
9/22	@Withrow*-6:30
9/23	@Taft*-6:30
9/25	Shroder*-6:30
9/30	@Hughes*-6:30
10/02	Aiken*-6:30
10/04	Ponitz Career Tech-10am
10/04	Thurgood Marshall-12pm
10/07	@Woodward-6:30

West High Legend Don Zimmer Passes

by William J. Gerhardt, MD, Class of 1946

No West High athlete received as much national press as did our Don Zimmer at the time of his death, June 4, 2014, at the age of 83.

"He was just a baseball man," the headlines cried. Don himself would admit that the only check he ever received in his whole life was baseball submitted (minor league in 1949 through his Senior Adviser status with the Tampa Bay Rays into 2014). He had heart surgery in mid-April and was in a rehabilitation center in Florida when the end came. He had been a popular fixture in professional baseball for 66 years! He was a player, manager, coach, and executive during that time. That had to be the longest-lasting career in baseball history, or any profession.

Zimmer played for the only Brooklyn Dodger team to win a World Series. He played for the original New York Mets under manager Casey Stengel, then the Chicago Cubs, Cincinnati Reds, and Washington Senators. He managed San Diego, Boston, Texas, and the Cubs. He had played several years in the minors before hitting the majors in 1954 to start his 12 year major league career as a player.

It was interesting that Jim Frey and Don Zimmer were in the visitor's dugout with the Cub's team when Pete Rose made his triumphant return as Reds player-manager on August 17, 1984. Rose got 8 hits in that series! Don Zimmer was a Skyline Chili and Graeter's ice cream man, relating him to the west side of Cincinnati where his roots were. No one was closer to Don than Jim Frey who played with Don on the 1947 Bentley Post team that won the American Legion National Championship when each player received a signed baseball from Babe Ruth who was there in person. Don and Jim started as players on the West High Maroon baseball team and thirty years later managed Major League teams that played against each other. Both men married their high school sweethearts. Both couples started dating with a hamburger and



Photo: Cincinnati Enquirer file photo

milkshake at Peggy's Grill across from West High. Don and "Soot" were married at home plate in Elmira, NY and their honeymoon was the game that followed. They had two children and four grandchildren.

Zim played mostly shortstop as a player and he won 906 games as a manager. He was voted National League Manager of the Year with the Cubs in 1989. Don was playing with the Brooklyn Dodgers when Jackie Robinson broke into the majors, 1954-56. Don played with Pee Wee Reese and with the University of Cincinnati's own Sandy Koufax. Later on, Zim would be coach for the Yankees during four of their World Series Championships.

Don Zimmer was a three sport star at Western Hills High School. He ranks #13 on the Enquirer list of Top 50 Greatest Area Baseball Players. At West High, Don Zimmer led the Maroons to the PHSL Championship in his junior year, beat Purcell 14-13 to break their 31 game winning streak over a four year period, and was selected All-City quarterback as a junior. In the spring of 1948, West High captured its first of five Ohio State Baseball Championships with a team record of 21-1 representing probably the "strongest baseball team in the school's history" with Don Zimmer at shortstop.

As a senior, Don led West High to an 8-2 record on the football field and their second consecutive PHSL Football Championship. He was voted "Mr. Western Hills." Zimmer, Glenn Sample and Jack Gannon were First Team All-City. In 1949, the West High baseball team lost in the district tournament to Courter Tech 2-1.

"Zim" has the distinction of having a book written about him with a foreword by Joe Torre titled *Zim: A Baseball Life*. AWHAA had Don Zimmer and Jim Frey appear as speakers at our first Sports Banquet in 2003 and I obtained Don's autograph on my printed program that evening. It was his 54th year in professional baseball. It was a great spirit-filled evening as Don and Jim shared stories about the good old days at West High.

Don Zimmer was a true sports legend and will be deeply missed.

To learn more about distinguished Western Hills athletic alumni, log onto WesternHillsAlumni.com

Five WHHS Athletes Added To CPS Hall of Fame

by William J. Gerhardt, MD, "46

The CPS Athletic Hall of Fame was founded in 2010 when Coach Paul Nohr, Glenn Sample, and Deb Gentile of Western Hills were three of the 14 initial honorees.

In 2011, Eddie Brinkman, Willis Conatser, and Don Zimmer were inducted. In 2012 there were none, but in 2013 Ken Selby was inducted.

In the spring of 2014, five more West High greats were inducted out of 14 new Hall of Famers. They were Karl "Tuffy" Rhodes, Coach Arch McCartney, Mike Schott, Rodney Heath, and Phil Wheeler.

FROM THE AWHAA PRESIDENT BILL ROTHAN

As the year 2015 dawns, I would like to CHALLENGE all former inductees and members of AWHAA to make this another successful year. I CHALLENGE you to get the word out to former athletes and students who supported our teams to join us for the 2015 Hall of Honor Dinner. We all know what a great night this is for renewing old friendships and the opportunity to meet, in person, the legends of West High athletics. They have some amazing stories to tell, many that never made the yearbooks, newspapers, or history books!

So my CHALLENGE to all is help us to make this dinner a sell-out.

Again, thank you to everyone who makes this memorable night possible. Sincerely yours,
Bill Rothan
AWHAA President

2014 was a catch-up year for West High, thanks to our Dick McCoy and Lori Troescher of AWHAA who are on the Selection Committee representing our alma mater.

ARCH MCCARTNEY was the original Athletic Director and a coach, 1928-1955. He coached football when West High beat Elder on Thanksgiving Day an unheard of three straight years (1931, 1932, and 1933) and he coached track and field, tennis, and golf. When the new Western Hills baseball stadium was dedicated in May, 1970, it was named McCartney Field in his honor. Coach McCartney died in 1984 at age 86.

PHIL WHEELER, class of 1952, was a 6'4" All-City left end in football. As a star center on the basketball team, he averaged 25 points a game and was First Team All-City and Third Team All-State as a Maroon senior. He was voted #2 in Hamilton County's Top 20 (to #1 Robin Freeman of Hughes) and is #24 on the Enquirer list of Top 100 All-Time Basketball Players, tops of all West High hoopsters. He was a 1000 point scorer for U.C. during his three years of varsity ball there. He died in 2012 at age 78.

KARL "TUFFY" RHODES, class of 1986, earned three varsity letters in basketball and baseball where he was an outstanding pitcher and centerfield. He was voted "Player of the Year" as a senior by the Cincinnati Enquirer when he batted

.512 and pitched to a 7-2 record with an ERA of 0.72. The 1986 team won West High's fifth and last State Championship and he was voted First Team All-League and All-City and a High School All-American. He was drafted by the Houston Astros, played for the Chicago Cubs (1992-1995) and homered three times off Doc Gooden of the Mets on Opening Day, 1994. Playing the remainder of his career in Japan, he tied Sadaharu Oh for the most home runs in a single season, 55. He ended his career in Japan in 2006 with 365 home runs, the most ever in the Japanese Major League and a total 474 career home runs. He is #33 on the Enquirer's list of Greatest Baseball Players from the Cincinnati Area. Karl Rhodes recently moved from the Houston area to live in Indian Hill, his boyhood dream.

MICHAEL SCHOTT, class of 1966, played football at West High where he earned Second Team All-City honors by the Cincinnati Enquirer as a senior. He also played basketball and ran track where he still holds the best 80 yard low hurdles event. He was West High's All-Around Boy in 1966. He was starting defensive back in his junior year at Ohio University when the team was 10-0 and went to the Tangerine Bowl. He is in the Ohio University Hall of Fame and was a collegiate Academic All-American in 1967, 1968, and 1969 and was awarded Ohio U's Outstanding Scholar-Athlete in 1970. He did post-graduate studies at Harvard where he played on their rugby squad. He died in 2008 at age 60 after a successful business career.

RODNEY HEATH, class of 1992, was a three year starter for the West High football team. As a senior, he was voted Most Valuable Defensive Player for his team and the league. He was First Team All-City and All-State as well as the Cincinnati Post Defensive Player of the Year. He played in the East-West All-Star Game and was honored as a member of the Channel 5 All-Star Team. He continued his career with the Minnesota Golden Gophers where he started three years as a cornerback and punt returner. He was voted Second Team All-Big 10 as a junior in 1995. He was signed as a free agent by the Cincinnati Bengals and played cornerback and on special teams, 1999-2001. He lives in Liberty Township and is the defensive coordinator for the Lakota West Firebirds and is in his tenth season.

In addition to being inducted into the Cincinnati Public School Hall of Fame, all five are members of the Western Hills High School Athletic Hall of Honor.

New Look

There is a different look to your AWHAA newsletter. After many years of dedication and hard work, AWHAA Secretary Gail Suiter has decided to step down. I was asked and accepted to take her place. Knowing that I could not duplicate her work, my first newsletter is created from the programs I have available to me. I hope to live up to the high standards that Gail has set. All members of AWHAA would like to thank Gail and wish her the best.

-Susan Meier Brown

Association of Western Hills Alumni Athletes

202 Rosemont Ave.
Fort Thomas, KY 41075

Athletic Hall of Honor Nomination
(Please forward to: Bill Rothan,
3897 Robinhill Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45211

Name:

Phone:

Graduation year from West High:

E-mail Address:

Street Address:

City/State/Zip:

Honors or Special Recognition*:

*Attach additional sheet if necessary.
Biographical Information must be provided
for nomination consideration.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Association of Western Hills Alumni Athletes
(AWHAA)

Dues are \$10.00 payable each July 1. Make
check payable to AWHAA

Name:

Phone:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Graduation year from West High:

Email address:

Mail application and dues to Bill Meier, 5655
Antoninus Dr. Cincinnati, OH 45238. If you have
questions, contact AWHAA President Bill Rothan,
513-748-7874 or wdr51@live.com.

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