

Ross Hall of Fame inductee. 1993

Jack Baron – Dick Garcia

Jack Baron and Dick Garcia were the first Ohio High School State Tennis Tournament champions at Fremont Ross.

The duo won the doubles title in 1953 after finishing runner-up the previous year. The state championship was the first for Ross in a sport other than swimming.

Basically self-taught, Baron and Garcia defeated four opposing teams to win the state crown. After defeating Dave Buss and John Oetennger of Cincinnati Walnut Hills 6-4, 6-3 in the state semifinals, the Ross team lost its first set of the tourney in the finals.

Pat Arnold and Mac Maffette of Middletown beat Jack and Dick 6-4. That served as a wake-up call for the tandem.

In the second set, the Fremonters won 6-3 and took the state title with a 6-4 final set victory.

The following year, Baron reached the state quarterfinals as a singles player, going through his junior and senior seasons undefeated in singles.

Baron and Garcia starred in basketball at Ross with Garcia serving as captain and winning All-Buckeye League honors his senior season.

The duo set a standard for future Ross tennis players through their hard work.

That hard work Garcia exhibited in his teenage years continued afterward and into his career as a medical doctor, practicing in the Department of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine at the Cleveland Clinic.

Tragically, Baron passed away in his mid-20s.
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Lester “Legs” Binkley

Lester “Legs” Binkley thought so much of Fremont Ross football that he served two terms as the Little Giants’ head football coach.

Uncle Sam and World War II had something to do with Binkley’s two stints. The world conflict came in the middle of his Ross coaching career.

From 1941-43, Binkley’s Little Giants won 15 games, lost 11 and tied one. Binkley gave way to Sive Kohr when he went to serve in the United States Navy as an officer and took over from Kohr on his return in 1946.

In the next four years through 1949, Binkley’s teams were 32-6-1, sandwiching 9-1 records around an 8-1-1 mark in 1947 and 1949.

Binkley’s career coaching record at Ross was 47-17-2.

Les graduated from Fremont Ross in the late 1920’s, playing on the 1927-28 basketball team that went to the state tournament. It was in basketball that he picked up his nickname because of his long legs and 6-foot-4 frame.

Besides being a standout in basketball and football, Binkley was accomplished in baseball and track. At one time, Binkley competed in a baseball game and ran events in a track meet at the same time.

That accomplishment was one of many that have carried “Legs” into the Ross Athletic Hall of Fame.

Norman C. Bray

Norman C. “Norm” Bray touched the lives of many Fremont Ross High School students in the classroom and on the athletic field.

During his 26-year stint at Ross, Bray served as the football, track, and cross-country coach, either as an assistant or as head coach.

It was his enthusiasm in the pursuit of his duties and the way that he passed that onto his students that helped him earn the nickname “Storm ‘in Norman.” It was a playful tag for a person who gave and shared love.

As head track and field coach from 1979-1987, Bray produced a 63-18 record. As cross-country coach from 1980-86, he had a 28-21 record.

While the records were obvious, Bray was a confidant and a friend to young and old. He saw the good in each one and helped each person exploit it for their own betterment.

A recipient of the Bronze Star and Purple Heart during World War II, Bray commanded respect but also returned it.

Norm believed in being the best and helping people be their best, doing so through words and deeds.

He gave of himself, serving the City of Fremont as a councilman for several years. Norm was awarded the 1987 “Outstanding Citizen Award” by the Sandusky County Chamber of Commerce.

“Storm ‘in Norman” touched the lives of many, and to all those he touched, he will forever be an inspiration and a friend.

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Lori Lawrence

Lori has the honor of being the first female to be inducted into the Fremont Ross Athletic HOF.

From 1976-79, Lawrence lettered in four sports while wearing the purple and white of the Little Giants. She is the first female athlete at Ross to attain that distinction.

Lori won three letters in basketball, two in track, and one each in softball and volleyball, attesting to her athletic versatility. She was named the most valuable player in basketball, volleyball, and softball her senior year.

While Lori shone brightly on the athletic field, she also starred in the classroom.

She was inducted into the National Honor Society during her junior and senior years at Ross. After leaving Ross, she graduated from Bowling Green State University in the top 20 percent of her class.

After graduating from college, Lori coached basketball for a year at Fremont Junior High School before moving up the street to a science teaching job at Fremont St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School, where she still teaches.

At St. Joe, Lawrence was an assistant track coach for four years and served as the varsity volleyball coach one season. With those credentials, Lori deservedly earned her spot in her high school alma mater's Hall of Fame.

Shawn McCarthy

Shawn McCarthy was a two-sport star at Fremont Ross, lettering for three years in both football and basketball, but it was football in which he won the greatest acclaim.

He holds several Ross records, including the longest field goal, 44 yards; the most pass completions in a single season; and the most yards passing for a single season, 1,449.

One of McCarthy's field goals, a 40-yarder in the rain and wind at Donnell Field in Findlay with 10 seconds remaining in the game, beat the Trojans 13-11 and ended Findlay's eight-game winning streak in 1984.

Shawn was the Buckeye Conference kicker of the year. He earned all-conference honors in 1984 and '85 and was a "Bally" High School All-American punter in 1985. Shawn was the Little Giants' most valuable player in 1985 while winning first-team Associated Press All-Northwest District honors.

In the 1986 Ohio High School Coaches Association North-South Game in Canton, McCarthy punted a 41-yard average, kicked two field goals, and threw a touchdown pass in overtime, leading the North to a 12-6 win. He was named offensive MVP.

Shawn went from Ross to Purdue University, where he lettered four years. He was an Academic All-American in 1988 and first-team All-Big Ten in 1989 as a punter.

Shawn went on to become a punter for the New England Patriots.

Topping it off, Shawn designed the logo of the fraternity he is now enshrined in, the Fremont Ross Athletic Hall of Fame.

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John Titsworth

When it came to describing John Titsworth, four words were used: "John did it all!" For 30 years John served his high school alma mater as a teacher, coach, trainer, and athletic director. He was an innovator and a master at gimmickry.

During World War II while serving as swim coach, John helped set up "Telegraphic" swim meets.

One such meet was with a team from Kenosha, Wisconsin. John made arrangements with the Wisconsin high school coach to have his Kenosha team and Titsworth's swimming Little Giants swim in their respective home pools at the same time, with the times of each event being compared telegraphically to determine placings.

In 1943, John coached the Ross state championship team. After George Gruse returned from the war, John gave up the head job but remained the assistant swim coach, assisting through 1958 while handling athletic director duties at Ross.

Ironically, it is a little-known fact that while coaching swimming, John Titsworth could not swim. At one meet after being tossed ceremoniously into the pool, members of Titsworth's squad had to rescue him from the pool.

John served as Ross's athletic director until 1964, giving way to another Hall of Fame member, Dick Sherman.

A graduate of Findlay College, John also helped coach the first football team at Fremont St. Joseph Central Catholic High School.

Whatever the duty was, athletically or academically, while John Titsworth was at Ross, he, indeed, "did it all".