

Ross Hall of Fame inductee, 1996

Steve Brudzinski

Steve was an all-around athletic star at Fremont. He earned seven letters—two in football and basketball, and three more in track and field before graduating in 1936.

He was the captain and most valuable player of the 1935 Fremont Team, which finished 8-1-1. His efforts that season earned him All-Ohio honors. On September 13, 1935, Steve led his team onto the field for the first game under the lights in Fremont. The team was 7-0 before dropping a 13-7 game to Sandusky in front of 8,000 fans. The game had been billed as the state championship game between the powerful high school teams. While an integral part of the Fremont athletic scene, Steve was learning from his high school coaches' techniques he would later use. Collegiate: At Bowling Green State University, Steve earned three letters in football and two more in baseball for the Falcons. Steve captained the B.G.S.U. football team in his senior year. In 1967, he was elected to the B.G.S.U. Hall of Fame. Professional: Steve went on to coach track, basketball, football, and golf at Circleville High School. His 1950 golf team won the state championship. Also in 1950, Steve won the U.S. Junior Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Service award.

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Shannon Carter Currie

One thing you did not do when Shannon Carter was on the track: Blink. If you did, you would miss her. Shannon earned four letters in track at Fremont Ross from 1985 to 1988. She added two more letters to the Little Giants volleyball team. A qualifier for the state track meet four times, Shannon set the Little Giant records in the 100-meter hurdles of 14.5 seconds; the 300-meter hurdles, 43.06 seconds; and the 400-meter dash, 59.8 seconds. She was also a member of the record-setting 800-meter relay team. Shannon was named the Buckeye Conference Track Athlete of the Year as a junior, then returned to win the same honor her senior year in the Buckeye Central Conference. Shannon was second in the 100-meter hurdles and duplicated the feat in the 300-meter hurdles in the 1988 state meet at Ohio Stadium in Columbus. Those performances came after her junior year, when she was fourth in the 100-meter hurdles and fifth in the 300-meter hurdles at the 1987 state meet. Collegiate: University of Arkansas, Shannon was a four-year letter winner for the Razorbacks on the track team. She earned All-America status in 1991 and was a member of the All-Southeastern Conference team in 1991 and 1992. She was a member of the 1991 International Sports Exchange Team that competed in 10 Eastern European countries. Shannon also participated in the 1992 Olympic Trials.

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James "Pete" Davis

James “Pete” Davis won eight varsity letters from the Fremont Ross teams from 1960 to 1963. He lettered three times in both basketball and cross-country, with two other Little Giant letters in track and field.

Pete was a basketball standout. He was All-Buckeye Conference his junior and senior seasons and earned honorable mention All-Ohio in 1962. He served as a co-captain his last two seasons and was the team’s most valuable player as a junior and senior. Pete led the team in scoring, rebounds, and foul shooting those years, and his career scoring mark of 814 points stood for 21 seasons before another Ross Hall of Famer, Greg Bender, broke the longstanding mark.

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Bob Demmell

“Give the ball to Bob!” That was a good call when Bob Demmell played football for the Fremont Ross Little Giants. Often, Demmell would put points on the board for Ross. In one of the two gridiron games played in Ross history against cross-town rival Fremont St. Joseph Central Catholic, Bob scored 41 points. He scored six touchdowns and kicked five extra points in that 1944 game. During the 1944 season, Bob led the Buckeye League in scoring with 77 points, matching 11 touchdowns with 11 extra points. Altogether, Bob scored 156 points that season, erasing the Ross record – at that time – of 148 points set by another Hall of Famer, Bob Shaw in 1939.

Bob was co-captain along with Bud Inks of the 1944 team, which posted an 8-1-1 mark. That year, with Bob shouldering a big chunk of the load, Ross outscored opponents 253-45. In 1944, Bob was named to the Associated Press and United Press International All-Ohio first teams, and to the All-Buckeye League first team. He was named the captain of the U.P.I. team, an honor equivalent to today’s “Mr. Football” in Ohio. Collegiate: The Ohio State University, Bob Lettered twice as a defensive back. He once held the record for the longest punt return of 87 yards in Ohio Stadium history by an OSU player.

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Doug Gallagher

Mention baseball around long-time Fremont Ross sports fans, and Doug Gallagher’s name pops into the conversation.

For good reason.

He lettered three times for the Little Giants from 1956-58. The big left-hander had a 12-4 record, which included six no-hit games.

Doug saved the best for last, winning all seven decisions in his senior season to go with a 0.52 earned run average. He faced 151 batters in his senior season and struck out 132 of them. In the district finals, Gallagher was a study in perfection, tossing a perfect game to lead Ross into the regional tournament.

Doug was named first-team All-Buckeye Conference and first-team All-Ohio his senior season.

In 1958, Doug signed a professional contract with the Detroit Tigers, making a brief appearance before leaving pro baseball in 1967.

He returned to Fremont to coach the Thurston Zwir American Legion Post team for three seasons.

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James "Pete" Michaels

James "Pete" Michaels was an athlete at Fremont Ross in the early 1940s, but to many, he will be remembered simply as "coach".

"The coach" is being inducted posthumously.

From 1957 to 1987, Pete coached football, boys' and girls' tennis, wrestling, and baseball at Ross.

He was an assistant football coach at Canton McKinley High School before returning home to Fremont in 1957 to assist Hall of Fame coach Mal Mackey with the Ross football team. Football, his family says, was his first love, but he did very well in his "other sports loves."

His boys' tennis team won 240 matches and lost 168 from 1963-1987, and his girls' teams were 80-39 from 1979-1989. He coached wrestling for 14 years and served as an assistant baseball coach for 1 year.

Among Pete's coaching highlights was directing Ross Hall of Famer Jim Flower to the state singles championship in 1974. He also helped Flower finish second in the state in 1973 and 1975.

He was the Buckeye Conference tennis "Coach of the Year" four times, and his girls team won the Buckeye Central Conference championship in 1987. He was the BCC Coach of the Year in 1987.

During his athletic days at Ross, Pete's 33-yard field goal in 1942 stood at the Ross record until it was broken by another Hall of Fame member, Shawn McCarthy in 1983.

Pete, after serving in the United States Navy during World War II from 1943-1946, lettered in football at Bowling Green State University in 1949. He returned to military service for a short stint after college, serving in the Korean War in 1951-52.