

Ross Hall of Fame inductee. 1997

Terry Bates

Terry Bates' star shone brightest on the football field, especially in the 1976 season when he broke a 20-year-old record set by another Hall of Famer, Jim Tiller. That season, his last for the Little Giants, Terry ran over Ross's opposition for 1623 yards. Whenever "22" had the pigskin placed in his hands, Ross fans cheered in anticipation. Each time Terry touched the ball, the Little Giants were assured of nearly 6 yards, while he averaged about 163 yards per game. The yardage racked up by Bates erased Tiller's single-season record of 1598 yards, set two decades earlier. Tiller was on hand that record-setting night to watch a 24-3 win over Sandusky at Harmon Stadium. That year, Terry scored 18 touchdowns while generating 114 points. He led the Little Giants to a 7-1-2 mark under Coach Pete Moore. Terry was named the Associated Press Northwest Ohio Player of the Year in Division I and was a first-team AP All-Ohio selection while winning high school All-American honorable mention honors. In track, Terry was a member of the record setting mile-relay team. Before graduating in the spring of 1977, Terry won the Baron-Sherman Award, emblematic of the outstanding senior athlete.

Ross Hall of Fame inductee. 1997

Clarence Childs

Clarence Childs was a member of the first Fremont High School football team in 1895. He captained the 1897 team.

He played during a time when the sport bounced between high school and club status. Besides football, he competed on the track and field teams. It was in track and field that Childs earned fame after the turn of the century.

Details of Childs' career are sketchy in that era's newspapers.

His post-high school years are more notable.

In 1912, Childs qualified for the United States Olympic team in the hammer throw. The Olympics were in Sweden. One of Childs' teammates was the legendary Native American Jim Thorpe.

Childs, believed to be the only Fremont High School graduate to have competed in the Olympics, won a Bronze Medal in the hammer throw.

Ross Hall of Fame inductee. 1997

George Gruse

George Gruse was one in a line of ultra-successful swim coaches at Fremont Ross.

Gruse served as head swim coach for 15 years and as an assistant swim coach for three seasons. He took two years out of his teaching and coaching career to serve in the armed forces.

George's teams won state titles in 1939, 1941, 1942, and 1953, as Ross dominated high school swimming in the Buckeye State. His team was state meet runners-up in 1949, 1950, and 1952.

During those state meets, Gruse coached several state champions, including Benny Hayes and Dean Hess, both of whom went on to win national high school swimming titles.

George's teaching career at Ross covered 39 years. He served as a coach in various sports for 20 of those years.

Ross Hall of Fame inductee, 1997

Dean Hess

Dean Hess was a blur in the pool from 1939-43 for Fremont.

He set records in the 220-yard and 200-yard freestyles while swimming for the Aqua Giants. Those marks stood for 23 years before being broken. In his senior year, he was the first "all events" winner for his team.

Also in his senior season, Dean was a member of Fremont's state championship medley relay team. In that same season, Dean was the district, state, and national high school champion in the 200-yard freestyle.

Dean won a pair of letters by swimming in the pool at the old Fremont Junior High School. In 1964-65, Dean returned to the pool to coach the junior high swimmers.

After graduation, he won five "Battle Stars" while serving in the U.S. Navy in the European and Pacific theaters. Prior to seeing action in World War II, he was a member of the US Navy swim team.

He also attended Bowling Green State University, served as an Amateur Athletic Union swim coach in 1965, and was a YMCA swim coach in Fremont and Lima.

Ross Hall of Fame inductee, 1997

Dan Linder

Dan Linder was a two-sport star for Fremont Ross, lettering three times for the swim team as a diver and twice for the Little Giants track team during the 1966-69 school years.

As a diver, Dan won the 1967-68 season district championship, earning him a berth in the state tournament. That accomplishment followed a season in which he set the Buckeye Conference Meet's point record in diving.

Dan used some of that diving prowess to help set the Ross pole vault mark of 13'6" in 1969. IN the 1969 season, he tied the previous Ross vault record before breaking it in the Ohio Track Classic.

The co-captain of the 1968-69 swimming and diving team, Dan capped off his senior year by winning two prestigious awards at Ross. He was voted the Baron-Sherman Award as the Little Giants' top senior athlete and won the first Svanoe Scholarship Award.

Dan was an “F” club officer during his junior and senior years and served on the Ross High School student council for four years. After graduation, Dan attended Capital University before serving in the United States Air Force for 4 years.

Ross Hall of Fame inductee, 1997

James Ohms,

Jim Ohms earned 10 letters from 1957 to 1961 for the Fremont Ross Little Giants. He lettered four times in football and three times in both track and basketball.

One of the highlights of Jim’s football career was completing the longest pass interception return, 96 yards, for a touchdown.

Jim was named to the first-team offense and second-team defense on the All-Buckeye Conference football team his senior season. He was a Class AA Associated Press All-Ohio selection and was an honorable mention on the national high school All-American team.

In the summer of 1961, he was selected to play in the Ohio High School Coaches Association All-Star Game.

Jim attended Purdue University on an athletic scholarship after graduating from Ross.

Ross Hall of Fame inductee. 1997

Shawn Simms

Shawn Simms lettered in four sports from 1978 to 1981 at Fremont Ross. He was the first to accomplish that feat. Shawn won three letters in football and added a single letter in basketball, baseball, and track. “Defense” was the name of Shawn’s game for the Little Giants. In his senior year, he was named one of the best defensive players in football and the best defensive player on the basketball team.

He earned Buckeye Conference football second-team, Associated Press All-Northwest Ohio, and second-team AP All-Ohio at linebacker his junior season. Shawn followed that up the following year, serving as a team captain and earning first-team honors on both offense and defense in the Buckeye Conference, and was the conference “lineman of the year.” Adding to those honors, Shawn was named the AP’s All-Northwest Ohio District player of the year while earning first-team honors on defense, and he was named to the AP All-Ohio first team on defense as a linebacker.

Collegiately, Shawn attended Bowling Green State University and played football. Professionally, Shaw has been an assistant coach at Heidelberg College, San Diego State, Oberlin, Miami of Ohio, the University of Toledo, the University of Illinois, and a defensive ends coach at Ohio State.

