

Ross Hall of Fame inductee, 2009

Robert “Bob” Atkins

Bob Atkins graduated in 1960 from Fremont Ross High School after winning seven letters, four in track and field, two in cross country and one in basketball.

Speed was Bob’s forte. In 1959, he won the 220-yard dash in the Buckeye Conference Meet and was second in the event in the Northwest Ohio District Meet. In the state meet, Bob was sixth in the 220 finals.

In his senior year, Bob won the 100 and 220-yard dashes in the Buckeye Conference Meet and added a second-place finish in the 440-yard dash.

In the 1960 Buckeye Conference Meet, Bob broke the 220-yard dash record that had been held by Ross Sports Hall of Fame member Jim Tiller. He also set the Ross school record in the 440-yard dash in 48.6 seconds.

At the 1960 district meet, he qualified for the finals in the 100-, 220-, and 440-yard dashes but, in doing so, pulled a groin muscle. Despite the injury, Bob still qualified for the state meet with second-place finishes in the district finals, but the injury kept him from qualifying for the state finals.

In his senior season, Bob received the Coaches Award.

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Jodi Kusmer

Softball has always been Jodi Kusmer's sport of choice.

"I tried playing soccer, softball and other sports until fifth grade," Kusmer said. "Just can't ever remember not playing softball."

During her three-year Little Giants' pitching career, Kusmer compiled a 40-7 record with a 0.73 earned run average. She threw three no-hitters, 17 shutouts, and won 10 one-run decisions.

In 1997, Kusmer went 14-3 and was named on the Northwest District's first team. In the Great Lakes League, she was picked as the conference's Player of the Year.

Upon graduation in 1998, Kusmer held five Ross records—lowest ERA in a season (0.53), fewest walks in a season (16), most shutouts in a season (8), most no-hitters in a season (2), and most strikeouts in a season (113).

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Dan H. Lease

Dan Lease was a solid supporter of Fremont Ross High School, both in athletics and academics.

Dan won a letter in swimming and two more in football from 1941-44 at Ross High School. He became better known for his service to Ross and the Fremont area.

He was a regular at Ross swimming and diving meets for more than 50 years, serving as an official. Dan was named the winner of the Wirthwein Award, symbolic of being the state's top swim official in 1998-99.

Dan served on the Fremont Schools District Board of Education. He also gave financial support to several Ross programs as a member of the Fremont community.

He also coached several years in the Fremont School System flag football program.

Dan graduated from The Ohio State University with a law degree and swam before being called into the Army in 1945. He was a member of the 1945 OSU Buckeyes NCAA Swimming Championship Team.

A historian, Dan compiled the "100 Years of Fremont Football" and the "History of Fremont Ross Swimming."

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David E. Liggins

David E. Liggins won five letters for Fremont Ross teams from 1973-76, three in track and field and two in football.

In football, David was the most valuable defensive player his junior and senior seasons at Ross. He led the team in pass interceptions while earning All-Buckeye Conference first team honors both years. He served as one of five co-captains his senior season.

As a senior, David was named to the All-Northwest Ohio and All-Ohio teams. He was co-captain for the North Team in the Ohio High School Coaches Association All-Star Game in Ohio Stadium and was named to the 1976 Big Ten High School Dream Team.

David specialized in the pole vault in track and field, clearing 13 feet, 6 inches in his best effort. He served as the team captain his senior year.

After graduation, he earned a letter in football at the University of Cincinnati before transferring to the University of Arizona.

At Arizona, David was a first-team All-Pac-10 defensive selection. He was the team's most valuable player in the Fiesta Bowl his senior year, making seven tackles, intercepting two passes, and deflecting another Dan Marino pass.

He was a member of the Fiesta Bowl All-Decade team for the 1970s.

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Dr. Katie (Marritt) Lusvardi

Katie Marritt won nine letters in four sports at Fremont Ross: three in tennis and basketball, two in track and field, and one in softball.

She played first singles for the Little Giants' tennis team. She was the sectional singles champion her junior and senior years and runner-up in the district finals.

Katie earned a scholarship and played both singles and doubles for the Kalamazoo College women's tennis team, where she was undefeated her sophomore year and voted Most Valuable Player as she helped lead the team to a runner-up finish in the NCAA Division III Championship. She continued to be a strong asset to the team as she moved up to 5th singles the following year.

In basketball, Katie was the starting point guard for three years under Coach Sue Wolf's team, averaging 12 points per game her junior year. She co-captained the team as she led them to three winning seasons. She went on to play women's basketball for Kalamazoo College her freshman year.

In track and field, she ran the 400-meter dash and 800-meter run and played second base on the softball team.

In addition to athletics, Katie starred in the classroom, graduating as class valedictorian in 1984 with a 4.0 GPA. In Kalamazoo, she was honored as a member of Phi Beta Kappa and received her BA in chemistry. She continued at the University of Michigan earning, to earn her BS in chemical engineering, and her PhD from the University of Delaware, earning her PhD.

Dr Lusvardi is currently a Research Engineer at Ashland Inc. She is a former Process Engineer at DuPont.