

Ross Hall of Fame inductee. 1991

John M. Allen

John Allen was a multi-sports star at Ross before graduating in 1951. He won eight letters for the Purple and White: three each in football and basketball and two in track.

In football, Allen was a center and linebacker. He earned All-Ohio honors in both the Associated Press and United Press International polls his senior season at Ross.

After graduating from Ross, Allen lettered three years at Purdue at both offensive center and linebacker. He played in the East-West Shrine Game at the end of his Purdue career.

He was selected by the Washington Redskins in the third round of the National Football League draft after his Boilermaker playing days. Allen spent nine years in the trenches of the NFL, battling defensive linemen from the center slot.

Allen weighed just 220 to 230 pounds during his NFL playing days which would likely classify him as being too small in today's pro football measuring books. But for Allen, it was not the size of the body but the heart inside. He showed that in his Ross playing days.

Ross Hall of Fame inductee. 1991

James "Jim" Flower

Jim Flower lettered three years in both basketball and tennis at Fremont Ross, but it was on the tennis courts where he gained the most notoriety.

Beginning in 1973, Flower was at the top of the Ohio high school tennis world, finishing second twice and winning the state singles title once. As a sophomore in 1973, he finished second before winning the "big show" in 1974. He followed that with a runner-up finish in 1975.

Along the way, Flower won three district titles, three Buckeye Conference championships and added the Worthington Cup to his mantle.

After graduating from Ross, Flower continued to play highly competitive tennis. He earned four letters as a member The Ohio State University tennis team and was ranked second nationally for players 21 and under while winning the Mid-Atlantic State titles.

On the basketball court, Flower was a three-year starter at guard for the Little Giants.

Ross Hall of Fame inductee. 1991

Robert C. “Bob” Heid

When football coaches built an offensive line, they look for a player to center on, and Robert C. “Bob” Heid fulfilled that job with a flourish for Fremont Ross in the late 1940s.

Heid, now a Fremont lawyer, earned All-Ohio honors on several media fronts in 1947: United Press International, Associated Press and INS. In addition, he was on the Press Box All-Northwest Ohio team and was named the UPI player-of-the-week on one occasion.

Also in 1947, Heid scored his only scholastic touchdown. On a Ross kickoff against Toledo Scott, Heid recovered a fumble in the endzone when the Scott players did not pick up the free ball. The 27-0 win over the Bulldogs was one of nine victories Heid helped Ross capture that season.

Heid served as a co-captain that season and the job was a forerunner of his days at Ohio State. In 1951, Woody Hayes took over the Buckeyes and Heid took over the team on the field, serving as Hayes’ first captain.

While at OSU, Heid won three letters and was honorable mention in 1950 and 1951 on the AP and UPI All-American teams.

In Ross gridiron history, centering a team on Heid was not a bad idea.

Ross Hall of Fame inductee. 1991

Richard “Dick” Sherman

“Athletic director” and Richard “Dick” Sherman were synonymous.

For years a quarter of a century, Sherman was behind-the-scenes tactician of Ross High School athletics before retiring in 1986.

A 1950 graduate of Ross, Sherman won nine varsity letters in football, basketball, and track. In his senior year, he served as the Little Giants’ captain in all three sports.

But it was as the school’s athletic director that Sherman stood out.

He is a member of the Ohio High School Athletic Directors Hall of Fame and won the honor as the state’s top AD in 1980. Sherman was named the Midwest Athletic Director of the Year the same year.

He served as the president of the Northwest Athletic Directors and state associations and instituted all the girl’s interscholastic programs at Ross.

During his tenure at Ross, Sherman touched the lives of many young athletes, helping them further their education or just being there to offer advice.

If there is a person whose blood is purple and white, it is Dick Sherman.

Ross Hall of Fame inductee. 1991

John “Towner” Smith

John Towner Smith was a football and track star at Fremont Ross.

A 1921 graduate, Smith served as an industrial arts teacher in 1924 and 1925 at his scholastic alma mater.

He lettered in football three years in the fall and was a sprinter in the spring for Ross. Among his high school accomplishments are a first place in the 440-yard dash at the Ohio Interscholastic Meet in Columbus in a state record 52.0 seconds.

As a collegiate, Smith was second in the 440 in the National Intercollegiate Meet in Chicago and was Western Michigan’s first track and field All-American, winning the honor in 1923 and 1924. After the 1924 season, he competed in the U.S. Olympic Trials at Harvard.

Smith has published one book and several articles on track and field training and treatment of injuries.

Smith is a member of the WMU Hall of Fame and was voted the “Man of the Year” by the WMU “M” Club in 1968 and the Michigan Sports Sages in 1970.

From 1953-1966, Smith was the Dean of Men at WMU and enjoyed the status of emeritus Dean of Men.

Ross Hall of Fame inductee. 1991

N. Baumann “Bim” Stults

N. Baumann “Bim” Stults was the creator of the Fremont Ross Swim and Dive program. Stults began the program in 1931, developing it into a state power. His teams won the state championships in 1936, 1938, 1941 and 1942 and finished second in 1937.

In addition to the state championship teams, Stults coached several individuals who won state championships and a national championship relay team.

He was a swimming and diving coach at Florida State University for 25 years, beginning the program there in 1949, retiring in 1973. He coached 20 All-Americans and two of his divers, Phil Boggs and Curt Genders won NCAA National Championships. Boggs went on to win a Gold Medal for diving in the 1976 Olympics.

Mr., Stults was elected to the Florida State Hall of Fame in 1978. He was a past president of College Swimming Coaches Association, he was an honorary life member of the High School Swimming Coaches Association. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the National Swimming Hall of Fame and the AAU National Diving Committee. He was an Olympic Trial Judge and on April 14, 1984, the Aquatic Center at Florida State University was named in his honor.

He was a professor emeritus at Florida State University, and he was an Elk and a Mason. He was also a retired Naval Lt. Commander and veteran of World War II.