

Ross Hall of Fame inductee. 2022

Aaron Coonrod

Aaron Coonrod was a standout football and baseball player for the Little Giants from 1995-1999. He was Coach Dan Pallante's starting quarterback his junior season in 1997. With a whole new offense and defense to learn, he helped lead the Little Giants to their first unbeaten season and an untied season, making the playoffs for only the third time in school history.

In the spring of 1998, Aaron was part of a baseball pitching staff that helped Ross finish with a 17-6 record.

After his junior year, he was named first-team All-Great Lakes League as a football defensive back and honorable mention All-GLL in baseball.

Combining his junior and senior years, Aaron led the Little Giant football teams to a record of 18-3. His 41 tackles in 1998 helped earn him the GLL's "Defensive Player of the Year" award. He was All-District and earned Honorable Mention All-Ohio in Division I.

During his senior year, Coonrod signed a letter of intent to play baseball at The Ohio State University. He moved on to John A. Logan Junior College, where his record was 9-2 with 109 strikeouts and an ERA of 1.46.

Coonrod was a fourth-round pick in the amateur draft by the San Diego Padres, where he pitched in their farm system, spending time in Eugene, Oregon, with the Class A Emeralds.

Ross Hall of Fame inductee. 2022

Joseph “Doc” Hershey

Joe Hershey is a Fremont native and graduate of St. Joseph Central Catholic High School. After attending and graduating from Ohio University, Joe worked under National Athletic Trainers’ Association (NATA) Hall of Fame Member Skip Vosler.

Since coming to Fremont Ross in 1982, Joe has served as a teacher and Athletic Trainer Certified (ATC) for all varsity sports. He also developed and implemented the school’s student athletic trainer program and has been the Ross athletic equipment manager for many years.

Joe developed and implemented the student athletic trainer program at Ross and has mentored many students while also promoting sports medicine programs.

Over the years, Doc has fostered many relationships with local physicians, orthopedic surgeons, and caregivers.

.

## Ross Hall of Fame inductee. 2022

### Derek Hill

Derek Hill earned a total of 10 athletic letters in the early 2000's at Ross High School – four in cross country and three each in track and field and swimming. He excelled in academics, earning letters twice.

During his four-year high school career, Derek earned many Greater Buckeye Conference (GBC) honors in cross country and track. He qualified for the regionals three times in those two sports.

In cross country, Derek was the team co-captain and MVP in both as a junior and senior. He was named the GBC "Runner of the Year" as a senior.

In track, Derek was co-captain as a senior and the Greater Buckeye Conference 3200-meter champion that year, while finishing second in the 1600 meters the same day.

In swimming, he competed in both freestyle and backstroke.

Derek was named "All-Academic" by the GBC in his final two years of high school and won the "Archie Griffin Sportsmanship Award" as a junior.

After high school, he attended Baldwin Wallace College (now a university), where he continued his cross-country and track careers.

Ross Hall of Fame inductee. 2022

Judy Lambert

Judy Lambert was an outstanding “intramural” athlete at Ross in the late 1960s and early 1970s, before Title IX created girls’ varsity sports.

Judy excelled in various GAA (Girls Athletic Association) sports, especially basketball. She served as a role model for many girls who followed in her footsteps. She spent summers during her college days at the playgrounds around Fremont, helping the next generation of local athletes.

After high school, Judy played basketball at Bowling Green State University before a knee injury ended her career there. After college, she taught and coached at Toledo Whitmer High School and Erie Mason High School in Michigan. She coached girls’ tennis, basketball, track, and volleyball, plus boys’ golf.

Ross Hall of Fame inductee. 2022

Larry Liggins

Larry Liggins was an outstanding two-sport athlete at Fremont Ross in the mid 1970s. He won five-letters – two in football and three in track and field.

During his senior football season, Larry recorded 87 tackles and assists, three pass interceptions and three blocked punts. He was a key member of the Ross defense that allowed only 33 total points and recorded seven shutouts. On offense, he scored six touchdowns, three rushing and three receiving.

The 1974 team went undefeated (9-0-1) and won the Buckeye Conference championship, finishing #8 (Class AAA) in the state in the final AP and UPI polls.

After the 1974 season, Larry was named Ross' "Defensive Back of the Year," was first-team All-Buckeye Conference, and was named "Back of the Year" in the Conference.

Larry played in the 1975 Ohio Football Coaches Association's North-South Game, where he forced a fumble that his twin brother, Harry, returned for the winning touchdown.

He attended Kent State University and played football, but an injury ended his playing career.

Ross Hall of Fame inductee. 2022

Jolyn Smith

Jolyn Smith was a physical education teacher and coach at Fremont Ross from 1968 to 1986. She is credited with starting the girls' varsity track and field program at the high school in 1973, after Title IX was enacted.

Her first squad attracted 33 girls, who sometimes found it hard to schedule practice times at Harmon Field, the city's only track facility.

Jolyn's teams were very competitive while earning many meet victories. Her athletes and teams won many conference, district, regional, and state honors during her reign as head coach.

She was instrumental in attracting girls to sports and building their skills and confidence to compete at a high level.

Ross Hall of Fame inductee. 2022

Derek Thiessen

Derek Thiessen was an outstanding football and baseball athlete at Fremont Ross in the mid 1990s.

He won three letters in football as a running back and outside linebacker. In his career, Derek rushed for 2,184 yards in just 390 carries, for an excellent 5.6 yards-per-carry average. He also scored 30 touchdowns, had 432 return yards and 163 receiving yards. On defense, he accounted for 52 tackles and 36 assists.

He was the Great Lakes League "Sophomore of the Year" and was first-team All-GLL as a junior and senior, while at the same time being named the offensive "Back of the Year" both of those seasons.

In baseball, he had a career .323 batting average with 43 hits, 28 RBI, and 50 runs. As a junior, he was on the All-GLL second team. As a senior, he was the team captain and won academic honors as well.

He then lettered in baseball four times at the University of Findlay, where he earned several conference awards.