

Ross Hall of Fame inductee, 1995

Greg Bender

Greg lettered in four sports at Fremont Ross, earning three letters in basketball and cross country, two in baseball and one in track.

Basketball was Bender's game, though. He set the single-season scoring record for the Little Giants as a junior (458 points/23 games) and finished as the all-time leading scorer with 1167 points. A starter all three seasons on varsity, the 6-foot-6 Bender averaged 13.1 points per game as a sophomore, 19.1 as a junior, and 19.0 as a senior. Bender was an 80 percent free-throw shooter and shot 52 percent from the floor. The slam dunk was his trademark. He served as co-captain of the 1984-85 team and was a first-team, All-Buckeye Conference selection his junior and senior seasons. He was the conference's player of the year as a senior and earned first-team all-Northwest Ohio District player of the year honors. He was a second-team selection on the UPI team and played in the Ohio All-Star Game in 1985.

Bender was a member of the National Honor Society.

Collegiate: At the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Greg was a Rhodes Scholar candidate while playing basketball. He was on the Colonial Athletic Association all-academic team his last three seasons in college. At the time of his Ross enshrinement, Bender held the UNC/Wilmington record for games played, 118. He was fourth in career assists with 275, was eighth in scoring with 1,039 points and eighth in rebounding.

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Judy Shetzer Harms

Judy graduated from Fremont Ross in 1980 after earning eight varsity letters in four sports. She lettered three times in track, twice in both basketball and volleyball, and once in golf.

Judy was a standout on the basketball floor despite her small build. She was named second-team all-district her senior season and was a first-team, All-Buckeye Conference selection the same year. She led the Buckeye Conference in free throw shooting with 77 percent and in assists with six per game. Judy served as the Little Giants' captain and was voted the team's Most Valuable Player her final season.

In track, Judy was the most valuable as a senior while serving as the team's captain in her junior and senior years. She was a member of the record-setting 2-mile relay team and set a school long jump record with a leap of 16'10".

At the end of her high school career, Judy was named Ross' Outstanding Senior Girl Athlete and featured in the publication 'American High School Athlete'.

Collegiate: Judy played four years of basketball at Ashland College, receiving a B.S. in Education. At the time of her enshrinement, she was teaching and coaching at the Whitewater, Wisconsin school system.

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Derek “Deke” Isaman

Derek was a Fremont Ross football standout. A three-year starter, Isaman was a first-team All-Buckeye Conference defensive pick as a junior and an Honorable Mention All-Ohio selection. In his senior year, Isaman earned first-team All-Buckeye Conference and first-team All-Ohio honors. He was named the Northwest Ohio District Lineman of the Year by the Associated Press and was a Balley All-American pick. Isaman was named the top defensive player and Most Valuable Player for the Little Giants his senior year and was the captain of the North Team in the North-South All-Star Game.

Collegiate: The Ohio State University, earned four letters as a linebacker. In 1985, Derek was named the Buckeyes’ Freshman Defensive Player of the Year. He served as a captain for the Buckeyes in 1989 and was named the team’s Most Valuable Player. Isaman also won OSU’s Randy Gradishar Outstanding Linebacker Award in ’89 and was voted by the team as its most inspirational player.

Isaman took the 1988 collegiate football season off to participate in the Olympic boxing trials. He served as the heavyweight alternate behind the eventual gold medalist. Isaman was also a National Golden Glove Champion.

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Tim McCarthy

Tim McCarthy, a 1923 graduate of Fremont High School, is the second McCarthy to earn enshrinement in the Hall of Fame. His grandson, Shawn, preceded him in 1993.

McCarthy lettered four years in football and was a member of The Fremont Messenger’s All-Time Fremont High School Gridiron Stars, which included players from 1895 to 1925.

After high school, McCarthy lettered three times as a lineman and halfback at The Ohio State University.

McCarthy returned to Fremont after his collegiate days, where he owned and operated a clothing store. He was instrumental in the formation of the Ross Boosters Organization.

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Tim Thomas

Tim Thomas graduated from Fremont Ross High School in 1966 after earning eight varsity letters. He lettered three times in both cross country and basketball and added two others in baseball.

Tim was the basketball team’s Most Valuable Player and captain his senior year. He was named to the All-Buckeye Conference basketball and baseball teams, also in his final year at Ross.

Two of Tim’s highlights from his senior basketball season involved Lorain Admiral King High School. In the first meeting of the teams in Lorain, the Admirals were 7-1 and tied for the Buckeye Conference lead, but the Thomas-led Little Giants brought home a 74-67 victory.

Thomas scored 23 points in the win. Later that season, Thomas scored 27 points in a 100-92 win over the Admirals. It helped Ross set a team scoring record.

The athletic court and field were not the only places Thomas starred. Academically, Thomas was a two-year member of the National Honor Society. He served as the president of the Ross Chapter his senior year. Collegiate: Wittenberg University, lettered two years in basketball for the Tigers. He then entered the United States Military Academy at West Point. After West Point, Tim entered the United States Army and retired after 21 years with the rank of Colonel.

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Harold "Windy" Wendler

Harold Wendler was a three-sport star, playing football, basketball, and running track before graduating in 1922.

Wendler was the captain of the 1921 Fremont High School eleven during the football season. Wendler was known for his open field running.

While playing quarterback for the Ohio State football team from 1923-1925, he was named All-American. In 1926, he played pro football with the Akron Indians of the National Football League.

He graduated from the Kirksville School of Osteopathy and practiced in Mansfield, LA. Later, he became a trainer and boxing coach at Mississippi State and was the trainer for the Gray Team in the annual Blue-Gray Game in Mobile, AL, for 21 years.

He was trainer for the Brooklyn and Los Angeles Dodgers for 16 years during which time they won seven National League pennants. Each year following the World Series, Wendler returned to the Fremont area, where he maintained his personal ties.