

Ross Hall of Fame inductee, 2003

Richard “Dick” Baron

Richard “Dick” Baron won nine letters – three each in football, basketball, and tennis – for Fremont Ross from 1944-47.

Dick and his tennis doubles partner, Lloyd Bischoff, advanced to the state tournament in his junior and senior years.

He was co-captain of the football and basketball teams his senior year, helping lead the football squad to a 9-1 record. He earned all-league honors in both football and basketball.

In basketball, Dick led the Little Giants in scoring for three years.

He earned a scholarship to play football and basketball at Heidelberg College.

After his years at Ross, Dick was one of the original Little League baseball coaches in Fremont. He spent 14 years coaching in the Fremont youth baseball system and went on to coach for 15 more years in Findlay’s youth baseball system.

Dick also coached freshman basketball and grade school football in Fremont.

He also served as the Buckeye Conference commissioner for 11 years.

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John Cahill

John Cahill won eight letters for the Fremont Ross Little Giants athletic teams from 1984 to 1987.

He won three letters in football and basketball and two more in tennis.

John caught a one-time school record 65 passes for the Little Giants football team and held the school record with 899 total reception yards for 19 seasons.

He was a first-team All-Buckeye Conference selection in football his senior year and was named to the All-Northwest Ohio Associated Press team in 1986.

John was second-team All-Buckeye Conference in tennis and earned third-team honors in basketball his senior year. He compiled a 40-6 record in tennis doubles.

After graduating from Fremont Ross, John played football at the University of Toledo and has most recently been in the high school coaching ranks at Clyde High School; he is currently the boys' varsity basketball coach at his alma mater.

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Jim Hufford

Jim Hufford was an eight-letter winner for the Fremont Ross Little Giants from 1982 to 1984.

He won three varsity letters in baseball and two each in football and basketball. In 1984, Jim was named the winner of the Baron-Sherman Award, which symbolizes being the top senior male athlete at Ross.

Jim was first-team All-Buckeye Conference, first-team All-Northwest Ohio, third-team Associated Press All-Ohio, and second-team United Press International All-Ohio in football during his senior season.

Jim earned All-Buckeye Conference second-team honors in baseball during his sophomore, junior, and senior seasons.

In 1982, Jim helped lead the baseball team to a 16-4 record and batted .524. In the same year, he was named the Little Giants' top sophomore player.

Jim served as the co-captain of the Ross basketball team his senior year.

After graduating from Ross, Jim won four letters in baseball for The Ohio State University, helping the Buckeyes win two Big Ten Conference championships.

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Jeff Opelt

Jeff Opelt was a track and field standout for the Fremont Ross Little Giants, winning three letters from 1972 to 1974.

He held the Ross pole vault record of 14'2" for over forty years. At one time, he also held the Buckeye Conference record at 14 feet.

Jeff was the Buckeye Conference pole vault champion in his sophomore and senior seasons, missing a shot at three conference titles when a knee injury sidelined him in his junior year.

He qualified for the state meet twice, placing seventh as a sophomore and ninth as a senior. He won the sectional and district pole vault twice, setting a district record in 1974.

Jeff was named the most valuable field events performer in 1974.

After graduating from Ross, he was a four-letter winner at Bowling Green State University, competing in the pole vault and decathlon.

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Jim Spangler

Jim Spangler won 10 varsity letters for the Fremont Ross High School athletic teams from 1935-38.

He won four letters in track, three in swimming and diving, two in football, and one in cross country.

Jim was a four-year qualifier for the state track and field meet. He won Conference titles twice in hurdle events, placed second in the long jump, and ran on a winning 880-yard relay team. He was also part of a school record mile relay team.

In an exhibition race, Jim edged Olympic champion Jesse Owens. Owens had to clear four hurdles while Jim ran on a straightaway with no hurdles. He won by a yard.

He was named the Ross Outstanding Senior Athlete and was president of the "F" Club.

In World War II, Jim was awarded the Bronze Star for valor.

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Charles Woodson

Charles Woodson won five letters for Fremont Ross from 1992 to 1995.

He won three letters in football and two in basketball.

Charles is the Ross career rushing leader with 3,861 yards, including a school-record 2,028 yards his senior season. He set the Ross single-game rushing record of 335 yards and scored a school record 230 points, both in his senior season.

He holds the Ross career scoring record in football with 466 points.

Charles was named Ohio High School's "Mr. Football" in 1994, a title symbolic of being the state's top football player.

After graduation, Charles was a two-time All-American and a three-time All-Big Ten Conference selection while playing for the University of Michigan.

After his junior year at UM, Charles was named the winner of the Heisman Trophy as the top collegiate player in the nation. He was the first predominantly defensive player to win the award.

Charles went on to a 19-year pro career playing for the Oakland Raiders, Green Bay Packers, and ended his career back with the Raiders. Charles was enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio, in 2021. A statue has been erected at Don Paul Stadium in a lasting tribute to "Fremont's Finest".