

# ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

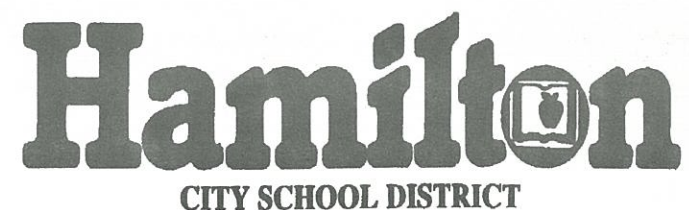
*Hamilton  
Big Blue*

*Garfield  
Griffins*

*Taft  
Tigers*

6:00 pm  
Sunday, January 16, 2000

Hamiltonian Hotel



## ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

### *Class of 1997*

Jim "Boxcar" Bailey  
Alex "Boo" Ellis  
Jim Grimm  
Judy Kraft  
Joe Nuxhall  
Warren Scholler  
Greg Stokes  
Mike Townsend

Frank Clair  
Kevin Grevey  
Derek Howard  
Marvin McCollum  
Paul Sarringhaus  
Jack Smith  
Chuck Thackara  
Bill Wilks

### *Class of 1998*

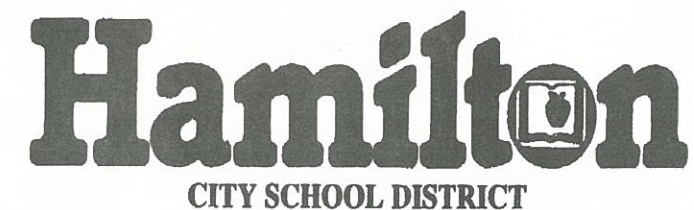
Shauna Bowman  
Bernie Griesinger  
Rudy Oaklets  
Floyd "Breezy" Reid  
David Stalls  
Charles "Skip" Taylor

Bill Evans  
Bill McCormick  
Carl Ott  
Leonard (Jim) Smith  
Pat Sword  
David "Chuggy" Waller

### *Class of 1999*

Mel "Moody" Baker  
Elize Spears Combs  
Jerry Johnson  
Mark Lewis  
Bernie Reid  
Arthur "Ray" Tilton  
David Weaver

Taylor "Tay" Baker  
Jack Gordon  
Andy Kolesar  
Ervin J. Nutter  
Bill "Coach" Sharp  
Willie Townsend



## ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

RECEPTION FOR INDUCTEES AND SPOUSES  
*Courtesy of Holbrock & Jonson Law Firm*

MASTER OF CEREMONIES  
*John Wade*

INVOCATION  
*Jack Young*  
*Class of 1948*

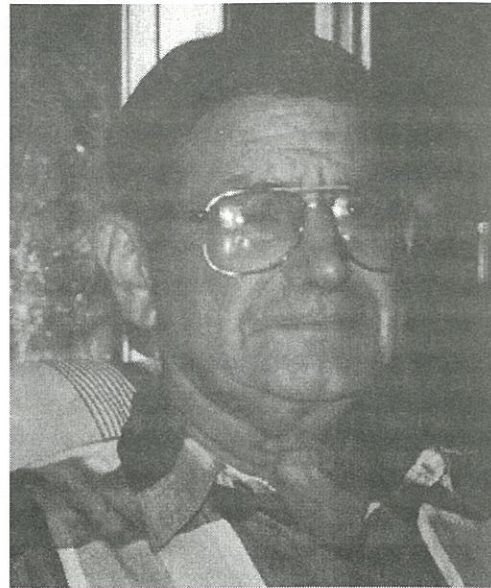
WELCOME  
*George Jonson*  
*Class of 1952*

INTRODUCTION OF HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



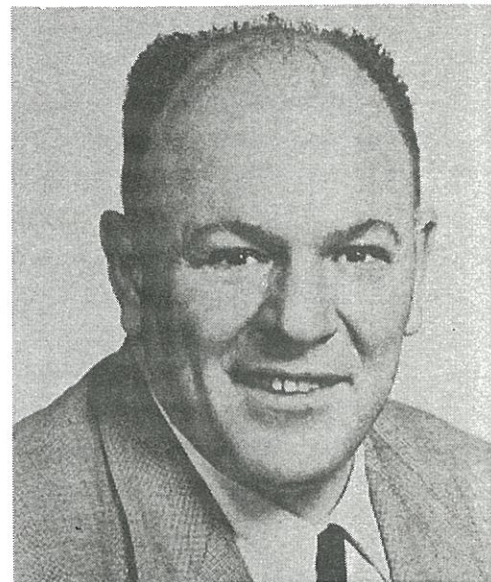
## Lou Florio - Coach

After graduating from Grandview High School where he played football and baseball, Louis Florio attended Miami University. Under head coach Sid Gillman, Florio was a starter for two years and played both ways. He was named Most Efficient Lineman in 1945. Graduating from Miami University, he came to Hamilton to begin his teaching career. He was assistant football coach for the Big Blue under Chuck Thackara from 1949 to 1956. He took over the reigns from Thackara in 1957 and continued as Garfield's head football coach until 1976, accumulating 101 victories. He also was Hamilton's baseball coach. He was named Ohio State Coach of the Year in 1966 when the Griffins went undefeated in posting a 9-0 record. Florio was voted to coach the South All-Stars in 1967 when they beat the North All-Stars 42-13, the largest margin ever. He became principal of Harding Junior High School in 1977. He was also a principal at Wilson Junior High and retired from the school district in 1989 after serving 3 1/2 years as principal of Hamilton High School.



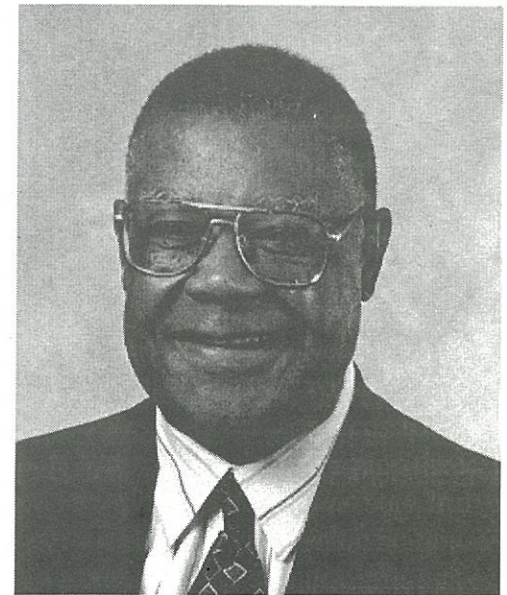
## Jim Hall - Class of 1931 (Coach)

A 1931 graduate of Hamilton High School, Jim Hall ran track and played football for the Big Blue. He was a member of the 1929 undefeated state champion team, coached by Dana King. He was named All-State in football in 1928 and 1929. He followed Coach King to the University of Cincinnati where he was a four year letterman. He taught in Hamilton from 1939 until 1942, when he was head basketball coach, before receiving his commission to report as an officer in the Navy for active duty in 1943. After the war, he came back to Hamilton to teach and became an assistant principal and athletic director at Garfield High School in 1959. Hall retired in 1971 as an administrator in the central office of the Hamilton City Schools.



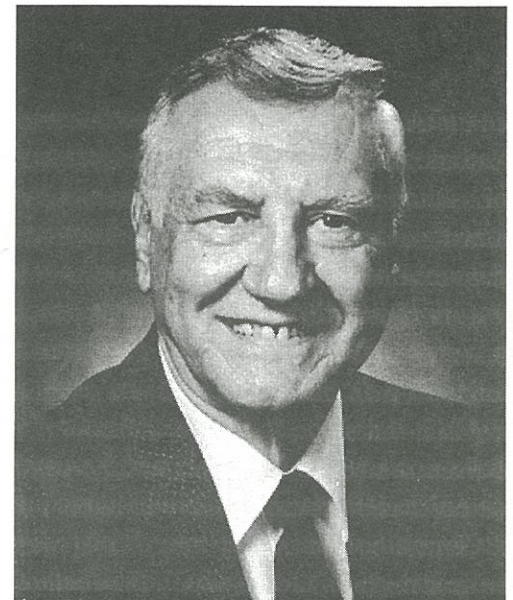
## Ragan Henry - Class of 1952

Ragan Henry was a powerhouse in football and wrestling in 1950 - 1952. After graduating from Hamilton High, Henry attended Harvard University where he graduated magna cum laude in 1956 and was a four year member of Harvard's football team. He also received his law degree from Harvard in 1961. In 1972, Henry entered the radio field with 12 percent interest in the Sheridan Broadcasting Company. The following year he sold his stock and purchased another radio station in Atlanta, which he owned and operated for 10 years. During the 1980s, he and a succession of companies bought and sold several stations, eventually forming the Ragan Henry Communications group - out of which US Radio was born in 1990. He has owned and/or controlled 16 FM and nine AM radio stations. He started a newspaper, *The National Leader*, in 1982 to cover things of priority importance to the Black community and serve as a platform for Black leaders. Henry was honored as the Outstanding Businessman of 1978 from the Urban Bankers of Delaware Valley; Outstanding Broadcaster of the Year presented by the National Association of Black Owned Broadcasters; the 1981 Human Relations Award presented by the National Association of Christians and Jews; the "One Nation" Award presented by the NAACP in 1983; and the American Broadcast Pioneer Award from the Broadcast Foundation in 1999. He was inducted in the National Broadcasters Hall of Fame in 1991. As the Chief Executive Officer of MediaComm National, Inc., Henry is active on many civic and community boards and educational institutions including Syracuse University, Elderhostel, the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the National Liberty Museum.



## Demus Jones - Class of 1948

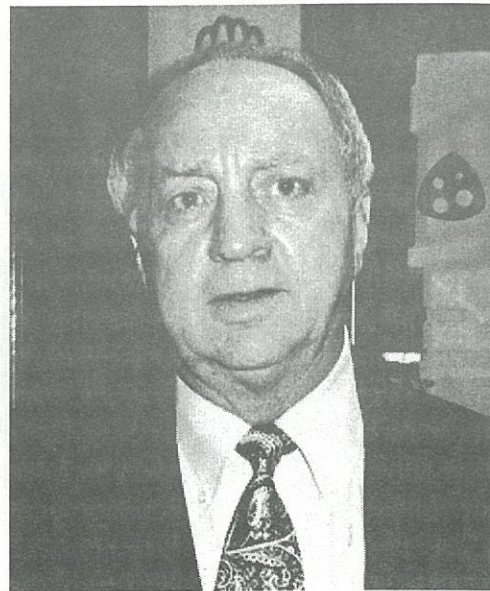
Demus Jones was a two year starter for the Big Blue football team. He was selected to the Greater Ohio League (GOL) and a starting member of the North-South Ohio All-Star team. He graduated in 1948 and continued his football prowess at Ohio University as a three year starter at both offense and defense. Jones earned all-MAC second team honors for the Bobcats in 1950. He started his football coaching career at Ross for two years, followed by his tenure at Garfield for six years in which he also coached track and cross country. Jones then came to Taft to coach for 10 years, serving as head football coach from 1971-1975. After the consolidation into one high school, Jones continued to coach for the Big Blue for 12 more years. Jones retired from the Hamilton City Schools in 1987, but continues to share his knowledge of the game as varsity line coach at Talawanda High School. He was inducted into the Butler County Sports Hall of Fame in 1998.





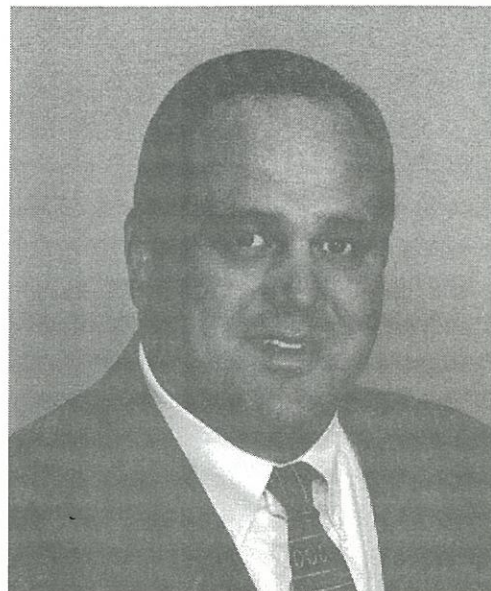
## Don Knodel - Class of 1949

Another standout of Hamilton High's Class of 1949, Don Knodel played baseball for three years and basketball for two years. He was a member of Hamilton High's state basketball champions in 1949 and played on the Ohio versus Kentucky All-Star team. Knodel went on to play basketball at Miami University. He helped lead Miami to two Mid-American Conference (MAC) championships as Miami became the first MAC team to play in the NCAA tournament. He was voted Most Valuable Player in his sophomore year and the first Miami University basketball player to be named All-MAC for three consecutive years. Knodel was the second leading scorer for the Redskins for three years. He was named Honorable Mention All-American in 1953. After a two-year Army stint, Knodel began his basketball coaching career at Talawanda High School in Oxford and Harding High School in Marion, Ohio. In 1960, he landed an assistant position at Vanderbilt University where the 1965 team became the South Eastern Conference (SEC) Champions. He moved on to become the head coach at Rice University from 1966 to 1974. He was selected as the Texas College Coach of the Year and the NCAA District Coach of the Year in 1970 when the Owls became the South West Conference (SWC) champs. In 1979, Knodel coached the Houston Angels in the first women's pro basketball league. He won Coach of the Year honors as the Angels became league champs. Rice University recruited him to become the first executive director of the "R" Association, an organization for all ex-letter winners. Knodel was inducted in Miami's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1974 and the Butler County Sports Hall of Fame in 1992.



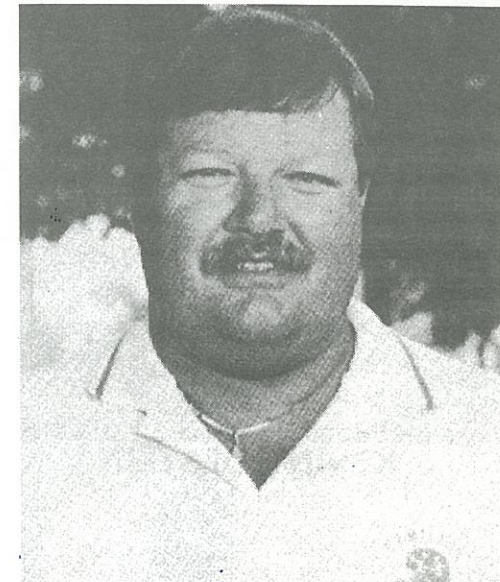
## Kent McCormick - Class of 1977

Kent joins his father, Bill, a 1998 inductee, as the first father-son combination to enter the Hamilton City Schools Athletic Hall of Fame. He was a three-year letterman in three sports - football, wrestling and baseball - during his Taft Tigers days. He was named to the First Team Greater Miami Conference (GMC) and First Team Golden Triangle for two years in football. He was the team's Most Valuable Player for two years also. McCormick was selected on the All-Southwestern Ohio team in his senior year when he was team captain. His wrestling accolades included being named first team GMC in his weight class and the first GMC champion in Taft High School history. The team's captain and Most Valuable Player, McCormick was named to the First Team Golden Triangle. He qualified twice for the district tournament. He led the Tigers baseball team in his senior year as the leading hitter and RBI leader on the team. He was named First Team GMC as a catcher. He was voted Taft's Outstanding Male Athlete in 1977. McCormick followed his father's footsteps to Miami where he was a four-year letterman in football and named Most Valuable Defensive Player in 1979 and 1980. A team captain in his senior year, he was the leading tackler at Miami and second in the MAC with 62 solo tackles and 97 assists. He was named to the First Team MAC as a linebacker and Honorable Mention All-American while being named the MAC's Defensive Player of the Year in 1980.



## Terry Merz - Class of 1970

Terry Merz, a 1970 graduate of Taft High School, was a starting player for 27 straight football games. He played both defensive and offensive tackle during his junior and senior years. During his senior year, he captained the team and was named First Team GMC, First Team Southwest Ohio and Honorable Mention All-State. He played in the North-South All-Star game his senior year. Merz played four more years at Wittenberg University, two years as a starter at offensive tackle. He played on two undefeated teams, including Wittenberg's 1973 National Champions that boasted a 12-0 record. That same year they also played in the Amos Alonzo Stag Bowl. Merz has been a teacher in the Hamilton City School District for 26 years and continues his love of the game by coaching football for 23 years, including being head coach at Garfield Junior High for four years. He has also coached wrestling and softball.



## Barbara Norman Fitton - Class of 1951

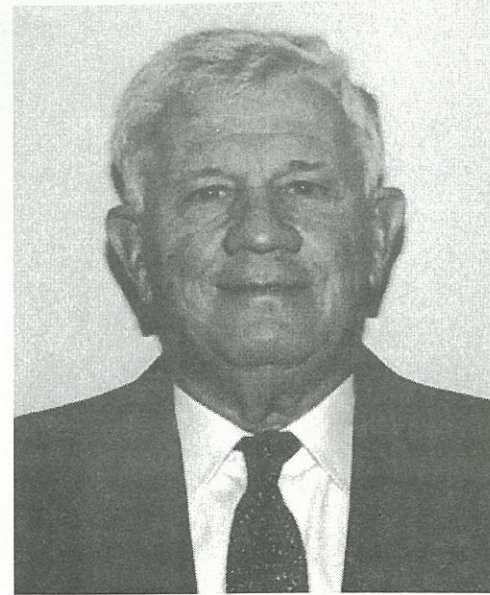
Barbara Norman Fitton graduated from Hamilton High in 1951 where she was active in basketball, tennis and volleyball. Fitton won the City Junior Girls tennis trophy at age 16. She was also the runner-up one year in the City Women's tennis championship in the singles division. She attended Miami University and played on the women's varsity hockey team. It was at Miami that she first played golf, qualifying for match play in the women's national golf collegiate tournament in Greensboro, NC. She was the Elks Country Club woman's champion. Once considered one of the top amateur women golfers in the country, Norman was ranked Number 8 by Golf Digest and won acclaim in Sports Illustrated in 1960 when she won the Amateur Women's Championship in Palm Beach, Florida. She won both tennis and golf championships in Hamilton at the same time. She coached tennis while being a physical education teacher at George Washington Junior High School for several years. She also coached at Miami University and Western College for Women. She set the Brown's Run Country Club record of 69, three under par, in 1963. That record was topped, but with the course now playing shorter for women. She held a two-handicap playing off men's tees at Brown's Run. Now a resident of Florida, she continues to play well on the golf course and won the Florida Senior Women's Amateur Championship. She was inducted into the Butler County Sports Hall of Fame in 1988.





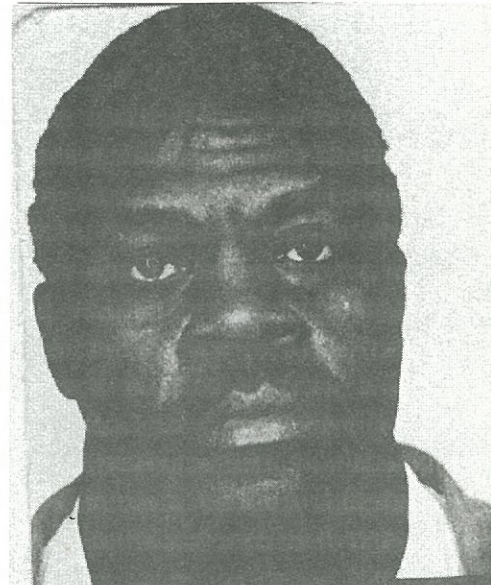
## Joe Okruhlica - Class of 1950

Joe Okruhlica was a three-sport standout in basketball, football and track for the Big Blue. He was named second team All-Tournament in 1949 when Hamilton became the state basketball champs. He was captain of the basketball team in his senior year when he was named to the first team All-State and played in the Ohio All-Stars versus Kentucky All-Stars. He was selected to the third team All-State in football his senior year. Okruhlica played basketball for four years at the University of Cincinnati. He co-captained the Bearcats in 1954 when they beat the number one ranked Duquesne at the Cincinnati Gardens. Okruhlica was a Vice President of Nationwide Papers, a division of Champion International.



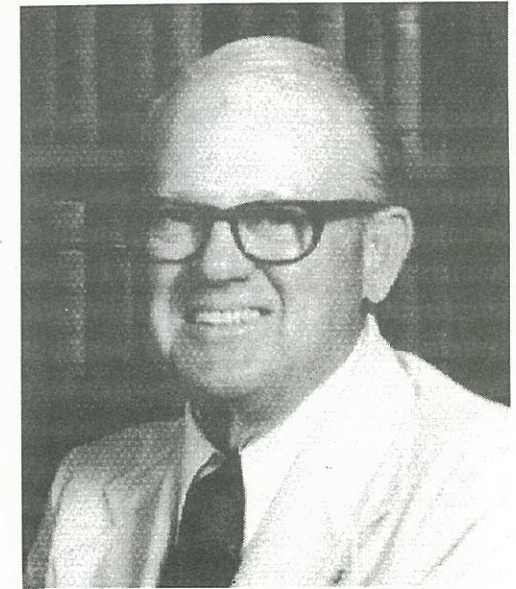
## Harry Phillips, Sr. - Class of 1948

Harry Phillips lettered in baseball, basketball and track at Hamilton High. He was selected to the Ohio All-State football team in 1947 and was crowned Hamilton High's heavyweight boxing champion. He played in the All-Star game in Massillon, Ohio in front of 20,000 people. He went on to play football and basketball at West Virginia State College. After college, Phillips returned to Hamilton and became a nationally recognized slow-pitch softball player for the renowned Wilsman Trucking team. He was elected to the All-World Tournament Team in 1961 and to the Butler County Softball Hall of Fame. Phillips was one of the founding fathers of the Little League Baseball and Little Pro Football programs in Hamilton where he was a coach for 30 years. He worked at the Booker T. Washington Center where he instructed children on the game. He was honored by the YMCA of Cincinnati as a Black Achiever in Partners in Excellence. Phillips was inducted into the Butler County Sports Hall of Fame in 1991.



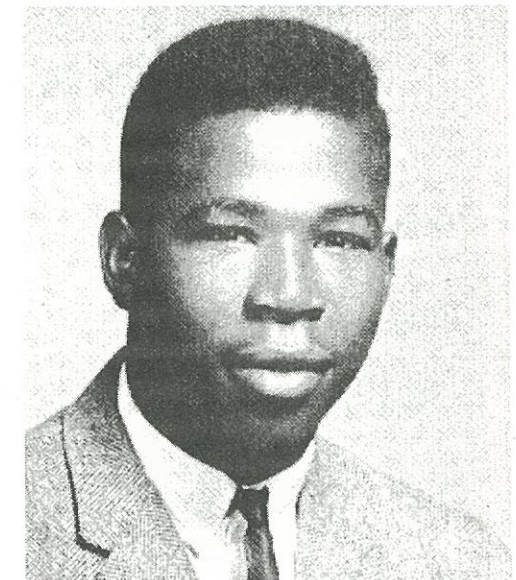
## Virgil M. Schwarm - Class of 1922

Virgil Schwarm was a graduate of Hamilton High in 1922. He was a member of the Big Blue football and basketball teams, played clarinet in the band and violin in the orchestra. He was football coach Dana King's handy man, playing everything from backfield to line. He also held the leading role in the senior class play, "Nathan Hale." He graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a Business degree. He served in the Navy for over 10 years in Italy. He came back to Hamilton as a stockbroker and founded Schwarm Investments. His love of sports and his belief in children were the driving forces behind his decision to donate \$500,000 to renovate the football stadium at Hamilton High. Through Schwarm's generosity, Hamilton can take pride in a first class facility for Hamilton and Badin football games, track meets, Band-O-Ramas and other events. Many community walkers take advantage of the Virgil M. Schwarm Stadium. His generosity was not limited to Hamilton High as he contributed to his alma mater, UC, and to the construction the Fitton Center for Creative Arts. Miami University Hamilton was also a benefactor of his generosity as he, along with his sister, contributed to expand the Hamilton campus to build Schwarm Hall.



## Jim Sutton - Class of 1965

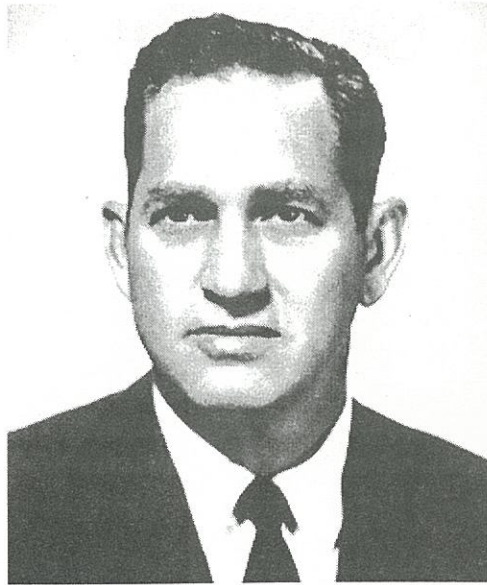
Jim Sutton was a force to be reckoned with as he led the Garfield Grif-fins as a three year starter in basketball. He played in 66 straight games. He averaged 9.3 points per game as a sophomore, and 14 points per game as a junior. Garfield was district runner-up in Sutton's senior year when he averaged 16 points per game and was the team captain. Sutton was Garfield's highest career scorer in the school's history at the time. He was named first team All-GOL and All-Southwest District as Garfield began GOL champs. He played in the North-South All Star game. He graduated from Tennessee Tech where he also played basketball for four years. Sutton is currently teaching elementary physical education in Miami, Florida. His son, Jim, Jr., is a senior member of University of Miami football team which was victorious in this year's Gator Bowl.





**Bob Wainscott - Class of 1938**

Bob Wainscott played football for three years at Hamilton. He also was on the golf team for two years. He was named Honorable Mention in football his senior year. He continued to play at the University of Cincinnati where he was named All-Ohio in 1940. He played for the original Cincinnati Bengals in 1941 under coach Dana King. He then spent three years in the Air Force during World War II. He founded three companies in North Carolina of which he was president and general manager - the Durham Box Company, the Wilmington Box Company and Durham Warehouse, Inc. He was on the Board of Directors for the National Fibre Box Association. He has built and flown three bi-planes and at age 79, he continues to fly.



**ATHLETIC  
HALL OF FAME**

**Committee Members**

Tom Alf	Moody Baker	Jim Blount
Paul Burkhardt	Dr. Jim Carr	Joni Copas
Mike DiStaola	George Jonson	Rudy Oaklets
Harry Phillips, Jr.	Ken Pierson	Pat Sword
Larry Wood	Jack Young	

**Banquet Chairpersons**

Marilyn Bowling	Anne Carr
Sophia Jonson	Jill O'Hara

**Hamilton**  
CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

*The Hamilton City Schools Athletic Hall of Fame Committee  
thanks the following companies and individuals for their generosity.*

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<i>Clark's Sporting Goods</i>	<i>Russ Kaefer</i>
<i>Jack Gordon</i>	<i>Bill McCormick</i>
<i>Bernie Griesinger</i>	<i>Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company</i>
<i>Jim Grimm</i>	<i>In Memory of Paul Sarringhaus</i>
<i>HAMBUCO Credit Union</i>	<i>TvHAMILTON</i>
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