



## **Thomas Heckendorn**

### **Football Coach**

Thomas Heckendorn was selected to be the first head coach of the newly formed district that would become the Seneca Valley School District. Coach Heckendorn was given the task of merging two rival teams, Evans City High School and Zelenople High School, into a single team that would have to compete at a much higher level of competition than either institution had previously seen before. During the 1964 and 1965 seasons the new team struggled on the field against several 44 opponents. The team became more competitive in its third season when coach introduced a new offense and the schedule realignment brought the new district into a more appropriate schedule. Coach was the father of the program and quickly saw a need for the program to expand. By the third year of his tenure as the Head Coach the program grew to include students from grades 7 through 12. Coach's vision for the program's expansion also included building a youth program to feed the Middle School teams.