

2025-2026 Elida Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees

William Brown

William Brown, a 1971 graduate, earned five varsity letters. He played two years of varsity basketball and three years of varsity track.

During Bill's senior year of basketball, he averaged 22.7 points per game. During the Bath game, Bill scored 44 points which was the highest of his career. He was named first team Northwest Conference, first team Northwest District and first team All-City. He was the third highest scorer in the Lima area during his senior year.

Bill was the first Elida athlete to qualify for the state track meet. He was a high jumper with a personal best of 6'2".

Mr. Brown continued his track career with four seasons at the University of Toledo. He set the high jump record at 6'8" which stood for a while.

51 years ago, Bill married his high school sweetheart, Wista. They have three daughters and six wonderful grandchildren. He retired after forty-two years with IBM, and he and his wife currently live in Apopka, Florida.

Dr. Dennis Morris

Dr. Dennis Morris was a 1975 Elida graduate and a 1979 BGSU graduate before graduating from the Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine in 1985.

Denny participated in football, basketball, and baseball while attending Elida. He is recognized for his distinguished officiating career. He has been involved with the Ohio High School Athletic Association as an official for basketball and football since 1975.

As a football referee, Dr. Morris has officiated the 1995 and 1997 OHSAA state championships as well as several all-star games, and he was a Mid-American Conference back judge from 1995-2002. He has been a Big Ten Conference back judge since 2002 and has officiated twenty-four post season bowl games, including the Orange, Sugar, Fiesta, and Cotton bowls.

Morris's basketball officiating has included three OHSAA state finals games as well as several all-star games. He has served as an OHSAA state rules interpreter since 2005 and currently serves as the OHSAA Director of Officiating Development for basketball since 2010.

Dr. Morris was inducted into the OHSAA Officials' Hall of Fame in 2009 and the Ohio Basketball Hall of Fame in 2021. He was a major financial contributor to Elida in 2022-2023 for the Fieldhouse renovation. Dr. Morris currently lives in Galena, Ohio. He is the former Chief Medical Officer and VP of Medical Affairs for Lima Memorial Health System.

Ron Jackson

Ron Jackson, or better known as Coach Jackson, served Elida football from 1972-1992 as an assistant. He worked under Jim Dally as the defensive coordinator for many of these years. He became head coach in 1993 and served in that role through 1997.

Ron graduated from Baldwin Wallace College in 1967, where he played football and baseball. He started his coaching career after graduation at Baldwin Wallace, serving there for two years. He moved on to Ford High School for two years, and then headed to Elida in 1972. Coach Jackson worked hard to build the Elida athletic programs. He was a volunteer coach for many youth teams, along with coaching junior high and high school sports. Coach Jackson started the junior high wrestling program in 1977, started a strength and conditioning program in 1979, ran multiple youth camps, and started Fellowship of Christian Athletes at Elida in 1974. Coach Jackson had the honor of coaching multiple players that received Division I and II scholarships as well as earning all-league and all-district honors.

Ron invested his time and energy into Elida from the time he started his career in 1972 until his retirement in 2004. His fingerprints have had lasting effects on many programs at Elida. His biggest and best blessing was meeting Marsha, whom he married in 1977. They taught together at Elida and raised their children, Jenna and JJ, at Elida.