

Wilson Athletic Hall of Fame 1987 Induction

Frederick M. Franks, Jr. – (Class of 1954) – As a four year-starter in football, baseball and basketball, Fred was one of Wilson’s most versatile and productive athletes of the early 1950s. He was the centerfielder and #3 hitter on the ’52 and ’53 conference championship teams. He ranks among the top Wilson career leaders in at-bats, hits RBIs, runs scored, walks, stolen bases, doubles and triples. His 1953 batting average of .556 led the division.

On the gridiron, Fred co-captained the 1953 team and scored 60 career points. He was also a starter on the Wilson basketball team.

Fred graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1958 and served with distinction with the US Army in Vietnam, Cambodia and in the Gulf War attaining the rank of General. He commanded the armored VII Corps in the famous “left hook” maneuver in the Gulf War, considered by many as one of the most decisive armored victories in military history. He retired from the Army in 1994.

He is the recipient of the Purple Heart, Bronze Star (w/ V Device), Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal. The Wilson High School Library is named in his honor.

Gregory Fredericks – (Class of 1968) – Greg is considered to be Wilson’s premier long-distance runner on both the track and cross country. He was undefeated in the mile run his senior year and broke a then 27 year-old Berks mile record. He finished his senior year as the PIAA District 3 and State Two Mile Run Champion and was the recipients of Wilson’s Senior Athlete Award

Greg continued his career at Penn State University, setting eight PSU records in track and cross country, was an IC4A champion and a 2nd place finisher in the NCAA Track Meet.

He also competed in four US Olympic Trials and was selected as a member of the 1980 USA Olympic Team. He held two American records (in the 10 mile & 10k runs), was an NCAA Cross Country Champion and 10k Champion and was named to eight US National Track & Field Teams. He ran one sub four minute mile as well.

Barbara Gallo – (Class of 1969) – Barbara earned 12 varsity letters in her four years at Wilson – 4 each in field hockey, basketball and softball. She was elected as captain for all three of those teams her senior year and received the Fegley Award as Wilson’s Outstanding Female Athlete.

Barbara led a basketball team that went 36-0 from 1966-69 and held the Wilson girls career basketball scoring record for many years, averaging more than 30 points per game her senior year.

She went on to East Stroudsburg State College and earned a B.S. degree in Sociology.

Scott Hagy – (Class of 1966) – While Scott was a member of Wilson’s football and track & field teams from 1963-66, he is most remembered for his javelin throwing skills. On his first throw of his senior year, he broke a 30 year-old Berks mark with a throw of 207’. He would go on to win District and State titles with throws of 219’9 ½” and 219’4” which were county and district records. He finished his senior year ranked 4th in the nation.

Scott continued at Penn State University where he was a javelin finalist in two NCAA National Championship Meets. His best throw ever was 262’, which placed him in the nation top ten. He continued competing in Master’s Competitions, throwing 221’ in 1985.

Dennis Hepner – (Class of 1958) – Dennis was a standout in both basketball and baseball between 1955 and 1958. He scored a record 608 point his senior year and was named to the All-County Team. He score 30 or more points on four occasions and ranks among Wilson’s scoring leaders with 991 career points and has held seven scoring records.

In baseball, Dennis pitched two no-hitters and set a strikeout record. He hit over .300 in both 1957 and 1958 and was named All-County in 1958.

Dennis moved on to Albright College where he continued to shine in basketball and baseball. He later joined the US Air Force and rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

James Lippincott – (Class of 1946) – Jim was an outstanding all-around athlete, earning letters in soccer, football, basketball, track and baseball. In 1945, he was the PIAA State High Jump Champion.

He was a fullback on Wilson’s first football team in 1945 and threw the first touchdown pass in Wilson football history. He held the Wilson longest punt record (72 yards) for many years as well.

On the hardwood floor, he scored 477 points and led Wilson to a 39-9 record during his junior and senior seasons.

Jim went on to play football, basketball and track at Lock Haven State College and tried out with the Philadelphia Eagles in 1955.

Kate Potteiger – (Class of 1966) – Kate played on Wilson’s field hockey, basketball and softball teams from 1962 through 1966. She was captain of the field hockey team her senior year, playing at both left wing and inner.

On the basketball court, she was a leading member of the 1963 County Championship team.

In softball, she was an outstanding 2nd baseman. Kate also ran the anchor leg on the girls relay team that participated in the county track meet even though track was then not an official girls sport.

Kate went on to star in field hockey at Gettysburg College. In each of her four years, she was named to the Mid-East Regional Team and was chosen to compete for a spot on the US Olympic Team. She was named as Gettysburg College’s Outstanding Female Athlete in 1970.

Wilbur ‘Lefty’ Reeser – (Class of 1936) – “Lefty” was one of Wilson’s outstanding athletes of the 1930s. He was a leading member of the 1935-36 basketball team that went 20-3 and won a county division title, but it was on the baseball diamond where he really earned his fame.

He was the ace of the 1935 and 1936 teams, both of which won championships, winning 13 games and striking out 18 and 17 in two seven inning games.

“Lefty” went on to pitch professionally, mostly in the Philadelphia Athletics and Philadelphia Phillies organizations, winning 84 games and losing 52.

Michael Reitz – (Class of 1968) – Mike enrolled at Wilson as a junior in 1966 and then proceeded to rewrite the football record books. He has held any number of records, many of which have stood for years. Those include a single season rushing record of 1274 yards, 254 career points, 2493 career rushing yards, most points in a game (32) and a single game rushing mark of 256 yards.

In addition to All-County and All-League honors, Mike was chosen to play in the Big-33 Game.

Mike attended Penn State and set several kicking records before transferring to Maryland, where he finished his collegiate career. His Wilson number 32 is retired. At Wilson, Mike was also an outstanding wrestler.

Michael Snyder – (Class of 1977) – Mike was an outstanding all-around swimmer and water polo player at Wilson from 1974 to 1977. At the time of his graduation, he held seven swim records, four Wilson pool records and two league records. He set a then-career scoring record and was named All-League and All-State three times and was a second team All-American water polo player. He was also a PIAA District 3 Champion and State Runner-Up in the butterfly.

Mike later captained the Penn State Water Polo and Swim Teams and was named PSU’s Outstanding Swimmer in 1981. He held four PSU records as well.

Jay Weitzel – (Class of 1950) – Jay was a standout basketball player and golfer at Wilson from 1947 through 1950.

In basketball, he was second in Berks scoring in 1950. But, it was on the golf course that he made his biggest impact. Jay was the PIAA Golf Champion in 1948 and District 3 Champion in 1949. He was also the National Junior Golf Tournament Low Qualifier, The Berks Public Links Champion and a quarterfinalist in the National Jaycees' Tournament.

Turning pro in 1950, he qualified for two US Open Tournaments and PGA Championships and won many local tournaments as well. He was named the golf pro at the Hershey Country Club in 1956 and remained there for over 30 years.

John Weitzel – (Class of 1943) – John was both a basketball player and golfer. He was a three year letter winner on the hardwood floor but enjoyed his greatest success on the links.

He was twice the PIAA District Champion (1942 & 1943) and turned pro in 1946. He had the distinction of competing in all four of the “majors” and was the Pennsylvania Open Champion in 1955 and 1956. He also won numerous other tournament titles and set a major course record shooting a low of 62.

Sadly, he died at the height of his career in an automobile accident in 1956.