

Wilson Athletic Hall of Fame 1987 Inductees

Ellen (Potteiger) Danfield – (Class of 1964) – Ellen graduated Wilson High School with 11 varsity letters. She lettered four years in field hockey, four years in basketball and three years in softball.

Ellen was co-captain of her senior hockey team that finished 6-2 and co-captain of a basketball team that won the Berks Central Division Championship.

In her senior year, Ellen was voted the Best All-Around Female Athlete in 1964 and received both the Babe Ruth Sportsmanship Award and the Fegely Memorial Award.

Suzanne (Dry) Faller – (Class of 1969) – Suzanne was a three-sport athlete who collected 12 varsity letters – in basketball, softball and track & field.

She was an outstanding player and co-captain of the basketball team that went 36-0 from 1967-69. She was co-captain and MVP of the field hockey team her senior year and set a Berks record in the discus in 1969.

Sue was voted as Wilson's Outstanding Female Athlete in 1969 and received the Fegely Award as well.

Rick Fehling – (Class of 1970) – Rick was an outstanding student-athlete. In football, he co-captained the undefeated 1969 team and received All-County and All-League honors and was named to the Big-33 Team as a defensive end.

In swimming, he was a District Champion in the 50 yard freestyle and 400 yard relay and was a member of the 400 relay team that won Wilson's first state swimming gold medal.

Rick went on to Yale University where he started at defensive end. He completed a law degree at Dickinson College and later served as solicitor to the Wilson School Board.

John Gurski – Head Football Coach 1964-1982 – John Gurski put Wilson Football on the map by turning what had been a losing tradition into a winning one. It was John Gurski who began what Wilson football fans call “The Streak”. In 19 seasons, Coach Gurski compiled 151 wins against 41 losses and 4 ties. When one includes his wins at Minersville, he won 198 games as a high school coach.

Coach Gurski developed his system based on senior leadership and had but one question for his players before they took the field – “Are you ready?”

He had four undefeated teams – in 1967, 1969, 1978 and 1981 and won seven league championships.

He coached in the Big-33 game in both 1970 and 1980. Coach Gurski has also been inducted into the Berks County Chapter of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame.

Wilson High School’s main stadium is named in honor of John Gurski and contains an illuminated black stone monument to the man who is the rock upon which Wilson tradition is built.

William ‘Bill’ Kopp – (Class of 1962) – Bill was a three-year letter winner in football, basketball and baseball at Wilson. He was also co-captain of all three teams.

In football, Bill earned All-County Honors twice and has held the record for most career tackles by a Wilson player. He also set record in baseball for career home runs and RBIs.

He continued his athletic endeavors at Albright College where he was a three-year starter in football and baseball. He was selected to the Middle Atlantic Conference Football All-Star Team as a linebacker in both 1964 and 1965.

He returned to teach Social Studies at Wilson High School where he also coached baseball and golf.

Ralph Leininger – (Class of 1932) – Ralph coached both basketball and baseball for 19 years from 1944 to 1962, during which he also served as Physical Education Department Chair and Athletic Director.

His 1948 “Prexies” were county co-champions in baseball, while his basketball teams won crowns in 1952, 1954 and 1961.

He was a Wilson athlete himself and a member of our first baseball championship team in 1932.

Ralph Leininger, Jr. – (Class of 1961) – Ralph was a three-year starter in basketball and two-year starter in football. On the hardwood, he scored 951 points and set a consecutive free throw record of 20.

Ralph was a four-year starter in baseball and was second baseman and clean-up hitter on the 1961 County Championship Team. He set records for RBIs in a season (31), career at-bats (236), hits (91) and doubles (16) and ranks high on the list for career RBIs, runs scored and home runs.

He attended Moravian College and set hitting records there before moving on to Kutztown State College where he completed his education.

Michael Reedy – (Class of 1977) – Michael led Wilson to Berks Championships in both basketball and baseball in his graduation year. He is among Wilson's high career scorers and set five Wilson basketball records. He also scored over 30 points on four occasions.

In baseball, he set a record for highest season average (.571) and for most consecutive shutouts. He also pitched a no-hitter and ranks high in career wins and career batting average. He was selected as the Berks baseball MVP in 1977.

Michael went on to star in both basketball and baseball at Albright College.