

Wilson Athletic Hall of Fame 1998 Inductees

Don Allen – (Class of 1970) – Don was an outstanding diver for the Bulldogs from 1967 through 1970, setting numerous school and pool records at Wilson and throughout the Central Penn League. He was undefeated in dual meets in his sophomore and senior years.

He was the 1968 District 3 runner-up and won district titles on 1969 and 1970 and placed third in the State Meet, earning All-State Honors.

He received a full scholarship to Temple University where he had an undefeated season and won the Middle Atlantic title. He became an electrical systems manager in Oley, PA.

Mark Cornfield – (Class of 1979) – Mark was an outstanding football player and discus thrower. He was an All-County selection in football his junior and senior seasons and was Honorable Mention All-State his senior year. He was captain of the 1978 football team that went 11-0.

Mark was also a three-time All-County selection in track and was the 1979 DISTRICT 3 Discus Champion and third in the State Meet.

He continued his track career at Taylor University where he was a four-time All-American. He later coached at the University of Georgia where he worked with college and Olympic athletes. He would later work for Merrill Lynch.

Bill Firing – (Coach/Teacher) – Bill was Head Track Coach from 1968-77, a junior high track coach and football coach and physical education teacher. His track teams won the Berks County Championship four times. He was coach to District Champion Wayne Hassler and a District Two-Mile Relay Championship team.

His junior high football teams went 75-8-3 in 14 years which included a 45 game winning streak. Bill also conducted a county-wide gymnastics meet. He retired to Florida where he took up a new career as a Corrections Officer.

Gary Leach – (Class of 1958) – Gary lettered in football for three years at Wilson and was named All-County in both his junior and senior seasons, the first Wilson player to be selected All-County twice. He also lettered four years in track.

He would later start in football for four years at Ursinus College. He became a physician and practiced in Houston, Texas.

Forrest Ulrich – (Class of 1948) – Forrest played football for three years, basketball, baseball and track for four years. He was the basketball team captain his senior year when Wilson won the Berks County title. He was also co-captain of the Divisional Champion baseball team. He received the Owls Club Award as well.

Graduating in the top fifth of his class, Forrest served in the Air Force, graduated from Millersville University and then taught and coached at Governor Mifflin High School before retiring in 1985.

Kenneth Wessner – (Class of 1940) – Ken played four sports at Wilson and was a member of the band as well. His athletic career included basketball, where he was team captain, two years of soccer, a stint on the track team his senior year and four years of baseball.

Ken pitched a no-hitter in 1940 and eventually signed with the St. Louis Cardinals organization. He served in the US Army for four years and graduated from Wharton College in 1948. He joined the ServiceMaster Company in 1954 and rose to become Chairman of the Board, retiring in 1990. He received two honorary Doctoral Degrees as well.

Kenneth Wesner passed away in 1994.

John Yocum – (Class of 1970) – John quarterbacked the 1969 undefeated Bulldog football team, playing the previous two years as well. John set several passing records – a single game best completion percentage and most two-point conversions in a season and in a career.

A Wilson Century Club Member, John also played baseball for Wilson. He would go on to a successful college QB career at Gettysburg College. He joined the Muhlenberg School District as a teacher, served as an assistant coach at both Wilson and Muhlenberg before becoming a highly successful Head Coach for the Muhls.