

NEW LEXINGTON HALL OF FAME BIOS
2005



Linton D. Lewis, Sr.

Mr. Lewis was a graduate of Shawnee High School and Capital University. He taught in the New Lexington school system for 25 years. Linton received a master's degree from Ohio University and was the New Lexington High School Principal from 1950 to 1972 and Athletic Director for 16 years.

Mr. Lewis coached boys basketball from 1933 to 1950 and won 247 games. In 1949, New Lexington posted a 26-2 record and was a Class B state semifinalist, the only boys basketball state tournament team in school history.

In 1950, he coached the Muskingum Valley League champions and district finalists. The old gymnasium and current middle school gymnasium at New Lexington have been named Linton D. Lewis Gymnasium in his honor.

Mr. Lewis's son Mr. Linton Lewis, Jr. will be accepting the Hall of Fame plaque on behalf of his father as Hall of Fame Committee member Mr. Paul Ryan presents the plaque.



Ann Mooney

Ann is a 1985 graduate; she was a star on the basketball court and the track and field team. Ann earned All-Ohio and finished third in the state in the 800 meters with a time of 2:14.4. Her time remains a school record. She was also part of the school record-setting 400 meter relay team (48.0).

In basketball, her 1,505 career points are the most in school history. She scored a record-high 47 points in one game and school record 756 points in the 1984-85 season, leading the Panthers to Class AA State runner-up.

Ann was a two-time All-district and All Muskingum Valley League selection and a 1st team All-Ohioan. Ann went on to star in basketball at Indiana University, where she netted numerous academic and athletic accolades, including GTE Scholastic All-American, 3-time Academic All-Big Ten, All-Big Ten, Big Ten Medal of Honor, and Big Ten 2nd Leading Scorer.



John Neff

Mr. Neff taught in New Lexington for 40 years and Junction City for two years. John was head football coach at New Lexington from 1939 to 1954. He served as Perry County Fair Board President for 10 years and a Fair Board member for 20 years.

He started golf at New Lexington in the mid 1950's. He coached the 1970 state runner-up golf team at New Lexington. John attended Mount Union College, was instrumental on placing Hocking College near the fairgrounds. He retired in 1980.

Mr. Neff's son Mr. Joe Neff will be accepting the Hall of Fame plaque on behalf of his father as Hall of Fame Committee member Mr. Phil Swinehart presents the plaque.



Coach Jim Rockwell Sr.

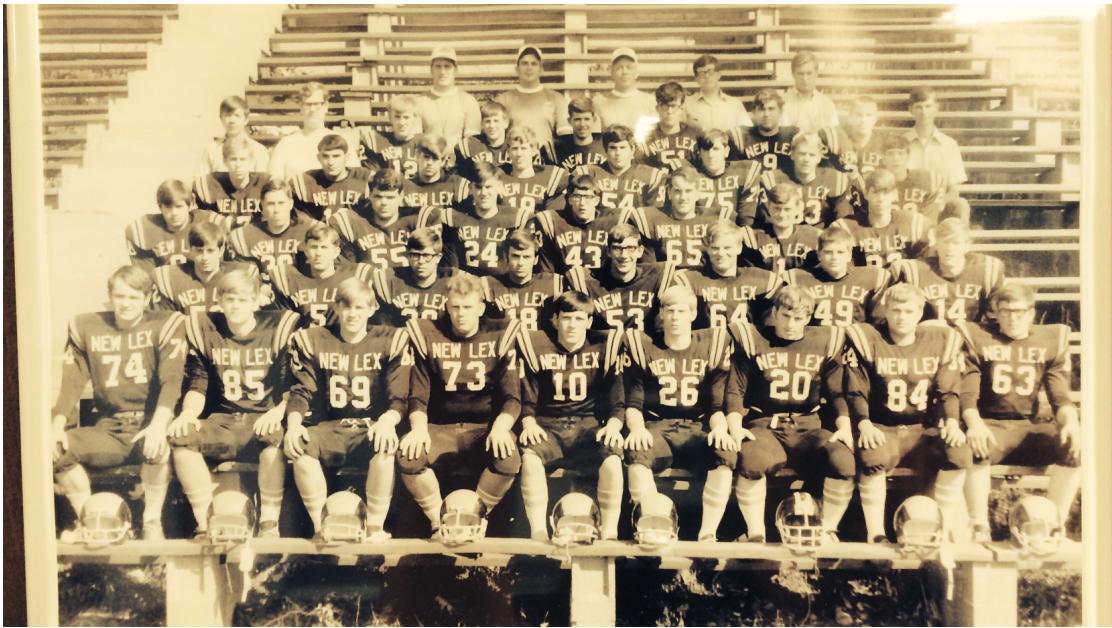
Coach Rockwell coached New Lexington football to a 144-27-8 record from 1959 to 1976. He coached the 1970 and 1976 teams to the Class AA AP/UPI poll state titles. Coach Rockwell also coached unbeaten teams in 1961, 1964 and 1974. He coached 10 Muskingum Valley League championship teams, including eight straight from 1969 to 1976. Coach Rockwell was named Southeastern Ohio Coach of the year six times and coaches in the North-South game in 1971.

He also coached basketball from 1959 to 1964, was head track coach from 1959 to 1973 and guided the Panthers to 12 consecutive MVL track titles. He was also New Lexington High Athletic Director from 1965 to 1976 and was inducted into the Ohio Athletic Directors Hall of Fame in 1984. Also in 1984, the school's football stadium was named after him.

In 1942, he graduated from Washington, Pa. High School, where he participated in football, basketball and track. He played in the Big 33 all-star football game and went on to play at Marshall University, helping the Thundering Herd win the 1948 Mid-American Conference Championship.

He was head basketball and assistant football coach at Irononton from 1951 to 1955 and Wellston from 1955 to 1959. Coach Rockwell was named Southeastern Ohio Athletic League basketball coach of the year in 1957.

Coach Rockwell's son Mr. Jim Rockwell, Jr. will be accepting the Hall of Fame plaque on behalf of his father as Hall of Fame Committee member Mr. Allen Smith presents the plaque.



1970 State Championship Football Team

This team, coached by Jim Rockwell, posted an 8-0 MVL record and outscored its opponents 324-21 in league games. They finished the season 10-0 and ranked No. 1 in Class AA by The Associated Press and UPI. There were no state playoffs at this time.

The Panthers wrapped up their perfect season with a 14-0 victory over John Glenn. New Lexington had nine players named first-team all-league. Tailback Jim 'Little Rock' Rockwell was named Back of the Year in the MVL. He was joined on the first-team offense by fullback Tony Martin, quarterback Steve Fisher, split end Dave Crook, tackle Bob Seals and guard Ed Hammond.

First-team All-MVL defenders included linebacker Mike Strohl, tackle Jerry Smith and defensive back Sean Colborn. Linton Lewis (split end), Don Butcher (center), Don Poling (defensive end), Frank Bourff (defensive tackle) and Steve Wilson (linebacker) were selected second-team All-MVL.

Members of the 1970 State Championship Football Team including managers, cheerleaders, coaches and players are: Managers: Randy Dickerson, Charles Hankinson, Kim Cannon, Lane Johnston, & Neil King. Cheerleaders: Pat Strode Johnson, Pam Strode Nosbuch, Marilyn Wollenberg Johnson, Jennifer Tackett Rugg, Cheryl Strohl Riley, Sherry Altier Poling, Phyllis Wollenberg Howdyshell, Madonna King Henning. Coaches: Fred Shelton, Larry Barnhouse, Allen Smith and Head Coach Jim Rockwell.

Players: Bill Roberts, Linton Lewis, Dave Crook, Frank Bourff, Jim Rockwell, Dean Colborn, Tony Martin, Mike Strohl, Jerry Smith, Bill Padgett, Ed Rugg, Marc Henery, Steve Wilson, Don Butcher, Ed Hammond, Jerry Hammond, Steve Harley, John Higgins, Jeff Wolfe, Mike Mohler, Jerry Seals, Brent Barnhouse, Bob Seals, Marvin Baker, Steve Henry, Mike Metzger, Don Epifano, Jim Middaugh, Don Poling, Doug Johnson, Dick Gray, Rick Householder, Don King, Steve Fisher, Irvan Allen, Pat Stenson, Dave Boyle, Cliff Sayre, Chris Wolfe.

The captains of the team will be accepting the Hall of Fame plaque that will be presented by Hall of Fame Committee member Mr. Jim Leckrone.

2006



Paul Gallagher

Paul Gallagher, Class of 1955, achieved success at New Lexington High School during his junior and senior years. He participated in football, basketball, baseball, and track, along with class plays, and was vice-president of his class his junior and senior years.

His junior year the football team was co-champions of the league and his senior year both his football and basketball teams were the undisputed league champions; a feat which has not been duplicated. He was co-captain of the football team and was the only New Lexington Panther named to both the offensive and defensive All-MVL teams. He was selected on offense as a guard and defense as a nose tackle. In track he participated in the mile relay at the regional and State competition his senior year.

Paul Gallagher was successful in acquiring his B.S. Ed. Degree at Ohio University while participating in football four years, and served as vice-president of the Class of 1959. He was also captain of the Ohio University football team his senior year. He was selected his sophomore and junior years as second team All Mid-American Conference Player and as Lineman of the Week vs. Miami University his senior year.

Upon graduation he was employed as a teacher and coach at Oberlin High School in Ohio, and later at Wyoming School District, a suburb of Cincinnati, Ohio. After receiving his Masters in Education Degree from Ohio University, he became a school administrator, spending most of his working years in Newark, Ohio. He retired in 1992 as Principal of Newark High School. The following year, he lost his wife Carol, to cancer.

Paul Gallagher is presently married to Mary, a retired elementary teacher from Pennsylvania. He has two children, Debi, a high school English teacher in California, and Mark, a teacher and coach in the Worthington, Ohio School District. His step-son, Ray Clark is employed by Lexmark in Lexington, KY as a software engineer. Paul is very proud of his four grandchildren.

He and Mary have traveled extensively, visiting the 50 U.S. states, all the Canadian provinces, and over 50 foreign countries. Their last trip in May of this year was to Africa.

Paul Gallagher wishes to thank the New Lexington Hall of Fame for this recognition and his teammates who made this possible. Hall of Fame Committee member Mr. Phil Swinehart will now present Mr. Paul Gallagher with his Hall of Fame plaque.



Margie Hammond

Margie is the daughter of Joe and Julia Hammond of New Lexington. Margie attended New Lexington High School from 1973 to 1976. Margie attended Rio Grande College and Community College from 1976 to 1981. She played varsity volleyball and basketball three years at New Lexington along with two years of varsity softball and one year of track. Margie is currently teaching physical education and health at New Lexington Middle School and she is also the varsity volleyball and varsity girls track coach.

At New Lexington High School she played varsity volleyball and basketball for three years, softball two years and ran track her senior year. In volleyball she was All-MVL, team MVP and captain. In basketball she earned High School All-American honors and the hustle award. In softball she was team MVP. In track she was 3rd in the State 400 meters and was a member of the 5th place State medley relay team. Margie also was the MVL high point scorer and champion in the 100 meters, 200 meters, 400 meters, and the shot put. She was district champion in the 200 and 400 meters.

While attending the University of Rio Grande she played varsity volleyball, basketball, and track four years. In volleyball she earned All Ohio Division III team honors and was a member of the Division III state runner-up team. In basketball she was a member of the Division III State championship team in 1980 and she was voted to the All Regional Team 1980 and to the All Ohio Team. In Track she was a two time TFA/USA All-American. Margie was voted her first year of eligibility as a member of the University of Rio Grande Athletic Hall of Fame. In 1981 she graduated from the University of Rio Grande with a bachelor of science degree in physical education and health and earned her masters degree from Ohio University.

Hall of Fame Committee member Mrs. Penny Murray will now present Ms. Margie Hammond with her Hall of Fame plaque.



Shelly Jorgenson

An All-Muskingum Valley League performer in three sports, Jorgenson's accomplishments include participating in the Class AA State Championship in the high jump in 1981, 1982 and 1983. She won the State high jump in 1982 and 1983. Jorgenson's 5'10" jump in 1983 was an Ohio State record for more than a decade and still stands as a school record today. That jump earned her All-American honors. That year she also won the Mid-West meet of champions, where all state champions from Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Michigan competed. She was also a member of the 400 meter relay team which placed 7th in the State meet.

Her basketball achievements included first-team All-MVL unanimous pick in 1982 and 1983. She was selected third-team All-Ohio (UPI) and honorable mention (AP) as a junior and second team All-Ohio as a senior. She was voted District 12 MVP and participated in the All-Star game as well as the MVL All-Star game. In 1981 she helped the Lady Panthers win the MVL Championship, the sectional and district titles. The 1982 team won the sectionals. In 1983 Shelly led the Lady Panthers in winning the MVL, sectional and district titles and the team was runner-up at the regionals. She also set a new school scoring record.

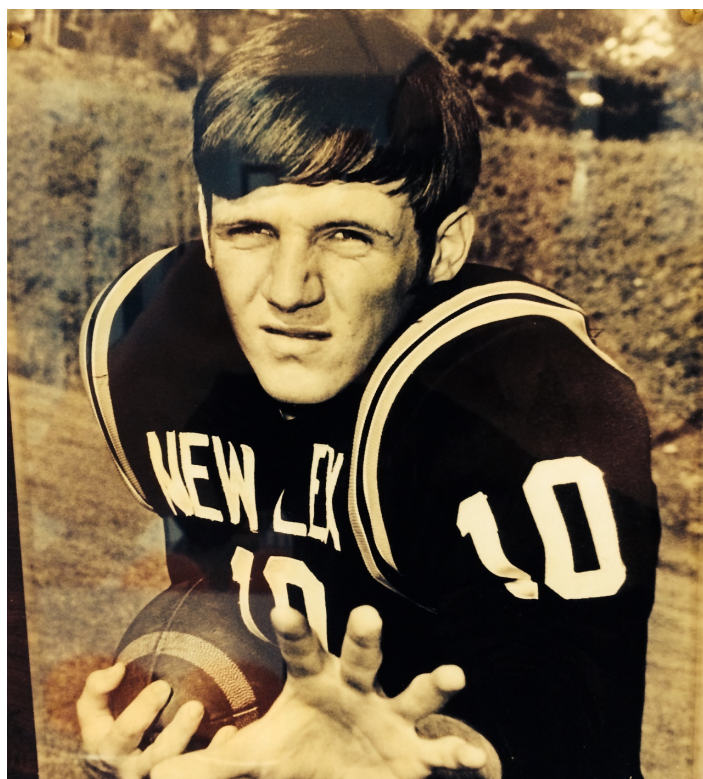
Her volleyball achievements included 2nd team All-MVL in 1981 with the team being MVL Co-Champions and sectional winners. In 1982 and 1983 she was 1st team All-MVL unanimous pick. The 1982 team won the MVL and sectional titles. The 1983 team was again the MVL Champions as well as the sectional and district champions.

Jorgenson received a full athletic scholarship to play basketball at Ohio University. She went on to letter three years while playing basketball at O.U. She played on the 1986 squad that won the MAC Championship and was selected to the all-tournament team. She also helped the team advance to the 2nd round of the NCAA tournament that year. Shelly also high jumped for the O.U. track team in 1984 that won the MAC Championship.

Jorgenson received her Bachelors degree in Market Management from Capital University and is serving a successful career in energy conservation industry where she is currently a Senior Account Executive with Ameresco, Inc. headquartered in Boston, Ma.

Jorgenson also does a variety of public speaking on the subject of energy conservation and volunteers as a mentor for children in athletics and is active in her church outreach programs.

Hall of Fame Committee member Mr. Jim Leckrone will now present Ms. Shelly Jorgenson with her Hall of Fame plaque.



Jim Rockwell, Jr.

Known as “Little Rock”, at 5’10”, 175 pounds, he was first team All-Ohio in football and a state finalist in track for the Panthers. A co-captain of the 1970 Class AA State champion football team, he was the United Press International Ohio Class AA Back of the Year and was selected first-team All-Ohio UPI and AP in 1970 as a running back. “Little Rock” was voted the Southeastern District Back of the Year and was selected to the National High School Football Coaches All-American Team.

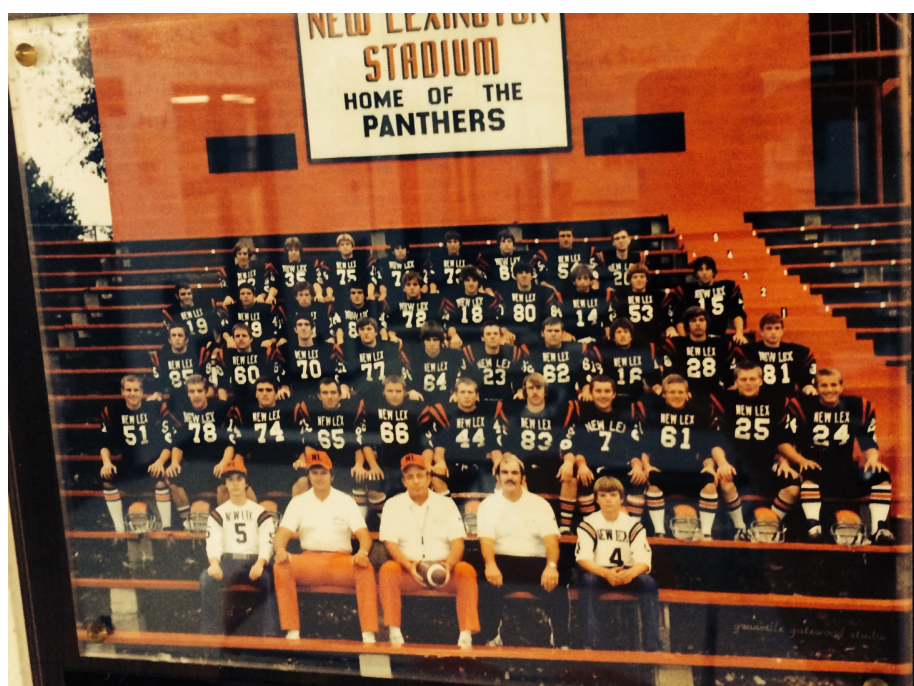
Rockwell was the MVL Back of the Year in 1970. He led the Muskingum Valley League in scoring, total offense, punting average, and interceptions (10) in 1970. He shares the school record with six touchdowns in a game against West Muskingum in 1970.

Rockwell also earned All-Ohio in the 180-yard low hurdles in 1971. His time of 19.5 seconds in the hurdles set a Class AA regional record and a New Lexington school record. Rockwell qualified for the State track championships in two events, the 180-yard low hurdles, and was a member of the 880 relay team.

He went on to start four years at tailback at Muskingum College, where he ranked third in the nation in punt returns in 1974. His 97-yard touchdown run versus Findlay College in 1972 is a school record. He played in the first OAC Championship Game in 1972. He also earned two letters in track as he qualified for the OAC Championships in the 100 yard dash, the OAC Indoor Championships in the 55 yard dash, and won the William F. Lange Award as the school’s outstanding freshman athlete.

As a Managing Director of Operations for FedEx Corporation, Rockwell received the prestigious FedEx Five Star Award for outstanding achievements in 2002. He is married to Susan Merckle Rockwell and lives in the Akron area in Silver Lake, Ohio.

Hall of Fame Committee member Mr. Tony Martin will now present Mr. Jim Rockwell II with his Hall of Fame plaque.



1976 Football Team

The 1976 NLHS football team was coached by Jim Rockwell. They compiled a record of 10-1 during this season and for the seniors of the team, they wracked up a record of 36-2 during their four years. They were Poll Champs in both AP and UPI rating in the class AA division. During the 1976 season the team, with a total of 407 points for the season, averaged 37 points per game and gave up only 22 points in 10 games, with 6 shutouts.

The team had 2 players named All Ohio: Kevin Cannon, Rocky Jorgenson. They had 7 players named All MVL in Offense Mark Hill, Ed Fisher, Steve Altier, Kevin Cannon, Phil Spurgus, Bub Murray, Randall Allen. They also had 6 players named All MVL in Defense: Steve Altier, Phil Spurgus, Jerry King, Ed Fisher, Kevin Cannon, Rocky Jorgenson. The team also had: 3 named 2nd team All MVL, 3 named to 3rd team All MVL, Randy Wycinski – Defense, Mike Fink – Defense, Dan Rugg – Defense, Rocky Jorgenson – Offense, Timmy Stenson – Offense, Jerry King – Offense.

The team also had: MVL Offensive Player of the Year: Kevin Cannon, MVL Defensive Player of the Year: Rocky Jorgenson, The team includes:: Ed Fisher – Deceased, represented by his brothers Joe, Jack & Steve Fisher, Dave Murray, Phil Spurgus, Steve Altier, Tim Stenson, Mike Fink, Kevin Cannon, Jerry Henry, Tom Sullivan, Randall Allen, Rocky Jorgenson, Dan Rugg, Andy Cable, Chuck Snider, Steve Dick, Charles Howerth, Ron Sidwell, Dennis Weiland, Gene Gable, Larry June, Randy Wycinski, Ed Kunkler, Rich Baker, Ron Huffman, Jesse Combs, Mike Weiland, Jeff Nutter, Mark Hill, Jerry King, Joe Hatem, Jeff Addington, Luke Able, Kenny Gaddis, Tim McClain, John Gable, Dan Miller, Phil Padgett, Joe Dennis, Jim Craig. Captains were Ed Fisher and Kevin Cannon, Managers: Jay Edwards, Paul Weiland Coaches: Jim Rockwell, Larry Saffell, Larry Barnhouse, Mike Sherlock and Brent Barnhouse. Cheerleaders: Janet Smith, Marsha Williams, Pam Wollenberg, Julie Tague, Judy Leckrone, Diane Mooney. The captains of the team will be accepting the Hall of Fame plaque that will be presented by Hall of Fame Committee member Mr. Al Smith.