

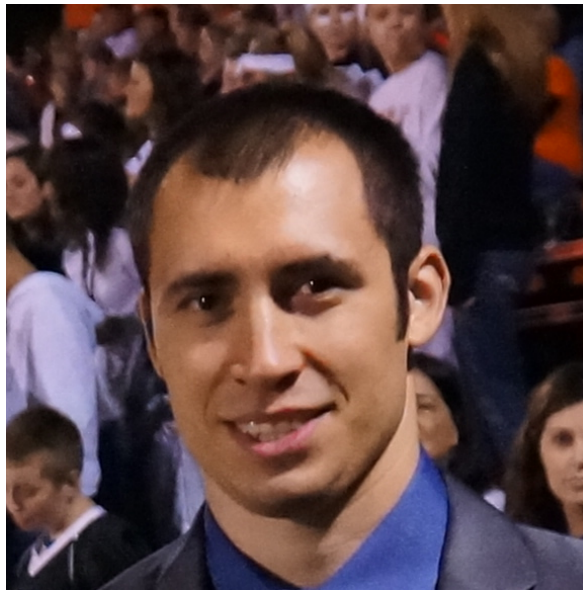
2012



Jerry Beach

In the summer of 1960 the athletes from Junction City High School did not know their lives were about to be changed forever. We went from being a town of Wildcats to a town of Panthers, and a new football coach named Jim Rockwell. After our first team meeting with our new head coach, I wasn't sure there was one player from Junction City who wanted to return for practice the next day, including myself. It is hard to believe, even today, how two years at this high school made such a difference in my life. In those two years we went undefeated and won back to back Muskingum Valley Championships. Because of this one man, players from these two towns became "One". And for me, my life was about to change forever and I didn't see it coming. What I did know, I had so much love and respect for Coach Rockwell when I graduated from high school, I would never disappoint him. I made plan to go to college and if lucky enough to graduate, I would certainly become a coach. I had lots of advice from teachers and counselors. My grades and transcript were absolutely terrible. They were so bad that some teachers advised me to consider other careers. One teacher told me it would be a miracle if I got into college and an act of God if I graduated. Well, they didn't know what I knew. For Coach Rock, it wasn't an option to fail. I went on to play college football and later professional football. I graduated from Mississippi State University and later received a master's degree from Auburn University. I became a football coach for the next 40 years, 28 years in college coaching.

I stand here tonight and thank all of my teammates, who without them this night would have never been possible. What an honor it is for me to thank the Panther fans, teachers, classmates and especially Linton Lewis my principal, who sent me into the future with a whole lot of mental toughness. I have waited a long time for this night and I can finally say what I never got to say to Coach Rock when he was here with us. Coach Rockwell, on behalf of all your former players, we want you to know our lives have truly been changed forever. And as you look down on me tonight I certainly hope I have made you proud.



### **Ben Fondale**

During his athletic career at New Lexington High School, Ben Fondale excelled in Wrestling, Football and Track. Ben earned four varsity letters in wrestling, three varsity letters in track and one varsity letter in football.

During the 2003-04 school year Ben became the only state qualifier in school history to date. Ben was a sectional champion, MVL Finalist and a member of the undefeated MVL Champion Panther wrestling team. This team broke and still holds the league record for points. Ben also earned his first letter in track.

During the 2004-05 school year Ben earned his second state appearance in wrestling. Ben was a sectional champion, MVL Champion and District finalist. He was also a member of the MVL Champion Panther wrestling team.

During the 2005-06 school year Ben placed fourth in the state in wrestling. Fondale was also named MVL Wrestler of the Year. Ben was a sectional champion, MVL Champion and District finalist. He was also a member of the undefeated MVL Champion Panther wrestling team. Ben also earned his second letter in track.

During the 2006-07 school year Ben placed sixth in the state in wrestling. Fondale was again named MVL Wrestler of the Year. Ben was a sectional champion, MVL Champion and District Champion. He was also a member of the MVL Champion Panther wrestling team. Ben was member of the undefeated MVL Championship/Regional Finalist football team and earned All-MVL Status as a defensive back. Ben capped off his athletic career earning All-MVL in Track.

Ben holds four school records in wrestling: Victories, falls and two/three near Fall maneuvers. His 174 victories is also an MVL Record. Ben is the only MVL wrestler in History to earn four trips to the State Championships.

Ben was honored to have had the opportunity to compete in athletics with many talented teammates and coaches. Ben Fondale graduated from Cleveland State University in 2012 where he earned Magna Cum Laude Honors in Mathematics. He also was the leading scorer on the Cleveland State Rugby team.

Currently, Ben Fondale is a math teacher and coach in the Miami Trace High School. He currently resides in Washington Courthouse. His parents are Steve and Beth Fondale from Junction City. His Grandmother is Pat Fondale also of Junction City. His brother, Adam, is currently a junior at Columbia University in New York City, where he is the starting 165 pound wrestler on the D-1 Lion wrestling team.



**Dr. Jeff Haggengjos**

I graduated from Southern Illinois University with AD, BA, and MS degrees. I graduated from Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine with post graduate training at Cook County Hospital in Chicago Illinois and Mt Clemons Trauma Center in Detroit Michigan.

I started my family practice in New Lexington in 1979. At that time I was team physician for both Miller and Crooksville High Schools. In 1987 I became team physician for New Lexington. I have done thousands of physicals on athletes in both the high school and the elementary school. I have found many physical problems and treated numerous injuries over the years.

I am certified in family practice. I am a member of the American Osteopathic Association of Sports Medicine, American Medical Association, American Osteopathic Association, Ohio Osteopathic Association and Ohio Association of Family Practice. I am a Staff physician at Genesis, Fairfield Medical Center and Doctors Hospital. I am the Medical Director for Genesis Medical Group Rural Health Care Center. I have been the Medical Director for New Lexington squad and other area squads. I have also served as the Perry County Coroner. I have received numerous professional and civic awards.

However, I am most proud of my four sons, who participated in numerous activities and sports in the New Lexington Schools and my wife, who has served on the New Lexington School Board.





**Dale Lett**

After high school Dale worked at various jobs including Wonder Bread and Frito Lay in Columbus, Ohio. There he met and later married Judy Limotta in 1965. Together they share 5 daughters, 12 grandchildren, and 9 great grandchildren.

Dale and Judy moved from Columbus to Neosho, Missouri, in 1967, where he started a water well drilling business. After drilling more than 5000 wells in Missouri, Arkansas, and Oklahoma, he hung up his hard hat and retired in 2002.

Dale has had a great interest in aviation since early childhood and pursued his dream by becoming a commercial pilot with airplane, single and multi-engine, seaplane, and instrument ratings.

Dale and Judy loved to travel and had the good fortune of touring Europe, Hawaii, and Mexico as well as several cruises.

In 1995, Dale and Judy began their adventure of motorcycle riding, logging more than 50,000 miles across America on their Harley.

Dale is a 50-year member of the Masonic Lodge, attaining the 32 degree and is a member of the Valley of Joplin Scottish Rite.

In 1976, he was appointed an officer in Abou Ben Adhem Shrine Temple of Springfield, MO, and in 1984, was elected Potentate of the 6300 memble Temple. He is very proud of his service of assisting crippled and burned children.

Dale was elected Road District Commissioner in 1995, and still serves that position as chairman.

Most importantly, Dale is very proud of his daughters and grandchildren. He loves spending time with them and feels he has been blessed.



### **Russell Spicer**

During his athletic career at New Lexington High School Russell Spicer excelled in both football and wrestling, having earned four varsity letters in football and four varsity letters in wrestling, along with one varsity letter in track and field.

During the 1998-1999 school year Russell earned All-MVL status in football. As a member of the OHSAA Sectional Wrestling Team Champions, he also came away with MVL Wrestler of the Year.

During the 1999-2000 school year Russell earned the status of All-MVL Football, All-District Football, and All-Ohio Football. His achievements also included MVL Football Player of the Year, Running Back of the Year and Leading Rusher, with a season total of 1652 yards rushing. Russell was also a member of the MVL Wrestling Team Champions, as well as the OHSAA Sectional Wrestling Team Champions. He earned the status of All-Ohio Wrestling and for the second year in a row he secured the title of MVL Wrestler of the Year. Spicer went on to become Third in State Wrestling.

As an athlete at NLHS Russel was a 3-Time OHSAA State Wrestling Qualifier (School Record), 2-Time District Wrestling Champion (School Record), 3-Time OHSAA Sectional Wrestling Champion, 2-Time MVL Wrestling Champion, 2-Time MVL Wrestling Runner-up, and 4-Time Jimmy Wood Wrestling Tournament Champion (School Record). He attained a 136-28 career wrestling match record (3<sup>rd</sup> All Time) and a 544 career takedown record (All time).

Russell was very honored to have had the opportunity to play football and wrestle alongside many talented teammates, whom he considers to be lifelong friends. He was also very fortunate to have had invaluable guidance from several dedicated coaches throughout his high school athletic career.

Currently, Russell Spicer is employed by Keystone Surveying and Mapping as survey crew chief, working in West Virginia. He currently resides in New Lex with his wife Becky, daughter Adrienne, and sons Andrew and Isaac. They are expecting a baby girl in December.

**2013**



**Jesse Duperow**

During his athletic career at New Lexington High School Jesse DuPerow was an All-MVL performer in both baseball and basketball. He went on to earn two letters in football as well as three letters in both baseball and basketball.

During the 1995-96 school year, DuPerow earned varsity letters in football, basketball, and baseball as a starter on all three teams. The highlight of his sophomore year was earning first team All-MVL status on the hardwood as he led the Panthers in scoring and rebounding.

The 1996-97 school year produced varsity letters in both basketball and baseball for DuPerow as he did not play football. On the diamond he was first team All-MVL as a pitcher and helped lead the Panthers to the MVL Championship game where they finished runner-up to Tri-Valley. During the basketball season DuPerow continued his success on the court as he again was named first team All-MVL as well as earning All-District and All-State honors while again leading the Panthers in scoring and rebounding.

In 1997-98, which was DuPerow's senior year at New Lexington, he again earned three varsity letters in football, basketball, and baseball as a starting member of all three teams. His greatest success was on the hardwood where he was team co-captain with Jeremiah Boyden and helped lead the Panthers to Sectional and District Championships as well as a berth in the Regional Finals where New Lexington finished the season as Regional Runner-up. DuPerow averaged 22 points, 12 rebounds, 4 blocked shots, 3 assists and 3 steals a game for the Panthers. That earned him honors that included: first team All-MVL, MVL Player of the Year, first team Southeast District, District 12 Player of the year and second team All-Ohio Division II. DuPerow was also selected to participate in the District East/West all-star game as well as the Division I and II Ohio North/South All Star Game played in St. Johns Arena on the campus of The Ohio State University.

Following his career at New Lexington, DuPerow went on to be a four year starter on the Marietta College Men's Basketball team. He was a four year All-OAC performer as well as three-time All-Region, four-time All-American and in his senior season was a finalist for the Jostens National Player of the Year award. He left Marietta holding many records including the career scoring mark, most career blocked shots, and finished second in career rebounds. In February DuPerow was inducted to Marietta's Athletics Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility.

Currently, Jesse DuPerow is employed with Norfolk Southern Corporation as a supervisor in the Accounts Payable Department. He resides in Roanoke, Virginia with his wife Megan and daughters Isabella (4) and Lillian (2). The couple is expecting their third child in early February.

DuPerow would like to thank his family and the coaches, teammates, and faculty members who played a huge part in his success during his time at NLHS and beyond.





**Roger Hooper**

A 1968 graduate of New Lex, Roger Hooper lettered in basketball and track. He was named All-MVL and All-SEO his senior season. Hooper still holds the All-Time boys record for most points in a single game (44) in 1968. Roger was also a member of the National Honor Society.

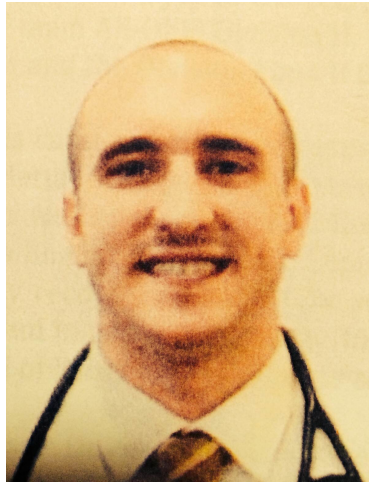
After graduating from Ohio in 1972 with a teaching degree, he returned to New Lex. Roger spent his first 8 years as an assistant in basketball and track. In 1981-82, he and his long time friend and assistant, Russ Bethel, took over the reigns of the girl's basketball team. During the eighties the Lady Panthers went 103-39, earning a State AA Runner-up finish in 1985 going 23-4. In 1987, Hooper and Bethel were inducted into the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame.

In the 1993-94 season, Hooper took over the boys basketball program. The 1994-95 team played in the District Finals for the first time in over 40 seasons. Five Sectional titles, 2 District Runners-up, 3 District Titles, three Regionals, 1 Regional runner-up, and one State Runner-up, along with many players selected as All-MVL, All-District and All-State honors bringing back lasting memories.

Coach Hooper also coached the 1983 girl's track team that advanced to the State track meet and finished 8<sup>th</sup> in the State. Roger retired at New Lex in 2002 but has continued to coach at Fairfield Christian for the past 10 seasons. This upcoming season will be his 42<sup>nd</sup>.

While at Fairfield Christian, he has guided 2 teams to the OHSAA State tournament. The golf team finished 4<sup>th</sup> in Ohio in 2010. This past season, the boy's basketball team went to the State Semifinals with a record of 25-3.

His combined lifetime coaching record in basketball is 390-207. He would like to thank the H.O.F. committee for this induction; his former coaches; Jim Rockwell, Phil Swinehart, Hal Frazier, Jack Lybarger, Gary Gantz, Ron Hoops, and High School principal Linton Lewis. Coach Hooper would like to thank the fans, players, parents, assistant coaches – especially longtime friend Russ Bethel. He would also like to thank the staff and administrators. Special thanks to his parents Roger and Dorothy, wife Debbie, children Clay and Nan, and most importantly God for all his blessings.



### **Jerry Robinson**

During his New Lex High School athletic career; Jerry Robinson excelled in football, wrestling and track. Jerry earned 4 letters in wrestling, 3 letters in football and 2 letters in track. He also ranked among the top ten for his graduating class.

During the 2003-04 year, Jerry earned his 1<sup>st</sup> varsity letter in wrestling and went on to win the MVL title at 130lb for the undefeated MVL wrestling champs. Jerry also placed 5<sup>th</sup> at the district tournament, earning him an alternate spot for the state tournament.

During the 2004-05 year, Jerry earned his first letter for football. Starting at QB, DB, and PK. He also earned his 2<sup>nd</sup> letter in wrestling, was an MVL finalist, District placer and member of the MVL champion Panther wrestling team.

In 2005-06, Jerry earned his 2<sup>nd</sup> letter for football as QB, DB, and PK. He helped the team to the playoffs. Jerry earned his 3<sup>rd</sup> letter in wrestling as an MVL champion at 152lbs, state-alternate, and member of the undefeated MVL Champion Panther wrestling team. Jerry finished the year earning his first letter in track.

In 2006-07, Jerry earned his 3<sup>rd</sup> letter for football as QB, DB, and PK. He helped lead the undefeated MVL Champion/Regional Finalist football team to a 12-1 season, earning 1<sup>st</sup> team All-Ohio Honors at DB and All-MVL honors at QB. Jerry was also named MVP of the '07 Panther team. Jerry earned his fourth letter in wrestling, as the 171 pound MVL champ, Sectional Champ, and State Placer (4<sup>th</sup> Place). He was also a member of the MVL Champion Panther wrestling team. Jerry finished his high school career by earning his second varsity letter in track.

Jerry went on to play D-II football at Concord University in Athens, WV. While there, Jerry earned various starting roles (quarterback, receiver, linebacker, defensive back, and special teams.) He earned first team WVIAC academic honors during his years of athletic activity. Jerry ended his sporting career after a knee injury during his senior season at Concord University. He went on to coach special teams and aid in strength/conditioning at Concord University. Jerry graduated magna cum laude with two bachelor degrees in chemistry and biology, and a minor in philosophy.

Currently, Jerry is a medical student at Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED) where he plans to pursue his interests in surgery. His parents are Jerry Robinson Jr. and Joyce Robinson. His siblings are Samantha Robinson, John Robinson, Elizabeth Robinson and Emily Robinson. Jerry is extremely grateful for the friends, family, and teammates that helped him become the person he is today.





### **Larry Saffell**

Larry is a lifelong Perry County resident. He is the son of Harold and Margaret (Teal) Saffell. He attended grade school at St. Rose, St. Aloysius Academy, where he was honored as an All SEO MLB in 1965. He went on to Eastern Kentucky University where he earned his Bachelor of Science in Education.

In 1971 he began a 30 year career teaching and coaching students at NLHS. Z Larry began his career teaching driver education and general science. Then in 1989, he transitioned to Earth Science, and Physical Education until he retired in 2001. Larry had the honor of coaching as an assistant coach under head football coach Jim Rockwell in the 70's. He was part of the 1976 AP/UPI State Title staff. They accumulated 6 MVL titles as well. Larry was named head coach from 1992-95.

He spent 10 years coaching boy's golf. The team was a State-Finalist in 1990, Regional Runner-up, District Runner-up, Sectional and MVL Champs. He sent individuals to the State in 1985 and 1999. Two sectional titles and an MVL title in 1983. Larry spent 12 seasons as boys track coach. The 1989, 1990 and 1991 teams went 54-0 in the MVL, which resulted in 3 MVL titles and 3 league meet titles. This is an MVL record for Track. In addition his team won the 1990 District title and Larry was District Coach of the year.

Larry thanks his great student athletes who came together and competed toward a common goal. He also attributes his success in large part to his wife of 41 years, Susan Hillis Saffell. They have 2 sons, Travis and Troy and five grandchildren. They are anxiously awaiting their 6<sup>th</sup> grandchild in December.

Larry and Susan fill their time taking care of their family business, Lambs Cleaners and Car Wash, boating, golfing, and following their grandchildren's activities. In addition, Larry is a member of St. Rose Catholic Church, fraternal order of Elks, Lions Club International, NFIB, Thornville Moose International, Thornville Sons of AMVETS, and a PERCO board member.