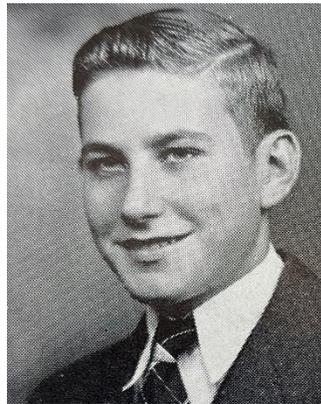
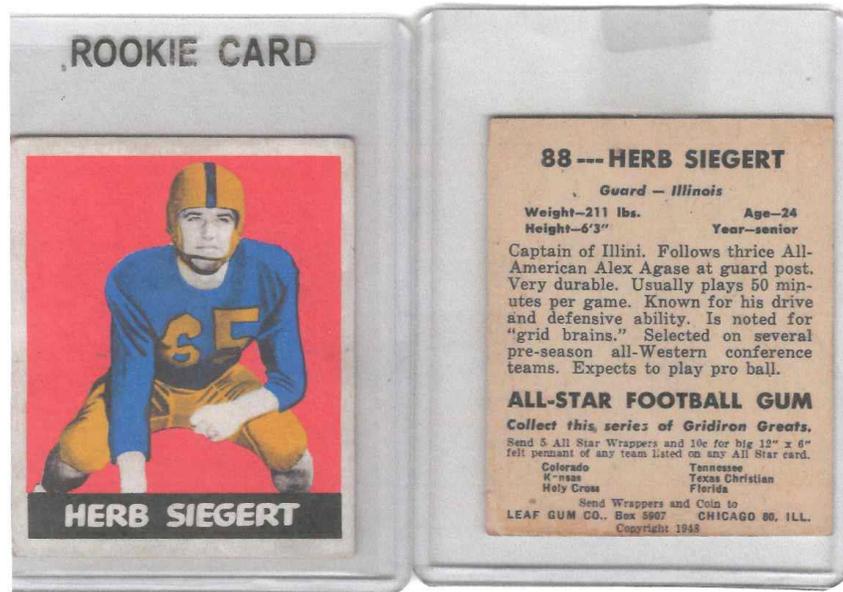


Herb Siegert

(Graduated from Pana High School -1941)



Herbert Frank Siegert (January 10, 1924 – September 26, 2008) was a football guard and linebacker in the National Football League for the Washington Redskins.

Siegert originally attended Illinois Wesleyan University, and then served in World War II as a Marine in the Pacific. After the war, he played college football at the University of Illinois and won the Big Ten Conference in 1946, as well as the 1947 Rose Bowl against the University of California, Los Angeles. Siegert captained the 1948 team, and he won All-American honors.

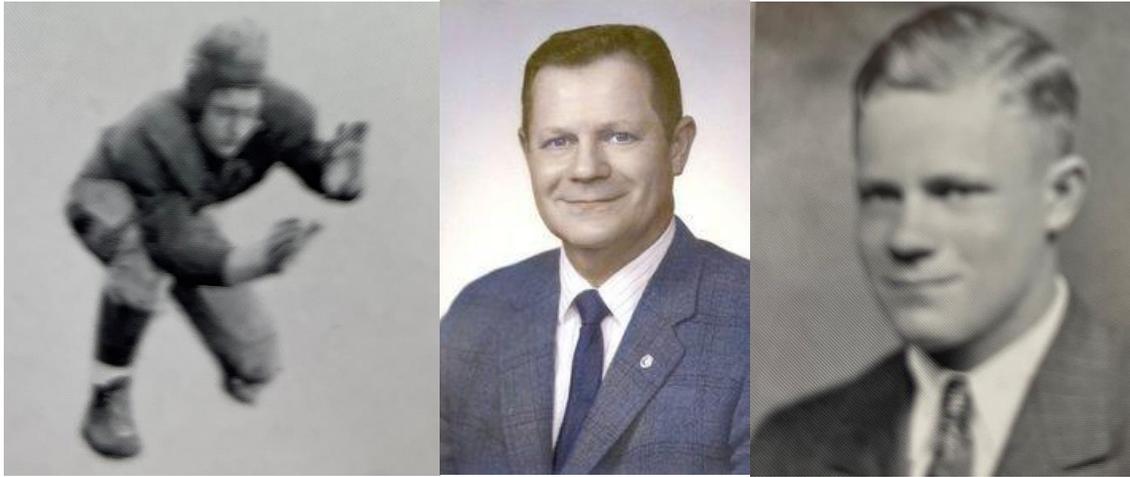
Siegert was drafted in the 18th round of the 1949 NFL Draft by the Washington Redskins, where he played from 1949 to 1951.

After football, Siegert worked as an insurance agent. He and his wife Joan had five daughters.

He was a member of First United Methodist Church of Pana, Pana Rotary Club, Pana Lodge #226 AFAM, Christian County Shrine Club, Ansar Shrine, Pana Sportsman's Club and Pana Country Club. He had been a Pony League coach and was active in community projects and fundraisers. Herb was one of the first members of Pana Industrial Development Corporation which encouraged industry in Pana. He was a member of several boards including serving for 45 years on the board of First National Bank of Pana where he was Chairman of the Board for 20 years. Herb was a strong individual who loved his family. His prayers were answered as he was able to maintain his sense of humor to the end.

Martin Paul Amling

(Graduated from Pana High School - 1941)



Martin Paul Amling, 92, of Pana, was born on February 7, 1923, the second of five sons of Martin C. F. and Tillie Eitzman Amling. He was a top athlete in football, basketball, and track during his years at Pana High School. Martin went on to study horticulture at Ohio State University and played football on the 1942 National Championship Team under Football Hall of Fame Coach Paul Brown. He was called to duty in the U.S. Army during World War II. Martin served in an Infantry Cannon Company in the 75th Division providing artillery support to stop the German advance during the Battle of the Bulge. Martin's brothers, Bill, Warren, and Arol were all standout athletes at Pana. Martin was also involved in the wholesale rose growing business in Pana.

Dr. Warren Eugene Amling

(Graduated from Pana High School - 1942)



Dr. Warren Eugene Amling (December 29, 1924 – November 1, 2001) was a football and basketball player, playing for the Ohio State Buckeyes from 1944 to 1946. He was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1984.

In 1945, Amling was a unanimous All-America selection at guard on the Buckeye football team and finished seventh in the vote for the Heisman Trophy. In 1946, he was elected the team captain and volunteered to move to tackle, a position where the team was thinner. At this new position he was again named an All-American by the Sporting News and the Football Writers Association of America. He was also considered for the Heisman Trophy. Amling was inducted into the Ohio State Varsity O Hall of Fame in 1981 and the College Football Hall of Fame in 1984 and was selected to the Ohio State Football All-Century Team (at guard) in 2000.

Amling was also a starter for the Ohio State basketball team. He is the only member of the College Football Hall of Fame to start in an NCAA Basketball Final Four game.

Amling graduated with honors from Ohio State's Veterinary Medicine School in 1947 and turned down a chance to play for the New York Giants, choosing instead to practice veterinary medicine in London, Ohio. He served as a member of the board of directors of Wittenberg University in the late 1970's.

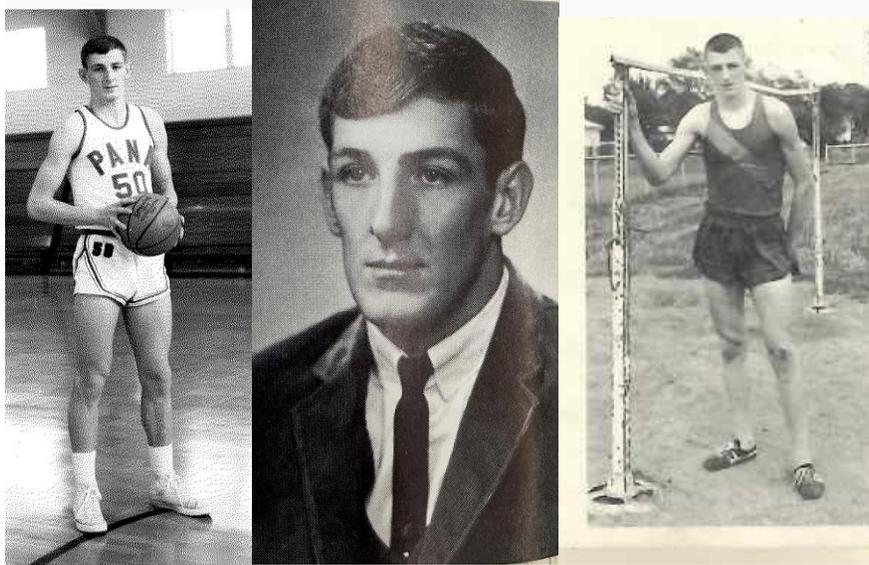
Amling was adjunct associate professor at the Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine from 1983 to 1990. He served as President of the Board of veterinary medicine to both the state of Ohio and Illinois.

He was chosen in 2000 as a member of the Ohio State Football All-Century Team.

Warren was also elected to Pana's Wall of Fame which recognizes outstanding contributions to society in 2002.

Michael “Mike” Bland

(Graduated from Pana High School - 1967)



Mike Bland was another all-around athlete at Pana High School who could easily be thrust into the conversation of Pana's best all around athlete. Mike completed the rare feat by lettering for 3 years in 4 different sports. The lone exception being football as a knee injury ended his senior football season. Otherwise, Mike was a fierce competitor in the sports of football, basketball, track & field and baseball. Some of Mike's accomplishments include:

Basketball;

1966 Paris Holiday Tournament all-tournament selection

1966 1967 All-State honorable mention

1966-1967 School record of 615 points in one year

1965-1967 School record of 978 points in 2 years

1964-1967 School record of 1,192 points in 3 years

1966-1967 Mid-State Conference Player of the Year

1967-1967 Mid-State Conference all conference team

1966-1967 Averaged 22.8 points per game

1966-1967 Averaged 16 rebounds per game

1966-1967 Personal bests of 38 points and 19 rebounds in a game

Track & Field;

1967 Bob Blemler MVP in track & field

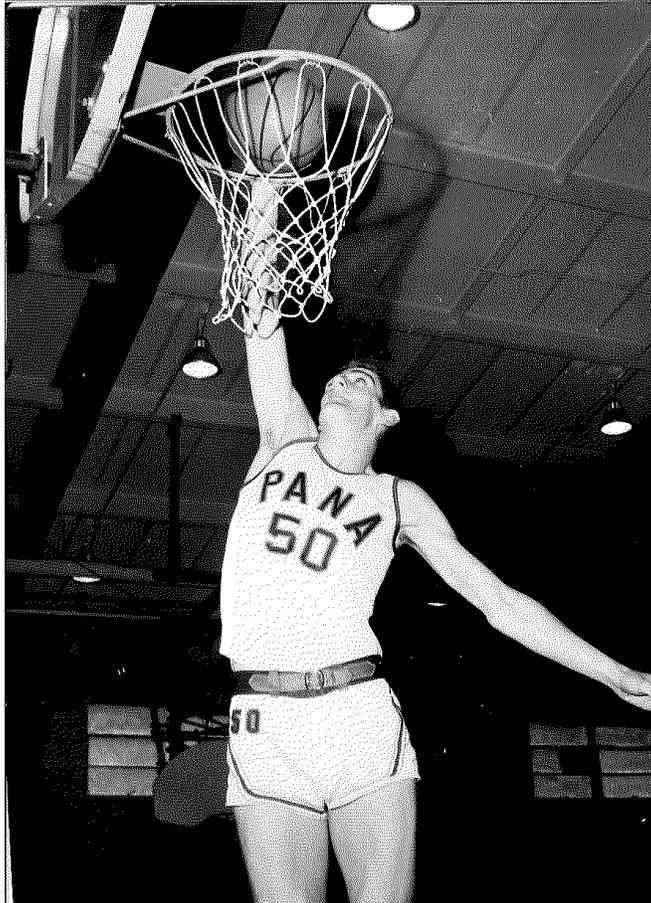
1967 School record in the pole vault

Football;

1966 Co-captain

Baseball; Mike was a starting pitcher and first baseman.

Mike played a big part on the following team achievements;
1965-1966 Paris Holiday Champs in basketball
1966-1967 Regional basketball title (first since 1948)
1965-1966 Mid-State Conference champions in baseball
1965 Mid-State Conference champions in football
Mike was also recruited by DePaul University to play basketball



Mary Stupek-Cothern

(Graduated from Pana High School -1974)



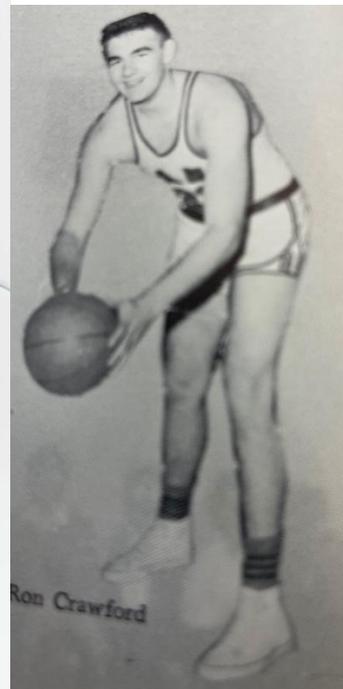
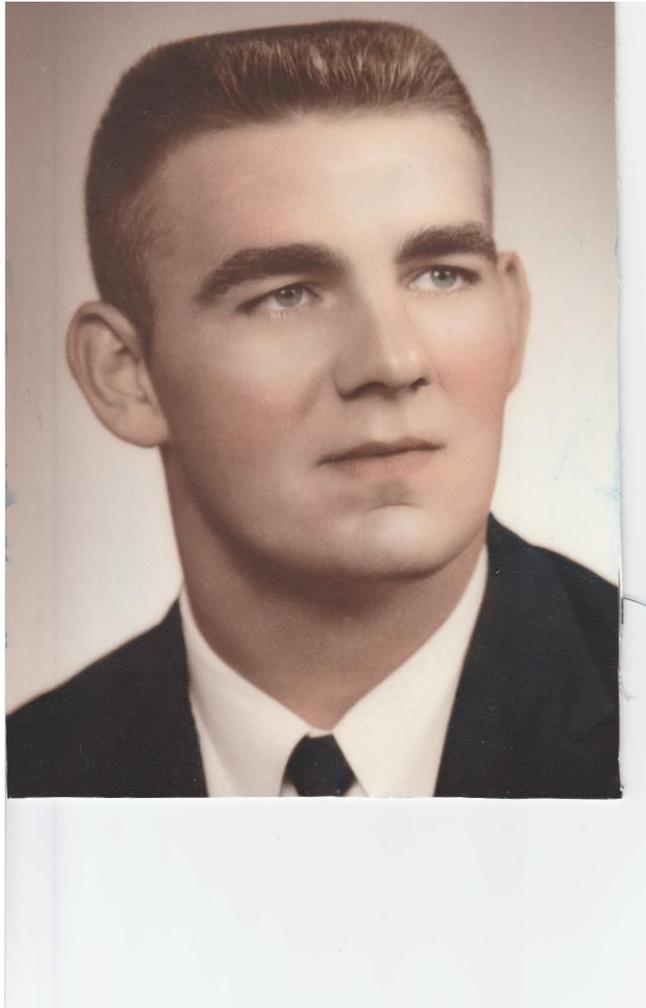
Mary was a senior in high school when girls athletics started at PHS. Mary is one of the early trailblazers for girls sports in Pana. She was an all-around athlete and would never shy away from any competition. In fact, the better the competition, the more intent in succeeding she became. She was the top female athlete in tennis and competed in the state tennis tournament playing doubles with Polly Sallee Hammond (a Pana graduate). Mary was undefeated in singles and doubles play. She also went to state in track & field and bowling. Mary helped lead the charge for the orange and blue as a varsity cheerleader her junior and senior year.

Mary was a singles badminton state champion at Eastern Illinois University as a sophomore and a senior. She was also a doubles state champion in badminton with Kay Metzger Groll (a Pana graduate).

Mary went on to coach basketball, track & field and volleyball at Pana posting a record of 289 – 71. (803 winning percentage) over her 10-year head coaching stint in volleyball. She remains very active in Pana’s volleyball program today as a volunteer volleyball coach. Mary was a fierce competitor. There was not a sport that Mary could not play and play it well.

Ronald Crawford

(Graduated from Pana High School – 1959)



Ron was a three-sport athlete in football, basketball, and track & field. Ron especially excelled in football where he earned a reputation of being a fierce hitter laying waste to opposing ball carriers. Ron was recruited by the University of Notre Dame and spent one year there. He moved on to play at Illinois Wesleyan in Bloomington. After college, Ron came back to Pana and was employed by CIPS (Ameren today). He married his wife in 1971, together raising 4 children. A 1,000-point scorer in basketball, Ron still holds several Pana High School basketball records including most rebounds in a career (1,260), most rebounds in a season (561), and most rebounds in a game (34). Ron is also third in PHS single season rebounds with 432. Ron's IHSA basketball play still ranks him twelfth in career rebounds, fifth in single season rebounds and fourth in single game rebounds. Ron also placed third in the 1959 IHSA shot put event in the State track & field meet.

Michael “Mike” Cvangros

(School History Unknown)



Young Michael labored for a time in the coal mines. A newspaper described him as a “powerful youngster who got that way in the coal mines of Central Illinois”. He learned to play baseball with teams in and around Pana before he found his way at the age of 19 to Little Rock of the Southern League. How he ended up there is unclear, but Cvangros professional baseball career had begun.

Mike played parts of six seasons in Major League Baseball from 1922 to 1929. Mike was mainly a pitcher posting a record of 25-40 while pitching 551.1 innings. He also won 177 games in the minor leagues. Mike had an earned run average of 4.59 in his major league career and recorded 201 strikeouts. He had a career batting average of .200.

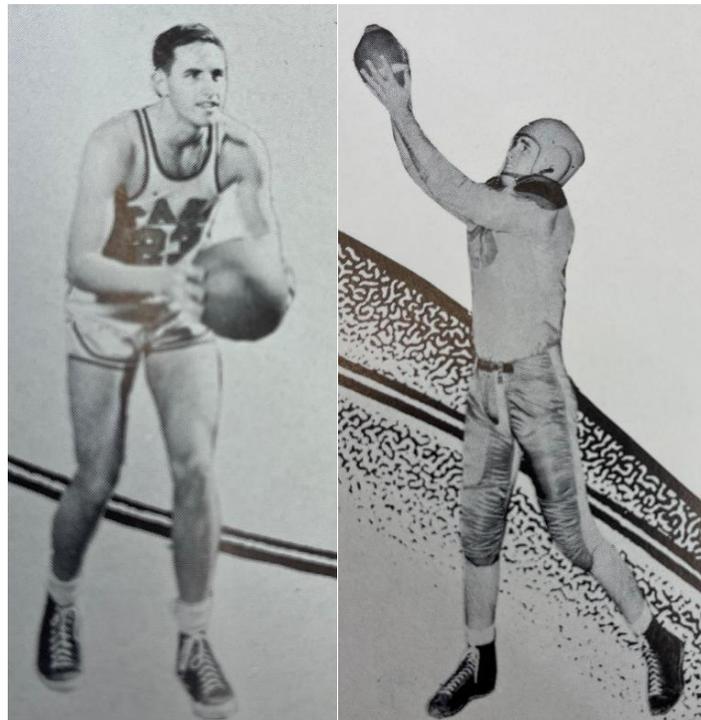
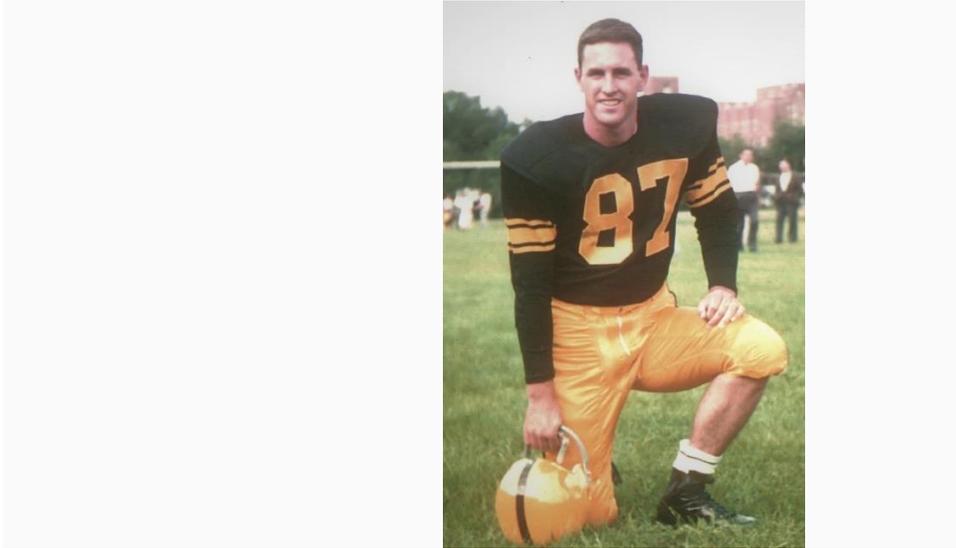
Over the course of his career, two themes constantly recur: the lefthander’s diminutive size, (5’ 8” and 155 pounds) which led journalists to frequently refer to him as “little” Mike Cvangros, and what must have been the relative complexity of pronouncing his unique last name. A “tongue-twister,” the scribes liked to call it. No doubt sluggers like Babe Ruth knew just how to say the pitcher’s name.

In his career, Mike faced baseball legends such as Babe Ruth who hit 5 home runs off Mike. That is no disgrace as inaugural Major League Baseball Hall of Fame pitcher, Walter "Big Train" Johnson gave up 10 career home runs to the Babe.

Mike's life is an interesting one to research as he etched the Cvengros name into the game of baseball. His beloved fans from his hometown of Pana celebrated Mike Cvengros Day and gifted gold watches to Mike and his brother, Joe, in 1922.

Paul “PD” Lees

(Graduated from Pana High School - 1956)



PD Lees was a 3-sport standout at Pana High School excelling in the sports of football, basketball and baseball earning him 10 major varsity letters through his high school career. PD

went on to play football at the University of Iowa from 1956 to 1959 earning a varsity letter in football while there. Other achievements of PD's included:

1955 Named to the Illinois high school All-State teams in football, basketball and baseball.

PD was a 1955 Member of Pana's only undefeated and untied football team. (Mid-State Conference Champions)

In the 1955-1956 basketball season, PD set a PHS single game scoring record with 42 points which held from 1956 to 1967.

In 1955, PD set a PHS school basketball career scoring record of 1,179 which held from 1956 to 1967.

PD was offered a full athletic scholarship for baseball to the University of Arizona, but he accepted a full athletic scholarship for football to the University of Iowa. Iowa's football team was Big Ten Champions from 1956 to 1959. They were 1958 Rose Bowl champions, and they received the Grantland Rice Trophy awarded by the Football Writers Association of America recognizing Iowa as National Champions. PD was a football letter winner in 1959 and the Iowa football team was named Co-National Champions that year also.

Olivia Lett

(Graduated from Pana High School - 2008)



Olivia is a part of a growing list of exceptional female basketball players who have played for Pana High School. Olivia holds the all-time over all scoring record in basketball for Pana High School (boys & girls) with 2,439 total career points. She averaged over 20 points per game in her sophomore, junior and senior years.

Olivia started her college basketball career at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois, and transferred later to Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, Illinois. There, she became an instant hit. She scored over 1,300 points in women's basketball and averaged 21.8 points per game and finished with a single season scoring record of 719. She was twice named all-conference in the College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin (CCIW). In her senior season, she was the CCIW player of the year. She was a record setting Player of the Week in the CCIW 6 times.

Other achievements include:

First team All-Hoops, First team All-Region, Division 3 hoops.com D-3 player of the year, D-3 hoops.com All-American, NCAA Most Outstanding player of the tournament,

2-time MVP. Olivia twice made all conference in high school softball. She also lettered in golf at PHS and was a state qualifier her senior year.

Her team honors include:

In high school: regional champions for 4 years, Springfield-Journal Register and Herald and Review Area Player of the year.

In college: Played in 2 Final Four basketball tournaments while at Wesleyan University winning a national title in 2012.

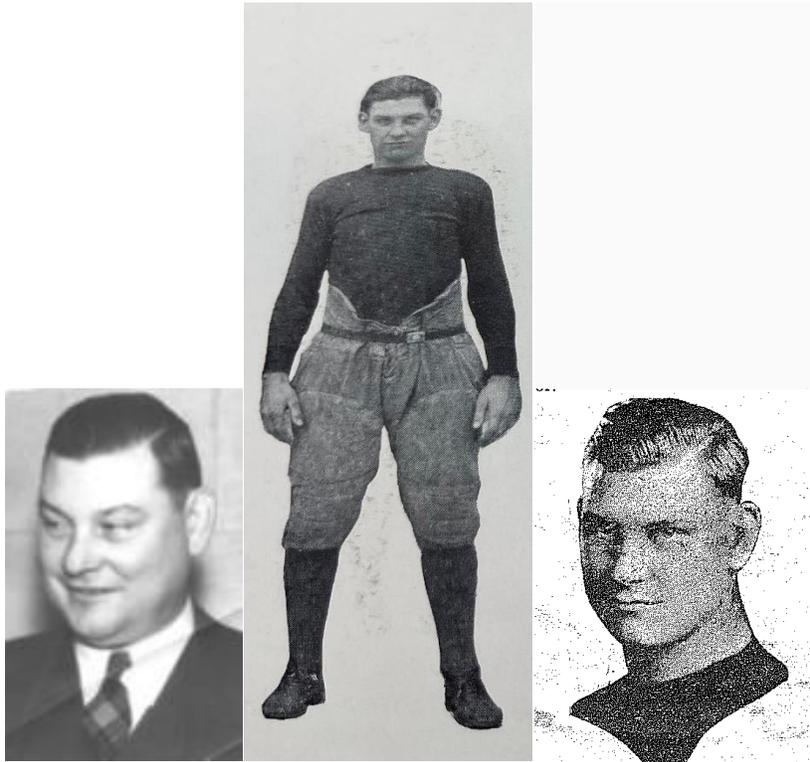
After College: Olivia played professional basketball in Spain and averaged 16.5 points and 5.5 rebounds per game. Named to the All-Imports Team and earned second team All-League.

Coaching career includes; Assistant Coach of the Year for Division 3, two times UAA Coaching Staff of the Year. Named Millikin University head woman's basketball coach in 2018, two NCAA appearances, 2022 CCIW Conference Champs, 2022 NCAA D-3 Sweet Sixteen appearance. 2022 CCIW Coach of the Year, 2021 Region Coach of the Year, 2021 CCIW Tournament champions.

Olivia has succeeded in all aspects of life. She is a contributing person at Millikin in addition to her basketball coaching. She is well liked and represents her school and community to the best.

Albert “Butch” Nowack

(Graduated from Pana High School - 1925)



A native of Pana, Illinois, he played college football as a tackle at the University of Illinois under Robert Zuppke and was a member of the 1927 Illinois Fighting Illini football team that won the national championship and captain of the 1928 team that won the Big Ten Conference championship. He was selected as a first-team player on the 1927 and 1928 All-Big Ten Conference football teams. He was also selected by the All-America Board and the North American Newspaper Alliance as a first-team player on the 1928 College Football All-America Team.

He was the head coach of the Central State Teachers College football team in 1929 and 1930. In April 1931, he was hired as an assistant football coach under Earl C. Hayes at Indiana University. He served as Indiana's line coach for the 1931, 1932, and 1933 seasons. In June 1935, he was hired as the head football coach at LaSalle-Peru High School in Illinois. He served in that position for 17 years.

Nowack was unmarried. He died in 1952 at age 48 while undergoing treatment for throat cancer at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. He is buried at Mound Cemetery in Pana, Illinois.

Butch's name lives on in Pana as well as LaSalle Peru, Illinois High Schools as he is memorialized at both schools with prestigious awards. In Pana, the Albert “Butch” Nowack Award is presented annually to the football team's most valuable player. At LaSalle Peru, the

A.J. "Butch" Nowack Memorial Award is presented annually to a student-athlete who has shown excellence in football, combined with courage, determination, leadership, and character.

Butch never forgot his roots in Pana as upon his passing, he left an insurance policy to Pana High School used to purchase one of the past football field scoreboards.

Butch was also elected to Pana's Wall of Fame which recognizes outstanding contributions to society in 1997 and was selected in 2022 to receive a similar award at LaSalle Peru.

Martin Stupek

(Graduated from Pana High School - 1979)



Martin is arguably one of Pana's best all around athletes having excelled in football, track and field and basketball. Baseball was not a sport during Martin's high school career, but there's no doubt he would have excelled in it as well. His accomplishments are impressive:

In High School:

1977 to 1979- Won the Pana Open Pole Vault three years in a row.

1978 Placed fifth in state pole vault

1978 All-Area Team quarterback

1979 Unanimous all-conference in high school football at 4 positions.

1979 Football MVP

1979 Set Pana's pole vault record of 13' 7.6" which would stand for several years.

Multiple letter winner at Pana in football, basketball, and track & field

In College:

Lettered in football and track & field at Millikin University.

1982 Academic All-American at Millikin University.

1982 Football All-American at Millikin University.

1982 Set Millikin pole vault record at 15 feet.

Received full football scholarship offers from EIU and SIU.

2000 Inducted into Millikin's Athletic Hall of Fame.

Set school record for punting yards in one game at Millikin University.

Set school record for punting yards per game at Millikin University.

Set school record for longest punt in a game at Millikin University.

1982 Only punter to be selected as defensive player of the week in the CCIW conference

1981 All-state outfielder in ASA Class A fast pitch softball tournament

1988 First team outfielder in ASA Class AA major fast pitch national tournament.

1989 First team outfielder in ISC major fast pitch world tournament.

Martin is still active today serving as a hitting coach for Millikin University's girls softball team.

He also gives hitting and pitching lessons to today's rising stars at the girls fast pitch softball level.

Carol Schramm

Pana Girls Athletics Coach and Pana High School Athletic Director



You cannot start a conversation about Pana Girls athletics without beginning with Carol Schramm. Carol graduated from Eastern Illinois University in 1965 with a bachelor's degree in Physical Education and with a minor in Safety Education. She completed her master's degree in Safety Education at Central Missouri State University.

Carol was the founder of Pana girls high school sports program in 1973. She coached girls volleyball (562-226 record) (.713 winning percentage). She also coached tennis, badminton, field hockey, basketball, and track & field. She was the Decatur Herald and Review girls track & field coach of the year in 1978, 1981, 1987, 1991, 1999. She was inducted into the Illinois Girls Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1995.

Carol's team honors and championships include IHSA Field Hockey Final Four in 1975; 21 consecutive Pana High School Girls track & field conference championships from 1980 to 2000; 17 consecutive PHS IHSA Girls track & field Sectional Championships; 562 Volleyball Wins, IHSA Elite Eight in 1977 in girls volleyball, six Conference, twelve Regional and two Sectional Championships in Volleyball.

Carol's School, community and professional career honors include: Pana Jaycees Distinguished; Service Award in 1981; Pana Labor Day Parade Grand Marshall; United Way of Christian County Board; Lakeland College Board of Trustees; Dedication of Carol Schramm Track at Pana High School in 2010; Lifetime Achievement Award from Eastern Illinois University in 2015; Volunteer for Pana Community Hospital meals on wheels program; volunteer track & field coach; long time Sunday School Teacher; Church choir member; VBS teacher; Pana school teacher; coach and athletic director from 1965 to 2009. The Carol Schramm Athletic Scholarship was established in 2009.

Quote From Rhoda Dudra at Carol Schramm's retirement reception sums it up best:

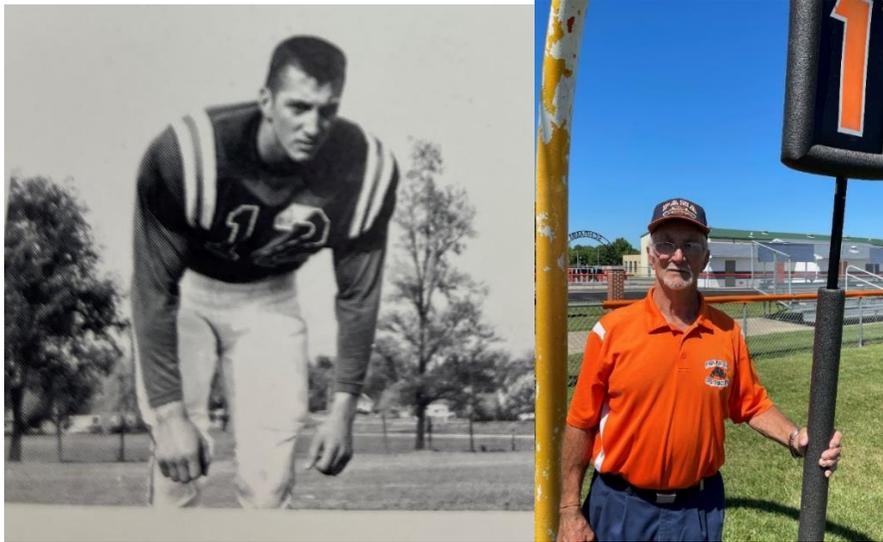
“She is the most professional person I know, tough-minded and highly respected not only by students she taught, and by her colleagues, but by everyone whose life she has touched,”

For those she coached, she always began practice with a Thought of the Day, cared deeply for each person whether a star or third string, and always gave credit to her team never seeking or wanting glory. When she received the Lifetime Achievement Award from Eastern Illinois University, she only told her sister as she did not want to make it a big deal (which it was).

Ronald “Ron” Sims

(Graduated from Pana High School - 1964)

(Supporting Athletics in Pana for 53 Years)



Ron is without a doubt one of the most loyal supporters of Pana athletics. Over the years, Ron has coached baseball, men’s softball and JFL football. He assumed the coordinator’s role in Pana’s Junior Football League (JFL) in 2000 and still holds that position today. Under Ron’s guidance, he has built the Pana JFL program into one of the strongest and most respected programs in the state. Ron took over a program that was hurting for numbers and immediately turned it into a program with record numbers of players.

Ron played football, baseball and track & field at Pana High School competing at a remarkably high level earning seven major letters. He was also very active in officiating basketball, baseball, and football. Ron played on the 1981 State Runner-Up Pana Merchants mens fastpitch Class A softball team. Ron also served as an Amateur Softball Association commissioner for several years.

Ron has been a part of the football “Chain Gang” at all home football games for over 53 years. He is also the announcer of all PHS girls and boys home basketball games.

Ron’s commitment to Pana is more than athletics. He is a member of the First Church of the Nazarene. Ron is a devout supporter of any one in need and serves on programs like the Pana Christmas Basket program (55 years) as co-chairman with Susie Castle. He is very well known and respected in Pana and surrounding communities. They just do not make them like Ron Sims anymore. Ron was presented with the Pana Lions Club Distinguished Service Award in 1996.

1955 Undefeated, Untied Pana High School Football Team

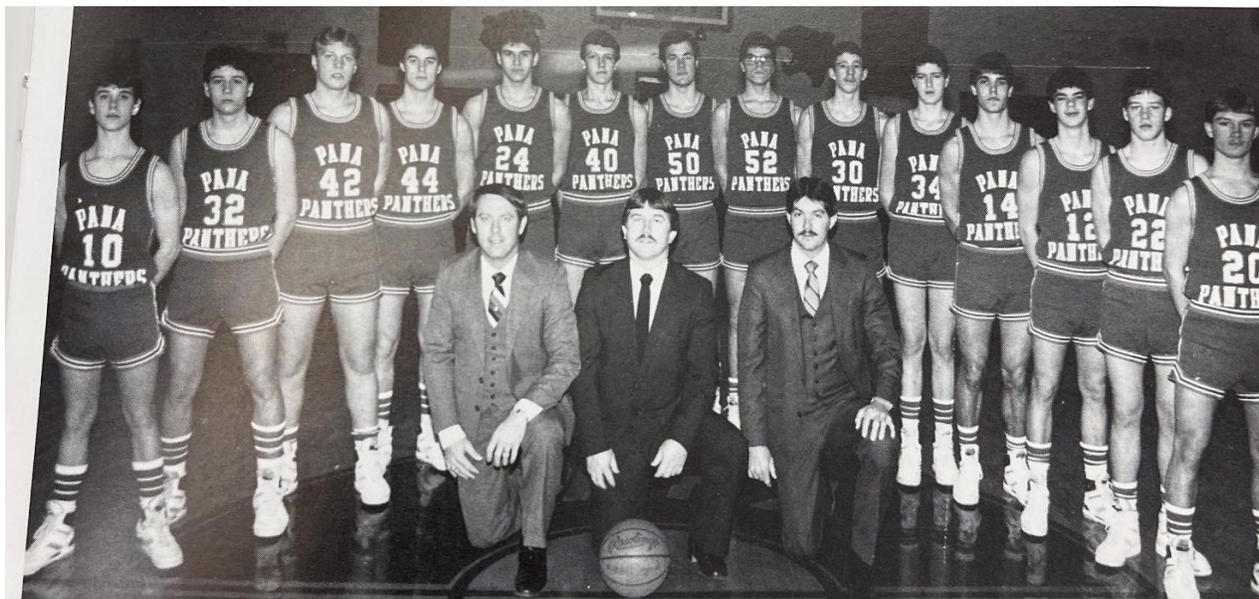


Row 1: Larry Fehrenbacher, Roger Metzger, Jerry Bland, Jim Willson, Bill Palmer, Merrill Bland, Ron Miles, Joe Rahill, Jack Epley, Row 2: Bob Anderson, Bill Stocker, Frank Gross, Bill Hatfield, Jim Beveridge, Jerry Klein, Norman Halleman, Jake Wolf, Gary Akers, Don Clucas, Row 3: Jim Romager, Jim Bruns, Mike Anderson, Tom Gunnigle, P.D. Lees, Ron Crawford, Dick Sphar, Don Kroski, Roger Long, Phil Siegert, Butch Posteher, John Wehmhoff, Tom Thornton. Not pictured are Coach Charlie Fatchett, and equipment manager, Dedrich Schumacher.

The 1955 Pana High School boys football team stands alone as being the only undefeated and untied football team in Pana High School history. This record has stood for 67 years. It has been challenged over time, but no team has been able to duplicate the feat. In 1955, playoff football did not exist. However, the talent of the 1955 team speaks for itself. There were several players on this team that did go on, or could have gone on, to play football at the next level.

The 1955 team scored an average of 23.11 (208 total points) points per game while allowing 5.11 points per game (46 total points) on defense. Teams that the 1955 team played that year included Benld, Kincaid, Litchfield, Decatur St. Theresa, Hillsboro, Shelbyville, Springfield Cathedral, Taylorville, and Vandalia

1988 Pana High School Boys Class "A" State Basketball Champions



1st Row, Head Coach Charles Strasburger, Assistant Coach Mike Bender, Assistant Coach Brad Beyers. 2nd Row: Brian Culberson, Todd Smart, John Curtis, David Woolard, Doug Moss, Kevin Micek, Greg Pollman, David Eddy, Tom Funneman, Jeff Micek, Mark Heaton, Gary Tidwell, Todd Holthaus, Travis Sims. Not pictured is equipment manager Bill Scoles.

The 1987-1988 boys basketball team took us on a ride that resembled the script of the movie, "Hoosiers". Thirty-four years later, this team stands as the only team state champion Pana High School has ever had. This team has set the bar for all the other teams that put on the orange and blue colors. The team's record for the 1987-1988 season was 28-3.