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Central Washington University Athletic Hall of Fame Veteran Committee Nominees

Central Washington University Athletic Hall of Fame Council

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VETERAN COMMITTEE NOMINEES

Tom Merrill, Football (Nominated by Gary Frederick) – Played at Central Washington in the mid 1950s. Was head coach at the high school level for 29 years, compiling record of 159-118. Coached 23 seasons at Kennedy High School (1972-94). Also coached at Wishkah Valley, Tyee and Roosevelt. Ranks 44th on the all-time Washington State High School winning list. Was inducted into the Washington State Football Coaches Hall of Fame in 1998.

Rick Harris, Football (Nominated by Bob Guptill) - Voted Best Tackler award winner four years in a row (1975-78). Only athlete in CWU history (in any sport) to win a “special award” four different times. Team captain and Most Inspirational Award winner in 1978 (giving him three special awards for that team). Twice first team all-conference linebacker. From Toppenish. Did not win any All-America honors, but that might be more a reflection on team’s success than his individual accomplishments. Was an outstanding Hall-of-Famer down lineman, who teams often ran the ball away from according to Tom Parry.

Byron Johnson, Football (nominated by Vernell Chandler): Played for Wildcat football team between 1962 and 1965. Was offensive end and defensive tackle. Four-year letterman. All-conference honorable mention sophomore, second team as junior and first team as senior. Drafted by Dallas Cowboys. Also played basketball. . .Was long-time football coach and history teacher at Franklin High School. Died of diabetes in 1998 at age of 53.

Jim Carmody, Football (Nominated by L.G. Carmody) - Excerpts from LG's letter: "was one of the best backs in post-World War 2 era. . .played under three coaches in four years. . .as one of his coaches, I was in position to evaluate his ability, his attitude and dedication as a football player and as a student and loyal alumni. Never in the years he played at Central did he not give the very best in any endeavor he undertook. If more were around to help me recall Jim as a player his selection would be almost automatic. . .he was known to make plays when needed - to be called upon to make difficult blocks, because of his speed, to be a rugged defensive back in the days when the two platoon was just beginning - to play 60 minutes was common, yet difficult to imagine by today's standards." . . .Earned honorable mention all-league honors in 1946. . .Averaged 33.8 per punt while splitting punting duties with Eric Beardsley in 1948. . .hit like a ton of bricks.....Had ability elude, outrun and when necessary run over defenders.....Was outstanding in setting up blocks for teammates. . .Was a successful business man who at times was invited to lecture at CWU guest speaker.

Theartris Wallace, Basketball - Averaged 12.6 points and had 255 rebounds. Maybe not Hall-of-Fame numbers, but was second team All-American in 1969 and here is what Dean had to say about him when he ranked him among his all-time Top 10: "He was a super player at both ends of the court and was a great team player. He played tough defense and was a great shooter.. He had a skinny frame, but was a hell of a rebounder for his size."