

*Bobcat
Den of
Champions*

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In 2022

*The Summers County Comprehensive High School's
Athletic Department created the
Bobcat Den of Champions*

*The purpose is to recognize those Hinton High
School and Summers County Comprehensive High
School athletes who excelled in football in high
school and carried the same degree of excellence
into NCAA and NFL as well as their integrity and
leadership into their professional careers.*

2022

Inductees

SUMMERS COUNTY
BBCAT FOOTBALL
 DEN OF CHAMPIONS



The Kennedy Award is annually awarded to the West Virginia High School Football Player of the Year. The very first recipient was Hinton Bobcat Darrell "Pat" Shires in 1947.

Pat Shires was born on October 28, 1931. He grew up in Hinton, WV. In high school, Shires was a star three-sport athlete for the Hinton Bobcats. As noted before, he earned the first Kennedy Award. As an outstanding athlete, his talent did not go unnoticed.

After high school, Shires attended the University of Tennessee on a football scholarship. He played for legendary coach General Robert R. Neyland and won a national championship in 1951. In the era of iron man football, where players played multiple positions, Shires excelled. During a game against North Carolina in 1952, Shires rushed for a touchdown, passed for a touchdown, kicked an extra point and punted 3 times.

After playing for the Volunteers, Shires was drafted by the Washington Redskins. Shires decided not to play because at that time the NFL wasn't a livable wage. Instead, he joined the Army and continued to play football for his unit.

Upon the completion of his football career, he returned to Keokoke, Tennessee. He was a leader of the Tennessee Letterman's T-Club and a major player in the development of the Letterman's Wall of Fame on campus.

Pat Shires passed away July 26, 2015. Kennedy Award winner, National Champion, Veteran and forever a Bobcat!



Richard "Dick" LeFrtridge was not only a trailblazer on the gridiron, but laid the foundation that changed the course of collegiate athletics.

LeFrtridge was born April 14, 1944 in Hinton, WV. He attended Hinton High School. While playing for the Hinton Bobcats, he earned All State honors after averaging over 31 yards per carry.

After high school, he attended West Virginia University in 1961, where he played for the Mountaineers from 1961-1965. He finished his career at WVU rushing 348 times for 1,371 yards and 21 touchdowns. The Mountaineers won the Southern Conference championship in 1964 and 1965.

LeFrtridge was a pioneer. He was not only the first Black student-athlete to receive a football scholarship from WVU, but the entire coach. He was the first Black player from the south to appear at the North-South Shrine Game and was named the state's Amateur Athlete of the Year.

His story did not end there. Dick LeFrtridge was selected as the 3rd overall pick in the NFL Draft by the Pittsburgh Steelers. The highest draft pick in program history in date. He was inducted to WVU Sports Hall of Fame in 2005.

LeFrtridge passed away February 27, 2004. Pioneer, WVU Hall of Famer, 3rd overall NFL Draft Pick and Bobcat forever!



Linemen are often unsung heroes. A great lineman does their job knowing they won't receive the praise and credit they deserve. Football is a game that is won in the trenches. The trenches is where Richie Rodes thrived.

Richie Rodes was born August 21, 1946 in Hinton. Rodes attended Hinton High School, where he excelled in football, playing for coach Bill Carlen. During his high school career, he was named All-State and All-American by Newsweek Magazine. Rodes was also the recipient of the 1963 Hunt Award, which is given annually to the top lineman in West Virginia.

After graduating in 1964, Rodes attended West Virginia University. He played defensive tackle from 1965-1967 for the Mountaineers, playing under Gene Carson and Jim Carlen. After college, he spent time as a graduate assistant for legendary coach Bobby Bowden.

After football, Rodes began his career in education. Upon returning home, he assumed administrative responsibilities and eventually retired as the Superintendent of Summers County Schools. After retirement, he encouraged youth with his passion for horses. He operated Rodes Race and Carriage Service where he showed draft horses.

Richie Rodes passed away December 1, 2012. All-American, All-State, Hunt Award Winner, WVU Mountaineer, Educator and Forever a Bobcat!

PAT SHIRES #13

DICK LEFRIDGE #31

RICHE RODES #82



DICK LEFTRIDGE #31
Inducted 2022

Richard “Dick” Leftridge was not only a trailblazer on the gridiron, but laid the foundation that changed the course of collegiate athletics.

Leftridge was born April 14, 1944 in Hinton, WV. He attended Hinton High School. While playing for the Hinton Bobcats he earned All-State Honors after averaging over 11 yards per carry.

After high school he attended West Virginia University in 1962, where he played for the Mountaineers from 1963-1965. He finished his career at WVU rushing 348 times for 1,701 yards and 21 touchdowns. The Mountaineers won the Southern Conference championship; in 1964 and 1965.

Leftridge was a pioneer. He was not only the first Black student-athlete to receive a football scholarship from WVU, but the entire south. He was the first Black player from the south to appear at the North-South Shrine Game and was named the state’s Amateur Athlete of the Year.

His story did not end there. Dick Leftridge was selected as the 3rd overall pick in the NFL Draft by the Pittsburgh Steelers. The highest draft pick in program history to date. He was inducted to the WVU Sports Hall of Fame in 2020.

Leftridge passed away February 27, 2004. Pioneer, WVU Hall of Famer, 3rd overall NFL Draft Pick and Bobcat forever!



PAT SHIRES #13
Inducted 2022

The Kennedy Award is annually awarded to the West Virginia High School football Player of the Year. The very first recipient was Hinton Bobcat Darrell “Pat” Shires in 1947.

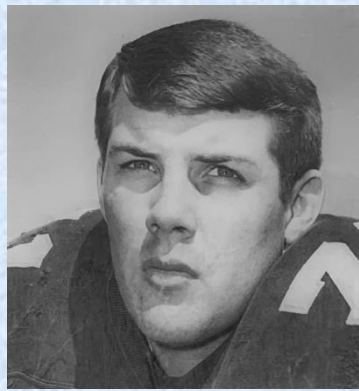
Pat Shires was born on October 18, 1931. He grew up in Hinton, WV. In high school Shires was a star three-sport athlete for the Hinton Bobcats. As noted before he earned the first Kennedy Award. As an outstanding athlete his talent did not go unnoticed.

After high school Shires attended the University of Tennessee on a football scholarship. He played for legendary coach General Robert R. Neyland and won a national championship in 1951. In the era of iron man football where players played multiple positions, Shires excelled. During a game against North Carolina in 1952 Shires rushed for a touchdown, passed for a touchdown, kicked an extra point and punted 5 times.

After playing for the Volunteers, Shires was drafted by the Washington Redskins. Shires decided not to play, because at that time the NFL wasn't a livable wage. Instead he joined the Army and continued to play football for his unit.

Upon completion of his football career he returned to Knoxville, TN. He was a leader of the Tennessee Letterman's T-Club and a major player in the development of the Letterman's Wall of Fame on campus.

Pat Shires passed away July 26, 2015. Kennedy Award Winner, National Champion, Veteran and forever a Bobcat!



RICHIE RODES #82
Inducted 2022

Linemen are often unsung heroes. A great lineman does their job knowing they won't receive the praise and credit they deserve. Football is a game that is won in the trench. The trench is where Richie Rodes thrived.

Richie Rodes was born August 21, 1946 in Hinton. Rodes attended Hinton High School where he excelled in football, playing for coach Bill Garten. During his high school career he was named All-State by Newsweek Magazine. Rodes was also recipient of the 1963 Hunt Award, which is given annually to the top; lineman in West Virginia.

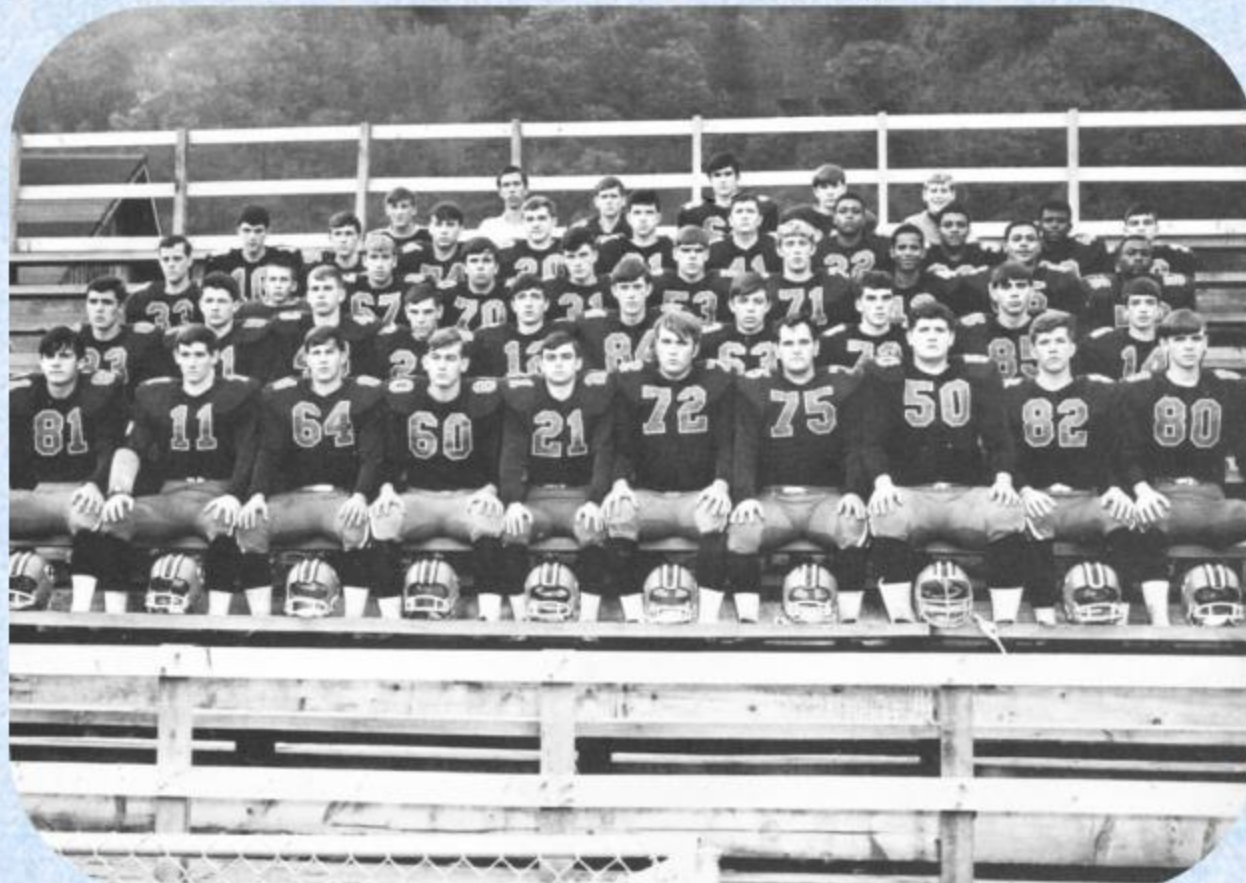
After graduating in 1964 Rodes attended West Virginia University. He played defensive tackle from 1965-1967 for the Mountaineers, playing under Gene Corum and Jim Carlen. After college he spent time as a graduate assistant for legendary coach Bobby Bowden.

After football Rodes began his career in education. Upon returning home he assumed administrative responsibilities and eventually retired as Superintendent of Summers County Schools. After retirement he encourage youth with his passion for horses. He operated Rodes Farm and Carriage Service where he showed draft horses.

Richie Rodes passed away December 1, 2021. All-American, All-State, Hunt Award Winner, WVU Mountaineer, Educator and Forever a Bobcat!

1968 West Virginia AA Football Champions

Bobcats beat Oceana 9-0 at Van Meter Stadium in Beckley to win the AA Championship



1968 Hinton High School Bobcats

Front Row: Chuck Salmons, Lin Goins, Fred Elmore, Sam Farley, Larry K. Meador, Danny Brunit, Danny Meador, Charles Shrader, Vince Gilbert, Steve Ward.

Second Row: Mike Rodes, Tim Gilbert, Bill Lightner, Gary Meador, Joe Blankenship, Bob Bailey, Philip Rodes, Philip Gwinn, Billy Don Farley, Fred Mock.

Third Row: Larry D. Meador, Ernie Crews, Dan Hartwell, David Milburn, Mike Pullen, Jack Pack, Neil Grimmitt, Leonard Sembley, Milton Haskins, Sarge Banks.

Fourth Row: David Humphries, W.C. Parker, Ted Keffer, Alex McCallister, Randy Cales, Mike Lowe, Jerry Wallace, James Baker, Eddie Pack, Dennis Surber.

Fifth Row: Jerry Davis, Billy Davis, Tim O'Farrell, Wayne Rice, Ricky Ratliff.

**1968 Hinton High School Bobcat
Varsity Cheerleaders**



***Front Row: Patricia Allen, Ann Noel (Captain), Donna Woodrum
Back Row: Jo Ann Farley, Beck Dyer Ruth Ann Fields, Nannie Benguey***

1968 West Virginia AA Football Champions Inducted 2022



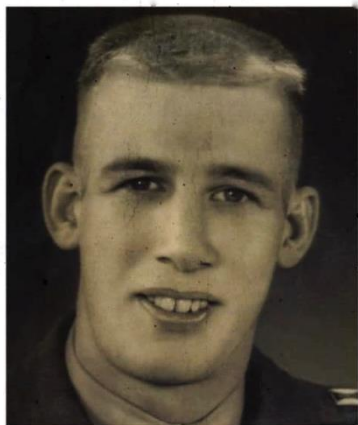
Front row L to R: Alex McCallister, Gary Meador, Danny "Fat Cat" Meador,
Larry Meador, Nanny Benguey Miller, Ann Noel, Joe Blankenship
Back row: Jerry Davis, Barry Cales, Vince Gilbert, Lin Goins, Billy Don Farley,
Larry K. Meador, Sam Farley

2023

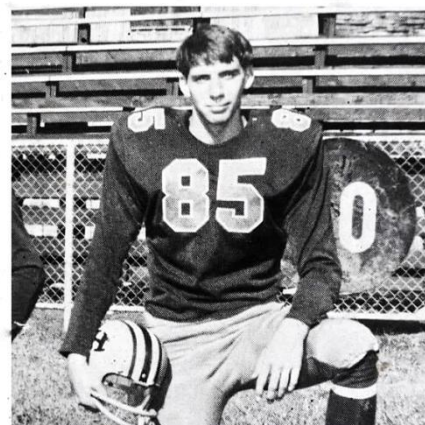
Inductees

SUMMERS COUNTY
B  **BCAT FOOTBALL**

DEN OF CHAMPIONS

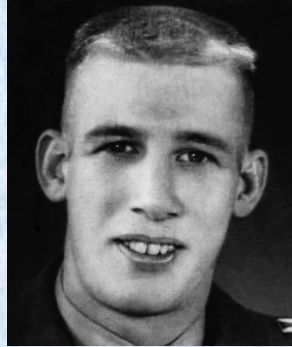


COACH BILL GARTEN



BILLY DON FARLEY #85

CLASS OF 2023



COACH BILL GARTEN

Inducted 2023

Today as you enter Garten Stadium remember the namesake of this prominent place. To have a stadium named after you means you left your legacy. William “Bill” Garten was born on June 9, 1928 to Randolph and Lacy Garten.

As a 1945 graduate of Fayetteville High he lettered in football, basketball and track. He participated in the 1945 North-South game. After high school he was awarded a basketball scholarship to West Virginia University where he attended until transferring to Concord in 1946. He lettered in football, basketball and baseball at Concord and was selected as All-Conference for football in 1949. In 1950 he was selected by the Chicago Cubs where he played in Appalachian and Western Carolina Leagues. In 1952 he was drafted in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict.

He began his teaching career at Hinton High School where he was assistant football coach and served as the head coach for baseball and basketball coach from 1955-1956. In 1957 he became the head football coach. Bobcat football was established under the leadership of Coach Garten. In 1963 he led the Bobcats to the state championship losing to Ceredo-Kenova. Five years later Coach Garten brought home the class AA state title to Hinton after the Bobcats beat Oceana 9-0. Many names you see in the Den of Champions were coached by Garten. That includes a first round NFL draft pick, numerous collegiate players, All-Americans, All-State recipients and his 1968 State Championship Team.

Coach Garten was inducted to the Concord University Hall of Fame in 2007.

Bill Garten passed away in 2008. A multi-sport Hall of fame Collegiate Athlete, Professional Baseball Player, Army Veteran, Educator, Mentor, Championship Coach and Forever a Bobcat!



BILLY DON FARLEY #85
Inducted 2023

In 1970 Pipestem State Park opened, but one of the most prominent visitors to come to Pipestem dawned the door of Billy Don Farley's home. Bobby Bowden was in his first year as head coach at WVU when he showed up to recruit Billy Don Farley. Billy Don, the son of Roy Nathan and Arliss Farley was born on August 14, 1951.

In Farley's high school career he was State Champion, Parade All-American, Sunkist All-American, All-State and All Coalfield Conference. Coach Bowden's recruitment was successful. Billy Don Farley played for Coach Bowden's Mountaineers for 4 years.

After hanging up his cleats Farley began his career as a public servant working for Summers County in the Assessor's office. Where he worked 12 years as the Chief Office Deputy and after being elected in 1988 as County Assessor he spent 20 years. After 32 years of public service Billy Don retired.

Billy Don Farley married Ann Davis in 1985 where they raised their 3 children Erika, Jason and Kari.

Billy Don was State Champion, All American, All State, WVU Mountaineer and forever a Bobcat!