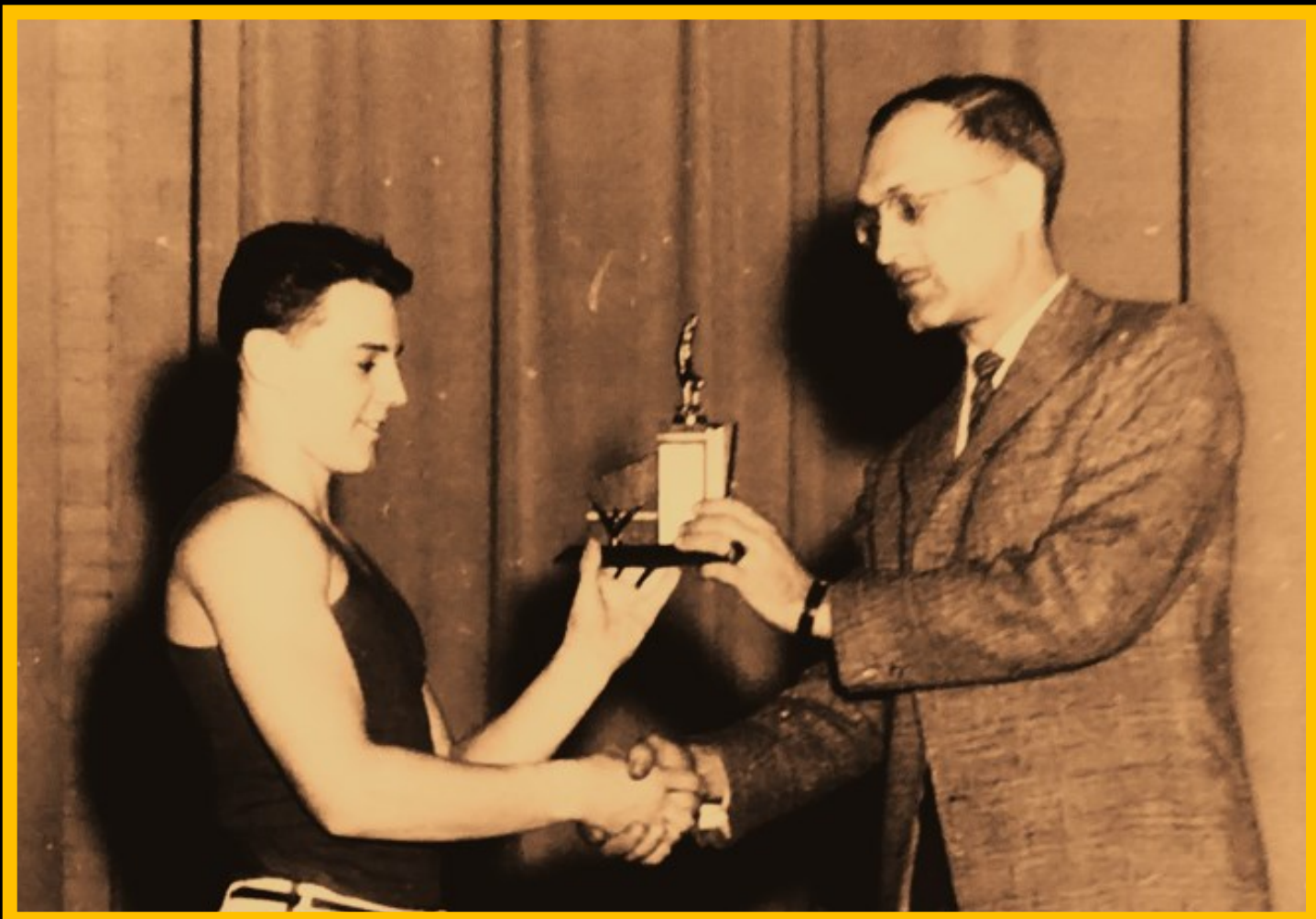




BILL ERDOS



1961

BILL ERDOS

BUTLER HIGH GYMNAST

WPIGL FLYING RINGS CHAMPION

**AWARD PRESENTED BY MIKE SURKALO
SPORTS EDITOR OF THE BUTLER EAGLE**

BILL ERDOS
1959





1989 BALDWIN HIGH SCHOOL

GIRLS' GYMNASTICS TEAM

PIAA STATE CHAMPIONS

COACHED BY BILL ERDOS



BILL ERDOS

BILL ERDOS WAS TEAM LEADER AND CAPTAIN OF THE ORIGINAL LYNDORA WPIGL GYMNASTICS TEAM WHICH EVOLVED INTO VARSITY STATUS AT BUTLER HIGH IN 1961. BILL PARTICIPATED ON THE TEAM FROM ITS BEGINNING UNTIL HIS SENIOR YEAR AT BUTLER HIGH. BILL WORKED THE OLYMPIC ALL-AROUND, AND ALSO THE FLYING RINGS, TUMBLING AND ROPE CLIMB.

BILL'S HARD WORK, TEAM LEADERSHIP AND DEDICATION WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN UNBEATABLE TEAM, AND ALSO THE GYMNASTIC GROWTH OF TEAMMATE, FRIEND AND RIVAL, JIM CURZI. THE TWO GYMNASTS HAD YEARS OF CLOSE AND FIERCE COMPETITIVE BATTLES FOR FIRST PLACES ON EACH OF THE SIX OLYMPIC EVENTS, AND ESPECIALLY ON FLYING RINGS.

CURZI PROVED STRONGER IN THE OLYMPIC ALL-AROUND TOTAL SCORE, LOSING TO BILL ONLY ONCE. HOWEVER, BILL AND JIM USUALLY MATCHED EACH OTHER IN INDIVIDUAL EVENT MEDALS. BILL'S FAVORITE SENIOR YEAR MOMENT WAS BEATING JIM ON THE FLYING RINGS FOR THE THE WPIGL INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIP.

BILL WAS A MULTI-SPORT ATHLETE IN HIGH SCHOOL, COMPETING IN GYMNASTICS, FOOTBALL AND TRACK, EARNING SEVEN VARSITY LETTERS. SINCE GYMNASTICS WAS ONLY GIVEN FULL RECOGNITION AS A VARSITY SPORT IN 1961, BILL JUST RECEIVED ONE LETTER IN GYMNASTICS, ALTHOUGH HE EARNED THE EQUIVALENT OF FOUR. BILL EARNED THREE VARSITY LETTERS IN FOOTBALL AND THREE IN TRACK. BILL WAS A RUNNING BACK IN FOOTBALL, AND A HURDLER AND SPRINTER IN TRACK.

AFTER HIGH SCHOOL, BILL HAD OFFERS TO COMPETE AT THE COLLEGE LEVEL, BUT HE DECIDED TO JOIN THE NAVY. DURING HIS YEARS IN THE SERVICE, BILL SPENT MANY HOURS IN THE GYM, WORKING OUT WITH GYMNASTIC SKILLS AND EXERCISES HE HAD DONE ALL HIS LIFE FOR PERSONAL FITNESS.

HE DEVELOPED A FOLLOWING OF FRIENDS WHO LOOKED TO HIS LEADERSHIP FOR DIRECTION IN THEIR OWN FITNESS ACTIVITIES, AND THE CHANCE TO LEARN GYMNASTICS SKILLS.

AFTER THE SERVICE, BILL ATTENDED YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY. WHILE HE WAS EARNING HIS BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE, BILL TAUGHT GYMNASTIC SKILLS TO AAU GYMNASTS AT THE YOUNGSTOWN YMCA.

AFTER GRADUATING FROM YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY, BILL STARTED HIS TEACHING CAREER AT BALDWIN HIGH SCHOOL. HE TAUGHT THERE FOR 35 YEARS INCLUDING 20 YEARS AS ASSISTANT FOOTBALL COACH AND HEAD COACH OF GIRLS GYMNASTICS. ALONG THE WAY, BILL ALSO EARNED HIS MASTER'S DEGREE AT PENN STATE UNIVERSITY, AND SPENT SOME TIME AS A STUDENT TEACHER SUPERVISOR FOR WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY.

BILL STARTED BALDWIN'S GIRLS GYMNASTICS PROGRAM IN 1973. HE COMPILED A RECORD OF 120 WINS AND 36 LOSSES.

BILL HAD ONE PIAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM, ONE WPIAL CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM, AND 6 SECTION CHAMPIONSHIP TEAMS. HIS TEAMS WERE ALWAYS IN THE TOP THREE IN THE WPIAL, FINISHING SECOND 7 TIMES. AT THE PIAA LEVEL, BILL'S TEAMS WERE CONSISTENTLY IN THE TOP FIVE.

BILL'S COACHING PRODUCED 10 INDIVIDUAL PIAA STATE CHAMPIONS, 17 INDIVIDUAL WPIAL CHAMPIONS, AND MANY SECTIONAL CHAMPIONS. IN ADDITION TO THESE CHAMPIONS, THERE WERE MANY INDIVIDUAL MEDALS.

BILL WAS INDUCTED INTO THE BALDWIN HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS HALL OF FAME IN 1991 FOR HIS EXCELLENCE IN COACHING. IN 1995, BILL WAS INDUCTED INTO THE BUTLER COUNTY SCHOOL SPORTS HALL OF FAME, RECOGNIZING HIS EXCELLENCE AS A BUTLER HIGH ATHLETE AND HIS CAREER ACHIEVEMENTS AS A COACH. BILL'S RECOGNITION AND HONORS CONTINUED IN 2011 WHEN HE WAS INDUCTED INTO THE BUTLER HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS HALL OF FAME.

**ALWAYS A HIGH ACHIEVER AND A GENTLEMAN,
BILL HAS LIVED BY AN OLD WISDOM:**

**“WORK HARD, KEEP IT SIMPLE;
DO WHAT YOU CAN DO AND DO IT WELL;
BE HUMBLE AND DON'T STUMBLE”.**

**BILL IS QUICK TO POINT OUT THAT
THIS GYMNASTIC AND LIFE WISDOM
WAS GIVEN TO HIM BY PAUL URAM,
BILL'S TEACHER, COACH, MENTOR
AND LIFE LONG FRIEND.**

**BILL CREDITS HIS SUCCESS TO THE MAN
BILL HAS ALWAYS KNOWN AS “COACH”.**

Bill and his wife Vanda raised a family. Their two sons are now grown and married and have presented Bill and Vanda with grandchildren. Bill and Vanda enjoy watching their grand children participate in sports at Upper St Clair High School.

Bill and Vanda enjoy traveling. They have visited nearly every state in the U.S.

They also have traveled to Europe several times.

Bill and Vanda enjoy spending the winter in Florida where they have a second home.

Bill still spends time in the gym, and also on the golf course.