

Crawford County **SPORTS** **HALL OF FAME**

Robert Frye



Robert Frye is a 1940 graduate of Crestline High School. Bob played football and basketball for the Bulldogs. The 1939 Crestline football team, then known as the Onondagas, were named the Class B state football champions by the Associated Press. Bob Frye was a member of the team, which also won four straight League of Six Nations championships. During his senior year, Bob rushed for 1,021 yards for an average of 6.8 yards per carry. His overall net yardage was 1,166. He led all scoring with 109 points. Bob received league and state acclaim in 1939, and was the leading scorer in the State of Ohio! According to Frye, Coach Merle Hutson had a lot to do with the success of the 1939 football team. Frye said he credited Hutson with the coaching skills he used later on.

After graduating from Crestline, Bob attended The Ohio State University. Bob played football for the Buckeyes and was a member of the 1942 National Championship team. The Crestline Advocate's "A Look Back" article recalls that Bob suffered a season ending injury when he broke his ankle and leg during the OSU vs Pittsburgh football game. Other Crawford County Sports Hall of Fame inductees from the 1942 National Championship team include Cecil "Cy" Souders, Bucyrus, and Bill Durtchi of Galion. World War II ended what could have been a Buckeye dynasty, when all the players ended up going off to service. In 1943, Bob was the only Crestline resident to be selected to play in the Chicago Tribune All-Star game. The team played against the National Championship team, Washington Redskins.

Robert served in the Pacific Theatre during WWII, and participated in multiple island invasions. Bob graduated from Southern California University. He coached in California and then returned to Mansfield, Ohio to coach football and basketball at Mansfield Sr. High.

Bob was the first coach at Mansfield St. Peter's High School. His coaching career at St. Pete's lasted from 1958-1971. His basketball record was 259-65. His 1968 basketball team won the State Championship, and many of his teams were runner-ups. The gym/auditorium at St. Peter's is named for Robert Frye. Bob is enshrined in the Ohio High School Basketball Hall of Fame.

Robert and wife Maxine had two children, Sue and Mick.