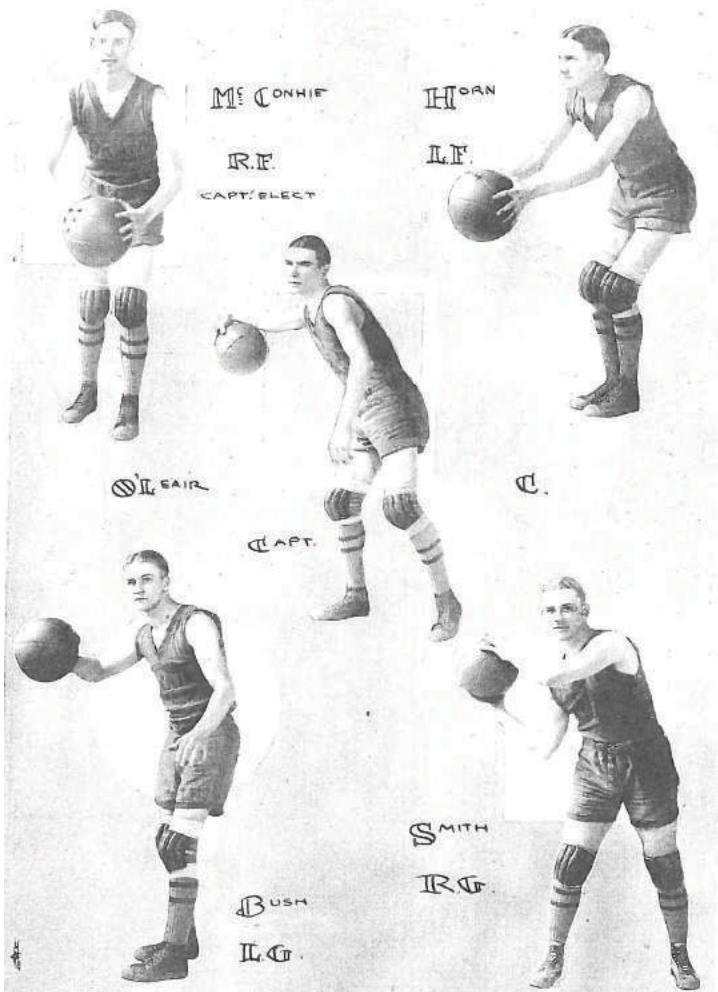


An Historical Retrospective on Sports

in Lorain, Ohio



1900
to
1955

Foreward

This collection of stories and photographs regarding Lorain sports history is not intended to be totally comprehensive. I have compiled the information to offer the reader a relatively brief summary of the sports culture, events, athletes; and, sports-related persons, over a period of 55 years.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ted Driscoll". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "D".

Ted Driscoll

Lorain Sports Hall of Fame Committee

An Historical Retrospective on Lorain Athletes as presented by The Lorain Sports Hall of Fame

The primary purpose of the Lorain Sports Hall of Fame is to preserve and exhibit the history of sports in Lorain, Ohio. Administrating the election of members into the LSHOF is only one component of the history of sports in our city. In order to present a more complete historical perspective, we are compiling names and narratives of talented, memorable athletes who competed, since approximately 1900-1955. Also, we have included Lorain Journal stories of sports events in Lorain, 1900-1955; consequently, providing insight into the early history of sporting competition in our schools and city.

From the period of 1900-1955, many athletes did not have the opportunity to continue their careers at the college or professional level. Due to two world wars and The Great Depression their lives were changed dramatically. Many players did not have the opportunity to play in large auditoriums and stadiums. Instead, they played baseball, softball, semi-professional football, tennis, hockey, and more at local parks: Lakeview, Oakwood, Central, Longfellow, Subway, City/Pawlak, as hundreds of spectators watched. Bowling alleys were throughout the city. Marathon swimming competitions were held at Lakeview Beach with thousands attending. Boxing was extremely popular; including the golden gloves amateur program that accelerated local boxers to national prominence. The "arenas" of competition were smaller; but, the passion and desire to compete and win were no less intense.

These men and women represent the "pioneers" of sports who provided the foundation upon which our city's rich sports history was built.

With all of the foregoing in mind, the LSHOF Committee will place the names and narratives into a manuscript; and, be available in our museum, located at the Lorain High School; and, placed on the internet: lorainsportshalloffame.com

Please note: This is an ongoing program; additional names and narratives will be added to the lists in the future. It is not possible for the LSHOF Committee to have comprehensive and complete knowledge of all athletes who deserve this recognition; consequently, we welcome additional names and narratives to be submitted for our consideration: please write to LSHOF, PO Box 723, Lorain, Ohio 44052.

Special thanks to the following:

- Professional baseball scout, Mike Trbovich
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- The Lorain Sports Hall of Fame Committee for their inspiration
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- The Lorain Public Library
- The Lorain Sports Hall of Fame "Legends" Committee:

Paul Baumgartner

Ted Driscoll

Ron Feldkamp

Bob Lesiecki

Barb McConihe

Bill Stough