

FORMER OHIO FOOTBALL STAR

Holden Beach's Jim Shafor Selected For Hall Of Fame

BY DOUG RUTTER

Jim Shafor is one of those people who lives football. He spends just about every Saturday and Sunday in the fall relaxing at his Holden Beach home watching college and pro games on television.

Shafor can't believe the ticket prices these days. It costs \$20 or more to attend a college football game, twice that to see the pros play and \$500 for a cheap seat at the Super Bowl.

"I wouldn't pay that much to see ME play," Shafor laughs.

Maybe not. But 40 years ago, football fans in the Dayton, Ohio, area lined up and paid the going rate to see Shafor play just like they do to see today's stars.

Shafor, who made a name for himself at Hamilton Catholic High School and the University of Dayton in the 1950s, will be honored next month as an inductee into the Butler County Sports Hall of Fame.

Shafor grew up in Butler County, located in the southwest corner of Ohio just north of Cincinnati. It was there where he excelled as a guard and linebacker at Hamilton Catholic.

It was there where he learned and honed the skills that landed him a football scholarship at the University of Dayton. He was a Flyer from 1951 to 1954 and the team's captain and Most Valuable Player his senior year.

"As far as playing I guess I was fairly decent," Shafor says modestly.

Decent enough to be named to the Williamson National Football Rating System's All-American team and the All-Catholic All-America team in 1954.

After college, Shafor signed a \$6,000 contract with the New York Giants. But before he could play his first official NFL game, he went off to serve in the Korean War.

During the few months he spent at Giants' training camp in Oregon, Shafor met such luminaries as Tom Landry, Frank Gifford and Vince Lombardi, who was New York's backfield coach before building a dynasty in Green Bay.

"It was enjoyable. I met some great people," Shafor said of his brief stint with the Giants.

After his playing days, Shafor coached football, wrestling and



JIM SHAFOR of Holden Beach was captain of the University of Dayton football team in 1954. He will be inducted into the Butler County (Ohio) Sports Hall of Fame on Nov. 27.

baseball at Middletown High School for about 15 years.

Shafor will be one of about 10 people honored at the Nov. 27 hall of fame induction ceremony.

"To me it's quite an honor just being associated with the people in there. There's some real giants in the

athletic field," Shafor said. "It's a real privilege for me. Plus with my father making it, it's an extra plus."

Clarence "Piggy" Shafor was inducted into the Butler County hall in 1991. Although he never had the opportunity to go to college, "Piggy" is considered the greatest four-sport

athlete ever to come out of Hamilton High.

Butler County started its Sports Hall of Fame in 1982. The first class of inductees included Walter Alston, Weeb Ewbank, Kenesaw "Mountain" Landis, Jerry Lucas and Ara Parsegian.

"It all started because of the great number of people we had that became national figures in sports," Shafor said. "It is a very sports-minded area. It's just something that evolved out of that."

"We were from a county and high school that had some tremendous athletes over the year," Shafor said. "Some of these people were strictly local athletes and some were known nationally."

How did one area come to produce so many outstanding sports figures?

"I don't know that anyone can explain it," Shafor says. "That's just what you did. Sports was the outlet. That's what people did so I guess they just developed because of that."

Shafor said the sports personality who influenced him the most was Glenn "Tiger" Ellison. Shafor served as an assistant football coach under Ellison at Middletown High.

Ellison went on to become the quarterback coach at Ohio State, where he introduced the passing game. Others may take credit for it, but Shafor says it was Ellison who invented the run-and-shoot offense that is widely used today.

"He had a tremendous mind in football and had a real strong feeling for doing everything right," Shafor said. "He was a great speaker, spoke all over the world, and loved kids and loved to coach."

Football has changed a lot in the 40 years since the squat Shafor threw his crushing blocks. Shafor, who was 5-foot-8 and 215 pounds in his playing days, says today's players are bigger and faster.

"I think the athletes, especially in the backfield, are more talented," he said. "I don't think the linemen have the technique they had 30 years ago. They don't have to because they're so big. They just have to get in the way."

This Week In Brunswick Sports

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20

- West Brunswick hosts South Brunswick in soccer, M.H. Rourk Stadium, 7 p.m.
- West Brunswick at West Columbus in JV football, 7 p.m.
- South Brunswick at Pender in JV football, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21

- West Brunswick hosts West Columbus in varsity football, 7:30 p.m.
- South Brunswick hosts Pender in varsity football, 7:30 p.m.
- North Brunswick hosts Bladenboro in varsity football, 7:30 p.m.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 24

- North Brunswick hosts Swansboro in soccer, 4:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25

- South Brunswick hosts West Brunswick in soccer, 4:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26

- North Brunswick hosts Dixon in soccer, 4:30 p.m.

This week's listings include events reported to the *Beacon*. To list a sporting activity call 754-6890 or write to Doug Rutter, *The Brunswick Beacon*, P.O. Box 2558, Shallotte, N.C. 28459.

Wolfpack Upends South Brunswick

Whiteville defeated South Brunswick 29-27 in a Waccamaw Conference high school football game Monday night, but the outcome could have been different if it weren't for the heroics of Wolfpack senior Kevin McKenzie.

The 6-foot-5-inch defensive end blocked Jamie Bruner's 21-yard field goal attempt with 5 seconds remaining to preserve the homecom-

ing win for the Wolfpack.

Whiteville, which has won eight straight games against South Brunswick, was led by Afarsian Burns with two touchdowns. O.J. Morris rushed for 132 yards and two TDs to pace the Cougars.

South Brunswick (1-2 conference, 2-6 overall) will host Pender (0-3, 0-7) Friday night. Whiteville (3-1, 5-3) is idle.

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