

The following was presented by a Board Member at the Hall of Distinction Induction Ceremony of the Dover Historical Society, on Sunday, April 17, 2016.

## HERMAN "BUP" REARICK

Herman Rearick was born in Dover on March 11, 1909. Oldest child of Tony and Lena (Lanzer) Rearick, he had three younger sisters.

Bup was a 1927 graduate of Dover Roosevelt High School where he captained both his football and basketball teams. During this legendary year, Bup quarterbacked the undefeated football team and led the basketball team to the Ohio State Championship defeating Toledo 23-21.

After graduation, Bup attended Wittenburg College where he played for another Dover legend, Ernie Godfrey, participating in three sports. Soon after, on May 28, 1931 at age 22, Bup was hired by the Dover Board of Education as a math teacher and became the head football and basketball coach. From 1931-1937, Dover enjoyed one of their richest eras in Dover sports history of team success while producing many local athletic legends.

In football, his teams produced a record of 51-13 and won 29 consecutive games while defeating Coach Paul Brown's Massillon Tiger teams twice.

Rearick's basketball teams made 2 state tournament appearances in 7 years, including Dover's second State Championship team in 1933, defeating Marietta 34-23. Robert Boyd, one of his former players, said this about his coach and team. *"Although Doc Kelker was an amazing athlete, it was Coach Rearick who was demanding, but fair. He related well with us, since he was only slightly older than we were, but he had our respect!"*

He married Mary G. Hensel and they had one son, William.

With Coach Rearick's success at Dover, he was becoming a "hot" option for other football programs in Ohio, and in 1938, "Bup" was lured to coach at Canton McKinley High School. The name "Rearick" is still magic among the McKinley faithful and former players. Jack Maxwell wrote in the Canton Repository on Nov. 22, 1942. *"Legendary Canton McKinley Bulldog head coach Herman "Bup" Rearick got a ride on the shoulders of his players and enthusiastic fans following the McKinley's 35-0 victory over Massillon. The defeat pulled Massillon from the state championship throne it had held proudly since 1935, and broke the country's longest unbeaten streak of 52 games. Possibly even more important in a local sense, the conquest was the first for McKinley in 8 years in the ancient rivalry."* This righted the ship and brought back some normalcy for the Bulldogs in the storied rivalry. In 8 seasons as the head football coach, Rearick won 67 games and only lost 8 times in collecting 2 State Championships.

As the McKinley Basketball Coach, his Bulldog teams made it to the State Tournament 5 times in his 18 seasons and were State Tournament Runner-up 3 times which included a disappointing 8 point loss to the Leo Benjamin led undefeated New Philadelphia Quaker team in 1940. He compiled a winning record of 321 victories and only 85 losses.

Coach Rearick retired from coaching in 1961 as he assumed duties as assistant principal at McKinley High School. With a combined record of 118 wins and 21 (85%) losses as a Head Football Coach and a record of 428 wins and 130 (77%) losses as a Head Basketball Coach, Coach Rearick is the only high school coach in Ohio be inducted into both the football (1971) and basketball (1988) Coaching Halls of Fame.

He passed away in Canton on Nov. 9, 1965 and his wife Mary in 1999. He is survived by his son William and wife Marianne, along with his 3 grandchildren and their families, a nephew, Mayor Richard Homrighausen and nieces Pat Williams and Mrs. Chris Farnsworth.

Herman "Bup" Rearick is a true legend in Dover, Canton, and the entire state of Ohio. He once had his picture taken with the great Jim Thorpe.

What can be more fitting of a person's recognition of their contribution to a town than having a park named in your honor. So if you ever want to spend a few moments reminiscing about area sports history, visit the Herman "Bup" Rearick park on Ellis Avenue NW in Canton.