

OTHER HALLS OF FAME, NO. 1

THE INDIANA FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

By Bob Carroll

Mention sports and Indiana in the same sentence and you're probably thinking of basketball. After all, that movie Hoosiers wasn't about ping pong, Larry Bird didn't fly out of Evansville to pitch horseshoes, and Bobby Knight doesn't toss chairs across badminton courts. But Indiana has a proud football heritage too. And, to learn more about it than you ever thought was possible (even if you're from Muncie), take Interstate 70 to Richmond, cut to the corner of North 9th and "A" Streets, and pull in at the Indiana Football Hall of Fame.

The Indiana Football Hall of Fame organization purchased their building in Richmond in July, 1974, at a cost of \$98,000. Unlike the Hall in Canton which was designed to look like a football, the Indiana Hall's building is attractively, Hoosier- conservative, but don't be put off. Inside, it's wall-to-wall football with a blue and gold color scheme. Murals have been painted on the walls depicting football action, pennants of state championship schools, and well known football stadiums.

Inside you'll find a history of the game from the 1890s to the present, an outstanding library, and memorabilia including uniforms from as far back as when the forward pass was legal. There are special exhibits honoring Purdue's 1967 Rose Bowl Champs, Knute Rockne, Weeb Ewbank, the early and undefeated Pine Village team, the less successful Indianapolis Colts, and lots more. You can either tour on your own or join one of the guided tours. If you're really lucky, your guide will be former Rams defensive end Lamar Lundy, a Richmond native who often drops in to serve as a guide.

For many, the most fascinating part is viewing the individual displays of the nearly 300 members inducted into the hall. Each inductee is honored with a plaque of commemoration, a portrait, and a resume of accomplishments and contributions to the sport. There's one heckuva variety here. Some inductees earned their plaques as Indiana high schoolers, some at the University level, and some made names for themselves as pros.

Unless you're from Indiana and a real bug on your state's football history, you'll find plaques honoring people you never heard of. What will surprise you more is all the new stuff you'll discover about people you thought you knew all about. Just to toss the names of some of the nearly 300 inductees at you: Dick Alban, Erich Barnes, Bo McMillin, Jim Crowley, Fuzzy Thurston, Pete Pihos, Corby Davis, Marv Matuszak, Weeb Ewbank, Art Murakowski, Ara Parseghian, Paul Flatley, Hank Stram, George Taliaferro, Elmer Oliphant, Knute Rockne, Bob Griese, Billy Hillenbrand, Alex Karras, Lamar Lundy, Abe Gibron, Ray Wietecha, and Bob Williams.

The Indiana Football Hall of Fame was started in January 1973 as an affiliation of the Indiana Coaches Association. Its purpose is to establish scholarships and endowments for excellence in football in the state of Indiana. The Coaches Association formulates and directs all policies concerning nominees for induction into the Hall of Fame. Candidates include coaches, players, officials, sports media, and citizens of the state who have made prominent and lasting contributions in the advancement of football excellence.

The hall is open from 10 to 4 p.m. through the week, but for weekends, call 317-966-2235 and make an appointment. The hall asks visitors for a \$1 donation.