

# SPORTS

## Ex-Hornets pay tribute to CHS legend Fairchild

Twenty-two all-staters among crowd of 225 attending Bob Fairchild Recognition banquet

By BOB CARTER  
C-T Sports Editor

Former Chillicothe High School football players, young and old, gathered in force at the Chillicothe Elks Lodge No. 656 last Saturday night to pay tribute to the man and coach who built an amazing winning Hornet tradition, one recognized state-wide, in his illustrious 35 years here.

They came from all over — Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, Illinois, Missouri and on down the line. Many looked as if they could still don the red and black colors of CHS.

Memories are forever and those fond bone-crunching, teeth-chattering experiences and gridiron celebrations were reminisced by all Saturday night with exuberance, excitement and laughter.

Many of their football war stories grew like fish stories as the night went on. It was football camaraderie at its best. And fun was had by all.

**The Man Who Made It Possible**

No one enjoyed the special event more than the coach, the teacher and the man they came to honor — Bob Fairchild, whose disciplined but caring hand, knowledgeable and inventive football mind, and gutsy attitude laid the foundation for one of the most talked-about football programs in the state.

His record speaks for itself (see inset graphic, below left).

This would be the last hurrah for the highly-respected Missouri football coaching Hall of Famer and 1993 National runner-up Coach of the Year who retired this past June.

It was a fitting tribute for the coach, the teacher and the man who gave this community a shot in the arm when he walked on the scene in 1963 and the instant success of his football program generated a new community excitement and certainly a new outlook as being aggressive and progressive.

**Many Tell Their Stories**

Long-time Chillicothe Booster Club president Butch Shaffer served as master of ceremonies. Mark Putnam, who had the luxury of starting on two state championship teams, gave the invocation and also started the ball rolling with a few remarks about the 1973 state championship team. Shaffer read letters from former coaches Hugh Dunn of Macon and Cecil Naylor of Marshall.

A select few of Hornet football players had their turn at the podium.

**Mark Putnam - 1972**

Putnam, starting fullback on the first state championship team, told the crowd that Coach Fairchild gave Chillicothe High School and this growing community a winning edge.

"There's a reason why this com-

munity is highly thought of throughout the state. The big reason is Coach Fairchild. He gave us the winning edge," said Putnam.

**John (Butch) Davis - 1965**

John (Butch) Davis, speaking on behalf of the undefeated 1965 team and a three-year starter at the University of Missouri and former professional football player, talked about how the C-T and the community got behind the Bob Fairchild football program in the early stages.

"It was a friendship you couldn't believe. It took a while before the community became a believer, but when they did, it was great. (Then-C-T Sports Editor) Chuck Haney was instrumental in spreading the word about Fairchild and his winning program. Coach Fairchild taught us how to win and how to lose. He played a major role in my life," said Davis.

**Roger Brown - 1969**

Jefferson City attorney Roger Brown, the only non-football player to speak, was the life of the party, along with Bill Welch, CHS football's No. 1 supporter and Fairchild's long-time friend.

Brown, a gifted talker and considered the best student manager in CHS football history, spoke about the undefeated 1969 season and mentioned a number of humorous incidents which had the crowd in tears.

"Coach Fairchild was my best teacher. He taught me four things that I use even today in my law practice — work hard, work smart, prepare and never give up. It works on the football field, it works in the courtroom and it works in life," said Brown.

**Brent Anderson - 1970**

Brent Anderson, considered the greatest Hornet quarterback of all time, spoke on behalf of what many believe was the best Hornet team ever — the 1970 team.

"Coach Fairchild is a legend in his own time," said Anderson.

He also read a letter from former CHS all-stater and Nebraska football player Ardell Johnson.

**Mike Wood - 1972**

Mike Wood, former CHS quarterback, made a few remarks about the 1972 championship season.

"Coach Fairchild challenged all of us to be the best we could. He was a fierce competitor and it rubbed off on a lot of players over the years. We (all of us here tonight) are a reflection of Coach Fairchild," said Wood.

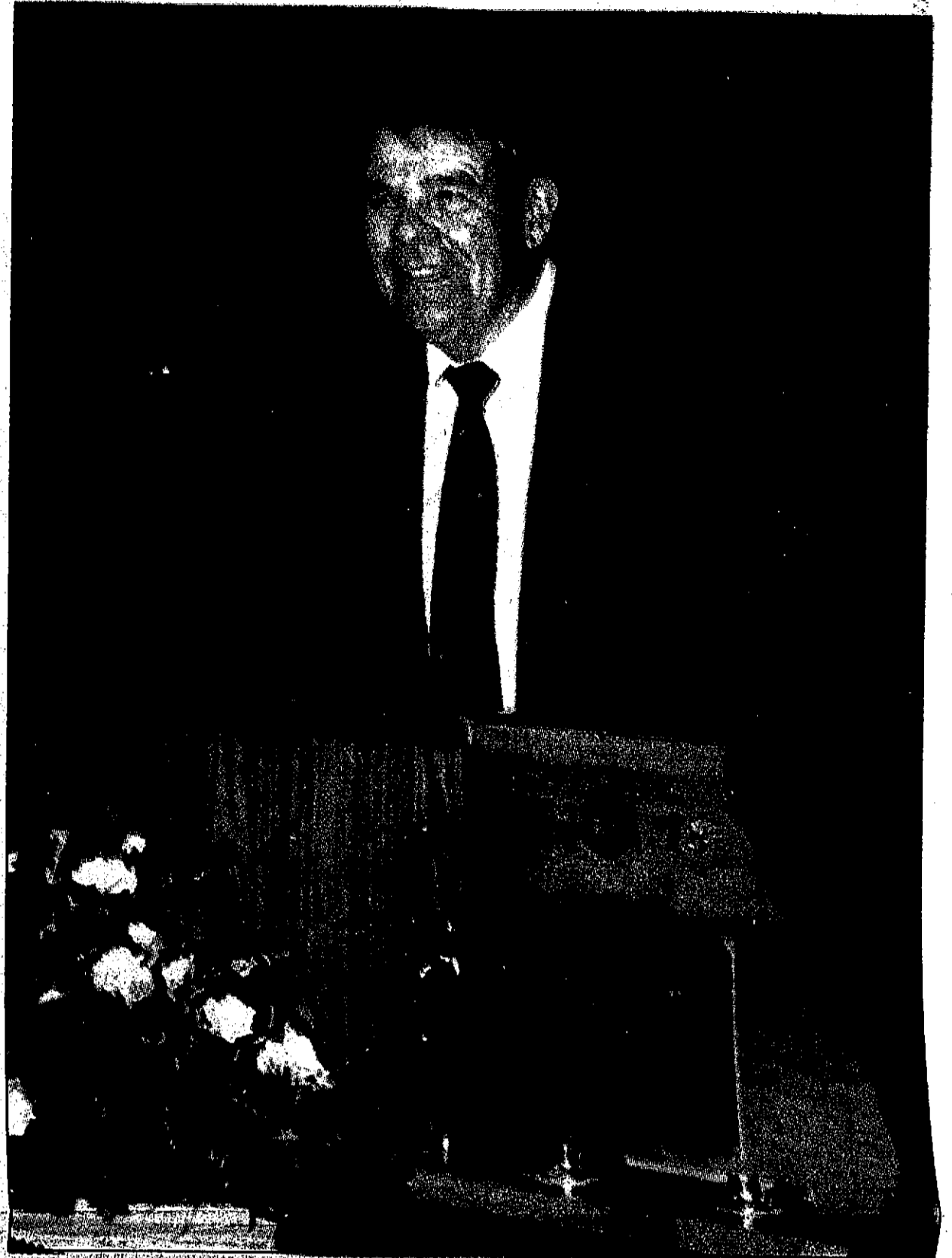
**David Macoubrie - 1978**

David Macoubrie, who went on to play at the University of Missouri, talked about the undefeated 1978 state championship football team many believe could hold its own against the 1970 team.

"It's usually the coaches that speak of commitment, discipline and sacrifice. And for most coaches across the country, it's rhetoric. It's obligatory. These are words that players need to hear, and they need to hear them from the coach.

"We were lucky, we were the exception. Our football coach was one who not only said these words, but lived them as well," said Macoubrie.

"Commitment? Thirty-five years worth. Discipline? Arguably the backbone of his success and there-



**COACHES DREAM.** CHS coaching legend Bob Fairchild is all smiles after posing with some of the greatest running backs ever to play at Chillicothe High School. Pictured left to right are three-time All-Stater David Macoubrie, the school's all-time leading rusher for 19 years, who rushed for a school-record 2,024 rushing yards his senior campaign; the great John "Butch" Davis, who was a threat to score any time he touched the football and holds the school record for most touchdowns scored in a single season (29); Coach Fairchild, 287 wins at CHS and 307 career wins; David White, the most versatile athlete ever coached by Fairchild; and Wyatt Pickering, who became the school's all-time leading rusher with over 4,000 yards. — Constitution-Tribune Photo by Butch Shaffer

fore our success. Sacrifice? He taught fundamentals over and over. We practiced hours on hours. He didn't how to politics. You did it his way. We won the way he knew how... his way," added Macoubrie.

**Jason Graves, Tony Fairchild - 1985**

Jason Graves, who kicked a school-record 42-yard field goal against Jefferson City Helias in 1985, and Tony Fairchild, nephew of Coach Fairchild, spoke on behalf of the 1985 state championship team.

**Drew Danner - 1991**

Drew Danner, son of the late Daryl Danner, a long-time assistant football coach here and himself now an assistant coach at William Jewell College in Liberty, talked about the 1991 state championship team.

"Lou Holtz once wrote that all he expected was two hours of good practice even if it took six hours. Coach Bob believed execution and preparation were the keys to success. The game is still about blocking and tackling and no one taught the fundamentals better than Coach Fairchild," said Danner.

**Phil Willard - CHS Successor**

Phil Willard, a starting member of the unbeaten 1969 team and Fairchild's successor at Chillicothe, called Coach Fairchild the best motivator he's ever seen.

"He'll wear you out. He's relentless and a tremendous teacher. Never in my life have I seen a better motivator. He got the most out of his

coaches and the most out of his players. He left the Chillicothe football program in great shape," said Willard.

**Bob Fairchild - 1963 to 1997**

Fairchild, surrounded by family members — wife Karen and daughters Courtney, Jacinda and Shandolyn; sons David and Perry and sisters Ellen and Phyllis, thanked a number of folks for their many contributions to his successful program over the years.

"A lot of folks made this program what it is today," said the modest Fairchild.

Fairchild received a boisterous standing ovation when he got up to speak and a standing ovation when he sat back down.

He talked about his great assistant coaches — the late Doyle Russell, the late Daryl Danner, the late Rich Fairchild, Gene Saunders, Ed Martens, Dave Mapel, Phil Willard, Jeff Stator, and scouts Ron O'Dell and Chad Glover.

"The secret to our football success has been the stability and consistency in the coaching ranks. We had little change in coaching. We know what to do year to year. Although conservative, we had a unique offense. Our blocking schemes were unique," said Fairchild.

Coach Fairchild then paused. "What can I say about so many great players that I have been blessed with over the years? This is one of the best

days of my life. You guys gave me some special times in life that I won't ever forget. I hope I was fair.

"We've had more than our share of great players over the years for a town this size. The sport of football is a teaching tool. It teaches discipline and an unbelievable work ethic. I've never regretted staying in Chillicothe. I'll tell you one thing, it really hurts watching the game from the stands. I thank all of you for coming. It was the best retirement gift I could receive," said Fairchild.

**Bill Welch**

Bill Welch, a die-hard Chillicothe sports enthusiast and community supporter, got a big hand as he approached the podium.

"Bob, getting you retired is becoming an ordeal," said a laughing Welch.

The former CB&T banking executive had the crowd rolling on the floor and in their seats with his wit and funny stories.

He concluded by presenting Coach Fairchild with a new E-Z-Go golf cart as a retirement gift from his players and friends.

On display throughout the evening, courtesy of the high school were conference and postseason trophies earned by Fairchild-coached teams, including the five state championship trophies, along with team photos of the five state titlists, two state runners-up, and four state semi-final teams.

*Career Highlights*

### COACH BOB FAIRCHILD

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**OVERALL CAREER RECORD**

**307 Wins • 79 Losses • 5 Ties**

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**CHS RECORD**

**287 Wins • 73 Losses • 5 Ties**

- 61 All-State Players
- 142 All-District Players
- 4 Perfect Seasons  
*1965, 1969, 1970, 1978*
- 5 State Championships  
*1970, 1972, 1978, 1985, 1991*
- 2 State Runners-Up
- 4 State Semi-Finalists
- 15 Playoff Appearances  
*1970, 1972, 1976, 1978, 1983, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1991, 1993, 1994, 1996, 1997*
- 20 Conference Championships
- 25 Game Win Streak  
*1968-1971*



**FORMER CHS FOOTBALL COACH BOB FAIRCHILD** (second from right) seems at home behind the wheel of his new E-Z-Go golf cart. The special presentation, made by longtime friend Bill Welch (second from left), highlighted a fun night of football reminiscing at Saturday night's Bob Fairchild recognition banquet held at Chillicothe Elks Lodge No. 656. Scott Stephens (far left), longtime secretary/treasurer, chaired the special event. Wyatt Pickering (far right), representing the Chillicothe C-Club, presented Fairchild with a golf cart cover. The golf cart, with all the trimmings, was purchased from Johnson Rental in Chillicothe at a discount price thanks to a healthy donation by Welch, a donation by C.P. Hutchinson and from what was left over after meeting banquet expenses. — Constitution-Tribune Photo by Butch Shaffer