



ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME



The Robert M. Strimer Honor Award

Awarded at Homecoming 2007

Don Wedge

Class of 1951

Don Wedge was a nationally-renowned official in football and basketball. He spent 23 years as an official in the National Football League, working Super Bowl XXII, four NFL Pro Bowls, two NFL Hall of Fame games and the 1973 College All-Star game. Wedge also officiated for two seasons in the National Basketball Association. At the college level, he officiated both football and basketball in the Mid-American Conference from 1956-76 and was a football official for 14 years in the Big 10, working the 1970 Rose Bowl as a back judge. He represented the Big 10 in the NCAA basketball tournament five times and officiated the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament three times. Wedge was inducted into the Ohio Wesleyan Athletics Hall of Fame in 1995.

Jerry Prittie '53 states "In the words of an associate NFL official in Louisville "he was a legend." He worked several Super Bowls. He was an official's official (He helped, advised, and looked out for the other officials). As an advocate, he helped establish a Referees Association respected by team owners. Organized parties and visits to hospitals. It was indeed a pleasure and great memory to have been on a team at OWU with Don Wedge."

Dale Bruce '52 and OWU Hall of Fame member adds "Don Wedge's spectacular 25-year career as a widely acclaimed National Football League Official and his equally honored officiating in the Big Ten, the Atlantic Coast Conference, the Mid-American Conference, and in the NBA – even exceeded his Ohio Wesleyan University Athletic Hall of Fame achievements. Fifty-eight years later, he still shares the single season scoring record and is the all-time single game scoring leader."

Don's teammate, Tom Hamlin '51 submits "My old roomie is an outstanding example of how OWU and athletics combined to produce a young man who not only has carved a remarkable career, but has impacted thousands of young Americans for their future as an educator & coach; a successful sales manager for a major corporation, an NFL official for 24 seasons, and a loving family man & father

Great job, Don. You've done Ohio Wesleyan, yourself, and all of us proud!"