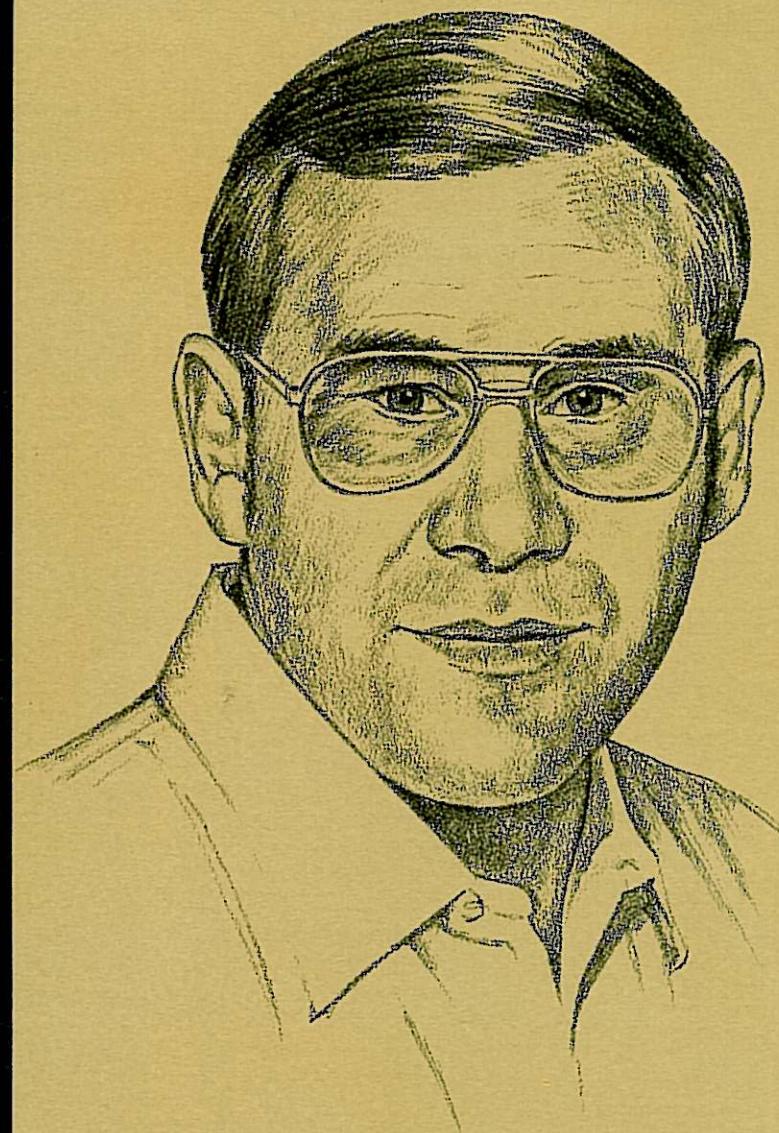


OFHS



WALL OF FAME
Inducted September 2, 2005



HERB GRENKE

Growing up on his family farm, under the watchful eyes of his parents Fred and Erna, Herb Grenke acquired a solid set of values that were his guide throughout a remarkable career as a teacher and coach. His brothers Art and Arlin helped spark that early competitive spirit. His activities at Grace Lutheran Church and education at Elm Lawn Grade School provided the foundation for his high school years. While at OFHS he participated in student council and FFA, was on the honor roll, was selected as Alternate to Badgers Boy State, and lettered in track and football. He graduated with the class of '55.

Enlisting in the Marine Corps in '56, he continued to play football. His team won the Hawaii Marines Island Football League Championship. After returning home, he enrolled at University of Wisconsin Milwaukee. While there, he was selected as captain of the football team and was All Conference WSU. After graduating from UWM in '63, he went on to earn his MA from Columbia University in '65.

He then returned to UW-M as a teacher and football coach, where his team's defense was ranked nationally. In 1970, he moved on to coach football at UW-Platteville with a conference championship to his credit. During the 73-74 season he served as defensive secondary coach at Northern Illinois University. The following year he moved to Northern Michigan University, assuming the Head Coach position in '83.

At Northern Michigan University, he was privileged to coach the Wildcats in 14 National Championship Tournament games, including winning the 1975 Championship. He was honored as the Great Lakes Conference Coach of the Year, Kodak Coach of the Year, and holds the record at Northern as winningest football coach with a 54-28 record. Other honors included induction into the UW-M and Northern Michigan Sports Hall of Fame.

Herb and his loving wife Sandy had two daughters, Elizabeth and Stephanie. After Stephanie passed away, she was described as having the values of Childlike Wonder, Immeasurable Heart and Teaching, Seeking, Knowing. These were values Herb taught students and athletes throughout his career.

Herb served on the church council of Messiah Lutheran Church, on the board of Lutheran Campus Ministry, and the Alliance for the Mentally Ill. With his daughter Stephanie, he received a Co-Coach of the Year Award for their work with Special Olympians. He was recognized as Outstanding Regional Coach for that organization.

Herb Grenke shared the inspirational theme that was his motivation in life. "It is in giving that we receive."