

JOSEPH F. YONTO

By **DARLENE CROSKEY**
and **PETE CURIE**

Orrville High School Sports Hall of Fame inductee Joseph F. Yonto, earned three letters in football at OHS, was on the undefeated team of 1940 and captain his senior year in 1942.

He also played basketball and was captain of the OHS team in 1942-43.

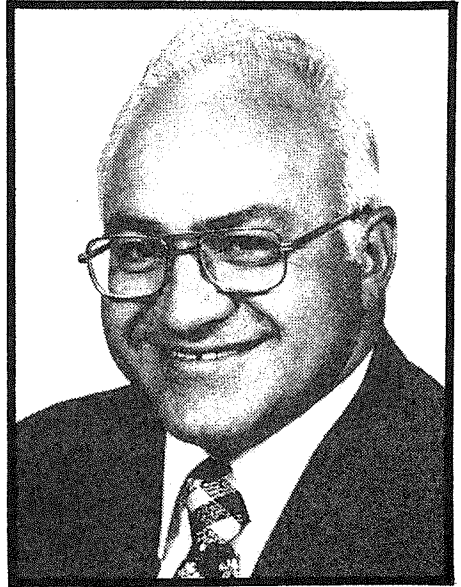
After high school graduation, Yonto enrolled at the University of Notre Dame, where he played two years of football as a fullback and then guard. A leg injury kept him from playing in 1947, his senior year, but he stayed on as an assistant freshman coach and thus started his coaching career.

Coaching jobs in Michigan City, Ind., Port Huron, Mich., and Chicago led up to his stay at Notre Dame High School in Nilus, Ill., where he put together three straight Chicago Suburban Catholic League titles (1960-62). Over his 16 years as a high school head football coach, Yonto compiled a record of 96 wins, 42 losses and 7 ties, for a winning record of 66.2 percent.

In 1964, Ara Parseghian was named head coach at Notre Dame and Yonto was named to his staff. Since then, Yonto has become known as the maker of All-Americans at Notre Dame. In seven of his first 12 years, the defensive line boasted at least one All-American.

All-Americans he has coached included Alan Page, Mike McCoy, Walt Patulski, Greg Marx, Mike Fanning, Steve Niehaus and Ross Browner.

Yonto has the longest tenure as a Notre Dame assistant football coach,



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17 years. He now serves as a special assistant to athletic director Dick Rosenthal.

He was inducted into the Wayne County Sports Hall of Fame in 1978 and was named Notre Dame "Man of the Year" in 1975 by St. Joseph Valley Club. He is married to the former Betty Rose of Michigan City, Ind. They live at 2049 Hollywood Place, South Bend, Ind. 46606 and have six children.