

# O'Dea Fighting Irish

## Athletic Wall of Honor

### 2002 Inductees

#### John DeFranco, Class of 1981

During his time at O'Dea from 1977 to 1981, John DeFranco was an outstanding student-athlete and participated on the varsity soccer and basketball teams. He was a three-year starter on O'Dea's basketball teams that would finish fourth, fourth and third at State, respectively. DeFranco earned All-Metro League and All-State honors during both his junior and senior years, and topped the State in scoring, averaging 31.7 points per game. During his final home game of his senior year, he set an O'Dea and Metro League basketball record for the highest single game scoring record with 53 points versus Rainier Beach. DeFranco accepted a basketball scholarship to Idaho State, later transferring to Western Washington University. He earned all-district and regional honors for his collegiate performance, and was named a NAIA District All-Star during his senior season (1984-1985). DeFranco received his Bachelor's degree in Business and Economics and is a well-recognized businessman, community leader, and family man.

#### Phil Lumpkin

Phil Lumpkin came to O'Dea in 1991 and spent the next 18 years building a basketball dynasty. Under his leadership, Fighting Irish basketball teams made 15 state tournament appearances resulting in 13 top-eight finishes, seven championship games, and five 3A State Championship titles (2007, 2005, 2004, 1997, 1993). Lumpkin developed his passion for basketball as a young boy,



earning All-State honors in football and basketball at Nettie Lee Roth High School in his home town of Dayton, Ohio. After graduating in 1970, he earned a basketball scholarship to Miami University of Ohio where he enjoyed an outstanding college career and was later inducted into the Miami University Hall of Fame in 1984. Lumpkin went on to play basketball professionally, selected in the second round of the 1974 NBA Draft by the Portland Trail Blazers. After playing one season each for Portland and the Phoenix Suns, including the Suns' Western Conference Championship season in 1975-1976, Lumpkin's professional career was cut short by an injury. Coach Lumpkin is honored and remembered for his love for and dedication to coaching.

## Brother John Stephen O'Keefe

Brother John Stephen O'Keefe was a member of the O'Dea faculty from 1956 to 1968. During his tenure at O'Dea, Brother O'Keefe coached various sports year-round, including football, basketball, cross country and track & field, having started the latter two programs from scratch. An outstanding athlete himself, Brother O'Keefe enjoyed a fifty-year teaching and coaching career at various Christian Brothers schools in British Columbia, Seattle, Honolulu and Chicago. He coached thousands of student-athletes, many of whom went on to enjoy collegiate and professional careers in athletics, including Olympic gold medalist sprinter Charles Greene. Brother O'Keefe graduated from Rice High School in New York City, entered the Christian Brothers' Juniorate in 1946, and graduated from Iona College, New Rochelle, New York in 1953.

## Frank Watson, Class of 1937

Frank Watson was a letterman and three sport athlete in football, basketball and baseball at O'Dea. He was co-leading scorer during his senior year when the Fighting Irish beat Seattle Prep for the city's 1937 Catholic Basketball Championship. After graduating from O'Dea, Watson accepted a football scholarship to Gonzaga and, after playing for a season, decided to focus on basketball. Watson was a double-digit scorer in all three years he played for the Zags, the team

captain during both his junior and senior years, and was named a small college All-American in 1941. After graduating, Watson joined the Marines and flew F-4U Corsair fighters in the South Pacific during World War II. He was ultimately promoted to the rank of Captain, and went on to play amateur and professional basketball for teams in the Seattle area.