

Troy Miles

Troy Miles '83 earned his place among O'Dea's elite athletes. His journey from a young boy inspired by his father's basketball legacy, to one of the top high school players in the nation, is a testament to the power of hard work, determination and passion. His story is one of perseverance and a deep love for the game of basketball.

As a sophomore in 1981, Miles earned Varsity Letters in both football and basketball. He teamed alongside fellow Wall of Honor Inductee John DeFranco '81 to win the Metro Championship in basketball. As a junior in 1982, he averaged 17.3 points per game, earned All-Metro honors, and won another city championship, this time teaming up with future Wall of Honor Inductee JoJo Buchanan '82.

In his senior year, Miles' leadership led a young O'Dea team to the 3A state tournament semi-finals. Miles averaged 25.8 points and 9 assists per game, including 10 straight 30-point performances.

Miles was named the 3A Metro League Player of the Year, First-Team All-State, and to the All-Star Times team. He also received a host of prestigious national honors, including selections to the Street & Smith's, Parade Magazine, USA Today, and McDonald's All-American teams. Off the court he received inclusion to the prestigious Who's Who among American High School Students 1983 for his academic prowess.

After graduating from O'Dea, Miles became a two-year starter at Idaho State University. He played a key role in leading the Bengals to a Big Sky championship and an NCAA tournament appearance as a junior in 1987. He also earned All-League honors as a junior and senior.

Melvin Wells

During Melvin Wells '85 high school career, he earned an impressive six varsity letters in football, basketball, and track, solidifying his place among O'Dea's most celebrated athletes.

In football, Wells was a dominant force on both sides of the ball. In 1984, he was recognized as a Metro All-League running back and free safety. He was also a standout in track and field, where he served as Team Captain. In 1985, Wells claimed the Metro League and District titles in the high jump and participated in the 4x100 relay, leading the team to a state runner-up finish and setting a school record in the process.

After graduation, Wells attended the University of Wyoming, where he continued to excel in both football and track. As a two-year starter for the Cowboys, he set a school record for average yards per catch in 1988 and played a key role in leading the team to consecutive Holiday Bowl appearances in 1987 and 1988. His contributions to the team earned them a place in the University of Wyoming Hall of Fame. On the track, Wells continued to shine, setting a school record in the indoor track 200 meters in 1988.

Wells transitioned his passion for the game into a successful coaching career, where he has made a significant impact at several high schools in Washington. He began at Lindbergh High School, serving as Head Coach from 1997 to 1999. He then joined Kentwood High School, where he was the Offensive Coordinator from 2006 to 2014. Wells continued his coaching career at Tahoma High School from 2015 to 2021 and is currently the Offensive Coordinator at Federal Way High School. His excellence on the sidelines has been recognized multiple times, earning him the NPSL Assistant Coach of the Year award in 2010, 2013, and 2021, as well as the District 3 Assistant Coach of the Year in 2021.

Melvin Wells' journey from a multi-sport standout at O'Dea to a record-setting collegiate athlete and accomplished coach exemplifies the qualities of hard work, perseverance, and leadership that define the O'Dea spirit.

David Jackson

David Jackson '86 is celebrated as one of O'Dea High School's most dynamic and impactful athletes. A two-sport star, Jackson's talent and dedication left a lasting mark on both the football field and the track.

In football, he earned three varsity letters and played a pivotal role in leading O'Dea to Metro Championships in 1983 and 1984, as well as a District and Regional Championship in 1984. His senior year in 1985 was particularly remarkable, as he led the Metro AA league in both rushing and receiving, earning a spot on the Metro AA All-Conference team and being named Metro AA Most Valuable Player. Jackson's stellar performance on the field also garnered him All-State Honors as an outstanding running back, and he was selected to the Star Times team. With an average of over 5 yards per carry and more than 27 yards per reception, Jackson was a key offensive weapon for O'Dea, solidifying his reputation as a game-changing player.

Jackson's athletic excellence extended beyond the football field to track and field, where he earned a varsity letter and excelled in field events. In 1985, he became the Sea-King District 2 AA triple jump champion, showcasing his exceptional athletic ability. He also competed in the WIAA State Championship in the triple jump, further demonstrating his versatility and talent.

Jackson's success earned him a full athletic scholarship to the University of Idaho. As a Vandal, Jackson contributed to three consecutive Big Sky Championships in 1987, 1988, and 1989. He became known as "The Big Play Man" for his explosive performance during the 1989 season, where he averaged 26.2 yards per catch and scored 14 touchdowns. Jackson's 18 playoff catches in 1989 set a school record, and his career stats included an average of 19.1 yards per catch on 50 receptions with 8 touchdowns, placing him 5th on Idaho's all-time list for receiving yards.

David Jackson's legacy at O'Dea High School and the University of Idaho is a testament to his hard work, dedication, and exceptional talent.

Bennie Mitchell

Bennie Mitchell '85 known for his dazzling style of play, earned varsity letters in basketball & track during his junior and senior years, leaving a lasting impression on O'Dea's athletic history.

As a point guard on the basketball team, Mitchell's defensive skills earned him a spot on the All-Defensive Team as a junior. His ability to control the game and disrupt opponents made him a key player for the Fighting Irish.

However, it was on the football field where Mitchell truly shined. As a wide receiver, he was selected to the prestigious Street and Smith Bluechip All-American team during his junior year. He also earned All-State honors as a wide receiver in both his junior and senior years.

Mitchell's outstanding high school career earned him a full athletic scholarship to Oregon State University, where he continued to showcase his versatility and skill as a wide receiver, punt returner, and kick returner. His performance at Oregon State caught the attention of professional scouts, leading to an invitation to try out for the Philadelphia Eagles in 1991.

Bennie Mitchell's legacy at O'Dea High School and beyond is marked by his electrifying style of play and his ability to excel at the highest levels.