

RFHS HALL OF FAME

CLASS OF 2013

Willie Dale

This 2002 graduate of RFHS is arguably the finest wrestler to ever wear a Rocket singlet. Willie was a four time state qualifier for the Rockets, medaling three times. Willie finished 3rd as a sophomore, 2nd as a junior and won the 152 pound State Title as a senior.

Along the way Willie totaled 159 wins against only 13 losses. He was 39-5 as a freshman, 40-3 as a sophomore, 39-3 as a junior and a school record 41 wins against two losses in his title run his senior year. Willie also won the NCIC title four times. One of only nine wrestlers in the storied history of the conference to accomplish the feat and is the only Rock Falls wrestler in that group. He won four regional titles and three sectional titles.

Along with his single season school record of 41 victories, Willie also holds the Takedown season record with 254 and the Major Decision record with 11. His 159 career wins are the most in Rocket history along with his 692 takedowns. Willie's 1941 career points still rank him in the top 10 in IHSA history

Ross Johnson

This 1988 Rock Falls High School graduate earns his Hall of Fame honor by his workman like effort on the basketball floor, while yet possessing a delicate touch around the hoop.

An All NCIC and All Twin Cities performer, Ross consistently put double-double figures in the scorebook. Scoring at least 10 points and grabbing 10 rebounds on numerous occasions from his post position. Ross' remarkable touch around the hoop has put him the record books. Ross shot a remarkable .634 his junior year for a school record that stood nearly 20 years. His career percentage of .629 is not only still the record here at RFHS but ranks 13th all-time in the State of Illinois according to the IHSA. Ross continued his playing career upon graduation as a key member of the basketball team at Sauk Valley College.

Lisa Pope

A 1981 graduate of RFHS, Lisa earned varsity letters in track and cross country. But the track is where Lisa excelled. She set sprint records that still have not been matched some 30 years later. Lisa holds records in six events here at RFHS. Individually, she holds the record in the 100 meters at 12.2, the 200 meters at 25.1 and the 400 meters at 58.0. Lisa also holds records as a member of three relay teams. Her and her teammates own the mark in the 400 meter relay in 49.7, the 800 meter relay in 1:45.0 and the 800 medley relay in 1:50.1.

Lisa qualified for the State track meet all four years and was a member of the 1979 Rocket squad that finished 5th in the State. She won 10 different NCIC championships and totaled five Sectionals titles as well. Lisa continued her track career at the Division 1 level running for the Ramblers of Loyola University in Chicago.

Art Heinze

As a 1958 graduate of RFHS, Art earned 10 varsity letters in the sports of baseball, track and basketball. As a member of the 1958 state runner-up Rocket basketball team, Art already has his spot in Rock Falls history. But his abilities on the cinders and the diamond certainly add to the mark he left on Rocket athletics.

Art led the Rocket track team to the NCIC title during his senior season. He won conference championships in the 220 yard dash, ran the lead leg for the winning 880- yard relay team and won the title in the long jump. Upon graduation, Art held the school record in the 220 yard dash in 22.5. He also ran legs on the 440 yard and 880 yard relay teams that set school records running 44.5 and 1:34.4 respectfully. His 120 points scored during his senior season was a record at that time for a Rocket trackster. On the diamond Art earned first team NCIC honors his senior year, leading the Rockets to yet another championship. Art led the team in batting average, runs scored and stolen bases. His .473 batting average and his 27 stolen bases were Rocket records when Art graduated.

Robbie Minor

Remembered as one of the finest all-around athletes in Rocket history, this 2003 graduate of RFHS earned 10 varsity letters in the sports of football, basketball and baseball. On the gridiron, Rob was a two-time all-NCIC selection, earning First team honors his senior year as the conferences number one quarterback. That award started an amazing senior year for Rob, as he would later be named First team All-NCIC in both basketball and baseball becoming just the 5th Rocket athlete to be named First team All-Conference in three sports during the same year.

Rob was also a member of some powerhouse Rocket basketball teams. During Rob's three years on the varsity team, the Rockets won three consecutive Regional titles, two Sectional titles and two NCIC championships. Individually Rob finished his career with 1367 points which still ranks him 7th on the all-time Rocket list. He still holds records with the highest 3pt field goal

percentage for a career at 43.8. And the record for most 3pt field goals made in a season with 94. For all his efforts, Rob was named to the NCIC First team and to All-State teams both his junior and senior years.

On the diamond Rob was just as accomplished. Whether it was from his position at shortstop, the mound, or the batter's box, Rob helped to keep Rock Falls baseball on top. During his four years on the varsity, he led the Rocket baseball team to four straight Regional titles, one NCIC title, one Sectional championship and an Elite 8 appearance in 2002. At the end of his career, Rob had a career batting average over .400, a fielding percentage of .995 and still holds the career records of innings pitched with 230 and stolen bases with 89. He was named All-NCIC three times and was named to the All-State baseball team his senior year.

Upon graduation, Rob signed a Division I letter to play baseball at Evansville University in Indiana. As a four year starter at shortstop for the Purple Aces, Rob has his name dotted all over the record books. Rob holds the record for games played with 236, is 7th in hits, 7th in at bats, 9th in runs scored and 13th in triples. Rob also owns the Evansville record for 209 assists for one season and 780 for his career. In fact, his career assist mark is also the record in the Missouri Valley Conference and ranks 3rd all-time in NCAA Division I history. Rob also earned All-MVC honors on the field as well as in the classroom. Rob was named to the MVC All-Tournament team in 2006 as he helped lead the Aces into the NCAA tournament. He then was named to the NCAA All-Regional Tournament team. Rob signed with the NY Yankees after his career in Evansville and played the 2007 season in Tampa. He then finished his professional career playing for the Gateway Grizzlies of the Frontier League where he broke the single season record for stolen bases.