

To: Ohio High School Football Coaches Hall of Fame Selection Committee

I am writing this letter in support of selecting Herbert J. Redding of Gibsonburg, Ohio to the Ohio High School Football Coaches Hall of Fame.

Coach Redding was my high school football coach at Gibsonburg for the seasons of 1954 through 1958. As a freshman, I did not play much but I could already see what Coach Redding wanted from his players. That was practice hard and no nonsense, and a do your best all the time attitude, even in practice. He was a good motivator and instilled a winning attitude in the players. When we won, we won graciously and when we lost, he taught us good sportsmanship.

In my years at Gibsonburg we were in the Sandusky Bay Conference with Oak Harbor, Fremont St. Joseph, Clyde and Sandusky St. Mary's. Gibsonburg had the smallest student enrollment but was always very competitive against the bigger schools. In my senior year (season of 1958) we won the SBC beating everyone in the league and tying St. Mary's. That year, because no one expected us to be in contention, Coach Redding was named Class A Coach of the Year for the State of Ohio.

After my high school days I played quarterback at BGSU for Doyt Perry who is in the College Football Coaches Hall of Fame and I believe Coach Redding had most of the same qualities as Coach Perry. Coach Redding prepared and enabled me to play college football at BGSU.

Coach Redding went on to win many more football games and championships during his career. His opponents always knew, when they played a team coached by Herb Redding, that they were in for a battle. His coaching skills not only included effective X's and O's but also included the ability to name good assistants and to maintain a very good relationship with his players and the community.

Coach Redding not only coached football but was a JV basketball and varsity baseball coach during my years there. He maintained the same strict standards for these sports as he did for football.

Following his coaching and teaching years at Gibsonburg, he went on to be an excellent high school principal and an outstanding school superintendent. I believe the same characteristics he displayed as a football coach i.e. honesty, integrity and hard work contributed to his success as a school administrator.

I believe Coach Redding is one of those unique individuals who through hard work and dedication proved to be an outstanding football coach for many years and deserves to be inducted into the Ohio High School Football Coaches Hall of Fame.

Anthony Ruggiero (Class of 1959)

*Anthony "Andy" Ruggiero*  
*November 4, 2009*