

Rollie Stichweh—the Epitome of an Army Athlete

West Point's mission is to develop Leaders of Character for our Army and the Nation. No one is a more perfect example of that mission statement than Rollie Stichweh. His selfless service to our Alma Mater and community has extended throughout his entire professional career--and continues today.

Rollie Stichweh, for many years after setting a single season record, was the leading passing and running quarterback in Army football history. He epitomized the Army athlete on the football fields in the 1962 through 1964 seasons. Coach Darrell Royal of #1 Texas in 1964 called him "the best back in the country." This superlative acknowledgement and his leadership of the Army football team in 1964 that ultimately defeated the vaunted Navy team led by Roger Staubach, solidly support his qualifications for selection to the Army Sports Hall of Fame. But Rollie has gone further. He was twice decorated for valor in Vietnam as a Captain in the elite 173rd Airborne Brigade, rose to be a Managing Director in a major consulting firm, and became deeply involved in community affairs. Since his June 1965 graduation from West Point, Rollie's leadership has also included extraordinary service as a counselor and major booster of West Point, Army athletics and Army football.

During World War II, General Marshall is quoted as having requested an Army football player "for a secret and dangerous mission." Rollie Stichweh was that type of player and representative of West Point-- a person who could be handed a difficult mission and be relied upon to accomplish it successfully. Rollie's outstanding performance as an Army athlete is undisputed, while his contributions to the Nation, his community and West Point over the past 45 years are further compelling evidence supporting his admission to the prestigious Army Sports Hall of Fame. His admission will be a reflection of the very best values of the Military Academy.

"Greatest Quarterback in Army History"

Coach Paul Dietzel

Most Valuable Player and Top Performer in the historic and widely publicized Army-Navy Game—THE game of 1963. As a junior, Rollie led the Army team against nationally ranked Navy with its Heisman trophy-winning quarterback, Roger Staubach, to a near upset. Rollie scored all of Army's touchdowns, and with only minutes left in the game, he leapt over the Navy receivers to recover an on-side kick. He then proceeded to march Army down the field. The game ended when time ran out with Army on the Navy two yard line. Staubach was quoted as saying: "I think Rollie Stichweh, besides being a terrific person, was one of the best football players and athletes I ever saw--without a doubt he could have been an outstanding pro."

Most Valuable Player and Top Performer in the 1964 Army win (score 11 to 8) over Navy. As Captain of the Army football team, Rollie played both offense and defense, and returned punts in this GREAT Army victory. Rollie was on the field for 55 minutes, completed one pass for a touchdown and made the game winning tackle to secure the victory for Army. At the end of the game, he was carried off the field by a joyous Corps of Cadets. He was personally commended by former President Eisenhower for this outstanding performance; "Ike succinctly said, "Great game, Rollie!" This performance also made him the Army season holder for total yards (passing and rushing) in a single season, a record he held for 12 years. Rollie surpassed such Army greats as Arnold Tucker, Don Holleder, and Joe Caldwell. Like Don Holleder, Rollie was asked to switch from his "natural" position as a halfback (plebe and yearling years) to quarterback, to exploit his leadership and athleticism. For Rollie's extraordinary performance in the 1964

season, he was selected to the Associated Press All-America Team (Honorable Mention). His competition included: Joe Namath, Roger Staubach, John Huarte, Craig Morton, Jerry Rhome, and Archie Roberts. Other honors earned that year included:

Featured in legendary sports reporter Dan Jenkins' Sports Illustrated column: "West Point's Rollie Stichweh is outshining Roger Staubach and a lot of other QB's in the country"

Led team in scoring, rushing, passing, and punt returns

Named by Navy as "Best Opposing Back in the Country"

Ringsdorf Award recipient as the "Outstanding Player in the Army-Navy Game"

Highlighted in Sports Illustrated article by Mervin Hyman: "After narrowly losing to #2 Navy in 1963, Army and Stichweh settled accounts. Army beat Navy...and Stichweh outplayed Staubach as no player has before!"

Sports Illustrated's "Back of the Week"

ECAC's All "East Team" (1st team)

Associated Press' "All East Team"

Thruston Hughes Memorial Award as Army football's "Most Valuable Player"

Elected as Captain of the North-South Shrine Game where he caught a TD pass from Heisman winner Huarte; also scored a touchdown rushing on a handoff from QB Roger Staubach in the East-West All American Game.

"Directed his helicopter into an extremely hot LZ, recovered a wounded soldier and performed life saving first aid"

Air Medal with "V" Device

Rollie Stichweh was an Airborne and Ranger qualified officer who joined the 82nd Airborne Division after graduation. In Vietnam he was a member of the 173rd Airborne Brigade where he received numerous awards to include two for heroism under fire: the Bronze Star with "V" for valor and the Air Medal with "V" for valor. His final military assignment was as an Assistant Coach (QB/Receivers) for Coach Tom Cahill at West Point.

"Outstanding business acumen and motivated leadership to peers and subordinates alike"

John Lynch, former CEO of Towers Perrin

Rollie was a critical and extremely productive member of the Towers Perrin executive management team. He excelled in every aspect of the business, was a key motivational leader for peers and subordinates alike, and contributed greatly in building this firm into a global leader. Rollie rose to be Senior Executive and Managing Director of Towers Perrin, one of the largest international management consulting firms in the world with 10,000 employees and 95 offices worldwide. He was on the Board of Directors for 12 years and a member of its Management Committee for 10 years.

"He embodies the motto: 'Help the Other Fellow First'"

M. John Storey, Former Chairman, Board of Managers,
YMCA Camp Dudley, Inc.

Rollie Stichweh's sense of community service has gone well beyond his unpublished philanthropy. He helped transform YMCA Camp Dudley's mission for the first time in 121 years, opening the camp to girls and young women. He helped to find bunks for kids who could not otherwise attend. When a young member of this community had a difficult surgery, Rollie didn't mail a card--he drove to her home, giving her the kind of "pep talk" that he had learned at West Point. He worked for over five years as Chairman of the Camp Dudley Board and in other key leadership positions to revitalize this respected and treasured national camp.

Rollie served on the Board of Directors for four years of the Norwalk Community Hospital, the Board of Deacons of First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan, Connecticut and on the Board of Directors of New Canaan's Red Cross. His devotion to community is a perfect example of a West Pointer giving back to one's community: selfless service, service above self.

“Rollie Stichweh’s lifetime of selfless service to West Point exemplifies West Point’s mission of developing leaders of character”

Tom Dyer, Past Chairman and CEO of the Association of Graduates USMA

Rollie has been deeply involved in supporting the mission of West Point by his committed involvement over several decades in the West Point communities of the Northeast. He is a past President of the West Point Society of New England, where he launched a major effort to include young women graduates as part of a strategic process to reenergize this vital organization. Rollie also served with distinction for two terms on the Board of Trustees of the Association of Graduates. Significantly as well, Rollie ranks in the top 10 in his class in career giving to West Point. Finally, Rollie has volunteered countless hours to provide invaluable assistance to the Search Committees for Coach Ross and Coach Ellerson, the Football Advisory Panel for General Hagenbeck, and most recently, the search committee for the new Athletic Director.

“Rollie’s insights and wise counsel helped us hit the ground running. He continues to be a valued resource for evaluating the likely impact of new initiatives as we move forward”

Coach Ellerson

Rollie Stichweh has made major contributions to the Army Football program. He has advised Superintendents and coaches on the importance of improving Army football, as noted by General Christman, former AOG CEO Tom Dyer, and Coach Ellerson. Constantly on the alert for potential Army football players, he has regularly encouraged and assisted numerous young athletes to enter West Point. He has also served as an Army football recruiting assistant.

Conclusion

Rollie Stichweh’s life and athletic career at West Point set a high mark for every future athlete and graduate of West Point to emulate. One of his high school classmates who is in the national Lacrosse Hall of Fame said it perfectly, “West Point could not have a better person in its athletic Hall of Fame than Rollie Stichweh, who represents excellence in everything he has done before, during and after his days at West Point. There is no one better!”

Rollie Stichweh’s devotion to duty, honor and country, and his efforts to make his community, West Point and its athletic program the best in the country are without parallel. His induction into the Army Sports Hall of Fame is both enormously deserved and a fitting tribute to one of the very best leaders of character our Alma Mater has ever produced.