



William “Bill” Korutz

Year of Induction: **2011**

Year of Graduation: **1955**

Mr. William “Bill” Korutz was the pride of the Wildcats football program of the early 1950’s. His accomplishments on the gridiron place him among the elite players in the history of the Johnson City football. A true ‘Wildcat’ through and through, Mr. Korutz not only made an impact through his athletic accomplishments, but he would also spend the majority of his career in education helping to shape the lives of students at Johnson City High School as its assistant principal.

Although Mr. Korutz impressively earned eight varsity letters for his four years of varsity competition in track and basketball, it was his four varsity letters earned in football that stand out. Starting with his junior year campaign in 1953, Mr. Korutz began to collect numerous awards and achievements. At the completion of the 1953 season, Bill earned 1st team All Press & Sun Bulletin, 1st team All Southern Tier Athletic Conference, and 3rd team All-State honors. As impressive as this was, it paled in comparison to what was to come. By the end of his senior season of football in 1954, Bill had established himself as one of New York State’s premier players. A list of that season’s accolades includes:

- Press & Sun Bulletin 1st Team
- 1st Team All Southern Tier Athletic Conference
- 1st Team All-State
- All-State Elite 11

The success achieved at Johnson City propelled Mr. Korutz to a football scholarship at Dayton University. He would play four years of football at Dayton, highlighted by serving as the team’s co-captain in 1958 alongside future NFL linebacker and AFL All-Star Emil Karas. Bill was selected in the 12th round of the 1959 NFL draft by the San Francisco 49ers, but an unfortunate string of injuries limited his professional football career.

With his playing days cut short, Mr. Korutz entered into a career in education. He returned to football as a coach, but it could be argued that his biggest impact was made during his 27 years as an assistant principal at Johnson City High School. Mr. Korutz takes great pride in his years spent at JCHS as an administrator, where he fondly remembers helping to mentor, guide, and encourage young people in developing skills that would help them become successful adults.

For his many accomplishments as a standout football player, and for his 27 years of making an impact as an administrator at JCHS, the Johnson City Athletic Hall of Fame is proud to welcome William “Bill” Korutz, JCHS Class of 1955.