



## Louis Salley

Year of Induction: **2019**

Year of Graduation: **1946**

Every team, regardless of the sport, needs players who can change a game with their talent. Mr. Lou Salley, JCHS Class of 1946, was that player for the Wildcats' football team.

Mr. Salley was a standout athlete for the Wildcats, earning six varsity letters during his high school career—three each in football and track from 1943 – 1945. He was a key member of football teams in both his sophomore and senior seasons that dominated the local football scene. The 1943 Wildcats team enjoyed an impressive record of seven wins and only one loss. They scored 191 points in their seven wins, while their opponents only scored 40 against them the entire season. After a disappointing season in 1944 when the Wildcats only won three games, Mr. Salley geared up for a senior season that can now be recognized as one of the finest in school history.

Led by Mr. Salley's dominant running and game-changing kick return abilities, the Wildcats dominated the competition in 1945. At that time, Johnson City's biggest football rivals were Union-Endicott and Norwich. Both of these teams presented huge challenges each season, and at that time in Johnson City history, the Wildcats had never defeated both in the same season. That all changed in 1945. On their way to an undefeated 8-0 record, the Wildcats had two memorable games against their biggest rivals. The Wildcats went on the road to U-E, and in front of nearly 10,000 spectators, defeated the Tigers, who at the time were on their own 10 game winning streak, with the help of Salley's unstoppable kick returns. The Tigers had no answer for Salley's speed, and later that season, neither did Norwich. The Wildcats entered the Norwich game at 5-0, and they needed this crucial victory against their archrival to secure the Southern Tier Championship. The Wildcats prevailed 20-0, and the game was highlighted by an unforgettable touchdown run that was described by local media as covering 100 total yards, after being initially stopped behind the line of scrimmage. The 1945 team outscored their opponents by an amazing total of 271 – 27. Mr. Salley was the team captain of this incredible Wildcat team, and he graduated in 1946 with an eye on his future at St. Bonaventure University.

Although he was often referred to as 'diminutive' in the media because of his slight stature at 150 lbs., Mr. Salley didn't let that stop him in his pursuit to play collegiate football at St. Bonaventure. He was a member of their varsity football team for three years from 1947 – 1949. He led the team in rushing in 1948 and was third in rushing and touchdowns scored during his senior season. Mr. Salley was also a contributor on the Bonnies' track team, running both the 100 and the 220.

In recognition for his achievements in football and track, Mr. Salley was inducted into the Section IV Athletic Hall of Fame.

The Johnson City Athletic Hall of Fame is proud to welcome an athlete who changed games with his speed and led Johnson City football to championship heights, Mr. Louis Salley, JCHS Class of 1946.