

1975-76

Hoop trophy, state champ, runner-up highlight year

FACTS & FIGURES

Final records

FALL '75

Football	2-7
Golf	12-3
Cross Country	1-9
Girls basketball	1-18

WINTER '76

Boys basketball	14-9
Wrestling	4-10
Volleyball	13-8

SPRING '76

Baseball	7-11
Boys Track	2-5
Girls track	3-7

MVPs

Football: Rick Bowman
 Cross country: Mark Richter
 Golf: Doug Hartsel
 Girls basketball: Lorie Long
 Boys basketball: Terry Futrell
 Wrestling: Joe Garverick
 Volleyball: Barb Cline
 Baseball: Jeff Dickerson
 Boys track: None chosen
 Girls track: Molly Bitz

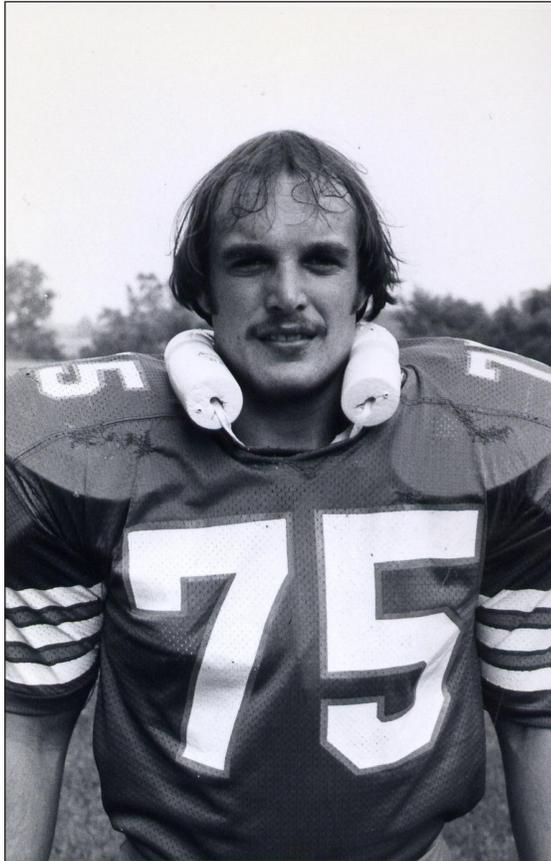
Tri-County Conference

CHAMPIONS

Football: AA St. Thomas
 Girls basketball: Sand Creek
 Boys basketball: St. Thomas
 Volleyball: Whiteford, Whitmore Lake, AA St. Thomas
 Baseball: Summerfield
 Boys track: St. Thomas

All-State

Terry Futrell, basketball, 6th team (Free Press), HM (News)
 Molly Bitz, track, 1st place, 2-mile
 Sonya Tomes, track, 2nd place, mile
 Joe Gaverick, wrestling, 2nd place at state meet



Rick Bowman (above) was a three sport star for Whiteford his senior year. In football, he led the Bobcat in passing with 638 yards and had 117 tackles. In basketball, he scored 300 points and pulled down 183 rebounds for the District champs and in baseball he had 21 RBI and was first team All-TCC. Bowman would go on to play college football at Defiance, where he is pictured above.

BOBCAT HEADLINES

- Bobcats joined Tri-County Conference
- Joe Gaverick places 2nd at state wrestling
- Molly Bitz gave Whiteford its second consecutive state champion in track, winning the two-mile with record-setting performance
- Terese LaRoy received a special trophy as the first Whiteford girl to win four letters in any sport (basketball).
- Basketball team won first District title since 1961, advances to Regional.
- Terry Futrell finished career with 931 points
- Volleyball team shared Tri-County Conference championship

NUMBERS & NOTES

FOOTBALL: A second consecutive two-win season was the first in another new league, the Tri-County Conference. ... Rick Bowman threw for more than 600 yards while Jess Saylor and Dick Becker each caught 16 passes. Jesse Strahan (123) and Bowman (117) each had more than 100 tackles. Bowman was named team MVP.
GOLF: The Bobcats had their best season ever under coach Larry Eichler, going 12-3.

BOYS BASKETBALL: If any season in Whiteford history can be looked at as a turning point for the program, it can be said that it is the 1975-76 year. Leaving the Michigan-Ohio Border Conference proved to be the right move for Whiteford, as the Tri-County Conference became the home league.

Behind Terry Futrell's 410 points and 78 percent free throw shooting, the Bobcats recorded their first winning season in seven years. With a 14-9 record on the season and 10-4 in the TCC, the Bobcats finished second in TCC.

However, the big news came when Whiteford defeated Deerfield on March 6 for the schools first District Championship since 1961. In Regional action in Jackson, WHS lost to TCC nemesis Ann Arbor St. Thomas (ranked No. 2 in Class D by the Associated Press), a team that Whiteford took to the limit in a road game against the 22-2 Fighting Irish. In a game that typified how far WHS had come in the recent years, the Bobcats held a fourth-quarter lead before going down by a 61-59 count to the Washtenaw County School. Futrell and Bowman combined for 34 points as WHS took a 32-30 lead into halftime against the ranked opponent. They widened the gap going into the final stanza before bowing out in the regular season game.

Bowman scored 300 points on the season and was named most improved player for the second straight year. He shot better than 50 percent from the floor and had 183 boards. David Perry also had a big season, scoring 209 points and leading the team with 204 rebounds.

TRACK: Lorie Long (shot put) and Molly Bitz (two-mile) were Regional champs as the Bobcats finished third as a team at Whitmore Lake's Class D Regional. The following week the Bobcats placed 8th in the state meet. Besides the first place by Bitz in the record-setting time, Sonya Tomes placed second in the mile, the mile relay team finished fifth and Kathy Hubbard placed seventh in the discus.



Terry Futrell