

FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES

Building Character Beyond The Field.

"He must increase, but I must decrease" John 3:30



Captain William J. Horrigan

The verse above is from John The Baptist, the favorite person in the Bible for Captain Bill Horrigan (USN Ret.). Bill has been proclaiming that same Good News by being a volunteer Character Coach for FCA since 2008. His assignment is the Manchester High School football team. It helps that Bill played football at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio for a legendary coach Ara Parseghian. But it is Bill's unwavering faith and servant's heart that goes beyond the Xs and Os of football.

Born in Cleveland, Ohio Bill grew up playing every seasonal sport. While his favorite was ice hockey, he played football and ran track at Miami. "Coach Johnny Brickels, Miami's AD and backfield coach was the most influential coach in my life," shared Horrigan. "He was always encouraging me regardless of my playing time." Bill brings those life-lessons to the Lancer program as he encourages and equips coaches and athletes to live with integrity and excellence daily. Bill regularly attends weekly practices and weight room sessions, provides refreshments of ice-cold watermelon during hot August two-a day practices, and shares a message at the voluntarily attended weekly chapel.

Head Coach Tom Hall reflected: "Bill's relationship with our players and coaches is a special one. Like a father or grandfather to most, the kids always were excited to see Bill. He has been more influential in our program's success the last decade; more than any player or coach. We have seen young men's lives change and many players give their lives to the Lord. Our weekly, voluntary huddle meetings became more than 'just meeting after practice'. They became an integral part of the Lancer Way. We love Bill Horrigan. He will always be a Lancer."

That impact of Bill's Christ-like attitude is evident whether he was playing on the Miami gridiron, serving his country in the Navy for 24 years, being dedicated to his wife Bev for 62 years and counting, or raising and influencing their three children and four grandchildren. "Bill is one of the most humble and spirit-filled Christians I have met," shared FCARVA Director Michael Stock. "He freely shares his time, wisdom, and financial resources to help advance the vision of FCA."

Over ten years of volunteering with one team brings many highs and lows of emotions. From overtime losses and thrilling come from behind play-off victories, to All-Metro players and alumni returning from college teams who remember Bill's life-lesson messages years later. But the memories Bill holds onto the tightest are when he reflects on the dozens of players who committed their lives to Christ, and players praying before games. "Like at many schools, players at Manchester have issues at home and need to learn respect for themselves and others. To see so many of the players have a desire to trust God with their lives and openly acknowledge their dependence on him weekly is more important than any game victory," reflected Horrigan.