

# THE VOICE

Grain Valley Historical Society

## Planning an event?



**The Historical society is a great place to host your holiday party. Visit our website for more information.**

## *The Voice*

*Is published monthly as an internet newsletter. If you know someone who would enjoy receiving a copy, please let me know and I will add them to the list!*

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## Pumpkins, Mums & Football

Fall is my absolutely favorite season of the year, There is too much snow in the winter, too much rain in the spring and definitely too much heat in the summer. But fall...what's not to love. There's pumpkin bread, pumpkins pie, pumpkin cake and, of course, jack-o-lanterns. There are colorful mums and fall leaves.

But most of all, there's football! I now have five teams to cheer on, the Chiefs, the Eagles, the Indians, the Tigers and the Gators when they aren't playing my beloved Tigers! Lately I've even been watching the Wildcats because their QB is a Fort Osage graduate and, after all, I did teach there for 27 years.

It got me to thinking just how long I have been a football fan. The answer is simple; as long as I can remember. I grew up going to football games on Friday night with my Mom and Dad. And it was definitely my dad who taught me the rules of the game, as well as his third quarter theory. The team scoring the most points in the third quarter usually wins the game, even if they are trailing at the beginning of the fourth quarter. They have **momentum!**

When I was not quite a year old my family moved to Kirksville, Missouri. Every Friday they made the trip home, or to the away game destination to see Grain Valley play football. My dad had been the Eagles' quarterback years before and he never lost his love for the game. It was on one of those trips back to Kirksville after an Eagles' victory that Mom and Dad decided they wanted to establish an award to be given to a player. The criteria didn't limit the award to the "best" player, but to the most inspirational player and he was to be selected not by the coach (in those days there was only one!), but he was to be selected by the team. The winner would be given a letter sweater with a chenille football, embroidered with "Napier Award," sewn on the sleeve. The first winner was Reed Butler. Since 1947 there have been 68 additional names added to the list.

Four outstanding athletes won twice; Jeff Wilke, 1976 & 1977, Brock Bolt in 1994 & 1995, Justin Pinkerton in 1999 & 2000 and Alex Ellis in 2004 & 2006.



## Historical Society Meeting

**October 24, 2019**

Due to the rescheduled GVHS Homecoming, the September Meeting was rescheduled for October 24, 2019

**Join us for a pot luck dinner at 6:00 pm followed by our program and meeting. Hope you can attend.**

**Visit our website**

[www.grainvalleyhistory.com](http://www.grainvalleyhistory.com)

For information on museum hours, meetings, special events and building rental, check out our website. The website is provided and maintained courtesy of the

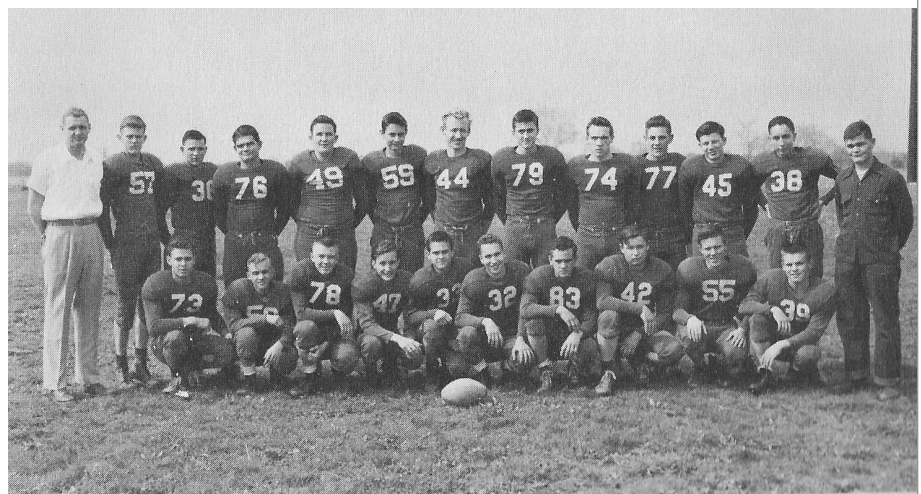
Nine sets of brothers have won the Napier Award. They are Reed (1947) and Gene (1950) Butler; Ken (1948) and Maurice (1957) Gibler; Ed (1955) and Dan (1962) Elliott; Loren (1956) and Mike (1958) Jeffers; Frank (1964) and Nick (1968) McMillan; Bill (1973) and Jim (1979) Meyers; Greg (1978) and Doug (1985) Hays; Tom (1981) and Andy (1983) Amor and Ryan (1992) and Brock (1994 & 1995) Bult. There has been only one father and son combo, Bill (1952) and Jeff (1976 & '77) Wilke. Jeff's uncle, Don Uptegrove was the recipient in 1953.

The list of names includes college football players, football coaches, athletic directors, teachers, college professors, a school superintendent, a college president, successful business men, doctors and lawyers. There are no Indian chiefs, although Brock Bult is coaching the Fort Osage Indians, so you could say he is their chief!

Sometime during the 1980's the NCAA got involved and ruled that high school players could not receive money or merchandise from individuals outside of the school. My parents had to discontinue the chenille football and the letter jacket which had replaced the old letter sweaters popular in the 1940s and 1950s.

Three years ago in a conversation with Brandon Hart, Grain Valley's Activities Director, I learned that a scholarship could be given. With assistance from Coach Allie and Jerry Vaughan, director of the Grain Valley Education Foundation, I have been able to endow a scholarship, which I hope will continue for many years into the future.

So now, you know the history of the Napier Award, another Grain Valley tradition.



**1952 Eagles with Coach Bill Evans  
Napier Award Winners**

*Front Row: #33 Ed Elliott, 1955, #32 Don Uptegrove, 1953  
Row Two: #78 Tom Bradford, 1954; #44 Bill Wilke, 1952*

# Napier Award Winners

1947 – Reed Butler	1971 – Doug Rapp	1995 – Brock Bult
1948 – Kenneth Gibler	1972 - Andy Markham	1996 - Nick Salmon
1949 – Melvin Foltz	1973 – Bill Meyers	1997 - Brian Beebe
1950 – Gene Butler	1974 – Mark Holcmbe	1998 – Joe Smith
1951 - Bill Officer	1975 – Don Fritsche	1999 – Justin Pinkerton
1952 – Bill Wilke	1976 – Jeff Wilke	2000- Justin Pinkerton
1953 – Don Uptegrove	1977 – Jeff Wilke	2001 – James Scully
1954 – Tom Bradford	1978 – Greg Hays	2002 – Seth Williams
1955 – Ed Elliott	1979 – Jim Meyers	2003 – Braneon Morris
1956 – Loren Jeffers	1980 – Tom Amor	2004 – Alex Ellis
1957 – Maurice Gibler	1981 – Dean Whippo	2005 – Marcus Nicholson
1958 – Mike Jeffers	1982 – Erik Knudson	2006 – Alex Ellis
1959 – LeRoy Grubb	1983 – Andy Amor	2007 – Cody Fogle
1960 – Larry Burriss	1984 – Clay Rodgers	2008 – David Richards
1961 – Ron Davies	1985 – Doug Hays	2009 – T Goade
1962 – Danny Elliott	1986 – Jason Hall	2010 – Riley Williams
1963 – Jim Payton	1987 – George Taylor	2011 – Wes Freeman
1964 – Frank McMilliam	1988 – Chad Martin	2012 – Domonick Macaubrie
& Richard Danner	1989 – Bryan Calderella	2013 – Hunter Ramerez
1965 – Ron Campbell	1990 – Bruce Neer	2014 – Jacob Miller
1966 – Don Feagans	1991 – J. J. Freaking	2015 – Zack Eklen
1967 – Rob Wyatt	1992 -Ryan Bult	2016 – Kale Wagener
1968 – Nick McMillian	1993 – Sean Fisher	2017 – Tate Collum
1969 – Steve Lacy	1994 – Brock Bult	2018 – Ethan Grasher
1970 – Doug Lee		

