



President Tim Summerlin, Ceta Boulon, Tom Ball Jr., Tom Ball III, Mary Ball, Berkley Ball, Barrett Ball

Tom Ball Jr.

Tom Ball Jr. '42 is one of four former student athletes inducted this year into the Schreiner University Athletic Hall of Honor.

When Ball entered Schreiner Institute in 1940, he was already a celebrated high school football player. To this day, he is remembered throughout East Texas as a versatile triple threat running back who was strong on both offense and defense.

In his freshman year at Schreiner, Ball excelled as half-back and punter. According to the 1940 Recall, the team, under coach Rex Kelly, began the season with the motto "Nothing less than the conference championship." On Nov. 22 that dream came true as Schreiner defeated Kilgore Junior College for the Texas Junior College Championship.

Of that season, the Recall modestly states, "Tom Ball's punting... was worthy of mention and commendations."

He was named captain of the 1941 Mountaineers, and although the season record reflected four wins and three losses, Ball once again made a name for himself on the field.

After having his education disrupted to serve in World War II, he finished his degree and went on to distinguish himself in his professional life, retiring as a vice-president with Paine-Webber Investments in 1999.

In his nomination, Gene Marshall '52 said, "I can only believe that were Coach Rex Kelly here today, he would be the first to second the nomination."

W. C. (Heinie) Weir

The University has also inducted the late W.C. (Heinie) Weir '45 into its Athletic Hall of Honor.

Weir served as Schreiner Institute's head football coach and athletic director from 1937 until 1945. After that he served in a variety of other roles at Schreiner, retiring as academic dean in 1971.

Weir served as captain of the Texas A&M football team in his senior year there, wrote Sam M. Junkin '51, former Schreiner president in his nomination. "When Weir's leg was broken in a game, the A&M coach told the student body to be

ready, that someone might be called from the stands during the game. Hence was born the 12th man tradition," wrote Junkin.

He went on to say, "In many ways, Coach Weir was a stern man, one who did not rest easy with what he considered 'nonsense.' But he was respected and he served Schreiner admirably."

William G. Gillis Jr.

Schreiner University has posthumously honored William G. Gillis Jr. '37 as one of this year's inductees into the Athletic Hall of Honor.

Gillis distinguished himself while at Schreiner Institute as Best All-Around Cadet, a football and track letterman, and a member of Phi Theta Kappa. He was from Cameron, Texas.

Maj. Gillis '41 went on to glory at the U. S. Military Academy at West Point, where he was a cadet lieutenant, captain of the 1940 football team and a three-year track letterman.

He was killed in action October 1, 1944 in Gremercy Forest in France during WW II. When he died, Gillis was married to Lenore Riley Mudge '37.

Gillis received the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Bronze Star, two Purple Hearts, as well as the British Distinguished Service Order, and France's Croix De Guerre, Silver Gilt and Vermillion Stars

As a testament to his popularity and the legacy he left behind, West Point dedicated the Gillis Field House in his memory in 1989.

Rex Kelly

The University also has included the late Rex Kelly as one of its Athletic Hall of Honor inductees.

Kelly not only served as the track and football coach at Schreiner Institute from 1935 to 1952, he also taught Spanish.

Sam Junkin '51, who nominated Kelly, said, "Rex was an outstanding track coach, but an even better friend. Often a friend to the least likely. Many are the stories of the young men Rex 'adopted' when all others had given up. I have heard of those the administration voted to suspend, only for Rex to ask that they be given one more chance and that he be given responsibility."

A rancher, Kelly raised exotic game and developed a well-known exotic hunting business.

Kelly was named a lifetime honorary member of the Schreiner Former Students Association, and in 1983 and 1984, he participated in the groundbreaking and dedication ceremonies for the Rex Kelly Pavilion, an open-air sports facility, on the Schreiner campus.