

WHAT'S IN A NAME?
(The Rest of the 'Ace' Story)

[My quest to find how and when the Granville High School 'Blue Aces' evolved was quite a puzzle until many people gave me the pieces. I would like to thank those who either provided me with information or led me to others who helped. Thank you to: Phyllis and Woody Brookbank, Mrs. Marguerite Snyder, Mrs. Catherine Yingling, Mr. Robert Owen, Mrs. Catherine Welsh, Mrs. Nancy Lou Siegel, Mrs. Minnie Hite Moody, Mrs. Lorene Hammond, Mrs. Anna Louise Ackley, Mrs. Fanchion Lewis, and Nancy and Chuck Young. Finally, thanks to my mother, whose never ending search for the 'perfect' wallpaper led her to Eva (Mrs. John) Montgomery who provided the last piece to my puzzle."- Diane (Reynolds) Charles '61.

Mrs. Montgomery recalls that her brother, the late Milton Fitch '27, was responsible for naming Granville the 'Blue Aces'. At that time many schools were giving symbols and nicknames to their sports teams and Fitch felt Granville should also.

Until 1927 the athletic teams of Granville High School had been called the Blue and White after the school colors. During Fitch's senior year both the football team and the basketball team had unprecedented seasons. Since the 'ace' stands for expertise and skill and is also the highest card in most card games, Fitch thought the 'ace' would be an appropriate name for the Granville sports teams.

In his "G.H.S. Honor Column" in the 1927 Blue and White yearbook, Fitch wrote:

"Granville High's athletic season of '26-'27 has made for itself a reputation hard for any class of the future to repeat. Harvey Williams' Blue Ace Gridders with six straight wins won the Central District Championship for Class B High School Football. E.D. Smith's Blue Ace Floor performers besides winning the Licking County Tournament, gave a good account of themselves in the District Tourney where they were repulsed by Hyatts and Lady Luck in the semi-finals."

Granville High School has been referred to as the Granville 'Blue Aces' since.

Fitch was sports reporter for the school newspaper (The Blue & White) and the yearbook (also The Blue and White). In addition, he was the high school sports editor for the town newspaper, The Granville Times. He was such a dedicated reporter that printed beside his senior picture are the words:

"a pretty girl, the press, and flowers
Take up nearly all his hours."

After graduation his love of 'the press' took him into advertising and eventually he owned his own agency.

How Did Granville Become The Blue Aces?

More than 60 years ago a Granville High School student who was sports editor for the school newspaper and yearbook decided the Granville sports teams needed a symbol or nickname like the other schools of that time. Until then the teams had been called the Blue and White after the school colors. During the student's senior year both the football team and the basketball team had impressive seasons, winning more games than ever before in the school's history. Since the "ace" stands for expertness and skill and is the highest card in most card games, the reporter thought it would be an appropriate nickname for the Granville teams and wrote about the "Blue Aces" in his sports columns. Granville High School has been referred to as the Granville "Blue Aces" ever since.

Over for more



*This information was
given to me many
years ago and I wanted
to pass it on to you.
Go Blue Aces!*

Beck Sawyer 2014