

Paul Crites



B.S. Ohio University

University of Pittsburg

Mechanical Drawing
Industrial Arts
Shopcraft Club

From the July 27, 1970 Cleveland Plain Dealer:

Rocky River Loses A Gem—Paul Crites

By DICK ZUNT

Paul B. Crites, who wrote several illuminating chapters in the athletic history of Rocky River High, is closing the book on his career at the school.

He is retiring after spending 27 of his 39 years as chairman of the industrial arts department. He formerly played and coached football and basketball and coached soccer.

Crites and his wife, Eleanor, plan to travel and possibly relocate, in his native state of New Mexico.

IT WAS IN Des Moines, New Mexico, that Crites was born—in 1909.

"My dad homesteaded there in 1905," said Crites. "And New Mexico didn't become a state until 1912.

Crites' father supervised the building of bridges for the Santa Fe Railroad in that era. He later worked his way Eastward and was the assistant superintendent during the construction of the Hilliard Road Bridge.

THE ELDER Crites settled in Rocky River. "I was a sophomore in high school at the time and enrolled at Rocky River and played guard in basketball and end in football," recalled Crites.

Crites was named all-scholastic in both sports, and was captain of football team as a senior. Among his scholastic memories was playing basketball in Public Hall in a preliminary to Celtics-Cleveland Rose n-blums games.

AFTER GRADUATION, Crites attended Ohio University, as did his wife, Eleanor. Crites was an end and running right guard for coach Don Peden's great 1928-29-30 grid teams. He played three seasons of varsity football, but had his college cage career halted after two seasons by a shoulder separation.

THE GRID TEAM was mythical small college and university national champion in 1929, with a 9-0 record. It outscored opponents 306-13. Crites graduated from Ohio in 1931.

For the next 12 years he coached football and basketball and taught at Toronto (O.) High. In 1943 he returned to Rocky River.

AMONG HIS top stars at River, were the Hague brothers, Jim and Tom. The former is most famous for



CRITES CLOSES CAREER—Rocky River High's Paul B. Crites, and wife, Eleanor, plan retirement fishing trip. Crites coached and taught at the school for 27 years.

Plain Dealer photo (Dudley Brumbach)

his late field goal, which won the 1949 Rose Bowl game, 17-14, for Ohio State over California.

"I met Jim when he was in the eight grade," said Crites. "He was a young boy who lived over the fence from the school football field. Jim told me he wanted to learn how to kick a football, and we went to work on it."

CRITES GUIDED River teams to football and basketball championships during the 1943-44 season.

"I then gave up coaching basketball," said Crites. "They weren't paying any money to coach in those days.

"Vince Gandolfi was a great line coach," added Crites. "He assisted me right out of college. I later was assistant to him, when he took over. He came from the coal fields of Pennsylvania. Overall, I had 25 years of football and 28 of basketball coaching."

CRITES MADE a coaching comeback two years ago by leading the school's first soccer team to a 6-1-1 record.

"George Seedhouse was two years ahead of me at River," remembered Crites. "He persuaded me to go to college and later we were roommates and fraternity brothers. George and I washed dishes together in the same hall for three years."

Crites' wife, Eleanor also taught. She retired from the Fairview elementary schools, and later supervised arts and crafts at Cuddell Recreation.

THE CRITES plan to travel, including a visit to the Hawaiian Islands and New Mexico. If Crites likes his old home state, he may move there, and spend a good deal of time fishing in the Rio Grande—and recounting his many years at Rocky River.

Feeney on Hall Board

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. (AP)—Charles S. Feeney, president of the National League, was elected to the board of directors of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum yesterday.