

1978 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE



J. ELWOOD CLEMENTS

ARLINGTON'S SPORTS HALL OF FAME AWARD 1978 J. Elwood Clements

Koons Ford Trophy

Presented by Frank Ball, Jr.

"Clem" was born in Arlington County, son of a sheriff who himself later became Arlington County sheriff. Clem played baseball, basketball and football at Washington-Lee and was a letter man on the track team where he put the shot and threw the javelin. He was four lettered at Washington-Lee for three years. He was the first center that ever played high school football in Arlington County as Washington-Lee was the first high school team and he was the first center at the same time that Chick MacPherson was the first and only quarterback. He won a scholarship to Catholic University, at that time coached by Dutch Bergman and Fod Cotton at the time Dutch developed his great teams and won the Orange Bowl on January 1, 1936 beating Old Miss 20 to 19. Clem was thus the first member from Washington-Lee to be selected for a Bowl. Clem went on to teach and to coach. He coached the line at St. John's College. He coached some at Washington-Lee and helped a great deal at Washington-Lee. He played for the first professional football team then known as the Washington Presidents which preceded the Washington Redskins. He has contributed to almost every athletic endeavor or to the organization of every athletic endeavor in Arlington. At the time when we first were looking into the possibility of re-establishing rowing as a high school sport, it was Clem and Bill Hillenbrand who spearheaded the thought and eventually the establishing of the sport which you know has now become one of the great sports in the high schools of Northern Virginia.