



## John Selman Roach

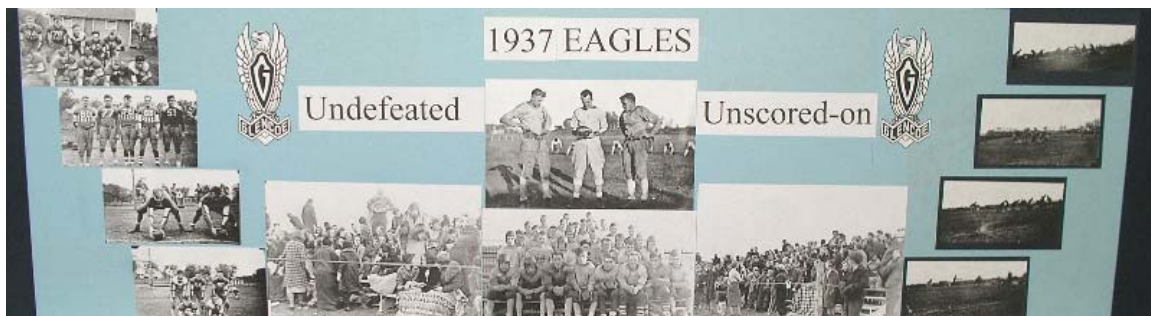
April 10, 1908 - November 23, 1985

John S. Roach was a teacher and athletic coach at Glencoe High School from 1937 to 1971. His time at Glencoe was distinguished by the continuous introduction of new activities so as to engage and involve more people, both young and old, in wholesome and productive activity. **In all things he was a teacher first.** His main concern was not necessarily winning a competition but how participation in that competition built the character of the individual and that everybody had a chance to participate and find themselves. He exemplified honor, respect, integrity and dignity in his personal bearing and language making himself a role model to all who came in contact with him.

Born: April 10, 1908 Windber, Pennsylvania- son of professional baseball player Roxey Roach. Graduated from Windber High School in 1926 where he played football, basketball and baseball. Following high school he remained in the Windber area playing semi professional basketball and professional baseball briefly with the Mid Atlantic League.

In 1932, following the death of his grandparents, John went to Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania where he lettered in football, basketball and baseball. John played on Susquehanna's first undefeated football team in 1932. He graduated with a major in Education and minor in Social Studies in 1936. Following summer school at the University of Chicago, where he studied with Alonzo Stagg Sr., he served as Assistant Football Coach under A.A. Stagg Jr., who had come to Susquehanna the year before, and as the university's Head Baseball Coach. Additional study was done at Columbia University in New York in 1938 toward a major in Physical Education.

During the winter and summer of 1937 he studied at the University of Minnesota, coming to Glencoe on Bernie Bierman's recommendation in the fall of 1937 as coach of all sports and teacher of math and business relations.



The main accomplishments of this period include an undefeated and unscored on football team in 1937 and designing and laying out the new Allen Field Athletic Complex which was constructed in the summer of 1938 and first used that fall. The site included a football field with cinder track, baseball diamond and area with sand pits and runways for field events in addition to a football practice field. His 1940 basketball team won the district championship. (see won/lost record on following pages)

# John S. Roach Teaching and Coaching Assignments 1937-43

Information taken from Glencoe Enterprise faculty announcements  
and teacher contracts.

1937-38 Mathematics and Business Relations – **Coach**

1938-39 Mathematics and Business Relations – **Coach**

1939-40 Mathematics and Business Relations – **Coach**

1940-41 Social Science- **Coach**

1941-42 Social Science and Physical Education

1942-43 Social Science and Physical Education  
Head Basketball Coach and Assistant Football **Coach**

Entered Military service in March of 1943 at the conclusion of basketball season and returned to the classroom October 22, 1945 teaching Health and Boys Physical Education until 1967 when he switched to Jr. High Social Studies.

Note: It is assumed that he coached all sports before the war but there is no evidence of activity in baseball or track. It doesn't appear in faculty lists as being coached by anyone nor does it appear on contracts or in the newspaper accounts of high school sports, which were very thorough. There is late spring and summer coverage in the Enterprise of what appears to be town team or legion baseball but his name is not associated with it. The status of high school baseball and track is unknown and may not have held the same position as football and basketball, which were covered in depth on a weekly basis with front page stories. His personal scrapbooks contain materials on football and basketball for those years but nothing on baseball or track.

## **Won/Lost record for the five years as coach prior to WWII**

**Football:** 27 wins 5 losses 3 ties **(1937: Undefeated and Unscored On)**

**Basketball:** 57 wins 20 losses **(1940: Won District Championship)**

John entered military service in March of 1943 and served his country at Fort Benning, Ga. where he was in charge of the recreational component of a unit that worked with the rehabilitation of combat soldiers. He also volunteered as a coach in area high schools and played on the regimental baseball team. Following the war he returned to Glencoe as instructor in Boys Physical Education. (See education and coaching assignments after the war - preceding page)



### **Highlights of his tenure following the war include:**

**1946-47** Coaching two undefeated football teams with Joe Kostelic

**1946-** started a Tumbling Team for boys and girls that eventually became the Boys Gymnastic Team, which he coached until 1969.

**1947-** hired as the City of Glencoe's first Recreation Director. With the Recreation Committee, made plans for and saw the restoration of Oak Leaf Park as a recreation ground and restoration of the baseball diamond and construction of a permanent grandstand. Lighting for night games was added in 1948. (Played first base with the town baseball team during this period) Other permanent improvements to general recreation were also made.

**1949-** Started the Driver Education program. He was involved with different aspects of the program throughout his career.

**1949-** Began a second career as Square and Round Dance caller and teacher.

**1950-** Selected to work on the Governor's Statewide Conference on Youth, the results of which were published in book form. He was offered a position in the state education department but the Glencoe School Board refused to release him.

**1952-53-** Councilor at Camp Hiawatha (boys camp) in Grand Rapids, Mn.

**1952-** Began the Boys Wrestling program and coached it until a suitable coach was available on the faculty. It appears in the annuals for the first time as a varsity sport in 1954-55.

**1955-** Began the Firearms Safety Training program with George Laible.

**1955-56-** As city Recreation Director researched options for and made the recommendation to the city that a swimming pool should be constructed as there were no safe local options available for swimming instruction.

**1957-** Beginning this year organized and directed yearly summer square dance camps in the U.S. and Canada until the 1970's.

**1958-** Did not coach, but assisted in the establishment of a Boys Tennis Team.

**1962-** Did not coach, but assisted in the establishment of a Boys Golf Team.


**1964-** Served as President of the Minnesota State Square Dance Federation.

**1965-** Offered a special after school unit in gymnastics for any girl interested in trying gymnastics. (first actual girls gymnastic team started in 1967 by Janet Willand)

**1967-** Changed teaching assignment from Health and Physical Education to Junior High Social Studies where he remained until retiring in 1971.

## John S. Roach Coaching Assignments after WWII

<b>School yr.</b>	<b>Fall</b>	<b>Winter</b>	<b>Spring</b>
1946-47	Asst Var FB	Asst BB Tumblers(boys and girls)	Track
1947-48	Asst Var FB	Head Var BB Tumblers(boys and girls)	Track
1948-49	Asst Var FB	Asst BB B team BB Boys Gymnastics	Track
1949-50	Asst Var FB	Asst BB B team BB Boys Gymnastics	Track
1950-51	Asst Var FB	Boys Gymnastics B team BB	Track
1951-52	B Team FB	Boys Gymnastics B team BB	Track
1952-53	Asst Var FB	Asst Var BB B team BB Boys Gymnastics (Wrestling?)	Track
1953-54		Boys Gymnastics (Wrestling?)	Track
1954-55	B team FB	Boys Gymnastics Wrestling	Track
1955-56		Boys Gymnastics	Track
1956-57	B team FB	Boys Gymnastics	
1957-58	B team FB	Boys Gymnastics	
1958-59	7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> FB	Boys Gymnastics	
1959-60	7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> FB	Boys Gymnastics	

1960-61	7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> FB	Boys Gymnastics	
1961-62	7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> FB	Boys Gymnastics	
1962-63	7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> FB	Boys Gymnastics	
1963-64	7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> FB	Boys Gymnastics	
1964-65	7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> FB	Boys Gymnastics	
1965-66	7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> FB	Boys Gymnastics	
1966-67		Boys Gymnastics	Driver Training
1967-68		Boys Gymnastics	Driver Training
1968-69		Boys Gymnastics	Driver Training
1969-70			Driver Training
1970-71			Driver Training

**Jack Roach** in 1920 at age 13 with the Windber Penn. **Little Five**

## Images from Jack's Athletic and Teaching Career



**Rexall Drug County Championship Team 1930,** Windber, Pa. Back row, far left.



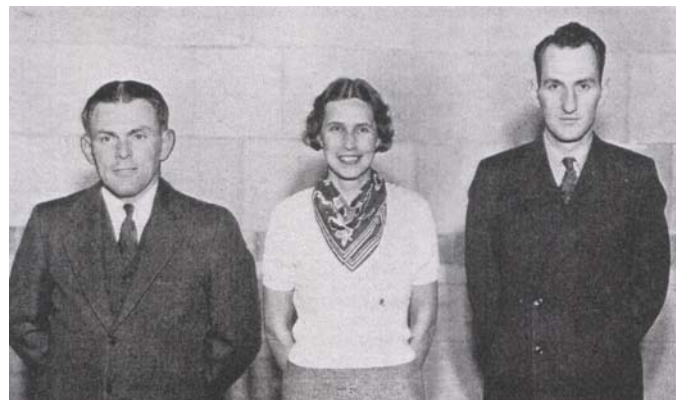
**Glosser Brothers County Championship Team 1932,** Johnstown, pa. Front row second from right.



**Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, Pa.,** as a senior on the 1936 basketball team. John Roach first row center. Coach Amos Alonzo Stagg Jr. is front row far left.



John Roach (center, running) in Susquehanna football action during the game at Drexel Tech, 1935.



**Susquehanna University Athletic Department Staff for 1936-37.** Amos Alonzo Stagg Jr., Head Coach Men's Athletics; Dorothy Reeder, Women's Athletics; John S. Roach, Assistant Coach



**1936-37 Susquehanna University Basketball Team.** Assistant Coach John Roach , front row, far right; Head Coach A.A. Stagg Jr., front row, far left.



**Spring 1937 Susquehanna University Baseball Team.** Head Coach John Roach, second row, far left.



Fall 1937- Coach Roach with co-captains of the **Glencoe High School's undefeated/unscored-on football team,**



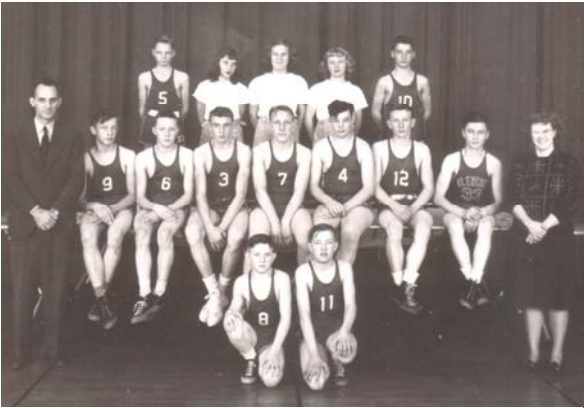
**Glencoe High School 1943 basketball team.** The week after the season ended Jack reported for military duty and ended up at Camp Wheeler and Fort Benning, Georgia.



**Glencoe High School 1946 undefeated football team.** Assistant Coach, John Roach, back row, second from the left. Coach Joe Kostelic, far left, took Jack's job in 1944 when Jack entered military service. When Jack returned in October of 1945, he coached with Joe and they worked together successfully for years until Joe's passing in 1966.



Glencoe High School: late 1940s.



**GHS 1948 Tumbling Team.** This group later became the boy's gymnastics team.



Jack (front right) and Joe work the **1949 GHS Football Team.**



**GHS 1951 Birch Coulee Champions.** Jack is on the far right.





Jack with the **GHS Wrestling Team** in 1955. This is the first year they appear in the yearbook. Jack started the program in 1952.



Jack as camp councilor at **Camp Hiawatha** near Grand Rapids, Mn. in 1953



Jack with Glencoe Superintendent Charlie Fairchild, receiving the keys to the new driver training car from Al Fitch of the Glencoe Ford Motor Company in 1952.



Jack receiving 22 caliber rifles from representatives of the Glencoe VFW and American Legion in 1963 for the rifle training program. Jack started this program in 1955.



**Glencoe High School Track Team** in 1955.



Jack with **GHS Track Team** in 1956



Jack with gymnasts in 1956.



**GHS Gymnastic Team** in 1959.



**GHS- Gymnastic Team** in 1960.

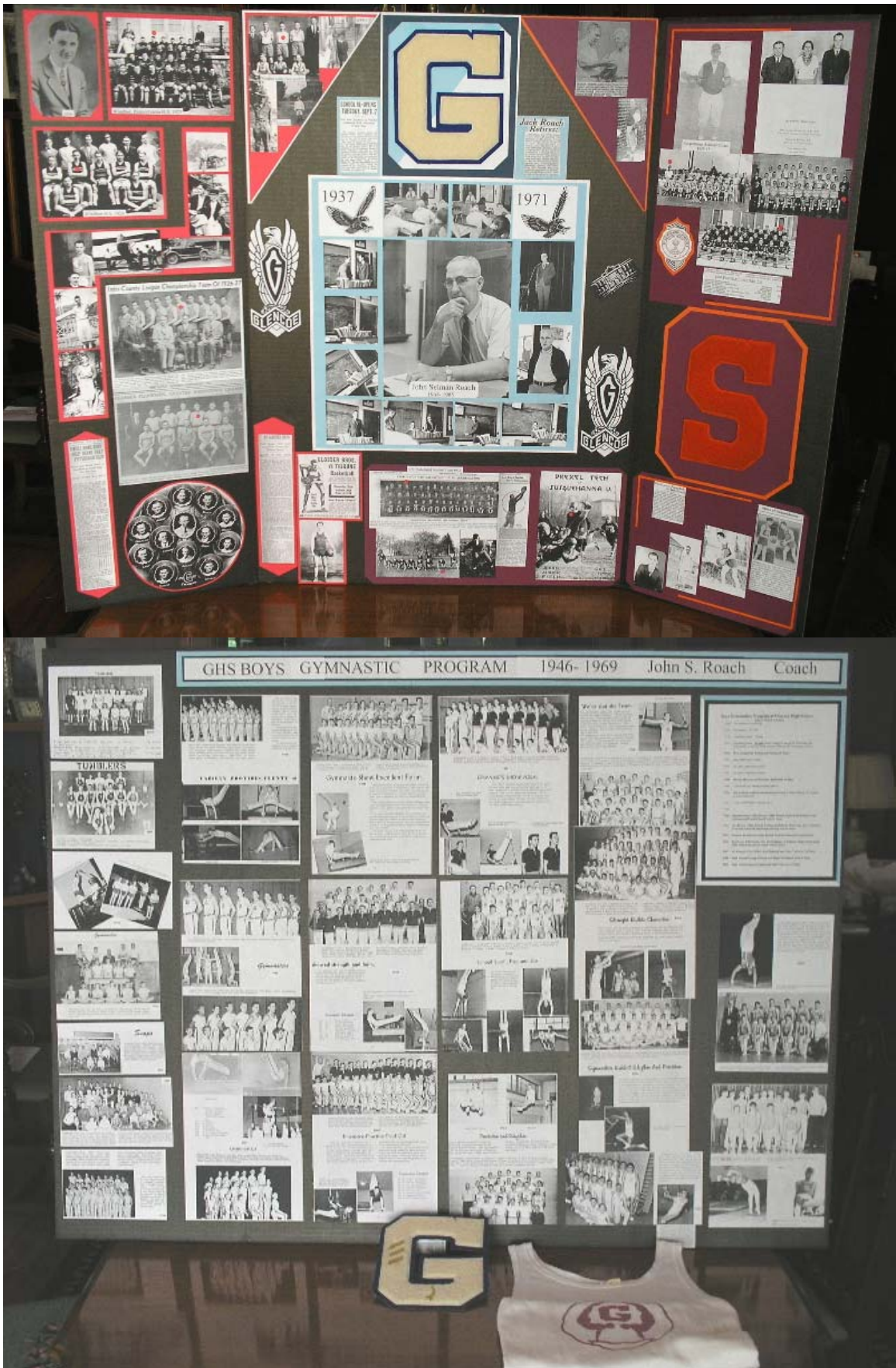
## Honors include:



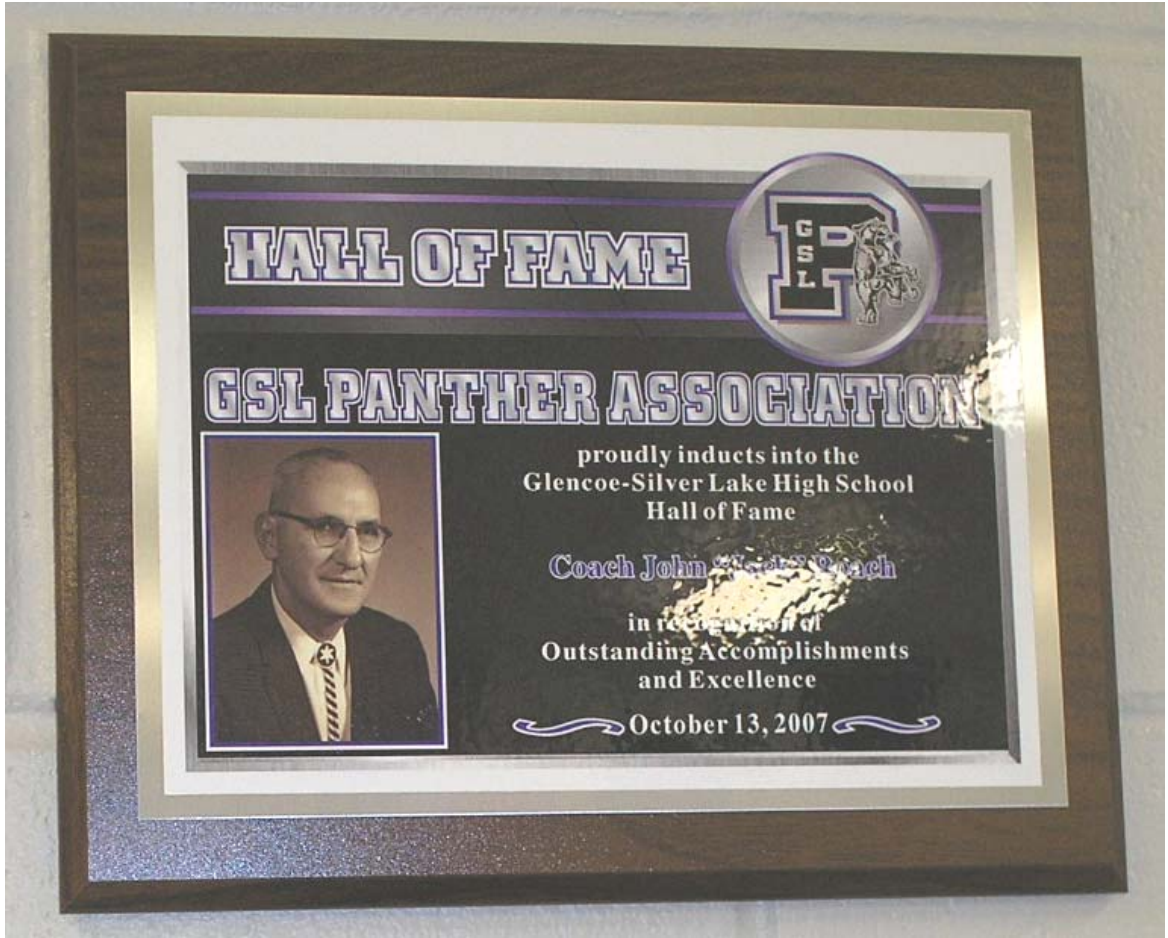
McLeod County Teacher of the Year in 1969 with recognition  
At the State Fair in August



Windber Pennsylvania Hall of Fame 1984



Displays from Panther Hall of Fame induction at the Panther Field House October 13, 2007



This wall plaque hangs in the lobby of the Panther Field House in Glencoe, Minnesota