

= Whitey Wistert =

Francis Michael " Whitey " Wistert ( February 20 , 1912 ? April 23 , 1985 ) was an American football and baseball player . He played college football and college baseball at the University of Michigan . Wistert was the first of the three Wistert brothers ? he was succeeded by Albert ( Al ) and Alvin ? who were named All @-@ American tackles at Michigan and later inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame . He was elected to the College Football Hall of Fame in 1967 . During his time at Michigan , Wistert played on three consecutive Big Ten Conference football championships teams , including two that won back @-@ to @-@ back national championships . He was also Big Ten Conference MVP in baseball in college and later played for Major League Baseball 's Cincinnati Reds . The Wistert brothers all wore jersey No. 11 at Michigan and are among the seven players who have had their numbers retired by the Michigan Wolverines football program . Their number will be put back into circulation starting on November 10 , 2012 before a Michigan home game against Northwestern as part of the Michigan Football Legend program .

= = Early years = =

Wistert was born in 1912 in Chicago . His parents , Kazimir J. Wistert and Josephine ( Shukis ) Wistert , immigrated to the United States from Lithuania in 1894 and were married at Chicago in 1907 . His father was a policeman in Chicago from at least 1910 to 1927 . At the time of the 1920 United States Census , Wistert 's family lived at 5647 Waveland Avenue in Chicago 's 27th Ward and consisted of parents , Kazimir and Josephine , and five children : Josephine ( age 11 ) , Isabelle ( age 10 ) , Francis ( age 7 ) , Evelyn ( age 6 ) , and Alvin ( age 3 @-@ 1 / 2 ) .

Wistert 's father was shot while on duty and pursuing a robbery suspect in July 1926 . By the spring of 1927 , Wistert 's father , who had served in the U.S. Army from 1898 to 1901 , was disabled due to " chest emphysema with draining sinus " and was admitted to the U.S. National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers in Milwaukee , Wisconsin . He died in June 1927 when Whitey was 15 years old .

At the time of the 1930 United States Census , Wistert 's family continued to live at 5647 Waveland Avenue in Chicago . The household at that time consisted of Wistert 's mother , Josephine , and five children : Josephine ( age 22 , employed as a bookkeeper ) , Francis ( age 18 , employed as a tube maker for a radio company ) , Evelyn ( age 16 , employed as a " saleslady " at a variety store ) , Alvin ( age 13 ) , and Albert ( age 8 ) .

= = College athletics = =

After graduating from Chicago 's Schurz High School in 1929 , Wistert attended the University of Michigan where he was a star athlete in both football and baseball from 1931 to 1933 .

= = The Wistert brothers of Michigan = =

Wistert was the first of three brothers to play for Michigan . The other two are Al Wistert and Alvin Wistert . All three Wistert brothers wore number 11 for the Wolverines football team , and all three were All @-@ Americans . Interviewed by The Detroit News in 2004 , Alvin recalled : " And if I 'm not mistaken I think this is unprecedented in the annals of college football : that three brothers all would go to the same school , all played football . All played tackle , all wore the same number 11 , all made All @-@ American . Two of us played on four national championship teams . And all were inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame . "

The Wistert brothers grew up on the northwest side of Chicago and were the sons of a Lithuanian family . Their father was a Spanish ? American War veteran who was later killed in the line of duty while working for the Chicago Police Department . According to brother Alvin Wistert , their father " was born Casmir Vistertus and he Anglicized it when he came to America to Wistert . "

The story of the Wistert brothers at Michigan began when Whitey 's Carl Schurz High School

classmate John Kowalik was invited to visit the University of Michigan . At the time , Whitey Wistert " was working in a factory building Majestic radios . " Kowalik took Whitey with him on his visit to Ann Arbor , and according to Alvin , " that 's how it started : the Wisterts of Michigan . "

= = = Football = = =

As a football player , Wistert played for consecutive undefeated national championship teams in 1932 and 1933 and was a consensus All @-@ American in 1933 . The 1934 University of Michigan yearbook , the Michiganian , included the following quote from Grantland Rice : " Wistert was unanimously selected as the best tackle in the Middle @-@ West this year . He was the key to Michigan 's defensive line play . He was a sure tackler and it was next to impossible to fool him on trick maneuvers . He was keen , quick , and accurate in diagnosing plays . "

Wistert and Chuck Bernard were the leaders of the 1933 offensive line when the team went 7 ? 0 ? 1 with a tie to the Minnesota Golden Gophers .

One of Wistert 's teammates on the 1932 and 1933 Michigan football teams was future U.S. President Gerald Ford . In an interview in the February 1974 issue of " Michigan Alumnus " , Wistert said of Ford : " He was a real good competitor ? a real bulldog type . Even during a losing year , he was voted MVP by his teammates . They felt he was one guy who could stay and fight for a losing cause . "

In 1936 , he was a member Michigan football coaching staff under Coach Harry Kipke .

= = = Baseball = = =

Wistert also earned varsity letters in baseball three years and was selected as the Most Valuable Player in the Big Ten Conference in 1934 . The 1934 Michiganian yearbook reports that the final game of the baseball season was a 4 ? 0 shutout by Wistert against the University of Chicago Maroons . " Wistert , for the Wolves , allowed only five well @-@ scattered hits during the game . Although Whitey Wistert walked four men , he more than off @-@ set this by striking out nine of the Maroons to face him . " Wistert also pitched a four @-@ hitter against Ohio State .

= = = Honors = = =

Wistert was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1967 , one year before his brother Albert . In 1981 , he was named to the University of Michigan Hall of Honor in the fourth class of inductees alongside his brothers . Only five Michigan football players earned this honor before him .

= = Professional baseball = =

Wistert had a short cup of coffee in Major League Baseball , appearing in three games for the Cincinnati Reds between September 11 , 1934 and September 25 , 1934 . In two appearances as a pitcher , Wistert allowed only one run in eight innings , for a career ERA of 1 @.@ 13 . However , in three plate appearances , he went hitless and struck out twice . Although he only played briefly at the major league level , Wistert played five years of professional baseball . Fellow 1933 Michigan Wolverines football All @-@ American , Ted Petoskey also debuted for the Reds in September 1934 .

= = Late life = =

After retiring from sports , Wistert became a New York lawyer . He went on to become a vice @-@ president of an industrial relations firm in Toledo , Ohio . He served in the United States Navy as a lieutenant during World War II .