

# Our Ram ... Our Mascot

*Rusty Wilson, Class of '72, sent this along about the Rams mascot:*

September, 2003

...Coach Kane told me that Ray Schick, who was first athletic director, was close friends with coaching legend Sid Gilman (Gilman was also Coach Kane's coach at both Miami University and the University of Cincinnati).

At the time Whitehall's athletic department was being formed, Gilman was the head coach of the Los Angeles Rams. In need of a name, Schick contacted Gilman and asked if the team could use the nickname Rams for the school's teams. Gilman gave his blessing and also gave Whitehall permission to use the Ram horn logos on their helmets.

At that time helmet decorations were rare and the LA Rams were the first to use decorations when they were the old Cleveland Rams in the '40s. Therefore, you might say WYHS is the first team, other than the NFL Rams, with permission to use the horns on their helmets.



I remember as a kid (we moved to Whitehall in 1959 and immediately started going to WYHS football games) Whitehall had a live Ram mascot that they took to games. He was named Ramsey.

They had live Rams until the mid-60s when some Gahanna students stole him and painted him blue and gold - not knowing they were doing him harm. The ram died of suffocation. They had a funeral and I think he is buried under the flagpole on the football field.



I remember once at Eastmoor a Columbus cop thought he was being cute and started waving a red handkerchief at Ramsey - he took off after the cop and his chain broke and he almost impaled the cop. Luckily his handler - the farmer that kept him, caught the chain. This was when Bobby Benjamin was playing for Whitehall - I think around 1961 or 1962. They tried to return to a live Ram in the late 70s but I think the risk of injury and insurance cut that idea out

As for the colors Black and White, I heard from one of the old coaches - I don't think it was Coach Kane - that people couldn't make up their mind on school colors so Black and White were chosen since they technically aren't colors and are unique.

WYHS's Current Ram:

