

Dr. John Feagin - Army Sports Hall of Fame

Dear Fellow Army Team Physicians, Army Head Trainers, Army Sports Medicine Fellows and special Army Sports Friends –

Recently I was notified by Mr. “Boo” Corrigan that I had been selected for induction in the Army Sports Hall of Fame October 10th-11th this year. Initially I thought it must be either a Classmate pulling a joke or that our Army Water Polo Team of 1955, which was the AAU National Champion and which I co-captained, was getting the recognition we all thought we deserved. It was neither – the recognition was under the Administrative section and was for my years as Team Physician from 1967-1972 and other items relating to Army Sports and West Point. Needless to say I am deeply honored but in accepting the Award I am ever mindful that I did not do it alone.

I was introduced to the “job” by Tony Ballard when I was a senior resident at Walter Reed and stopped by Orthopaedics at West Point to see if what they did might interest me after residency. I loved what I saw and I loved and respected Dr. Ballard and Norm Zlotzky who taught me about the “isolated ACL” and meniscal repair. Vietnam was heating up and Dr. Ballard pointed out that if I volunteered for Vietnam there would probably be a vacancy at West Point. I “volunteered”. My first boss at the 85th Evac was – Tony Ballard. In the short time we were allowed to be together (two regular Army Majors was too much!) he discussed with me the idea of primary repair of the ACL, given the natural history of the torn ACL he had observed while he was Team Physician. In many ways that was where it all began.

So I returned from RVN to West Point and owe Head Trainer Ed Pillings a huge amount for “teaching” me sports medicine in the week we had before the first game! The years that followed were the best and you know of what I speak, or you would not be a recipient of this letter. For me those years formed my “orthopaedic character”.

In the years that followed, and the lists of those who followed that is attached, you can see why I am humbled over this recognition and deeply appreciative of all each of you contributed to *The Army Team Doctors* legacy. Without your personal and academic commitment to the Cadets, the Program, and the Academy I would not be receiving this recognition. You have kept our reputation sacred and unsullied through the years and I have enjoyed watching you grow. The Trainers and the Cadet patients have grown also for which we can all share pride in the Program as it now stands.

So thank you for the privilege I have enjoyed. “If I have been able to see further it is because I have stood on the shoulders of giants” and you are the giants of Army Sports Medicine.

With affection

John A. Feagin, M.D., COL, USA (Ret)