

## STEVE STUDER

Steve Studer may be the biggest hero in the storied history of the Massillon Tigers, where new heroes emerge on the local gridiron almost every year.

Studer was the starting center on Massillon's last state championship team in 1970, and came back home after an outstanding career at Bowling Green.

Like his father, well-known Massillon Tigers artist Junie Studer, Steve Studer devoted his career to the Massillon Tigers.

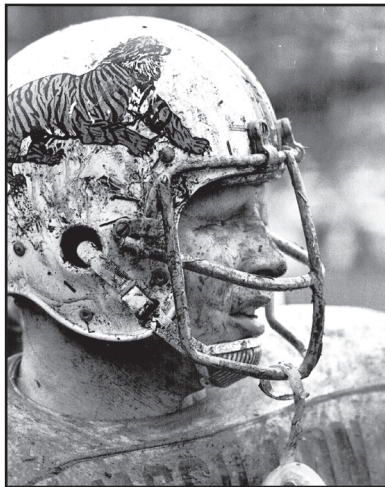
He mentored Chris Spielman, who developed into a Pro Bowl linebacker. He then became Massillon's first full-time strength coach.

In 20 years in that role, Studer had a profound positive influence on decades of Massillon football players.

The man affectionately—and respectfully—referred to as “Coach Stu” earned legend status in

Massillon.

So it was a sad day for the city of Massillon when Stud-



*Steve Studer during a muddy victory over Canton McKinley in 1970.*

## A CENTURY OF HEROES

er died after suffering a heart attack at Washington High School on February 9, 2004, following a work-out. He was 51.

It was at Washington High School that Studer touched so many lives.

“I spend more time in the school building, in this weight room, than I do at home,” Studer said in a 1998 interview.

“He touched so many people,” Junie Studer said. “There was one incident he told me about where he had a problem with a kid. It ended up with him actually physically having to put the kid out of the weight room. This was a prominent player.

“Well, there were a lot of kids coming through the receiving line at Steve’s funeral and here comes that particular kid with tears running down his face. It told me we still won. He won the kid, regardless of what had happened that day in the weight room.

**It was a sad day for the city of Massillon when Studer died after suffering a heart attack at Washington High School.**

“The receiving line just never ended,” Junie said, “I could tell stories forever about how that

week went and how the things that were brought to mind to us about how he had touched so many people. As each person came up each one of them had something to say that made you think they always knew him. There were so many things that started to hit you.”