

1971

Dr. William K. Smith

Class of 1938



Noted knee surgeon Dr. William Smith was an orthopedic surgeon and team physician for the University of Pittsburgh for more than three decades.

He invented and patented both an ankle and knee brace and developed a special heel cleat for football players called the "Pitt Cleat." His continuing effort to reduce the number of football injuries resulted in the development of many protective padding, special splints and a Plexiglas mold for patients with back problems. In addition to performing operations, he designed surgical instruments for knee surgery, which are used nationwide. He produced movies of all phases on athletic injuries that were shown at many colleges and universities for demonstration and teaching purposes.

Smith conducted many athletic clinics throughout the country and was an adviser to both the Eastern Trainers Association and the National Athletic Trainers Association for more than 20 years. The National Trainer's group cited him for outstanding service.

Besides caring for athletes, he ran a private practice in a coal mining community in Hetliwood, Pa., and delivered more than 50 babies. Professionally, he was a member of the county, state and national medical associations, a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and on the board of the American College of Sports Medicine.

He passed away.

Additional degree: medical degree, University of Pittsburgh