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## Dentist part of hall of fame — Hamburg's Cox part of Adrian football team inducted last month

BY DAN STRAWSER  
DAILY PRESS & ARGUS  
• NOVEMBER 10, 2008

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It had been 25 years since David Cox was last in the locker room at Adrian College.

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The memories of his playing days flooded back when he returned for homecoming on Oct. 4 as part of 1983 Bulldogs team that was inducted into the school's hall of fame.

"It was nice to be part of that locker-room atmosphere again," Cox said. "Our head coach at the time, Ron Labadie, along with the current coach, Jim Lyall, who was an assistant in 1983, and the rest of the 1983 team, we all got to go down into the locker room. Our coach gave the team their pep talk, with all of us on one knee. It was kind of special."

Then, Cox and the rest of the 1983 team got to watch the Bulldogs roll over Kalamazoo College, 42-17.

"It was very nice," said Cox, who has a dental practice in Hamburg. "We had a nice dinner. The current athletes from every team, lacrosse to football, lined the sidewalks."

Cox went to Bentley High School in Livonia and played his freshman year of college at Wayne State before transferring to Adrian.

He played three seasons (81-83) for the Bulldogs, starting the last two at defensive back and strong safety.

The 1983 squad was the first in school history to win an outright Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Conference title and was also the first to make the NCAA Division III playoffs.

"We lost to the eventual champions, Augustana (Ill.), 21-20," Cox said. "They beat us on a two-point conversion with less than two minutes to play."

The Adrian defense that year ranks second in school history for the fewest rushing yards (802) allowed in a season.

During the three seasons Cox played, the Bulldogs went 8-1, 7-2 and 8-2.

"The biggest thing that stood out to me was that we dominated for the three years I was there," Cox said. "Playing at a small college and making the playoffs was nice. We got to fly to the game. Usually we took a bus everywhere, but we got to fly out to Augustana, which was kind of neat."

Cox graduated from Adrian with a degree in sociology and a pre-med curriculum. He went to the [University of Detroit Dental School](#) and graduated in 1988.



Dr. David Cox, a Hamburg dentist, was inducted into the Adrian College hall of fame last month as part of a football team that won a league championship in 1983. (Photo by GILLIS BENEDICT/DAILY PRESS & ARGUS)

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He has lived in the Pinckney area for the last 10 years.

As a child, Cox spent his summers at a cottage on Portage Lake with his parents, who eventually moved to Pinckney.

Cox still spends most of his summers on Portage Lake.

Contact Daily Press & Argus sports reporter Dan Strawser at (517) 552-2860 or by e-mail at [dstrawser@gannett.com](mailto:dstrawser@gannett.com).

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