

LHS Hall of Fame  
Class of 2017  
Induction Ceremony

Tonight we are inducting the Inaugural Class into the Louisiana High School Athletic Hall of Fame. We received many quality nominations of athletes, coaches and a team that have made Louisiana High School proud over the years. After careful consideration by the Hall of Fame Committee, we have decided to induct 4 individuals and 1 team into the Louisiana High School Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2017. This spring these 4 individuals and team will each have their own plaque with the name, picture and induction year displayed out in the hallway outside the gymnasium.

Our first Inductee is Mr. LeRoy Berry. Mr. Berry was a standout athlete on the football field and track. He was a speedy running back for the football team during his high school career. He won numerous Quint City Conference track awards and medaled at the state track meets in 1956, 1957, 1958 and 1959. He won the J.B. Sterne Outstanding Athlete Award as a senior in 1959. After high school, Mr. Berry received a full scholarship to attend Northeast Missouri State University, which is now Truman State University. Mr. Berry shared the school record for the 100-yard dash and also won the MIAAA 60 yard dash 4 years in a row. In 1963, at an AAU meet in Kansas City, he ran the 100-yard dash in an unofficial time of 9.4

seconds, which was one-tenth of a second off the world record at the time. Mr. Berry graduated from Truman State in 1964 with a BS Degree in Education. He was inducted into the Truman State Hall of Fame in 1998. He worked in St. Louis as a State Farm agent running his own office for decades and recently retired in 2014. He currently lives in St. Louis with his wife Margaret Ann.

Our second Inductee is Mr. Rockne Calhoun. Mr. Calhoun was a 3-sport athlete at Louisiana High School, excelling in football, basketball and track. He was a Co-Captain for the football team and was Honorable Mention for the All-District Football Team. He was also on the All-State Track Team as well. As a senior he won the Charles Buffum Sportsmanship Award and J.B. Sterne Outstanding Athlete Award in 1957. After high school, Mr. Calhoun was offered a full scholarship to play football at the University of Missouri. Mr. Calhoun lettered at Mizzou in 1958, 1959, and 1960 and started both ways on the offensive and defensive line in 1959 and 1960. He also had the privilege of playing in the Orange Bowl in 1959 and 1960. After college Mr. Calhoun was a teacher and successful football coach for 8 years. He decided after those 8 years to go back to Mizzou and pursue a law degree. While completing his law degree, he was also a Graduate Assistant for the football team. After receiving his law degree Mr. Calhoun practiced law and continued to coach football. He eventually found his

way back to Pike County and served as judge here for a number of years. He also found his way back to Louisiana and coached at his Alma Mater in the 1990's.

Mr. Calhoun currently lives in Bowling Green.

Our third Inductee is Coach William "Bill" Cunningham. Coach Cunningham graduated from Louisiana High School in 1940, where he was a 3-sport athlete, excelling in football, basketball and track. He attended William Jewel College, where he was a 10-time letterman in football, basketball and track. After college he served in World War 2 in the South Pacific as an Ensign in the Navy. Coach Cunningham returned to Louisiana High School in the 1950's where he would teach and coach for over 30 years. Coach Cunningham taught PE and Health and coached football, basketball and track for those 30 plus years. He worked for a number of years as the school's Athletic Director as well. In 1974, he was named the Missouri 2A Track Coach of the year. In 1984, the football field was given the name Cunningham Field in his honor. Coach Cunningham was inducted into the William Jewel Athletic Hall of Fame in 1995. He was also inducted in to the Missouri Track and Field Coaches Hall of Fame in the mid 2000's. Coach Cunningham passed away in 1989. Attending in his honor are his wife Grace Jane and their 4 sons Jon, Bill, David, & Steve.

Our fourth Inductee is Coach Tony Gschwender. Coach Gschwender came to Louisiana in the 1970's to teach PE and coach football and track. Coach Gschwender became head football coach in 1978 and remained the head coach until 2000. His record as a head football coach is 160-82. His football teams won 11 District Titles, 6 CCC Titles, made 3 State Quarterfinals appearances, 2 State Semifinal appearances and won the school's only State Football Championship in 1986. He has also been inducted into the Missouri Football Coaches Hall of Fame. Coach Gschwender was also a Varsity Track Coach for 24 years and was Head Track Coach for 18 of those years. His track teams won 9 District Track Titles, 9 CCC Track Titles, and a State Track Title in 1986. He has also been inducted into the Missouri Track and Field Coaches Hall of Fame. Coach Gschwender also served time as Athletic Director while working at the district. Coach Gschwender has retired from teaching and coaching but still works and continues to impact peoples' lives at the prison in Bowling Green. Coach Gschwender still lives in Louisiana with his wife Denise.

Our fifth and final Inductee is the 1949 Louisiana High School Football Team. The 1949 Louisiana High School Football Team started off its season with 11 returning letterman playing their second year under the coaching of Wirt C. Fowler.

The 1949 squad achieved fame as they ran through their schedule with a record of 6-2-1. That was a great achievement, but the greatest achievement was realized on the night of November 11, 1949, when they defeated Palmyra to win the undisputed championship of the Quint City Conference.

The Bulldogs were not defeated in conference play, although they did tie with Shelbina 0-0. In their other conference games, the Bulldogs beat McCooey 6-0, pounded Centralia 43-0 on Homecoming and took care of Palmyra, beating them 26-0 for the conference championship.

In non-conference action the Bulldogs lost to MMA and Mexico but beat Pleasant Hill and Pittsfield. The Pittsfield game was one of the best games of the year as the Bulldogs completely outfought their rivals from Pittsfield and won 12-6. Coach Fowler awarded 22 boys with letters for their efforts in the victorious season.

We are fortunate enough to have some of the players here tonight from this 1949 team: Bob Penrod, Bill Hughlett, John Dillender, Joe Penrod, James Pratt, George Luther, Harry Elliot and Anthony Stark.

Please join us in giving our inaugural inductees a final round of applause.