



Jim Smith
Athlete: 1958
Inducted 2017

Jim Smith is an Oregon native born in Klamath Falls and moved to Grants Pass at the age of 5. He attended Washington and Lincoln Elementary Schools and Grants Pass Junior High before graduating in 1958 from Grants Pass High School. While competing in GPHS athletics, Jim was a 4-year star in football, basketball, baseball and track, one of only a handful of athletes ever to earn letters in 4 different sports.

His sophomore year, Jim earned varsity letters in basketball, baseball and track; his junior year he lettered in football, basketball, baseball and track, and in his senior year he lettered in football, basketball and baseball. In all, he earned 10 letters at GPHS. He was honored five times with all-conference honors in football and baseball and was a baseball All American. He was also selected to play in both the North/South All Star Baseball game and the Shine All Star Football Game.

Jim pursued academics and athletics at Stanford University where he quarterbacked the football team and was a standout pitcher on the Indian (Cardinal) baseball team. Jim's athletic versatility was evident when an injury to his throwing shoulder interrupted both his football and baseball careers. Following his injury, he became an accomplished self-taught golfer winning an incredible 14 golf championships at the Grants Pass Golf Club.

After graduating from Stanford, Jim returned to Grants Pass where he rekindled his childhood love of sports and fishing on the famous Rogue River.

Jim is a strong believer in giving back to his community. To that end, he became a high school teacher and coach in Klamath Falls and then returned to Grants Pass where he coached football with the legendary Mel Ingram and the Girls and Boys Golf Teams. His business entirely funded the golf teams during the years he coached. It was his way of giving back to a community that gave him so much, creating a program at no cost to District 7.

Jim and his family also fulfilled a need in the Grants Pass community for a new hospital and they established Southern Oregon Medical Center where Jim served as an administrator and was also the Director of Marketing for Greater Oregon Health Service.

Jim married fellow GPHS graduate Leslie (Smith), Class of 1968 and they reside in Grants Pass. He has 1 child, 4 step-children and 8 grandchildren. Jim spends his time trying to sell all of his grandchildren on the virtues of being a Caveman. He spends hours passing footballs with them, setting up crazy golf courses in the fields for them to play and shares his love of fly fishing on the Rogue River.

Jim is a diehard Caveman!!