

Seneca High School Athletics Hall of Fame

Induction Class of 2009

Cats



Tom Bass

Coach

1980-1998

Coach Tom Bass worked as the head football coach at Seneca High School from 1980 until 1998, also serving as the athletic director for several years. In that time he won 209 games against 69 losses, and the team held their opponent scoreless 96 times during his tenure. In his time as the head coach, the Bobcats played in the final four of the playoffs 5 times, and played for the state championship in 1996. The 1983 edition of the Bobcats pitched 10 shutouts, and gave up only 29 points in the entire season. Coach Bass earned National Coach of the Year honors in 1983, was South Carolina Coach of the Year 3 times, and Region Coach of the Year 8 times. Coach Bass was selected as the head coach for the Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas in 1996, and served as the head coach of the North-South All-Star game in 1991. In 1999, Coach Bass was the recipient of the Distinguished Coach Award from the South Carolina Football Coaches Association.

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Bennie Cunningham

Athlete

1968-1972

Bennie Cunningham is a 1972 graduate of Seneca High School- he lettered in four sports as a Bobcat including Football, Basketball, Baseball and Track & Field. He was a Shrine Bowl participant and was named All State in Football, and held the school record for the most rebounds in a basketball game with 29. After leaving SHS, Bennie played football at Clemson University, earning a scholarship to play for the Tigers. He was named a Consensus All-American as a junior, and Sporting News 1st Team as a Senior, and made the All-ACC team twice. Bennie was named to the Clemson Hall of Fame in 1984, and the ACC 50th anniversary team in 2003, the only tight end named to the team. Bennie was selected in the 1st round of the 1976 NFL Draft to the Pittsburgh Steelers, and played 10 years with the club. In his career, he played in 118 games, with 202 receptions for 2,879 yards and 20 touchdowns. He earned 2 Super Bowl rings with the team in 1978 and 1979. In 2007, Bennie was elected to the Pittsburgh Steelers 75th Anniversary Hall of Fame Team.

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Harry Hamilton

Athlete, Coach, Administrator

1947-1951; 1955-1994

Harry Hamilton was a 1951 graduate of Seneca High School. In his time as a student, Harry lettered in football for the Bobcats, and was the starting quarterback in his senior year as the Bobcats went undefeated before they lost to Lexington in the state finals. He played American Legion Baseball because the Bobcats did not have a team at the time. After graduating from Seneca, Harry went on to Presbyterian College on baseball and football scholarship. He was the MVP of the football team in 1954, and earned NAIA Football All-American honorable mention in 1953 and 1954. After graduating, he returned to his alma mater to teach Algebra and serve as the principal at Northside Elementary School while acting as the head Football Coach for 6 years. In that time he amassed a record of 36-19-3, and had an undefeated season (8-0-2) in 1960 before falling to eventual state champion Honea Path. He also served as the head girls basketball coach and the head baseball coach before he became the principal of Seneca High School in 1966. In his time as principal until 1994, he saw the school grow from 450 students to over 1200 when he retired, and opened 2 brand new high schools. In 1997, the SHS Auditorium was named for Mr. Hamilton.

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Herb Hosea Contributor

1947-1951; 1955-1994

Herb Hosea served as the “Voice of the Bobcats” for over 35 years as the Bobcats radio announcer for WSNW for football games, and served as the PA announcer for basketball and baseball games- working over 5,000 games between high school, little league, pony league and American Legion. He was a vital contributor to the PA equipment at the Seneca High School facilities at Gignilliat Field, and set up the PA system before every home varsity game as well as graduation and other SHS events. He was a member of American Legion Post 120 for 50 years and served as the post commander along with other offices. He also was an active member of the Seneca Chamber of Commerce, Jaycees, Lions Club and Sertoma Club.

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Wayne "Poss"

Lacey Athlete 1959-1963

Wayne "Poss" Lacey is a 1963 graduate of Seneca High School. Wayne was a letter winner for the Bobcats in Football, Basketball, Baseball and Track and Field. In the four years he lettered in football, Poss was the team MVP for three of those years, amassing 256 total points and culminating with an All-State Selection in 1962. He signed with Auburn University. Poss played varsity basketball for 6 years, earning 5 varsity letters in his time here. In those 6 years, he was named team MVP three times, scoring over 1,780 points in his career, and averaging 30.7 points in his senior year. Poss was selected to the 16th annual North-South All Star Game in 1963, and was the game MVP. He signed with South Carolina to play basketball after graduation.

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Willie McNeil

Coach

1957-1984

Willie C. McNeil coached at Seneca High School and Blue Ridge High School in Seneca for 27 years, serving as the head baseball coach between the two schools, amassing over 300 victories and 8 district titles in that time. In 1978, Coach McNeil was named Conference Coach of the Year, and the team finished as Upper State Champions and State Runners Up. As the head Football Coach at Blue Ridge High School, Coach McNeil led the team to the 1965 Class AA Football State Championship. He also served as a basketball coach, and as an assistant football coach when he SHS and Blue Ridge merged. Coach McNeil retired in 1984, and the Seneca High School Baseball Field was named "Coach Mac Field" in his honor in 1998.

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Jimmy Orr

Athlete

1948-1952

Jimmy Orr graduated from Seneca High School in 1952. In his time here at Seneca, Jimmy lettered in Basketball. He earned a scholarship to play basketball at Wake Forest University, and then transferred to Clemson where he went out for football, but did not play. He later walked on at the University of Georgia, and ended up earning a scholarship. Jimmy led the SEC in pass receiving in 1955 with 24 catches for 443 yards and 3 touchdowns, and again in 1957 with 16 catches for 237 yards and 2 touchdowns. He made the All SEC academic team, and was selected to the Blue-Gray All Star Classic. He was drafted by the Los Angeles Rams in 1957 before being traded to Pittsburgh, where he played 3 seasons, earning 2nd Team All NFL in 1958 after finishing the season with 33 receptions for 910 yards and 7 touchdowns, earning him Rookie of the Year honors. After being traded to the Baltimore Colts in 1961, he played in Super Bowl III and had 3 receptions for 17 yards, and was on the roster for the Super Bowl V Champions. He played in 149 NFL games, and had 400 receptions for 7,914 yards and 66 touchdowns, earning one Pro-Bowl Selection.