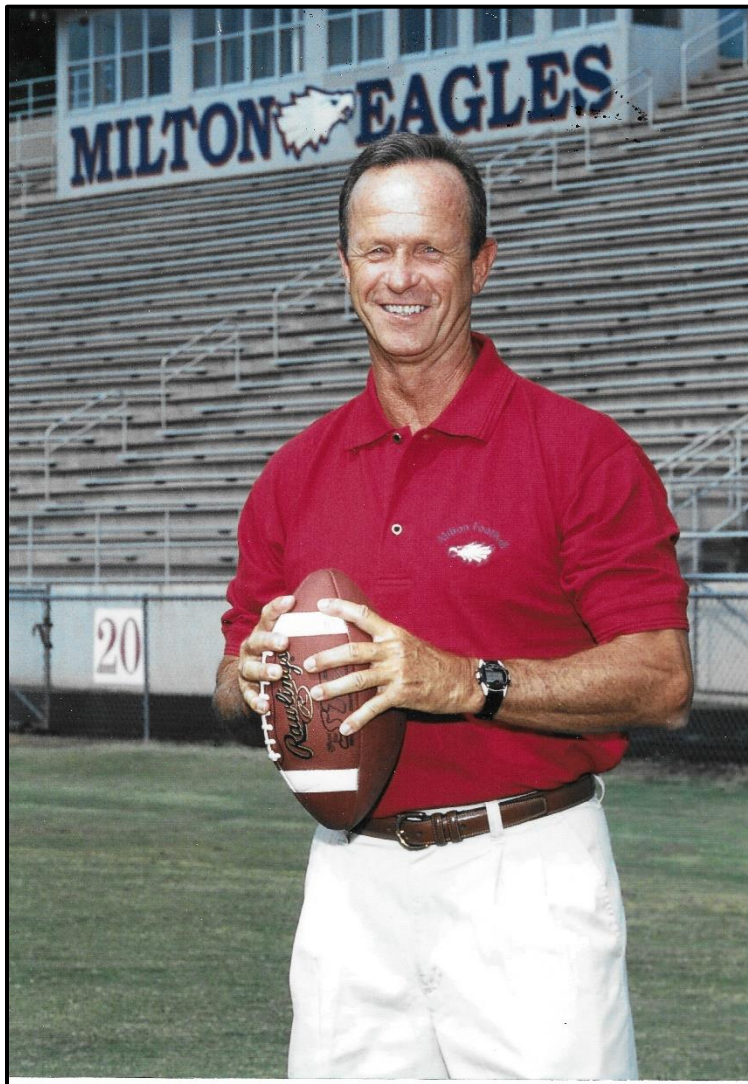


Milton High School Hall of Fame

2023 Inductees

Ronald Jackson, Class of 1966



Ronnie Jackson was a star athlete during his four years at Milton High School. He earned fourteen varsity letters as a four-sport letterman. He excelled at football, basketball, baseball, and track. In addition to the varsity letters and 1966 “Most Athletic” award, Ronnie was the recipient of many awards as an athlete at MHS, including:

Football

- Best Back Award, 1964
- Mr. Football, Best Back Award, 1965
- All-Region Team, 1965

Basketball

- Most Improved, 1964
- Hustle Award, 1965

Baseball

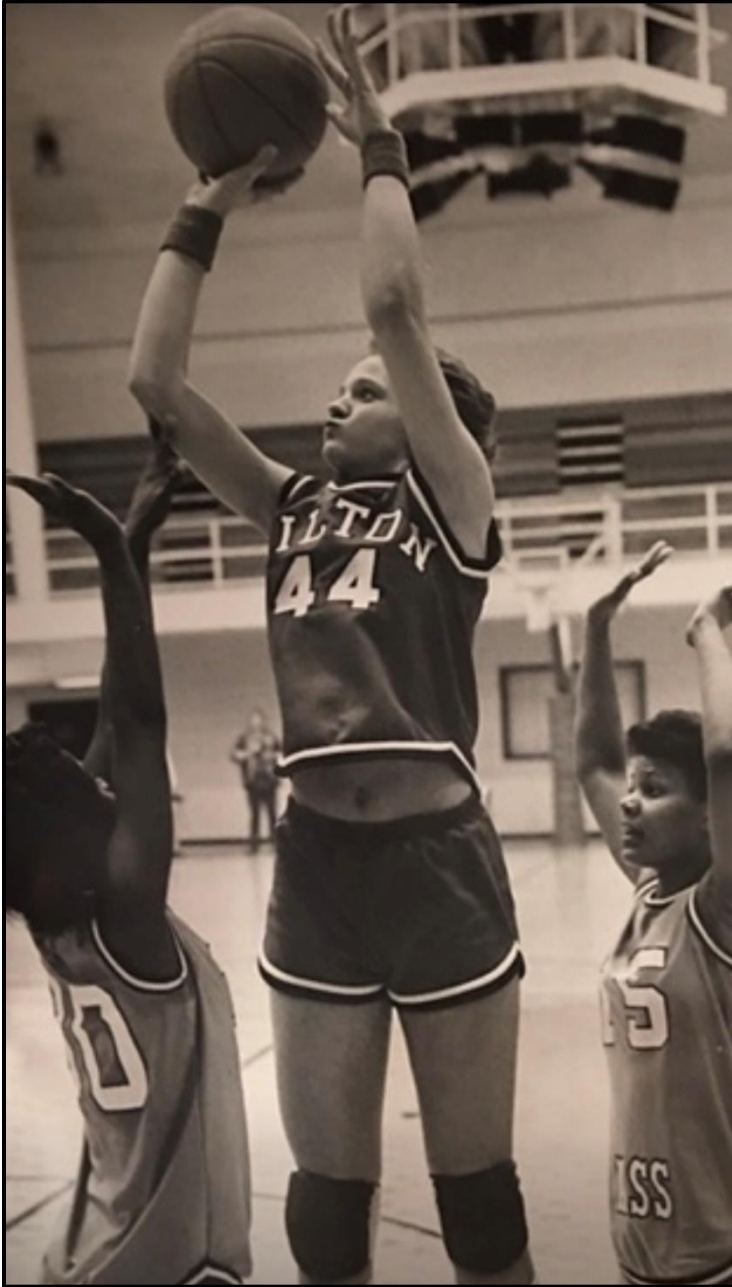
- Coaches Award, 1965
- MVP, Georgia All-Star Team, Dixie League World Series, 1966

Track

- Pole Vault Region Champion, 1965
- Distance Medley State Champion, 1965

After graduating from Milton, Ronnie earned a bachelor’s degree in education from Jacksonville State University and Master’s degree from Georgia State University. He played college ball and semi-pro football with the North Georgia Cougars while starting his career as a teacher and coach. While playing with the Cougars, Ronnie was chosen as the MVP six times, was inducted into the Georgia Football League Hall of Fame, and his jersey number (7) was retired in his honor. He was also inducted into the Cherokee Sports Hall of Fame. He coached in DeKalb, Forsyth, Cherokee, and Fulton counties, and was named the 1985 Region Coach of the Year. His daughter noted that he said in high school that one day he would be the Milton High School head football coach. Thirty-two years later, in 1998, Ronnie was chosen as the MHS head football coach, becoming the first former MHS football player to become Milton’s head football coach. He served in that position until 2003.

Tena Devore Daniel, Class of 1986

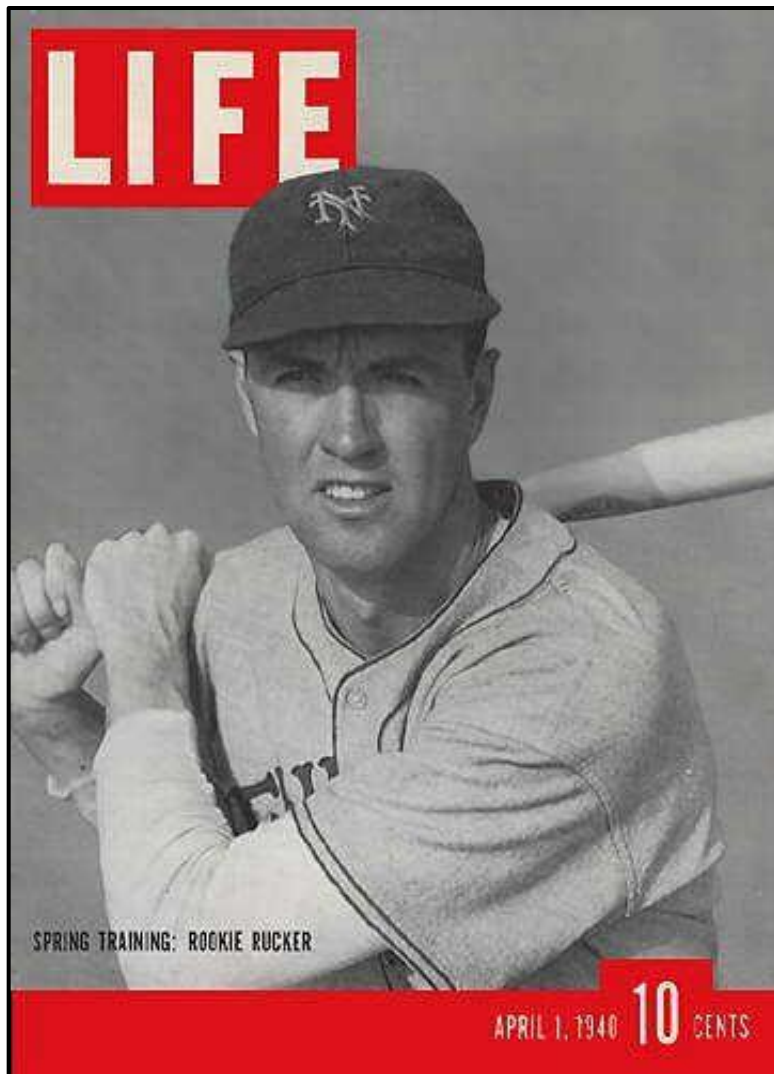


Tena is a true Milton High School athletic star. She played varsity basketball at Milton from 1982 to 1986. When she graduated, she held 11 school records. In her senior season, she averaged 18 points per game despite averaging only 18 minutes per game. She was the Atlanta Journal AAA player of the year and the Metro Atlanta High School Player of the Year. She was a starter in the 1986 GHSA All-Star game. She was first team all-state. During her 4 years on varsity, the team record was 103-15. She received a basketball scholarship to the University of Georgia. While at UGA, she was twice named to the SEC Academic Honor Roll. She was an outstanding student and honor graduate who earned two degrees at UGA. To describe the magnitude of Tena's accomplishments, it's best illustrated through a list. Below paints a picture of an MHS basketball star:

- N. Fulton Player of the Year (1984-85, 1985-86)
- During her junior season, she scored 550 points
- Atlanta Tip-Off Club Team of the Year (84-85)
- N. Fulton Female Athlete of the Year (1985-86)
- Charles E. Martin Trophy as the Best MHS Student/Athlete including both males and females (1985-86)
- U.S. Army Reserve Medal for Excellence in High School
- Academic Fitness Award
- Atlanta Journal AAA Player of the Year
- Tournament MVP in the Region 5AAA North tournament. (The team was Region champs for all 4 of her years)
- Atlanta Tip-Off Club's Miss Georgia Basketball in 1986
- Georgia High School All-Star Team

- Her senior season, the team finished ranked #2 in the state
- held the school record her junior year for offensive rebounds in a season
- held the school record her senior year for field goal %, defensive rebounds, and total rebounds in a season
- After her senior year, she held the school career record for field goal % and total rebounds
- She was contacted by over 200 schools before her senior year started and finally accepted and signed with the University of Georgia before her senior season began. (With only landlines available at the time, her parents installed a separate phone line specifically for calls from coaches so as not to tie up their family line because so many schools/coaches were calling them.)

John (Johnny) Rucker, Class of 1934



Johnny Rucker grew up in the Crabapple community which was known for producing fine baseball players. At that time, Milton High School did not play a sports schedule sanctioned by the Georgia High School Athletic Association. Since Mr. Rucker was a member of the MHS Future Farmers of America (FFA) organization, he played baseball for Milton in games with other local high schools in the area, arranged by the FFA sponsor. The ballfield was located near the current Milton High campus. After graduation, Rucker attended the University of Georgia for three years and played on the baseball team.

- MLB Minor League 1938—played with the Macon Peaches and the Atlanta Crackers
- MLB Major League 1940—New York Giants
- *Life* magazine cover 1940: Rookie Rucker; Crabapple Comet

- 1941—led the Giants in plate appearances, runs scored, hits, singles, doubles, and triples.
- 1941 National League—1st in plate appearances, 4th in runs scored, 2nd in singles, and 3rd in doubles
- 1941—National League Most Valuable Player (MVP) Award candidate

Rucker was the first Milton graduate to play major league baseball. After leaving baseball, he moved to Moultrie, Georgia where he became an executive with Riverside Manufacturing Company. He passed away in 1985 and is buried in Rucker Cemetery in the Crabapple community of Milton, Georgia.

Victor Hansard, Principal 1949 – 1963

Mr. Hansard



we have dedicated our first annual to you because . . .
as principal and friend, you hold before us the highest of stand-
ards and ideals . . . your friendly hellos show your interest in
each of us . . . you teach us to be good sports, not only on the
athletic field but also in the game of life . . . and because, by
your example, you show us how to live.

Victor Hansard graduated from Carrollton High School, Gordon Military College, and the University of Georgia, earning both an AB and MA in education. He was teaching and coaching at West Fulton High School when WWII began. He joined the U.S. Navy and entered the officer training program, advancing from Ensign to Lt. Commander, leading him to command an LST ship (Land Ship Tank) in the Pacific. After the war ended, Mr. Hansard returned to West Fulton High where his 1947 baseball team won the Georgia Class AA state championship.

In 1949, Mr. Hansard was chosen as the principal of Milton High School. It was apparent by many parents and students that he was hired to modernize Milton, which at the time was a rural school with a limited curriculum, few clubs, and no sports programs. Many improvements would be seen during Mr. Hansard's tenure:

- Added a gym and expanded cafeteria
- Broadened the curriculum by adding new offerings in science, languages, and electives
- Added the Science Club, Quill and Scroll, and Future Teachers of America
- Installed lockers and purchased typewriters and new band uniforms
- The first yearbook, the Aerie, was published in 1953

Prior to Mr. Hansard's arrival, Milton had no formal sports programs. He brought with him Coach Gus Letchas and the two began building an athletic program. In his second year at Milton, 1950-51, Milton fielded new sports teams:

- Football
- Boys basketball
- Girls basketball
- Baseball
- Track

During Mr. Hansard's 14 year tenure, the athletic teams were successful. Eight region championships were won and Milton's first state championship was won by the baseball team in 1955. Mr. Hansard is a major transformative figure in the history of MHS, having left a legacy that has led to the accomplished and much heralded school that Milton is today. Mr. Hansard passed away in 2003.

Michael Waldron, Class of 2006



Michael is a member of the MHS class of 2006, the first class to graduate from the new building in Crabapple, splitting his high school years between the original and new buildings. As a student, Michael was the Technology Department Head in the City of Alpharetta Mock City Council program, was a member of the Bravehearts, and as a precursor to what was to become, he was chosen as the senior with the “Best Sense of Humor” in the Senior Superlatives voting.

Michael is an Emmy award-winning screenwriter. He began his career as an intern on season one of Adult Swim’s *Rick and Morty* where he was first

exposed to comedy writing and the television writers’ room. He also worked as a writers’ production assistant on season five of *Community* before returning to *Rick and Morty* and then moving on to Marvel and Disney.

- Outstanding Animated Program Primetime Emmy Award: *Rick and Morty*, Writer/Producer, Season 4
- “The Show of 2021” People’s Choice Award: *Loki*, Creator/Writer/Executive Producer
- “The Movie of 2022” People’s Choice Award: *Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness*, Writer
- 2021 Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America Bradbury Award nominee: *Loki*
- 2022 Hollywood Critics Association HCA Award nominee: *Loki*
- 2022 Hugo Best Dramatic Presentation Award nominee: *Loki*
- 2022 Writers Guild of America Best Drama and Best New Show Award nominee: *Loki*
- Marvel and Disney+ *Loki* series: Creator/Writer/Executive Producer
- Marvel’s *Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness*: Writer
- Starz wrestling drama *Heelz*: Creator/Executive Producer
- ANOMALY PICTURES: owner of his own production company that will create and produce original series and features across the Disney ecosystem
- University of Georgia Alumni Association: 2022 “40 Under 40”

Michael earned his ABJ in Telecommunication Arts from the University of Georgia in 2010 and then earned his Master of Fine Arts in Screenwriting from Pepperdine University in 2013. Michael supports various causes including animal rescue, Color for Change, and the Childrens’ Hospital of LA. He organized #BloodforBreck, a nationwide Red Cross blood drive to honor a friend who passed away, receiving over 600 blood donor pledges in three weeks. Michael and his wife, Cassie, hosted an Operation Smile gala at their house in Atlanta. Cassie is a pediatric plastic surgery PA and heavily involved with the organization. They share a passion for helping the cleft palate community.

Andrew Murphree, Class of 2005



Andrew graduated in 2005, a member of the last class to graduate from the original MHS building. During his four years as an MHS Eagle he served on the student council each year, eventually serving as the Student Body President, worked with the MHS Habitat for Humanity chapter for two years, ran cross-country for four years and was one of two four-year lettermen in his class, was voted MHS Homecoming King in 2004, and chosen as the senior superlative “Best All-Around.”

While certainly impressive as a high school student, it is what Andrew has accomplished since graduation that is extraordinary. He attended UGA on a four-year ROTC scholarship, HOPE Scholarship, and UGA community Service Scholarship. He earned his BA in International Affairs and graduated as a Distinguished Military Graduate from the Army ROTC Program.

- Operation Enduring Freedom, 2010-2011: deployed to Afghanistan with the 2nd Cavalry Regiment
- 2nd Cavalry Regiment: deployed to Turkey

- Maneuver Captain’s Career graduate: 2013
- U.S. Army Ranger School graduate: 2013
- Rifle Company Commander: 3rd Infantry Division, deployed to Senegal, 2016
- Headquarters Company Commander: Fort Stewart, GA trained the Georgia Army National Guard
- 1st Security Forces Assistance Brigade: trained foreign armies, 2017
- Operation Freedom Sentinel: Afghanistan 2018
- Deployed to Somalia: 1st Security Forces Assistance Brigade, 2020
- 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault): 2020
- Operations Officer and Executive Officer: 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 2022
- Assessment and Selection Team Chief: Security Forces Assistance Command, Fort Bragg, NC, 2023
- U.S. Army: as of 2023, 14 years in service, five deployments--three of which were combat deployments
- Combat Infantryman’s Badge
- Ranger Tab
- Expert Infantryman’s Badge
- Parachutist Badge
- Air Assault Badge
- Bronze Star
- Meritorious Service Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster
- Army Commendation Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters
- Army Achievement medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster
- Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Star Device
- National Defense Service Medal
- NATO Service Medal with Star Device
- Overseas Service with Three Device