

Coach Charles Mahorney

Charles is a native of Cynthiana, Kentucky. He graduated from Banneker High School and Wilberforce State University in Wilberforce, Ohio. He came to Tuscumbia in 1949 and spent the next 19 years as head football coach at Trenholm High School. His Trenholm teams averaged winning eight games a season with Coach Mahorney and he led his team to the State 1A Championship in 1965. He was the North Alabama High School Athletic Association Coach of the year five times. He transferred to Deshler in 1968 as an assistant football coach and was the head basketball coach for his last eight years before retirement in 1982.

Coach Bob Laxton

Coach Laxton served as Head Wrestling Coach at Deshler for 19 years, during which, he also coached football for 10 years, golf for six years, and baseball for one year. During Coach Laxton's tenure, Deshler won three State Championships (1977, 1978, and 1983), and finished runner-up six times. He coached 30 individuals who won 48 individual State Championships, including two four-time winners. Coach Laxton was inducted to the Colbert County Sports Hall of Fame, Class of 2010 and the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2019 for his contributions.

Dr. John Mims

A 1940 graduate of Billingsley High School, Dr. John Mims was an all sports athlete. He graduated from Auburn University in 1949 and received his Doctorate from the University of Alabama Medical School in 1954. Dr. Mims was the team doctor for Deshler High School for 39 years from 1958-1997. Numerous athletic programs in the Shoals Area benefitted from the free physicals and medical care Dr. Mims provided for many years.

Coach Cheryl Brown

Coach Brown was a graduate of Cherokee Vocational High School in 1970. She earned Bachelor's and Master's Degrees at the University of North Alabama. She began her teaching career in Mississippi and later became a teacher in the Tuscumbia City School System teaching history and PE. She had a love for Deshler Athletics. During her career in Tuscumbia she was the varsity cheerleader sponsor, varsity softball coach, varsity track coach, junior high basketball head coach, junior high volleyball head coach, and assistant varsity basketball coach.

Blair Bowens Woods

Blair Bowens Woods is a 2005 graduate of Deshler High School where she lettered in basketball and tennis. She was a member of 5 Final Four appearances, 4 Finals appearances, and three 4A state titles in 2003, 2004, and 2005. She was a 3-time First team All-state selection

and Regional MVP, two-time finals MVP, and a member of the AHSAA Super 5 Basketball team in 2005. She holds records at Deshler High School and at the state level. In tennis, Blair was a state runner up at number 3 doubles.

Blair represented Deshler High School in the North-South and Alabama-Mississippi All Star games.. She was also selected as Miss Deshler High School.

She continued her athletic career at Tennessee Tech University from 2005-2009, where she was a member of the 2006 OVC championship team, the 24th member of the 1,000-point club and is a record holder for three-point shooting. Blair proudly represents Tuscumbia City Schools as she has served as an assistant coach at Deshler from 2009-2015, head coach at Muscle Shoals from 2015-2022, and she currently serves as a girls' basketball coach and teacher at Florence High School. She is married to Coach Geoffrey Woods, and they have two daughters, Ivy, and Gia.

Ashley Southern

Ashley played volleyball and basketball during her tenure at Deshler High School. She was a four-year member of the volleyball team at outside hitter and closed out her career with 2,300 kills while leading the team to a 4A state runner-up finish in 2007.

As a Basketball Player, Ashley led the Lady Tigers to a four-year record of 109-25. She was instrumental in securing Northwest Region titles for her team in 2008, 2009, and 2010.

Ashley was nominated as a McDonald's All-American in her senior year. She was selected to the Birmingham News Super 8 Senior Team, She also earned a spot on the Alabama-Mississippi All-Star team as a senior and the North-South All-Star team during her junior season. Ashley was a two-time recipient of the 4A-5A-6A Times Daily Player of the Year award, earning this honor in both her junior and senior years. She was also a three-time All-State selection, During her illustrious high school career, Ashley Southern scored a total of 2,267 points, averaging an impressive 18.3 points per game.

George Williams

George graduated from Deshler High School in 1930. He was a four-sport athlete and a member of the first Deshler track team. He was a star halfback and then became quarterback his senior year. He went to Auburn after graduation where he played football. He led Auburn as quarterback to an undefeated season in 1932. He was chosen as team captain in 1933. When the Southeastern Conference was formed in 1933, George was chosen as the 1st team All-SEC. He was recognized by the All American Board of Directors for his exceptional career in 1934. George was instrumental in organizing the Tri-Cities Quarterback Cub along with forming the first Auburn Alumni group in the Shoals Area.

Harvey Summerhill

Harvey was a 1988 graduate of Deshler High School where he lettered in football, basketball and track for the Tigers. He was All-Area in football and basketball during his sophomore, junior and senior seasons. He ran the anchor leg on the 4x400 State Champion Relay Team and finished second in the state in the long jump. He was chosen Honorable Mention on the 4A All State Football Team. Harvey continued his football career after high school playing for Coach Bobby Wallace and the University of North Alabama Lions. A four year starter he was a two time All-American, was selected first team All-Gulf South Conference in 1990, 1991 and 1992. Harvey was named to the Gulf South Conference "Team of the Quarter Century" from 1971-1995 and was selected to the 50th Anniversary UNA Football Team from 1949-1998. He was named to the GSC Team of the 1990's and was UNA's Male Athlete of the year in 1992-1993. Harvey was inducted into the University of North Alabama Athletic Hall of Fame in 2013 and is a member of the Colbert County Athletic Hall of Fame.

1985 Lady Tigers Basketball

The Lady Tigers were coached by ROBERT YOUNG

The 1985 Girls 4A State Basketball Championship team was the first Girl's team at Deshler to win a state championship title. Under Coach Robert Young, they were ranked #1 the entire season, posting a 26-1 record. After winning the area Championship, a severe ice and snowstorm kept their team from playing during the next week. After roads were accessible, the team played four games in four days in 3 different cities, none of them in Tuscumbia. The team beat Wilson, Buckhorn, and then went on to Birmingham for the Semi-finals against Eutaw where they were down 7 points with two minutes remaining in the game. The Lady Tigers pulled out a 73-72 victory breaking the record for the highest scoring girls' basketball game in the State of Alabama. The Lady Tigers would go on to beat Ashford in the finals and bring home the first Blue Map for the Deshler Girl's Athletic Program.

1990 Deshler Football Team

The Head Coach of the 1990 team was Coach Tandy Gerelds.

Assistant Coaches Hal Mills, Phil Bates, Wayne Bracy, and John Mothershed. Head football coach Tandy Gerelds returned for his seventh season at Deshler. Nine players returned to an offensive unit that reached the third round of the playoffs. The defense returned eight starters to a team that allowed only eleven points per game.

After going 14-0, with a win on the road at Munford, the Tigers still had one more mountain to climb. The Tigers returned home to face the Undefeated TR Miller Tigers.

In the first half it was all T.R. Miller as the defense held Deshler to one first down and 33 total yards to take a commanding 14-0 halftime lead.

Trailing 21-7 entering the 4th quarter, the Tigers scored on an 83-yard touchdown pass from Scott Thompson to Corey Donley on the first play of the fourth quarter to pull within 21-13. The defense forced a punt and Deshler drove to the Miller three-yard line before coming up short on a fourth down play with just three minutes remaining in the game.

The defense held again and Corey Donley returned a short TR Miller punt to the 22-yard line to set up one last attempt at the win. A pass interference call moved the football to the three-yard line but three straight incomplete passes set up a fourth and goal with just seconds remaining. Thompson found tight end Doug Garrett open for the touchdown to pull within two points at 21-19. Patrick Smith ran for the conversion to tie the game and send it into overtime with just three seconds remaining.

Garrett scored on the second play of overtime and Kyle McKinney kicked the extra point to give Deshler their first lead of the game. T.R. Miller scored on the first play of their possession but the point after was just wide and the championship belonged to Deshler and Tuscumbia.

The Tigers finished with a perfect 15-0 record and set team records for wins and points scored in a season. Named to the first team all-state squad were receiver Corey Donely, quarterback Scott Thompson and linebacker Thomas Counts. Running back Anthony Morris was named to the honorable mention team.