

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools



Sports Hall of Fame

Induction Ceremony

**April 9, 2026
Nissan Stadium**

WELCOME

Welcome to the induction ceremony for the Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools Sports Hall of Fame.

Today, we will recognize eight outstanding men and two outstanding women who learned some of life's most important lessons in a gymnasium or on a grassy field. We applaud their achievements in athletics, in business and service to others, and we thank them for years of inspiration and motivation. They have each earned a place in Nashville history, and we proudly celebrate them today.

Those we honor today know the value of athletic competition. At some time in their lives, the concept of teamwork and working with others was taught by a coach. They learned to face challenges, to devise strategies to reach goals, to work hard and to keep trying no matter how tough the opposition. Those are life skills we all need.

Throughout Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools, you will find a variety of athletic programs. In the past year, more than 12,000 students participated in one or more areas of athletic competition, including football, volleyball, cross country, golf, soccer, basketball, wrestling, bowling, baseball, softball, track, tennis and cheerleading.

What is it that makes athletics so important for schools? It is not just one thing, it's many. Sports provide the opportunity for regular, healthy exercise. They allow students to develop social relationships with others. They help students accept success and disappointment. They help students learn to follow and accept directions and respect others. They help students understand fair play, rules and regulations. Participating in sports helps students develop various skills and a positive self-image. Athletes learn, as famed sportswriter Grantland Rice noted, that it's not about winning and losing; it's about how you play the game.

We are proud to honor those who have played in the past—they are our champions and our heroes.



About the Medal

The front of the official medal of the Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools' Sports Hall of Fame depicts the school bell from Howard High School, now sitting in front of the Central Administration Building at 2601 Bransford Avenue, and the three stars from the Tennessee State Flag. The 16 stars on the back of the medal represent the 16 inaugural members of the Hall of Fame, inducted in 2005.

Selection of Inductees

The Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools Sports Hall of Fame has been established to honor, preserve and perpetuate the names and accomplishments of outstanding athletes and other sports personalities who are native to Davidson County or who have competed in Davidson County Schools, Nashville City Schools and Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools. Honorees have been selected by a committee of active and retired educators.

THANK YOU

Event Sponsors

Thanks to our ceremony sponsors. This event is made possible by the generous financial support of businesses and individuals who recognize the value of athletics in shaping lives. The 2026 ceremony sponsors include:

The Tennessee Titans | **Herff-Jones**

Sports Hall of Fame Committee

Maurice Fitzgerald	Mark North	Joanne Tribue
Monae Fletcher	Roosevelt Sanders	Junior Ward
Penny Howard	Sandra Tinnon	





Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

April 9, 2026

George Plaster
Master of Ceremonies

Moment of Silence

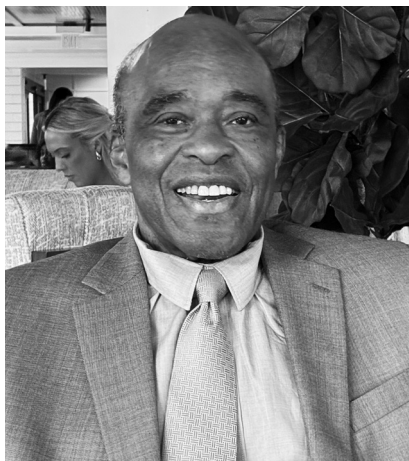
Cane Ridge High School Chorus
Music

**Maplewood High School Presentation of Colors
Pledge of Allegiance**

Introduction of Guests

Introduction of 2026 Hall of Fame Inductees

Richard Coure
Warren Dunn
Joyce Lemley
Hershel Lyons
Kris Deep Matz
Mike Organ
Avery Patton
Norman Thomas Stearnes
Butch Stewart
Ralph Thompson



RICHARD COURE

Cameron High School

Class of 1969

Richard Coure played multiple positions while attending Cameron High—including quarterback, running back, defensive back and return specialist—and was the starting left fielder on the baseball team.

Coure continued his athletic career at Fisk University on a football scholarship. He was a four-year starting quarterback and an All SIAC and Academic All SIAC honoree.

He began teaching and coaching in MNPS in 1973, serving at McGavock, Hillwood, East, and Whites Creek. Over his career, his

football teams posted a 141–120 record with multiple playoff and bowl appearances. At Whites Creek, his teams won district titles in 1986 and 1987 and Region 6 AAAA championships in 1999 and 2000, reaching the state playoffs 12 times in 18 years.

Coure earned three TACA Coach of the Year awards and was named Tennessee Oilers/Titans Coach of the Week in 1998 and 1999. He was inducted into the Metro Nashville Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2012.



WARREN DUNN

Posthumous

Central High School

Class of 1957

Coach Warren Dunn graduated from Central High School in 1957 and Middle Tennessee State University in 1962 before beginning his teaching and coaching career at Antioch High. He became head football coach in 1969 and was named NIL Coach of the Year in 1982.

A multi-sport coach, Dunn also led teams in boys' tennis, girls' softball, girls' basketball, track, and wrestling. Known for his unwavering faith, high expectations, and deep care for

his players, he taught young men to work hard, give their best, and carry themselves with integrity. To many, he was a second father, treating every student and athlete with fairness and respect.

Coach Dunn earned such deep respect from his colleagues that the Metro Nashville Football Coaches Association renamed its Coach of the Year award in his honor and inducted him into its Hall of Fame in 1992.



JOYCE LEMLEY

Posthumous

Stratford High School

Class of 1967

Joyce Lemley, a 5'6" forward, was a standout basketball player who earned All-City honors as a junior and senior and second-team recognition as a sophomore. She finished her high school career with 2,410 points and ranked fourth in the state in scoring as a junior, averaging 34.4 points per game. She recorded multiple 50-point games. In addition to basketball, Lemley competed in tennis during her high school years.

Lemley went on to play professionally for the Texas Cowgirls, a women's exhibition

team modeled after the Harlem Globetrotters. She traveled nationwide competing against men's teams and was known for her signature blindfolded free throws. The Cowgirls provided young women with opportunities to play professionally while serving as opening acts for NBA games, performing at military bases, and touring internationally.

Joyce Lemley passed away February 15, 2015.



HERSHEL 'SNOOKY' LYONS

Pearl High School

Class of 1971

Hershel "Snooky" Lyons was a standout athlete at Washington Junior High and continued excelling at Pearl High School in football, basketball, and baseball. He was named Sophomore of the Year on Pearl's Clinic Bowl Championship team and earned 1971 All NIL Football and All Division Baseball honors. As a senior, he served as co captain of both teams.

Lyons received multiple college scholarship offers, signing first with Vanderbilt University and

later Motlow State. In 1973, he transferred to Tennessee State University, becoming a key member of TSU's Black National College Football Championship team.

After graduating from TSU, Lyons devoted his career to Alachua County Public Schools in Florida, serving as a teacher, coach, dean of students, assistant principal, principal, and later assistant and deputy superintendent.



KRIS DEEP MATZ

Madison High School

Class of 1981

Kris Deep Matz was the first MNPS softball superstar, dominating the game in its earliest years as an official TSSAA sanctioned sport. As a sophomore, she was named Player of the Year by The Tennessean and MVP by the Nashville Banner after leading Madison High to the Class AAA state semifinals in the inaugural TSSAA Softball State Tournament.

That season, she threw three no-hitters, finished with a 13–1 record, struck out 118 batters, and posted a 1.45 ERA. She also hit .355 with 19 RBIs.

Matz earned All-NIL honors again in 1980 and repeated as Tennessean Player of the Year and Banner MVP as a senior in 1981. She closed her final season with a 10–1 record, a 1.09 ERA, two no-hitters, and two one-hitters, leading the Ramettes to another state tournament final four appearance.



MIKE ORGAN

DuPont High School

Class of 1980

Mike Organ has been a sportswriter at *The Tennessean* for more than 40 years and has played a major role in covering local sports. He is widely known for his deep knowledge of high school athletics and their history. Through his reporting, Organ has consistently supported and recognized student-athletes, coaches, and sports figures from the past, helping ensure their contributions are remembered.

Organ was named Sportswriter of the Year in 2022 and has received multiple awards from Gannett, Inc. He is a member of the Tennessee Sportswriters Association Hall of Fame, the Metro Nashville Football Coaches

Association Hall of Fame, and is a co-founder of the DuPont All-Sports Hall of Fame.

He serves as an active member of numerous local organizations, including the Greater Nashville Fellowship of Christian Athletes board of directors; Nashville Football Foundation/College Football Hall of Fame Middle Tennessee Chapter executive board of directors; Nashville Old Timers Baseball Association executive board of directors; and Director of The Tennessean/Metro Parks Schooldays Golf Tournament.



AVERY PATTON

Glenclyff High School

Class of 1983

Avery “The General” Patton

was a standout basketball player at Glenclyff High School, earning a scholarship to Trevecca Nazarene University. At Glenclyff, he averaged 18 points and seven assists per game, earned All-NIL and All-District honors in 1983, joined the 1,000-point club, was named to the Sports Writers All-State team, and served as team captain his junior and senior years.

At Trevecca, Patton led the team to its first-ever national tournament appearance with a 30–4 record. He graduated as the school’s all-time leader in points (2,424) and assists (613) and scored 43 points in the

District 24 Championship. He became the first basketball player from Trevecca drafted into the Canadian Basketball Association, selected in the fourth round by the Albany Patroons, and later played professionally for the Nashville Jammers.

As a coach, Patton led East Nashville Magnet High School to the 2022 TSSAA state championship. He has served at East for 15 years—eight as an assistant and the last seven as head coach.



NORMAN THOMAS 'TURKEY' STEARNES

Posthumous

Pearl High School

Class of 1922

Norman Thomas "Turkey" Stearnes, born May 8, 1901, was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 2000 and the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame in 2010, where he was hailed as "the greatest baseball player ever from the state of Tennessee."

A Nashville native and Pearl High School student, Stearnes learned the game on local sandlots. After his father died when he was 15, he left school to support his family but continued playing for teams including the Knoxville Giants, Nashville White Sox, Montgomery Grey Sox, and Memphis Red Sox. He returned to Nashville at 21 to finish high school.

Nicknamed "Turkey" for his unusual running style—and, he joked, a childhood potbelly—Stearnes spent most of his career

with the Detroit Stars, also playing for the New York Lincoln Giants, Kansas City Monarchs, Philadelphia Stars, and Detroit Black Sox. A five-time Negro League East-West All-Star, he led the Negro Southern League in doubles, triples, home runs, and stolen bases, earning the rare "Quadruple Crown." Research credits him with a .350 career batting average, a .664 slugging percentage, and 172 home runs. He led the Negro Leagues in homers seven times, including a standout year with 24 in just 310 at-bats.

Stearnes died on September 4, 1979.



BUTCH STEWART

East High School

Class of 1965

Butch Stewart was a standout runner at East High School, helping lead the 1963 state champion cross country team and winning the state two mile relay that same year. He was a two-time state champion and record setter in the 800 meter run (1964–65) and was twice named *The Tennessean* and *Nashville Banner* Trackman of the Year.

Stewart earned a track scholarship to the University of Tennessee, where he became a five time SEC champion in the 800 meters, 1,600 meter relay, and 3,200 meter relay.

Following college, Stewart began a long coaching career with Metro Nashville Public Schools,

serving at Donelson Junior High, Overton, Hillsboro and MLK. His teams won Mid-State and state championships, and he was named Metro Girls Track Coach of the Year in 2012. He also coached golf at MLK for 20 years with multiple district and region titles.

From 1974 to 2022, he served as an official for local invitational and state track meets. Stewart also contributed to the 1975 physical education handbook and supported youth athletics through the Police Athletic League.



RALPH C. THOMPSON

Hillwood High School

Class of 1990

Ralph Thompson graduated from Hillwood High, where he excelled in track and field and football. He won back-to-back state championships in the 300m hurdles and set a state record that stood for more than two decades. In 2018, *The Tennessean* named him one of the Top 100 high school football players in Nashville history.

Thompson received a football scholarship to the University of Georgia, later completing his degree at Tennessee State and earning a master's in educational leadership from Trevecca. He taught physical education and wellness and coached football and track before serving as an assistant

principal at Cane Ridge High School for the past 13 years.

His many honors include the Metro Nashville Coach of the Year, Tennessean Dandy Dozen, Nashville Black Coaches Association Coach of the Year, Region 5 AAAA Coach of the Year, Tennessee Titans State Coach of the Year, and multiple SEC athletic recognitions.

Metro Nashville Public Schools Sports Hall of Fame Index

(Listed Alphabetically by Name, School, Year Graduated, Year Inducted)

Billy Joe Adcock	West	1946	2006
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Edgar Allen	East	1942	2005
Joe Allen			2015
Charles Anderson	Cohn	1952	2012
James Armstrong	Pearl	1953	2018
Joanne Arnold Tribue	Antioch	1978	2007
Brian Baker	Hillwood	2003	2023
Derica Baker Dunn	Glenclyff	1986	2021
Jerry Ballou	Litton	1966	2013
Jim Barr	Two Rivers	1966	2025
Cecil Beaird	Cameron	1971	2010
Helen Beard	Pearl High	1980	2023
Alex Beavers	Madison	1966	2019
Dale Beck	Howard	1949	2014
Johnny Beazley Jr.	Hume-Fogg	1936	2005
Jim Bevans	Donelson	1964	2018
Avion Black	Maplewood	1996	2012
Melvin Black	Pearl	1955	2013
Harold "Buster" Boguskie	Cumberland	1942	2006
Tommy Bolton	Antioch	1980	2008
Chuck Boyd	Madison	1964	2012
Leon Bradley	Pearl	1952	2022
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Julie Brown Rollins	Madison	1962	2014
Mel Brown	Coach		2019
Preston Brown	Maplewood	1976	2015
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Steve Burger	Donelson	1969	2018
Richard "Pea Head" Burnett	Cameron	1968	2025
Wayne Bush	Glenclyff	1961	2009
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Larry Cantrell	Goodlettsville	1985	2014
Sandra Carter Tinnon	Stratford	1973	2019
Joe Casey	North	1946	2010

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Jinx Cockerham	Hillsboro	1966	2007
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Carlton Collier	Coach		2023
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Keith Davis	Overton	1984	2018
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Kenneth Duke	Litton	1949	2014
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Judy Eller Street	DuPont	1958	2005
Dan Eskew	McGavock	1984	2020
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Joe Fisher	Antioch	1977	2018
Lavoisier Fisher	Pearl	1982	2025
Walter Fisher Sr.	Pearl	1966	2020
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Cory Fleming	Stratford	1989	2009
Barbara Frazier	Pearl	1981	2006
Dianne Frierson Fowler	Hillwood	1976	2008
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Greg Gaines	DuPont	1976	2007
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Charles Hathaway	Hillwood	1996	2023
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John Henderson	Pearl-Cohn	1997	2015
George Hendricks	Overton	1973	2024
Roy Herald	Howard	1950	2008
Joe Herbert	Pearl High	1966	2023
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Larry Howse	Glenclyff	1970	2020
Les Hunter	Pearl	1960	2016
Ann Hutcheson Price	Hillsboro	1968	2006
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Mike Jackson	Stratford	1973	2015
Ben W. Jobe	Pearl	1951	2021
Roger Jones	Pearl-Cohn	1987	2007
Walter "Bugs" Jordan	Stratford	1975	2017
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Henry Allen Kimbro	Mt. Zion School		2005
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Ron Lawson, Sr.	Pearl	1959	2008
Margaret Leslie Trisdale	Goodlettsville	1959	2024
Chuck Lewis	Madison	1961	2013
Granville "Sonny" Lyons	Pearl	1970	2013
Ray Maddux	Stratford	1969	2016
Lester McClain	Antioch	1967	2006
Ted McClain	Pearl	1967	2005
Don McIlhenny	Hillsboro	1952	2007
Sandra McMurtry	DuPont	1964	2020
Charles McTorry	Overton	1996	2024
Marynell Meadors	Hillsboro	1961	2013
Catherine Miller-Bowers	Whites Creek	1982	2017

Rick Miller	Two Rivers	1969	2024
John Mitchell	Overton	1983	2008
Bob Montgomery	Central	1962	2005
Brenda Moon Davis	Goodlettsville	1965	2011
Herchel Moore	Goodlettsville	1945	2016
Leon Moore	Cameron	1963	2009
Robert Moore	Cameron	1966	2024
Tom Moore	Goodlettsville	1956	2006
Charles Murphy	Central	1954	2005
Jim Norris	Madison	1966	2024
Walter Overton	Pearl	1970	2011
Farrell Owens	Cohn	1963	2021
Wayne Parker	Litton	1966	2021
Alfonza Patrick			2024
Jean Patton Latimer	Pearl	1949	2025
Mose Phillips Jr.	Hillsboro	1990	2020
Frank Pillow, Jr.	Whites Creek	1983	2015
Walter Pope	Pearl	1950	2024
Jeffery Powell	Whites Creek	1981	2017
J.B. Proctor	Cohn	1945	2007
Shelton Quarles	Whites Creek	1990	2011
Jonathan Quinn	McGavock	1993	2011
Brian Ransom	North	1979	2011
Ted Rhodes	Pearl		2010
Harold Rice	Cameron	1965	2008
Cornelius Ridley	Pearl		2007
Vic Rouse	Pearl	1961	2016
Maxie Runion	Cohn	1947	2007
Lonnie Sadler	Madison	1972	2019
Roosevelt Sanders	Glenclyff	1977	2025
Larry Schmittou	Cohn	1958	2009
Margaret Sexton Gleaves	Bellevue	1938	2008
Joe Shapiro	Coach		2017
Ronald Sharer	West	1958	2010
James "Doc" Shelton	Hume-Fogg	1977	2020
Bonnie Sloan	Litton	1969	2005
Bob Dudley Smith	West	1948	2011
Sam Smith	Coach		2017

Tommy Springer	Glenclyff	1976	2019
Tommy Squires	Madison	1966	2008
Leonard Staggs	Litton	1941	2010
Ronnie Stevenson	McGavock	1989	2025
Homer "Butch" Stinson	Cohn	1969	2020
Bessie Stockard	Pearl	1951	2024
James Stone	Maplewood	2010	2023
Fred Sumrall	Pearl	1966	2012
Brenda Thompson Lawrence	Stratford	1969	2016
John Tillman	Litton	1956	2005
John Tisdale			2010
Michael Tribue Sr.	Donelson	1970	2025
Jacquelyn Turner	Hillsboro	1948	2010
Jim Turner	Cane Ridge	1920	2005
David Vaughn, Jr.	Cameron	1971	2008
David Vaughn, III	Whites Creek	1991	2019
Donna Vaughn Howell	Maplewood	1966	2012
George Volkert	Litton	1953	2005
Perry Wallace	Pearl	1966	2005
Sean Waller	Hunters Lane	2002	2020
Junior Ward	East	1960	2019
Charles Watkins	Cameron	1962	2025
Tommy Wells	Cohn	1957	2012
Robin Whittaker	Antioch	1983	2023
Reggie Whittemore	McGavock	1975	2012
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Josephine Wright	Glenclyff	1976	2024
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Shawney Bo Wynn	Cameron	1969	2022

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