



MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF COACHES

POST OFFICE BOX 1194, CLINTON, MISSISSIPPI 39060-1194
600 EAST NORTHSIDE DRIVE, CLINTON, MISSISSIPPI 39056-3437
TELEPHONE 601-924-3020 • FAX 601-924-3050

THE LATE BERNARD "BLACKY" BLACKWELL INDUCTED POSTHUMOUSLY INTO THE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC COACHES ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(CLINTON, MS) The Mississippi Association of Coaches is proud to announce that the late Bernard "Blacky" Blackwell, former coach and executive director of the MAC, was inducted posthumously into the National High School Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Fame on June 26, 2018, in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Coach Blackwell was nominated for this national honor by his state's high school coaches' association. The selection was based on longevity, service to high school athletics, honors, and other specific state criteria. The National High School Athletic Coaches Association is the oldest coaches association in the nation formed by coaches, for coaches, and has honored coaches from across the nation with induction into the NHSACA National Hall of Fame since 1996.

The NHSACA induction marks the fourth athletic hall of fame membership for Coach Blackwell. "Blacky" was also inducted into the MAC Coaches Hall of Fame in 1980, the Mississippi College Athletic Hall of Fame in 1991, and posthumously into the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame in 2001. The annual Mississippi high school all-star football game known as the Bernard Blackwell All-Star Football Classic, was named in his honor in 1994.

A native of Saucier, Coach Blackwell was a three-sport letterman in football, basketball, and track at Ole Miss from 1944 to 1947. He was a *Time Picayune* All-American football player for the Rebels. After earning his college degree, he entered the coaching ranks in 1948 as an assistant football coach at Northwest Junior College. He was head football coach at West Tallahatchie High from 1950 to 1956, at Greenville High from 1956 to 1958, and at Pascagoula High in 1959. In 1960, he arrived at Mississippi College in Clinton where he would remain in coaching until 1972 when he was named Assistant to the President of Mississippi College. In 1976, he was selected as the National Director of the Mississippi College Alumni Affairs where he served until his retirement in 1993.

Coach Blackwell's crowning achievement was the formation of the Mississippi Association of Coaches in 1954. As MAC Executive Director from 1962 to 1991, he helped shape the association into one of the most innovative and progressive coaching organizations in the nation. Among his many achievements with the MAC, he helped create the MAC Coaches Hall of Fame in 1973. His efforts also led to the beginning of the annual Mississippi/Alabama All-Star Football Classic in 1988, the Mississippi/Alabama All-Star Basketball Games in 1991, and the annual State Games in Meridian.

In addition to his athletic Hall of Fame memberships, Coach Blackwell was also awarded the National High School Athletic Coaches Association Dwight Keith Award in 1987 and was bestowed with the prestigious Mississippi College Order of the Golden Arrow in 1991.

For more information, contact the MAC at (601) 924-3020 or www.mscoaches.com.