

# 2014 MAC Coaches HALL OF FAME

## Banquet and Induction Ceremonies

Friday, June 27, 2014 • Sponsored by BankPlus • Hilton Hotel • Jackson, MS



**Jack Case**

A native of Lincoln County and a graduate of Bogue Chitto High, Copiah-Lincoln Junior College and Delta State, Coach Jack Case is the legendary basketball coach and athletic director from West Lincoln who led the Bears to two state boys basketball championships in 1981 and 1982. He guided West Lincoln to nine All-County Tournament titles, six District crowns and three South State championships in addition to the two gold balls. He also coached the Lady Bears girls squad to the 1999 South State title. During his career at West Lincoln, his Bears boys and girls hoops squads recorded 1,062 wins in 28 years. In his 36-year coaching career, he only missed one day of school and coached every athletic team available at West Lincoln, including basketball, baseball, softball and football, without the benefit of an assistant coach. Coach Case helped create the football program at Loyd Star in Brookhaven from 1965 to 1967 before he returned to West Lincoln. He was an All-Star coach for the South squad in the 1982 Mississippi High School All-Star basketball game. Jack was inducted into the Copiah-Lincoln Community College Sports Hall of Fame in 2011. The gymnasium at West Lincoln High is named in Coach Case's honor.



**Chuck Friend**

Coach Chuck Friend is a championship football coach who worked at Columbus Lee, Caledonia, Starkville, Neshoba Central and Tuscaloosa Central in Alabama. A native of Memphis, Tennessee, Coach Friend graduated from West Point High and received his college degree at Mississippi State. He served in the U.S. Navy in active duty in the Vietnam War from 1970 to 1972. His 28-year coaching career began as an assistant at Columbus Lee. He is well known for his head coaching achievements at Neshoba Central, where he led the Rockets to five Mid Mississippi Conference titles, three division crowns and three Class 5A North State championships. At Starkville High, Coach Friend guided the Yellowjackets to three division titles, two North State crowns and back-to-back State Football Championships in 1994 in Class 4A and in 1995 in Class 5A. He coached twice in the Bernard Blackwell Football All-Star Classic as an assistant in 1988 and as head coach in 1995. Coach Friend was also honored by coaching three times in the Mississippi/Alabama All-Star Football Classic as an assistant in 1993, a head coach in 1996 and as administrative coach in 1998. Named Coach of the Year by the MAC and the *Jackson Clarion Ledger*, he is a longtime MAC member who has spoken frequently at clinics at Ole Miss, Southern Miss, Mississippi State, the MAC and West Alabama, and for Nike in a Houston, Texas, national clinic.



## Donny Fuller

Coach Donny Fuller is a Vicksburg native who graduated from Warren Central and Ole Miss. His 34-year coaching career began at Philadelphia High where he coached girls basketball for one season before returning to his alma mater at Warren Central for five seasons. He then coached for Hall of Fame Coach Van Chancellor at Ole Miss from 1986 to 1991, where he was part of a staff that led the Lady Rebels to a record of 114–39 with five consecutive NCAA tournament bids, including four Sweet Sixteens and one Elite Eight appearance. Upon his return to Warren Central for the next 18 seasons, he coached the Lady Vikings to 7 district titles and a state runner-up finish in 1996. He also guided the track team to three district championships and a South Mississippi title in 1994. Coach Fuller was named Coach of the Year by the *Vicksburg Post* on seven occasions. Donny was an All-Star coach in the 1995 Mississippi High School All-Star game, and he worked in the Mississippi/Alabama All-Star Game as an assistant in 2004, as head coach in 2005 and from 2006 to 2014 as Mississippi's administrative coach. Coach Fuller has served the MAC faithfully for his entire career, including his service as a member of the board of directors, vice president and president. He has been coaching the Lady Admirals basketball team at Gulfport High for the past five years.



## Mickey Linder

A native of Booneville who graduated from Corinth High, Northeast Junior College and Ole Miss, Coach Mickey Linder coached for 28 years at Tupelo Junior High and spent 40 years in the school systems in Tupelo. The former two-sport star in football and basketball coached the Tupelo Junior High teams to remarkable milestones, as his football teams completed 15 undefeated seasons, including 2 separate winning streaks of 40 and 44 games. Coach Linder's basketball squads finished with 11 undefeated records, including 2 winning streaks of 40 and 46 games. Upon his retirement in 1997, city officials declared October 10, 1997, as "Mickey Linder Day" in Tupelo, where he was honored in pre-game and halftime ceremonies. Active in his local community, Coach Linder was named the Citizen of the Year for Tupelo in 2002, and he received the prestigious Martin Luther King Jr. Drum Major Leadership Award on January 19, 2014.



## John White

Coach John White is a native of Neshoba County who graduated from Philadelphia High, where he was a two-time All-Choctaw Conference and All-State basketball star. He was an All-Conference hoops player at East Central Junior College and MVP of the Mississippi College Choctaw basketball team. His coaching career started at Redwood High in Vicksburg after he coached the Mississippi College freshman team for one season in 1964. After being named head coach of the Warren Central boys basketball team, he led the Vikings to a record of 242–97, including 3 conference titles, 1 district crown, 1 South Mississippi runner-up finish, 1 South State title, a third-place finish in the Class 5A state tournament in 1973 and the State runner-up in Class 5A in 1974. Coach White was a three-time Conference Coach of the Year, and he served as head coach of the South All-Stars in the 1973 Mississippi High School All-Star basketball game. He was athletic director at Warren Central and for the Warren County School District from 1985 to 1996, and during his tenure, both of his high schools (Vicksburg and Warren Central) finished in the top five of Class 5A athletic programs in the 1990–91 school year. In addition, Coach White helped organize the first girls high school soccer program in the state in 1988. He was named Mississippi Athletic Administration Athletic Director of the Year in 1990, and he helped form the Central Mississippi Athletic Directors Association. Coach White departed athletics in 1996 and worked as an award-winning principal at Choctaw Central High from 1996 to 2005. 🌟