

## 2015 MAC Coaches

# HALL OF FAME

————— Banquet and & Induction Ceremonies —————

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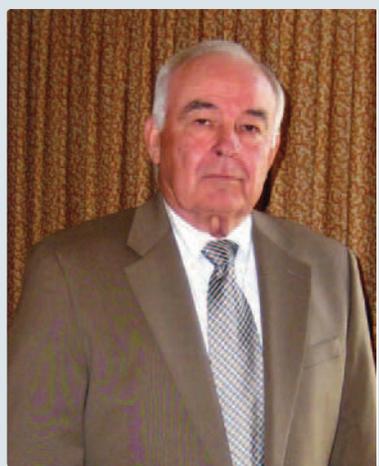


### RONNIE CUEVAS

Gulfport native Ronnie Cuevas had a 35-year championship-football coaching career at Gulfport, Starkville and Harrison Central, which he began at Vanguard High in Ocala, Florida, before arriving at Gulfport. He served with the Admirals as an assistant, served one season as an assistant at Delta State and then returned to Gulfport, where he coached from 1982 until 2001. During his Gulfport tenure, his teams made 12 consecutive playoff appearances and compiled a record of 97-51.

Overall, his gridiron teams had a record of 142 wins and 95 losses, and he is known as the winningest coach in Gulfport history. Coach Cuevas also served as an assistant coach in the 1993 Bernard Blackwell All-Star Classic, returned as the South's head coach in 2000 and as an assistant coach in the 1994 Mississippi/Alabama All-Star football game. He also was an All-Star soccer coach in 1986 and MAC's Soccer Coach of the Year in 1987.

A past president of the MAC in 2006–2007, Coach Cuevas received the first-ever MAC Roy Garcia Outstanding Coach Award in 2009. In addition to MAC Hall of Fame honors, Coach Cuevas is set to be inducted into the Gulfport Sports Hall of Fame in 2015.



### DOUG HUTTON

A multi-sport athlete at Clinton High, Coach Doug Hutton was a championship basketball and baseball coach at Hazlehurst, Florence and Clinton during his 32-year coaching career.

At Clinton, Coach Hutton was a legendary hoops star who was named All-State and *Parade* magazine All-American in his senior season. He lettered in basketball, baseball and track from 1960 to 1964 at Mississippi State, where he was a member of the 1961–62 and 1962–63 Bulldog basketball teams that won back-to-back SEC titles. He was also named All Sophomore, Best Sixth Man, 2nd Team All-SEC and UPI 2nd Team Small All-American in hoops, along with being selected to the All-SEC Western Division team in baseball.

Coach Hutton began coaching at Hazlehurst High in 1965, before arriving at Florence High in 1967. He led the Florence Eagles girls to the Overall State title in 1970 and the boys hoops team to the 1977 Overall State crown. In 1981, he joined the coaching staff at Clinton, where he guided the Clinton Arrows baseball squad to the 1990 Class 5A State Championship and state runner-up finishes in 1991 and 1993. He led the Clinton boys basketball teams to a third-place state finish in 1987 and a South State tourney appearance in 1988. Coach Hutton's basketball teams compiled a record of 390–160, while his baseball squads were 328–85.

He was MAC Baseball Coach of the Year in 1989 and Metro Baseball Coach of the Year in 1990 and 1995. Coach Hutton served as South Boys All-Star hoops coach in 1981 and South Boys All-Star baseball coach in 1987. He was inducted into the Mississippi State Sports Hall of Fame in 1995. Coach Hutton was also selected as an SEC Basketball Legend in 2015.

## GLASPER GERONE KIRKLAND

Coach Gerone Kirkland led championship boys basketball teams at Central High in Coffeeville, Rosa Fort High in Tunica and H. W. Byers High in Holly Springs. A native of Carthage, he was an All-State basketball player for Harmony Vocational High and has the distinction of being selected to the state's first ever All-Star team in 1961.

His coaching career spanned 40 years, from 1965 to 2006, and began at Central High in Coffeeville where he guided his team to a district title. He arrived at Rosa Fort in Tunica in 1969 and remained with the Lions for 29 years. Coach Kirkland not only led the boys hoops squad, but he also worked as a driver and safety instructor and served the school as athletic director. He later completed his career at H. W. Byers until his retirement in 2006. He guided his teams in 1,258 games, with 818 wins and only 440 losses. His teams at Rosa Fort and Byers won nine district titles, two North Half crowns, one semifinal appearance, two state runner-up finishes and two State Championships. His Rosa Fort Lions claimed state titles in 1985 and 1995.

Coach Kirkland has been decorated by the MAC with four Coach of the Year awards, two State Championship awards and a service award, and he coached in the 1994 Mississippi/Alabama All-Star game. In 1995, he was named the *Clarion Ledger* Coach of the Year. The gymnasium at Rosa Fort High was named in his honor in 2013.



## BRENDA LEWIS

Coach Brenda Lewis, a longtime championship softball coach, guided the Lady Tigers at Moss Point for an amazing 31 years. A Picayune native, she graduated from Picayune High, Pearl River Community College and Delta State.

She started her coaching career at Moss Point High in 1980. Coach Lewis guided the Lady Tigers to seven South State titles, three state runner-up finishes, six Class 5A State Championships and the 1988 Overall Girls Grand Slam Championship. Her teams claimed state crowns in 1992, 1993, 1995, 2000, 2001 and 2002. She coached in 902 games, with her teams winning 703 and losing only 199 contests.

Coach Lewis was selected by the MAC as Softball Coach of the Year in 1988, 1989 and 1992. She was honored as Regional Coach of the Year in 1992 by the National High School Association of Coaches. She also served as a coach in the 1988, 1992 and 1994 MAC All-Star Softball games.



## ROBERT L. WILLIAMS

Coach Robert Williams was an outstanding athletic director and basketball coach at Sunflower County and O'Bannon High in Greenville. A native of Greenville, he is a 1964 Coleman High graduate who achieved his college degree at Mississippi Valley State. He was a superb athlete in basketball and baseball and served as captain of the Delta Devils baseball team in his junior and senior seasons.

Coach Williams began his 33-year coaching career at Sunflower County High in 1968. After serving for 12 years, he then arrived at O'Bannon High, where he coached for 21 seasons and served as a full-time athletic director for 19 years until his retirement in 2001. He led his basketball teams to a record of 197 wins and 142 losses. He guided an athletic department that featured an 8-person coaching staff serving 490 students on a meager budget of \$35,000. In addition, he taught classes and worked in an administrative capacity as assistant principal at O'Bannon. Coach Williams was also instrumental in the building of a modern sports complex at the school.

A loyal, longtime MAC member, he served on the board of directors from 1987 to 1997 and was MAC president from 1997 to 1998. A life member of the Mississippi Valley State Alumni Association, Coach Williams was inducted into the MVSU Athletic Hall of Fame for baseball in 2013.

