

★ ★ ★
Meet MAC's ★ ★

HALL OF FAME

Inductees for 2017

★ JOHNNY BARFIELD ★



Coach Johnny Barfield is a renowned championship track and field coach who spent his entire 30-year career at Carthage High. A native of Meridian, he attended Northeast Lauderdale High, where he was a three-year letterman in football and track and was named First Team All Sam Dale Conference in football in his senior year of 1976. Coach Barfield earned his college degrees at East Mississippi Junior College and Mississippi State before launching his coaching career at Carthage High in 1981. He began as an assistant football coach, a position he held for 20 years, and in 1983, he was named head coach for the school's track and field program, a position he served for 28 seasons. From 1988 to 2011, he guided the Carthage High boys' track program to 24 consecutive division crowns, 10 regional titles, 12 South State titles, 6 state runner-up finishes and six Class 3A state championships in 1992, 1994, 2001, 2005, 2006 and 2007. Coach Barfield paced the boys' cross country squad to 14 consecutive division titles, 3 state runner-up finishes and Class 3A state championships in 1991 and 1996. He also coached the girls' cross country runners to four division crowns. Coach Barfield served as athletic director for the school from 2010 to 2011, while he continued to teach and coach.

In 2007, Coach Barfield was selected as MAC Track Coach of the Year and was named NFHS Coach of the Year for boys' track. A member of the MAC from 1981 to 2016, he also served as a member of the MHSAA state council, the executive committee and the state track committee.

★ BOBBY HALL ★



Coach Bobby Hall is a championship football coach who led gridiron programs at Raleigh, Amory, Louisville, Wayne County, Madison Central and Biloxi. A graduate of Baldwin High, he received his degree at Ole Miss. He started his 39-year coaching career at Itawamba High as an assistant football coach in 1978. Coach Hall received his first head coaching assignment at Raleigh High in 1980. He arrived at Amory High in 1984 and guided the Panthers to state runner-up finishes in 1987 and 1988. He then departed for Louisville High in 1990, where he promptly led the Wildcats to the 1991 state championship. He returned to Amory in 1993 and led the football program to national prominence with state championships in 1994, 1995 and 1998, all with perfect 15-0 seasons. Coach Hall then served as head coach at Northeast Community College from 2001 to 2002, before leading the Tupelo Fire Ants in arena football from 2003 to 2004. After working two seasons as an assistant coach at Murray State, Coach Hall arrived at Madison Central in 2006 as head football coach and athletic director. He arrived at Biloxi High in 2015, where he currently works as head coach.

In his 34 years as a high school football coach, he paced his teams to a record of 307 wins and only 97 losses, along with 22 regional crowns, 12 North State semi-final appearances, 2 state runner-up finishes and 4 state championships. His 1995 Amory squad was nationally ranked as the #16 team in the nation, and his 2009 Madison Central team finished as the #10 team in America in the prestigious *USA Today* polls. In the JUCO ranks, Coach Hall led Northeast to a record of 19-10 in two seasons, including the MACJC North Division title in 2002. In addition to 17 region Coach of the Year honors, Coach Hall was selected as Coach of the Year by the *Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal* in 1987 and 1994, the *Clarion Ledger* in 1995, the MAC in 1998 and BankPlus Blitz 16 in 2009. He was named the Community College Coach of the Year by the MAC and MACJC in 2002.



★ **JOHNNY HILL** ★

Coach Johnny Hill guided championship football programs at Marshall Academy, Tupelo and Oxford. A native of Indianola, he was a four-sport letterman in football, basketball, baseball and track at Marshall Academy. Selected as “Mr. Marshall Academy,” he received a football scholarship from UT Chattanooga, where he lettered in football as a defensive back and kick returner from 1971 to 1974. He began his 41-year career in 1976 as an assistant football coach at Holly Springs High. In 1980, Coach Hill returned to Marshall Academy, where he served one year as an assistant before being named head coach. He led the school to a district title before moving to Warren Central from 1985 to 1989 as an assistant. In 1989, he arrived at Oxford High, where he was an assistant for two seasons before being named head coach. From 1996 to 2000, he worked as head coach and athletic director at Tupelo, where he led the Golden Wave to a regional title before returning Oxford. Coach Hill’s greatest coaching success was at Oxford, where he paced the Chargers to four district titles, three regional crowns, one Class 4A North half title, three Class 5A North Half championships and four state runner-up finishes. Overall, his football teams had 252 wins and 95 losses.

As athletic director at Oxford and Tupelo, Coach Hill had tremendous success, as the Charger athletic programs claimed the *Clarion Ledger* Class 5A All-Sports Award 10 times, which included 32 state championships, and the Golden Wave program won All-Sports honors twice. At Oxford, Coach Hill helped establish new programs in soccer, fast pitch softball, slow pitch softball, swimming, powerlifting and golf.

During the years, Coach Hill has been recognized by the MHSAA as Coach of the Year four times on the district level, with three region awards, plus three football and basketball accolades from the Mississippi Private Association. He was chosen as Athletic Director of the Year in 2007 by the Mississippi Athletic Administrators’ Association. A longtime MAC member, Coach Hill served a term as MAC president and as president of the Mississippi Athletic Administrators, both in 2005.

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★ SAMUEL L. WASHINGTON SR. ★

The late Samuel Washington was a championship basketball coach at Jefferson County High in Fayette. Born in Hattiesburg and raised in Natchez, he served in the U.S. Army from 1953 to 1955. After he completed his service, he was an All-Riverside Conference basketball star at Sadie Thompson High in Natchez, where he graduated in 1956. Coach Washington played basketball at Natchez Junior College and Alcorn State University, where he completed his college degree in 1961. He started his 33-year coaching career in 1961 when he worked as an assistant basketball coach at West Bolivar High. He arrived at Jefferson County High in 1962 and spent the next 32 years at the school as a coach and teacher. Coach Washington led his Tigers boys' teams to three conference titles in the Mid-South (1968) and West Riverside (1980 and 1986). His squads captured several invitational titles, including the 1980 Ponderosa All-Stars, the 1985 Ferriday Invitational, the 1986 Northwest Rankin Invitational and the 1990 Pepsi Invitational. He guided his basketball teams to 1,001 wins and only 497 losses, for a 68% winning mark. Coach Washington also paced the girls' team to three district and six conference championships.

He was named Mid-South Conference Coach of the Year five times and West Riverside Conference Coach of the Year four times. Coach Washington was a valued member of the MAC who taught and coached his entire career from 1961 to 1995. In addition to his coaching duties, Samuel also officiated football, basketball and baseball games for 20 years.



★ MICHAEL M. WILKINSON ★

Mike Wilkinson is an award-winning Hall of Fame athletic trainer who is a familiar figure at MHSAA, MAC and MAIS athletic events. Born in Hawaii, he is a 1974 graduate of Bay St. Louis High, where he was a four-year letterman as an athletic trainer in football, basketball and track and a three-year letter winner playing doubles on the boys' tennis team. Selected as Most Dependable and graduating in the top 10% of his class, he attended Tulane University, where he lettered four years as student athletic trainer for the football team. He also served the women's basketball and volleyball teams for two seasons. Wilkinson was responsible for organizing, staffing and implementing the women's athletic training room at Tulane in compliance with Title Nine federal requirements.

After earning his degree in 1978 and his graduate degree at Lamar University in 1981, he began his 39-year career in 1979 as a certified athletic trainer at Orangefield Independent School District in Orange, Texas. From 1986 to 1989, Wilkinson served as clinic athletic trainer for Rehabilitation Services in Lake Charles, Louisiana. In 1989, he arrived back in Mississippi, where he was named director of outreach services at Mississippi Sports Medicine and Orthopaedic Center in Jackson.

Wilkinson has received numerous professional and athletic awards and honors over his career, including the NFHS Distinguished Contributor Award in 2006. He was selected by the U.S. Olympics Committee as athletic trainer for the U.S. team in the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Australia; the 1999 Pan American Games in Winnipeg, Canada; the 1998 Goodwill Games in New York; and the 1995 World University Games in Fuukuoka, Japan. He has received the Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer Award, Award of Merit and the District Award by the Southeastern Athletic Trainers' Association, which covers seven states.

He is also a published author on articles related to athletic training, and he has made numerous athletic seminar presentations through the years. He secured corporate partnerships with the MAC, MHSAA and the MAIS from 1989 to present date. His volunteer work for the community includes logging more than 800 volunteer teaching hours for the American Red Cross from 1975 to present date. In 2008, he was inducted into the Mississippi Athletic Trainers' Association Hall of Fame. In 2017, he was inducted into the Southeastern Athletic Trainers' Association Hall of Fame. ●

