



## **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

# **LINDY CALLAHAN NAMED TO 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 legendary Gulfport Coach and Athletic Director Lindy Callahan was inducted into the National High School Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Fame on June 26, 2018, in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Coach Callahan 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 seventh athletic hall of fame membership for Coach Callahan. Lindy was inducted into the MAC Coaches Hall of Fame in 1979, the National Federation of High Schools Hall of Fame in 1995, the National Council of Secondary School Athletic Directors Presidential Hall of Fame in 1996, the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame in 2004, the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association Hall of Fame as a charter member in 2009, and the Ole Miss Athletic Hall of Fame in 2009. In addition to his**

Hall of Fame memberships, the football field at Milner Stadium and the weight room at Gulfport High were named in his honor in 1992.

A native of Vicksburg who was raised in Meridian, Mississippi, Coach Callahan is considered to be the “Godfather of Mississippi High School Athletics.” Lindy was a multi-sport letterman in football, track, and boxing at Meridian High from 1945 to 1948. An All-Big Eight football star, he lettered three years in football and two years in baseball at Ole Miss where he received his college degree. From 1951 to 1953, he played minor league baseball in the Cotton States League and the Alabama/Florida League before entering the coaching profession.

Coach Callahan began his long association with Gulfport High in 1953 as he worked as head baseball coach and assistant football and basketball coach until 1955. From 1955 to 1965, he served the Commodores as athletic director, head football coach, and head baseball coach. He continued his duties as athletic director of the Gulfport School system from 1966 until his retirement in 1992.

Lindy led his powerhouse Gulfport football squads to three state championships in 1963, 1964, and 1965. Under his guidance, the Commodores gridiron team won 42 consecutive Big Eight Conference games and played in the Big Eight Championship Games in 1964 and 1965. For his efforts, Coach Callahan was named the Big Eight Coach of the Year in 1964. He also guided the baseball team to the South Mississippi title in 1962. Lindy coached in the Bernard Blackwell High School All-Star football game in 1957 and 1961.

Coach Callahan is known as one of the most innovative and skilled athletic administrators in the history of Mississippi prep sports. Besides serving as President of the MAC, the Mississippi Athletic Directors Association, and the Mississippi High School Activities Association, he originated the famed Gulf

**Coast Coaching Clinic in 1964 and was responsible for helping created the Mississippi/Alabama All-Star football Classic in 1992. He received the Distinguished American Award in 1979 by the National Football Foundation and Hall of Fame. He also received the National Interscholastic Athletic Administration Association Distinguished Service Award in 1984 and was selected as National High School Athletic Director of the Year by the National High School Athletic Director Federation in 1986. He was honored with the National Federation of High Schools Citation Award in 1986.**

**As a living testament to Coach Callahan's endless contributions to Mississippi high school athletics, the Mississippi High School Athletics Association established the Lindy Callahan Scholar-Athlete scholarship program in his honor in 1995.**

**For more information, contact the MAC at (601) 924-3020 or [www.mscoaches.com](http://www.mscoaches.com).**