

# Arkansas High School Athletic Administrators Association 2015 Hall of Fame Inductee

## Ronnie Carter



Growing up in Fordyce, Ronnie Carter learned the importance of athletics at an early age. He loved to play football, basketball and run track. His biggest accomplishment while participating in athletics can be found beginning with his 8th grade football career and concluding his senior year. He and his teammates set the bar for “undefeated” seasons that has not been challenged in his hometown since, but don’t let the success of winning fool you because his biggest athletic influence wasn’t a sport. It was his coach Jimmy “Red” Parker.

Carter graduated from Fordyce High School in 1961 and attended the University of Arkansas at Monticello where he earned his Bachelor of Science in Education. Prior to graduating from UAM in 1967, he launched his athletic career at Monticello High School where he became an assistant football coach. In 1968, he moved up to head football coach at Monticello until 1970 when he moved to South Carolina and became an assistant coach at St. Andrews High School in Charleston. The following year, Carter became the head football coach and athletic director at St. Andrews and during that time, he was involved in enlarging the football stadium.

In 1972 he received a call from Coach Parker to join him in the college ranks. In 1973, he became an assistant football coach at Clemson University. After an exciting three years at the college level, Carter had the opportunity to return to the high school level, so in 1976, he became the head football coach at Chamblee High School in Chamblee, Georgia. The following year, he was not only given the opportunity to return to his home state of Arkansas, but to become athletic director again.

In 1977 Carter became the head football coach and athletic director at Lonoke High School. In years following, he would hold the head football coaching position at Magnolia, football-athletic director at Russellville, where a new football stadium was built and an all-weather track was completed. Then it was back to Lonoke for the head football coach, head golf coach, dean of students and athletic director positions.

While overseeing the athletic department in Lonoke, the program was upgraded to include volleyball, softball, baseball, golf and tennis. State championships were won in girls’ basketball, boys track, football and golf. A new junior high fieldhouse was built, the high school stadium upgraded the seats, lights, pressbox and scoreboard with 25 second clocks, added an underground sprinkling system to the game field and resurfaced the track. He also implemented the Athletic Policy and Procedures Handbook and random drug screenings of all athletics. Lonoke was one of the first athletic programs in Arkansas to do this.

In 1998 he became the head football coach and athletic director at Hot Springs. During his tenure there, Carter wrote the proposal to the Arkansas Activities Association to begin spring football practice in Arkansas. He also implemented an Athletic Policy and Procedures Handbook and random drug testing for athletes in all sports. The athletic program was upgraded to include soccer, bowling and volleyball. The facilities were upgraded with two new practice gyms, two new weight rooms and renovation of the existing gym. During that time Hot Springs hosted the overall track finals for all classifications from 2001-2003 and hosted the state track meet and/or Meet of Champions from 1998-2008. It was in 2008 that he retired from public school system athletics.

Carter was named the Lonoke Jaycees Educator of the Year in 1978, an assistant AHSCA All-Star football coach in 1978 and 1993, 5AAA Coach of the Year in 1978 and 1979, 5AA Coach of the Year in 1988, 1992 and 1994, State Athletic Director of the Year in 1995, Nike Arkansas AA Coach of the Year in 1995, Athletic Administrator State Award of Merit in 2005 and inducted into the Dallas County Sports Hall of Fame in 2008.

Carter has had affiliations with the Arkansas High School Coaches Association, the Arkansas High School Athletic Directors Association and the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators. He has held positions with the Arkansas High School Athletic Directors Association as committee chairman and Arkansas AAAAA Southwest Conference as president.

Carter serves his community as a member of First Baptist Church of Hot Springs where he is on the Safety Team, a money counter and a member of Mike Wolf’s Sunday school class. He also serves as a board member of the Dallas County Hall of Fame in Fordyce.

Carter currently holds a secondary certificate in physical education, driver education and social studies. He is presently employed by Southwest Sporting Goods in Arkansas as a sale representative.

Carter has been married to his wife Diane for 47 years. They have two daughters, Jennifer Curry and Elizabeth Cooper, and four grandchildren, Katie Curry, Maggie Curry, Carter Cooper, Grayson Cooper with another due in August.

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## Jim Dickerson



Jim Dickerson, CAA, served as Director of Athletics and Transportation for the Russellville School District from 1998 until his retirement in 2012. A native of West Memphis, he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Education from the University of Arkansas at Monticello in 1972 and a Master's Degree in Educational Administration from the University of Arkansas in 1977.

Jim and his wife, the former Myra Crocker of White Hall, have been married for 37 years. They are active members of the Russellville First Baptist Church where Jim serves as a deacon. They have a daughter, Shane, who is married to Matt Hughes of Russellville. They have three sons, Erik, campus pastor of The Journey in Clarksville, and his wife Tessa; Matt, a journeyman plumber in Russellville, is married to Bridget who works as a nurse at Children's Hospital in Little Rock, and Drew, who is the Growth and Outreach pastor at First Baptist Church of Clarksville and is married to Megan. Jim and Myra have 10 grandchildren.

Dickerson started teaching and coaching at Elaine in 1972 and spent 32 years in education. Five of those years were at Little Rock McClellan where his girls' basketball teams won two state championships and one Overall Championship.

Another five years were spent at Arkansas Tech University where he was the head women's basketball and volleyball coach. Both basketball and volleyball teams were highly successful with conference championships and national rankings. Dickerson finished out his coaching career at Clarksville from 1994-1998 where he coached girls' basketball, volleyball and track.

Dickerson has been active in the Arkansas High School Athletic Administrators Association and the NIAAA since 1998. He was selected as the 2006 Athletic Director of the Year in Arkansas. He also received the NIAAA State Award of Merit for Arkansas in 2007 and the NIAAA Distinguished Service Award nomination for Arkansas in 2010. As a member of the state executive committee, Dickerson served as treasurer for eight years and was the president-elect for the AHSAAA prior to his retirement in 2012. Dickerson is a CAA test administrator and has taught several LTP courses at state conferences. Dickerson was a member of the NIAAA Publications Committee from 2010 until his retirement.

Dickerson is a member of the Arkansas Officials Association and has officiated volleyball since 2013.

Dickerson retired from the military in 2008 as a Command Sergeant Major after 32 years. His service included wartime duty in Vietnam from 1971-72 and Iraq from 2004-05. CSM Dickerson received numerous medals and awards for his service including The Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, and Combat Action Badge. He held the position of Fort Chaffee Post Command Sergeant Major at the time of his retirement.

Since their retirement, Jim and Myra keep busy spending time with grandchildren, camping with friends, hunting and fishing. Dickerson recently earned his State of Arkansas insurance license and is helping his daughter and son-in-law in their insurance business, Hughes and Associates of Russellville.

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## Harvey Smith

Harvey Smith, who now resides in Hope, was born and raised in North Texas. He attended the University of Arkansas where he met and married Della Barwick.

In their 55 years of marriage, Harvey and Della raised two daughters, Sherry Lynn and Carole Ann.

Smith began his athletic career, coaching for five years in Texas. In 1970 Smith moved his family to Mountain View, Arkansas and began an active role in state level activities as well as heading the athletic program.

Smith spent the next two years of coaching and as director of athletics at Waldron, before accepting an assistant coaching position at Fayetteville High School where he served for three years. Smith became the head coach at Fouke High School and later moved to Hope in 1983 where he finished his athletic career. He retired from the public school system in 1994.

During his career at Hope, Smith served as president of the AHSAAA. He was selected as the state's Athletic Director of the year (1988-1989), and received the same honor by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association.

