

Mt. Pleasant Announces Second Tiger Athletic Hall of Fame Class

Four former MPHS athletes and two former head coaches will be honored Friday, October 9 when they become the second group of former athletes and coaches inducted into the Tiger Athletic Hall of Fame. Maury Buford, R.E. Dodson, Richard Rockwell, Leslie Harris Slovak, Charles Wright and the late Herb Zimmerman (represented by his wife Dorothy) will be officially inducted into the Hall of Fame during pregame of the Tigers vs. Hallsville game and will serve as honorary captains for the game and participate in the pre-game coin toss.

This year's inductees were chosen by a selection committee based on their accomplishments while at Mount Pleasant High School. As recognition of their selection, each inductee will also receive a gold jacket featuring the Athletic Hall of Fame crest. Pictures of each inductee will also be displayed in the hallway of the Willie Williams Gymnasium. Guaranty Bank and Trust is the official sponsor of the annual event.

Maury Anthony Buford

As a Mount Pleasant High School student, Buford played football, baseball, and ran track. He was also a member of the National Honor Society. During his high school athletic career, he and teammates won all district in football, baseball and track. He broke a long-standing school record in the 880 -yard dash and was a member of the State Champion Tiger baseball team in 1978.

Buford attended Texas Tech University where he served as a member of the football team from 1978-1981. He was named to the All Southwest Conference Team for two years and had the highest punting average in the nation his freshman year. Buford was drafted by the San Diego Chargers in the spring of 1978 and won Super Bowl XX with the Chicago Bears during the 1985 season.

R.E. Dodson

Dodson, a 1957 graduate of Mount Pleasant High School, played football, basketball and ran track all three varsity years. His many high school accolades include: 1955 All District Football for both offense and defense; 1956 All District Football again

both offense and defense; 1956 Honorable Mention All State Football; 1955 Regional Champion in the 440-yard relay and MPHS Most Athletic 1957.

Offered football scholarships to all Southwest Conference schools and to Oklahoma, Dodson chose to attend Texas Christian University. He was a letterman on back-to-back SWC Championship teams in 1958 and 1959.

Richard Rockwell

Rockwell participated in track and field and played football while at MPHS. He was a member of the 1972 and 1973 district champion football teams as a running back and also a member of the 1973 State Football finalist team. In 1972, he was a member of the state track championship team and the 1973 state track runner-up team. He participated in the 400 meters at the state meet his senior year in 1974.

Leslie Slovak

Slovak played basketball, volleyball and tennis at MPHS. She was named all district and all region in basketball, three time all district in volleyball, twice named all region and all state in volleyball. She also played in the TOGA volleyball all-star game and was academic all-state in volleyball.

She attended East Texas State University, now Texas A&M University-Commerce, where she played volleyball. She was a three time all conference, four time Lone Star Conference Player of the week, set the NCAA record for all division I, II and III schools for most kills in a match, third on the all-time kill list at A&M Commerce and third on the all-time list for most aces.

Charles Wright

Wright served in almost every capacity known in his 37 years with Mount Pleasant ISD. He worked as a teacher, counselor, teacher evaluator, assistant superintendent and superintendent. As a coach, he coached eighth grade in all sports at P.E. Wallace, ninth grade in football and track, was varsity assistant football coach working with the defense and head track coach at Mount Pleasant High School.

A graduate of MPHS, Wright was captain of the football team his senior year and made several all-tournament teams in basketball.

Herb Zimmerman

Zimmerman grew up on a farm outside Mt. Vernon and graduated from Mt. Vernon High School. He attended TCU where he played football. He made all SW Conference and in his senior year (1952) he also made honorable mention All American. He was drafted by the Green Bay Packers his senior year at TCU, but due to an injury was unable to report to Green Bay.

He took an assistant football coaching job in Weatherford and in 1955 came to Mount Pleasant. At the time, the program was in disarray. Herb and his assistant coaches, John Maughon and Sam Morrow took the program from a losing situation to the state semi-finals in 1959 where they lost to Breckenridge.

After the 1959 season, Coach John Bridgers at Baylor University hired Herb as a defensive coach and later defensive coordinator. After the 1966 season, Coach Hayden Frey called Herb to come to SMU as the defensive coordinator. In 1995, he was inducted into the TCU Sports Hall of Fame.