

**DENHAM SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL**  
**ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME**

*Class of 2012*

**DeWAYNE “BEETLE” BAILEY**  
**(COACH)**

“Beetle” Bailey compiled a 130-43 record as DSHS baseball coach from 1979-1985, with a Class 4A state runner-up finish in 1984. His teams won three district titles and made 25 post season appearances, winning 19. He was named District Coach of the Year five times and Class 4A State Coach of the Year in 1984. Bailey founded the Louisiana Baseball Coaches Association (LBCA) in 1985. He served as DSHS principal from 1985-1987 before joining the LSU baseball staff for a storied coaching career with the Tigers, highlighted by NCAA national titles in 1991 and 1993. After his death in 2005, the DSHS Beetle Bailey Athletic Training Facility was named in his honor in 2010. He was inducted into the LBCA Hall of Fame in 2003.

**JIM BEASLEY**  
**(ATHLETE)**

“Jolting” Jim Beasley was a Class 2A All State fullback as a junior in 1968, the second player in school history to rush for 1,000 yards twice, the latter in an abbreviated 8-game season his senior year. Voted All District two times and lauded by District 8-AA coaches as “the best running back in the state’s strongest district,” Beasley missed near certain All State selection as a senior when area sportswriters erroneously nominated him in the wrong position. He played in the prestigious Louisiana High School All Star Football Game in 1970. Beasley was also a 3-time District Champion in track in the 100 and 220-yard dashes and the 880-yard relay. He received an athletic scholarship to play football at Louisiana Tech University.

## **J. W. “PEE WEE” DAY** **(SUPPORTER)**

**J. W. “Pee Wee” Day was an iconic sports figure at his beloved alma mater for over 50 years and is the first DSHS Hall of Fame member selected in the “Supporter” category. As a student he was a popular campus leader, lettering in football and baseball, and voted Mr. DSHS in 1957. Day was the “Voice of the Yellow Jackets” football team from 1963-1985 and served for over a half-century as the Master of Ceremonies for annual DSHS athletic banquets. For 52 years his weekly sports column was an important platform for promoting DSHS athletes and athletic events. He was a visionary member of the original PARDS Board that brought superb baseball, softball, and track facilities to Yellow Jacket athletes. He died in 2012.**

## **LLOYD deGENERES** **(COACH)**

**Lloyd “Big D” deGeneres was a popular and colorful DSHS assistant football and head track coach whose 45-year career as a teacher, coach, and administrator made him perhaps the longest serving educator in school history. His track teams won a record five straight district titles (1967-1971) and 8 of 9 parish titles (1976-1984), considered the golden era of the sport at DSHS. deGeneres organized the first Livingston Parish Track Meet in 1976. Remembered as a hard-nosed line coach who taught sound fundamentals, during his tenure the Yellow Jackets won more football games and made more playoff appearances than at any time in school history. He retired as an educator with 20 years as assistant principal at DSHS.**

## **SAM DIGIROLAMO** **(ATHLETE)**

**Sam Digirolamo was a Class 2A All State linebacker in 1968 and the first DSHS and Livingston Parish athlete to earn a four-year football scholarship to LSU. Dubbed “Slammin’ Sam” by the media for his hard-nosed tackling style, he was a two-time All District selection in 1967 and 1968 (Offense & Defense) and the Outstanding Lineman on the 1968 All Parish Team. He was named Most Improved Player by his teammates in 1967 and Best Defensive Lineman and team MVP in 1968. He was also a three-year letterman in baseball. A leader on and off the athletic field, Digirolamo was Class President as a sophomore and junior and Vice President as a senior. In 1968 he and his future wife were selected Mr. and Miss DSHS.**

## **SHANNON COVINGTON FUENTES** **(ATHLETE)**

Shannon Covington was a two-time Class 4A All State pitcher in 1986 and 1987, regarded as the first great female softball player in school history. A four-time All District choice (3 MVPs) and a three-time *State-Times* Star of Stars Performer of the Year (1986-1988), she led her team to Class 4A State Championships in 1986 and 1987 and a runner-up finish in 1988. She registered a career record of 78-3, with one loss as a freshman, two as a senior, and a remarkable 50-game winning streak in-between. Covington received national attention in 1986 when recognized in *Sports Illustrated* "Faces in the Crowd." An honor graduate at DSHS, she received an athletic scholarship to play softball at SLU where she graduated cum laude.

## **LARRY GLOVER** **(ATHLETE)**

Larry Glover was a two-time Class A All State basketball player in 1955 and 1956, leading his team to a 33-9 record and the State Championship in 1956 with 25 points in the title game. A two-time All District and All Parish pick, he had the unique honor of earning five letters in basketball, playing on the varsity as an eighth grader. He played in the prestigious Louisiana High School All Star Basketball Game in 1956. Glover was also a three-year letterman in baseball and the shortstop on the 1956 DSHS State Championship Softball Team. He received an athletic scholarship to play basketball at Louisiana College where he lettered four years on the court and three years in baseball, graduating cum laude as Class President.

## **DONALD RAY HOOD** **(ATHLETE)**

Donald Ray Hood was a Class B All State basketball player in 1949 and Honorable Mention in 1950. He starred on the three most heralded teams in school history that won Class B State Championships in 1948 and 1950, with a state runner-up finish in 1949. He was a four-year letterman and Team Captain in 1949 and 1950. Hood was named to the 1950 All Tournament Team (MVP) in the prestigious Wedge Keyes Tournament and led his team to three parish titles (1947-1949). A respected campus leader, he achieved the rare honor of serving four times as Class President at DSHS. He received an athletic scholarship to play basketball at SLC (SLU) where he was Team Captain twice and also lettered two years in baseball.

## **RUSS JOHNSON** **(ATHLETE)**

Russ Johnson was known for a legendary work ethic that propelled him from stardom on the DSHS baseball diamond, to two-time All American and NCAA national champion at LSU, to first-round draft pick by the Houston Astros in 1994. He was a rare four-time All District player (MVP in 1991) and won the Golden Glove Award in 1990. Johnson was the *State-Times* Star of Stars Performer of the Year and played in the prestigious Louisiana High School All Star Baseball Game in 1991. An honor graduate at DSHS, he received an athletic scholarship to play baseball at LSU, later enjoying a 13-year career in professional baseball. He was named to the LSU All-Alex Box Stadium Team (Omaha Era) in 2008.

## **EDDIE JOE JONES** **(ATHLETE)**

Eddie Joe Jones was a Class A All State basketball player in 1956 whose star rose higher than any sports figure in school history, thrusting a small town boy of humble origin into a 38-year career at the most elite levels of the NFL. A well rounded athlete, he led his teams to Class A state titles in basketball and softball in 1956. Jones achieved the rare honor of serving four times as Class President at DSHS. After earning an accounting degree from LSU, he would eventually become Team President of the New Orleans Saints (1982-1985) and later the Team President of the Miami Dolphins (1996-2005). He was inducted into both the LSU Alumni and the Ourso School of Business Halls of Distinction in 2001 and 2003. He died in 2012.

## **ANDY NETTERVILLE** **(ATHLETE)**

Andy Netterville was a Class 3A All State football player in 1972 and a member of the Yellow Jacket team that finished with a 12-1-1 record as Class 3A state runner-up against Hahnville. He was the All District center in 1971 and 1972 and All District defensive tackle in 1972. He received a unique honor for an offensive lineman when named District 7-AAA Offensive MVP as a senior. Netterville played in the prestigious Louisiana High School All Star Football Game in 1973. He also lettered two years in track (discus and shot put) and ran on the popular "Weight Man" 880-yard relay team. He was a DSHS honor graduate and member of the National Honor Society, receiving an athletic scholarship to play football at LSU.

**LESLIE O'NEAL**  
**(ATHLETE)**

Leslie O'Neal was a Class A All State baseball player in 1961, the first Yellow Jacket to receive a four-year scholarship to play baseball at the college level (USL), later earning All Gulf States Conference honors twice and Conference Player of the Year in 1966. He led DSHS to the district title in baseball (1961) and was a member of three State Championship Softball Teams (1958-1960). As a Yellow Jacket, he was a four-sport letterman, two-time baseball MVP, and received the Athlete Scholastic Award. At USL, O'Neal was a starting pitcher all four seasons with a career ERA of 1.74, receiving team MVP honors twice. He was inducted into the USL (ULL) Athletic Hall of Fame in 2004 and the Louisiana Softball Hall of Fame in 2005.

**A. E. SUTTON**  
**(ATHLETE)**

A. E. Sutton was a Class B All State basketball player in 1948, leading his team to a 40-4 record and the Class B State Championship under DSHS Hall of Fame coach Grady Hornsby. At a time when public school ended in the eleventh grade, he had the unique honor of earning five letters in basketball, reportedly breaking into the starting lineup as a 6'1" seventh grader. Sutton also earned four letters in six-man football on Yellow Jacket teams that had state runner-up finishes in 1946 and 1947. He shared in a rich family tradition of athletic excellence as one of three Sutton brothers to earn All State honors at DSHS. Though recruited widely by Kentucky, LSU, and others, he chose not to attend college. He died in 2001.

**MICHAEL V. TALBERT**  
**(ATHLETE)**

Michael Talbert was a Class 3A All State basketball player in 1975, averaging 31.2 points and 14.2 rebounds per game. His remarkable success was clearly a long shot since he had never played organized basketball until the tenth grade. He was discovered in a P. E. class by DSHS Hall of Fame coach Alton Leggette, and within three storybook seasons was heralded as the Class 3A Most Valuable Player in the state—by unanimous vote! An All District player in 1974 and 1975 (MVP), he set school records for most points in a season and career. He received an athletic scholarship to play basketball at Nicholls State University and after two years transferred to Louisiana College to continue basketball and prepare for the ministry.