

# DENHAM SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

## CLASS OF 2017

### LANCY HILL (ATHLETE)

Lancy Hill was a two-time Class B All State basketball player, one year for the Live Oak Eagles and one for the Denham Springs Yellow Jackets. In 1949 at Live Oak, in an era when students graduated in the eleventh grade, Hill led the Eagles to a superb season that resulted in his All State selection. In 1950 the state of Louisiana added a twelfth grade to the high school curriculum and Hill became a Yellow Jacket for one luminous season. He and Hall of Famer Donald Ray Hood, his future brother-in-law, led DSHS to the Class B state title that year, defeating Hill's former team, Live Oak, for the championship. He would also play football for the Jackets and serve as Vice President of his senior class before earning an athletic scholarship to play basketball at LSU where he was a teammate of All-American Bob Petit.

### TOM KELLY (ATHLETE)

Tom Kelly was a four-sport letterman and All District quarterback who led the first great DSHS football team of the modern era. A three-year starter and team MVP, he shared the backfield with Hall of Famer Randy Rushing, but Kelly was such a fierce tackler he also played linebacker on defense. He was a star second baseman on DSHS softball teams that won three state titles (1958-1960). He would earn an athletic scholarship to play football at USL (ULL) after a walk-on season with the LSU freshman team, the first Jacket to play for LSU and the first to play four years of collegiate football. As an undersized linebacker at USL, Kelly would become defensive captain and earn honorable mention NAIA All-America honors. After 25 years in the USMC, he retired as a full colonel with two combat tours in Viet Nam.

## **RANDY POPE (ATHLETE)**

**A two-sport All District pick in basketball and baseball, Randy Pope won Class AA All State honors in baseball (1969). He was a star hoops player averaging 20 points per game as a senior, chosen Team Captain and MVP. In baseball, he split duties as the pitching ace and shortstop, named District MVP and DSHS Team Captain and MVP. Pope boasted a 7-2 record with two no-hitters, four one-hitters, and five shut outs, averaging 9.7 strikeouts per game with a 1.67 ERA as a senior. He earned an athletic scholarship to play baseball at William Carey College and was selected All Gulf Coast Athletic Conference third baseman as a senior. Randy Pope and Rogers Pope are the first brothers to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. The two were career educators and both served as Superintendent of Livingston Parish Schools.**

## **ROGERS POPE (ATHLETE)**

**A versatile four-sport letterman in track, baseball, softball, and basketball, Rogers Pope's tenacious play earned him All Parish and Class A All State basketball honors in 1959. He also starred at centerfield on the Yellow Jackets' back-to-back state champion softball teams (1958, 1959). Pope would later enjoy a 38-year career in education, with 14 years as Livingston Parish Superintendent, a golden era for the district. During six storybook seasons at Walker High School, he coached the girls' basketball team to three state titles and 88 straight wins. In 2007 he was elected a Louisiana state representative, serving three terms and 10 years in the legislature, earning the coveted Ethics Award his second year. Pope was also the longtime Executive Director of the Louisiana Association of School Executives.**

## **ROBBIE ALLEN SPANGLER (COACH)**

**Robbie Spangler forged a distinguished career as a DSHS Teacher of the Year and legendary coach who led the Yellow Jacket girls' softball team to two Class 5A state championships (1998, 2000) with runner-up finishes in 2005 and 2006. During her career as co-head coach with fellow Hall of Famer, Laurin Byars Garrison, she achieved 331 wins versus 85 losses for a remarkable 80% winning record. Known for her passion, discipline, and competitiveness, Spangler's teams personified these traits as they dominated Louisiana softball for more than a decade of excellence. Named District Co-Coach of the Year six times by her peers, she retired in 2006 after 33 years as an educator and 21 years as a coach, having earned the universal respect and affection of her DSHS family and the community that she made proud.**