

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

CLASS OF 2014

**RYAN BYRD
(ATHLETE)**

Ryan Byrd achieved the rare honor of selection to both the preseason and post-season Louisville Slugger High School All-America Team in 2004. He was a four-time unanimous All District pitcher and the Class 5A All State ace on both the coaches and sportswriters teams as a senior. His career record as a Yellow Jacket was 37-11 with an ERA of 1.71 and 269 strikeouts. Widely recruited, Byrd received an athletic scholarship to play baseball at LSU where he helped the Tigers to the College World Series and the national title in 2009 after defeating Vanderbilt as the winning pitcher in the SEC Championship game. A DSHS honor graduate, he was also named to the SEC Academic Honor Roll in 2008.

**DR. MILTON HUGHES
(SUPPORTER)**

The longest serving school board member in the state of Louisiana at the time, Dr. Milton Hughes served DSHS student-athletes for over 40 years, beginning in 1970, as a member of the Livingston Parish School Board. He was the catalyst for nearly every facility improvement during that time, helping deliver a new gymnasium, a new athletic field house and weight room, a new indoor baseball-softball training facility, and an upgrade of Yellow Jacket Stadium with new artificial field turf. On more than one occasion, he used his personal funds and school board salary to pay for coaching supplements and other improvements. A true visionary, Dr. Hughes has had a profound impact on the third largest high school in the state of Louisiana.

JIM KEMP (ATHLETE)

A star athlete and campus leader, Jim Kemp was a Class AA All State running back in 1965 who was also honored as Mr. DSHS his senior year. A versatile sports figure, he earned a total of 10 varsity letters in football (4), track (3), and basketball (3), being named the school's Best All-Round Athlete. He was a unanimous All District choice in football, averaging 6.2 yards per carry, and a District Champion in track (440-yard relay) who ran the 100-yard dash in 10.3 seconds. Kemp was voted MVP and Team Captain in football and received the Coaches Award in basketball. He received an athletic scholarship to play football at USL (ULL) where he was one of only a handful of four-year lettermen for the Ragin' Cajuns.

STEVE LONG (COACH)

Steve Long was a heralded Yellow Jacket baseball coach who led DSHS to a Class 4A state title in 1986 and a Class 5A state runner-up finish in 1994, with a career record of 208-121. The title team was ranked #3 nationally by *USA Today*, earning him District Coach of the Year honors his first season as head coach. Long's teams made the playoffs 9 of 12 years. Due to his stature in the athletic community, he was selected to serve as District Chairman, host two state baseball tournaments, serve on the LHSAA All Star Selection Committee, and coach two LHSAA All Star Baseball Games. In 21 years at DSHS he served as JV basketball coach, head baseball coach, head football coach, athletic director, classroom teacher, and assistant principal.

NANCY DAVIS MCCONNELL (ATHLETE)

Nancy Davis was Class 4A All State in girls' basketball in 1983 and named honorable mention prep All-America (Converse, National Sportswriters Assn. and *USA Today*). She was All District and All Parish three years (MVP once each), averaging 20 points per game and 10 rebounds as a senior. In summer league play, Davis earned AAU All-America (1981, 1982, 1983), plus national MVP and Outstanding Athlete. In track, she set DSHS records in four events and was named District Champion in the 400-meter run. A scholastic star also, she was an honor graduate, Student Government president, and Miss DSHS. She won an athletic scholarship to play basketball and run cross country at the University of New Orleans.

DIANE SMALL OLIVEAUX (ATHLETE)

Diane Small achieved the rare honor of being named a three-time Class AA All State girls' basketball player (1962, 1963, 1964), leading her team to a state runner-up finish in 1963 under DSHS coach Dorothy Hammack. A four-time All District choice and a three-time All Parish selection, she was an intimidating defensive force who dominated opponent offenses because of her height and tenacity. In 1963 and 1964 Small was voted MVP and Best Defensive Player by her teammates. Competing at a time long before the advent of Title IX that compelled universities to field female sports teams, she missed the opportunity to play at the collegiate level where she would have excelled and been widely recruited.

PAIGE SATCHER (ATHLETE)

Paige Satcher was Class 4A All State and honorable mention *USA Today* All-America in girls' basketball in 1986. As the District MVP, she led her team to a 25-7 record as a senior, averaging 20 points and 9 rebounds per game. A versatile athlete who lettered in basketball as a freshman, sophomore, and senior, sitting out as a junior to focus on tennis in which she was a four-year letterman. Satcher qualified for the state tennis tournament three times and compiled a 16-3 record as a senior. A teammate of two-time prep All-American Jana Garrison, they were the co-stars in the golden era of the sport at DSHS. She received athletic scholarships to play tennis at Paris Texas Junior College and then Centenary College.

REX WILKINSON (ATHLETE)

Believed to be the first All State athlete in school history on the school's first state championship team, Rex Wilkinson led his basketball team to a 41-3 record and the "all classes" title at the State Rally in 1923. His achievements date back the farthest in DSHS history, making him the dean of all Hall of Fame members. As the best scorer and Team Captain, he was the designated free throw shooter. His teammates were Joe Jackson, Carl Bond, Murray Brashears, Carl Harris, Ray Rushing, Louis Harris, and John Exner, all coached by Guy Sommers. He is also believed to be the first DSHS athlete to play basketball at LSU (1924). Wilkinson later served 42 years as a teacher, coach, and principal in Livingston Parish schools. He died in 1982.