

● **DENHAM SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL** ●

**ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME**

*Class of 2023*

**CATHERINE SPANGLER DEHLIN**

**(ATHLETE)**

Catherine Spangler was a celebrated three-sport athlete and a 1990 Class 4A All State basketball star lauded by *USA Today* as an elite Top 10 Player in Louisiana. She was a three-time All District (MVP once) and three-time All Parish (MVP once) honoree who led her team to the state semi-finals as a junior. She scored 1143 career points, one of only five Lady Jackets in the prestigious 1,000 Point Club. Spangler was equally impressive in the classroom, achieving Academic All State laurels as a senior and honored as valedictorian with a career 4.0 GPA over four years. Named Team Captain by her DSHS teammates and Most Athletic by the student body, she went on to star on the court at SLU, earning Most Improved and Best Defensive Player awards with the Lady Lions. Spangler was a three-time Conference All Academic Team member, valedictorian of the School of Nursing, and a President's Medal recipient. She is the daughter of Hall of Fame coach Robbie Spangler.

**LAKEISHA MARIE LEE**

**(ATHLETE)**

A heralded Class 5A All State basketball star (2010), Lakeisha Lee led the Lady Jackets to a stunning 30-1 record and the state semi-finals as a junior, averaging 18 points per game. She was a two-time All District selection (MVP once) and a three-time All Parish pick (Best Offensive Player once). Her honors would be even greater if not for an early season-ending injury as a senior while averaging 20 points per game. Despite an abbreviated senior season, she is one of only five Lady Jackets to garner a spot in the elite 1,000 Point Club. An honor graduate, Lee was the student-athlete ideal who achieved Academic Honor Roll all four years. As a freshman at Northwestern State University, she led the team in scoring and 20-point games, one of only two freshmen nationwide to play 1,000-minutes. She earned All-Southland Conference basketball and academic honors despite succumbing to another season-ending injury as a senior, ending her collegiate career with 1,346 points.

## **THOMAS DRU NETTLES**

### **(ATHLETE & COACH)**

**Dru Nettles was a rugged, hardnosed athlete who thrilled Jacket fans as a two-sport star in football and baseball. He was a rare four-time All District catcher, the only freshman on an all-senior team that won the Class 4A baseball state title in 1986. Mature beyond his years, he was field general to future LSU All-American pitcher Ben McDonald during that storybook season. He won Golden Glove laurels twice as the District's best defender and played in the prestigious LHSAA All Star Baseball game in 1989. As an All-District safety in football, Nettles holds the school record for most career interceptions (12), with three in one game. He was also a member of the Class 4A Academic All State football team (1988). A three-year baseball starter at SLU, he led the Lions to conference and regional titles in 1992, later picked to the All Decade Team (1990s). While AD and head football coach at DSHS, he took the Jackets to the playoffs 8 of 12 seasons with two District championships.**

## **RUSSELL TODD SANCHEZ**

### **(ATHLETE)**

**Rusty Sanchez, a veteran of back-to-back Babe Ruth World Series in New York and Ohio, pitched his way as a Yellow Jacket to a career record of 30 wins and 8 losses, with three no-hitters, enroute to his selection as a Class 4A All State baseball honoree in 1984. He was All District three times (MVP once) and led DSHS to a state runner-up finish as a senior where he was selected to the State Finals All Tournament Team. His many accolades propelled Sanchez to the celebrated LHSAA All Star Baseball game (1984). Two years later at East Mississippi Junior College, having already earned All State and All Regional laurels there, he ascended to the pinnacle of achievement for an amateur athlete when named a 1986 ABCA/Rawlings National Junior College All-American, joining only 8 other Yellow Jackets who earned the distinction of being a collegiate All-American. An exceptional pitcher and power hitter, he completed his sterling career on the mound at SLU.**

# **ANTHONY JOHN WATTS**

## **(ATHLETE)**

**The only sophomore on the 1979 Class 3A All State team, Anthony Watts' 11-4 record was the best among all elite pitchers that year, giving him the uncommon distinction of being a unanimous selection among the state's best baseball stars. He led the Yellow Jackets to the District title and the state semi-finals during that storied season, boasting a 1.76 ERA with 100 strike outs—and, remarkably, only 10 walks in 111 innings pitched. He was a rare four-time All District choice (MVP once), three times as a pitcher and once as a shortstop. Playing with an injured knee as a senior, he managed a 7-3 record (0.71 ERA) and led the team in hitting with a .386 average, earning Honorable Mention All State honors at shortstop, reflecting his athleticism. After helping 14<sup>th</sup> ranked Delgado Jr. College to a 31-6 record at 3B, Watts next shared his talents with SLU as an infielder and designated hitter, helping the Lions to a 31-19 record and, with the pivotal hit, an upset of 12<sup>th</sup> ranked LSU.**