

# AHSAAA Hall of Fame Honors Athletic Administration Professionals

## AHSAAA HALL OF FAME – CLASS OF 2010



**Bob Bowden**



**Jim Cox**



**Gary Goss**



**H. B. Stewart**

### **Bob Bowden**

Bob Bowden was born October 5, 1934 on Crow Mountain in Pope County, Arkansas to Ches and Cleva Bowden. Growing up he excelled in basketball, scoring 44 points in a high school game his senior year and pitching a no hitter in American Legion baseball. He graduated from Pottsville High School in 1952.

After high school Bob attended Beebe Junior College (now ASU- Beebe) on a basketball scholarship. While there he met his future wife Robbie Watson of Beebe, Arkansas. They married in 1954. He then transferred to Arkansas State Teachers College (now University of Central Arkansas) graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Education degree in 1956.

His coaching career began in 1956 at Jacksonville High School, followed by North Little Rock Ridgeroad Junior High and North Little Rock High School. His record as Head Basketball Coach was 256 wins and 80 losses. He won 3 state championships- 1966, 1969, 1971 and State Runner Up in 1967, going 16-7 in tournament play. Bob also led his teams to 4 conference championships. He was an assistant in football and track serving under Richard Hendrickson, Ken Stephens, and Henry Hawk. He was named the Arkansas High School Coaches Association Basketball Coach of The Year in 1969 and served as a coach in the 1969 All Star Game at Barton Coliseum. While at North Little Rock High School he earned his Master of Science in Education

degree from State College of Arkansas (now University of Central Arkansas).

In 1972, Bob became the first Principal of Pulaski Oak Grove Junior/Senior High, then Fuller Junior High School.

In 1976, Bob became Director of Athletics and Spirit Groups for the Pulaski County Special School District. At the time the largest school district in the state, with an overall enrollment of over 30,000 students. He supervised athletic programs in 8 high schools and 11 junior high schools. During his tenure as athletic director he implemented: area coordinators for each high school that would work with the corresponding junior high; a stable athletic budget for each high school with additional funding from the district when gate receipts were down; a salary schedule that allowed coaches flexibility in choosing the number of sports they were assigned to coach. He also facilitated the building of athletic facilities for 3 new high schools, 3 new junior highs, 7 new practice gyms, 2 new baseball stadiums, and 8 all weather tracks. As well as expanded seating and made improvements at 4 senior high stadiums. The District won 27 state championships during the time he served as the Athletic Director.

Bob was voted the Arkansas Athletic Director of The Year in 1980. He served on the Arkansas Activities Association Board of Directors for 9 years. He served 8 years as Director of the AAA

State Baseball Tournament. He worked with former AAA Executive Director Lee Cassidy to develop and implement the inaugural by-laws for the Arkansas High School Athletic Administrators Association. He chaired the Awards Committee of AHSAAA for 4 years. Bob retired in 1990, dedicating 34 years as a coach, secondary school principal, and athletic director. After retiring, Bob served on the Mayflower, Arkansas City Council and later as the Mayor. During his time as the

Mayor he was instrumental in obtaining a new water supply for the city from Greers Ferry Lake. Bob was also active in the Mayflower United Methodist Church.

He was married to Robbie Watson Bowden for 53 years. They have 2 sons, Kirk and Susan Bowden of Bryant, Arkansas and Bobby Bowden of Mayflower along with 3 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

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### **Jim Cox**

James Paul Cox, Jr. was born in Visalia, California, on November 7, 1954, where he lived during his first five years. After starting school in Visalia, his family moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma. His fifth grade year began in Greenwood, Arkansas and ended in Bakersfield, California. He started eighth grade in Oxnard, California, then moved back to Greenwood, Fresno, and back to Greenwood. It was after Jim's third enrollment in the Greenwood Public Schools that he was invited to join the family of junior high football coach – H.B. Stewart – in the spring of 1969. Jim now had two sets of parents and seven siblings – two brothers and six sisters. He graduated from Greenwood High School in 1973. Jim lettered in football, basketball, and baseball in high school and was voted the GHS male athlete his senior year. Jim also served as a class officer and Student Council president. After graduation, he enrolled at Ouachita Baptist University where he would earn a Bachelor of Science degree in math and physical education in 1977. While attending OBU, he was a three-year letterman in football. His senior year, Jim was voted captain of the football team, a semifinalist for the NAIA Outstanding Defensive Player award, an honorable mention All-AIC selection and received the OBU Outstanding Defensive Player award. In 1978 he earned a master's degree from Henderson State in guidance and counseling.

Jim began his coaching career as a graduate assistant baseball coach at Henderson State University. During the summer of 1978 Jim accepted a job as an assistant football and track coach at his alma mater, Greenwood. The following year, Jim and his wife, Janet, moved to Conway, where he worked at the high school as an assistant football and track coach, along with off-season responsibilities. After three years at

Conway, the head football position at Huntsville High School came open and Jim accepted the position in late July. After a year, the Cox family was back in Conway for a year where Jim served as an assistant football and basketball coach. Jim became the head football and track coach at Hot Springs Lakeside the following year and was at Lakeside for two years.

After serving at Lakeside, Jim became athletic director and head football coach at Fordyce Public Schools. He also served as the head track coach for nine years and the head baseball coach for one year. During Jim's ten years at Fordyce, the athletic department improvements included the construction of a new field house with public restroom facilities, renovation and addition to the bleachers for football and basketball, new scoreboards for football and basketball, renovation of the football field press box, resurfacing and converting the all weather track to a metric track, a state-of-the-art strength training facility, and the addition of baseball and softball. Jim started the annual Redbug Football Camp for elementary students. After ten years, Jim and his family moved back home to Greenwood. In 1996 Jim took an assistant football and head track coaching position at Greenwood. In the spring of that year, Jim accepted the position as the assistant principal at Wells Junior High in Greenwood. In 2000 Jim accepted the head football and track position at Kimmons Junior High School in Fort Smith. He also coached the eighth grade basketball team. In 2002, Jim became an assistant principal at Southside High School. During his time at Southside High School Jim earned his doctorate in Educational Leadership at the University of Arkansas – Fayetteville. Jim was selected as the outstanding doctoral student for the Department of Educational Leadership, Counseling, and

Foundations in 2006. In 2007, he became the Dean of Students at the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith. While at UA Fort Smith, Jim served on the Chancellor’s Cabinet, the Task Force for the Strategic Planning of Student Life and Services, the Athletic Board, the Campus Climate Committee, and the American Democracy Project Committee. Jim retired in June of 2009 after 32 years in the education profession.

Jim served on the AHSAAA executive board as vice-president, president, and past president. He was selected as the AHSAAA Athletic Director of the Year (91-92) and the NCSSAD Southern Regional Athletic Director of the Year (92). In 1995, Jim received the AHSAAA State Award of

Merit. Jim has the distinction of being the last Arkansas Gazette (1990) and first Arkansas Democrat/Gazette (1991) Football Coach of the Year. He was selected the Pine Bluff Commercial Football Coach of the Year for 1990 and 1991. He was an assistant coach for the 1991 All Star football game and served as the head coach of the All Star game in 1992. He was a four-time district 7AA Football Coach of the Year and was also selected the AHSCA Football Coach of the Year in 1991.

Jim and his wife of 30 years, Janet, reside in Greenwood, Arkansas. They have two sons, Jacob, of Garden City, Kansas, and Jonathan, of Fort Smith, Arkansas.

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### **Gary Goss**

Gary Goss was born in 1943 in Little Rock, Arkansas, to Charles Ray and Natilee Goss. He attended Pleasant Hill High School (in Pleasant Hill, MO) where he was a three sport letterman in football, basketball, and track. After graduating high school in 1961, he attended Moberly Junior College in Moberly, Missouri. While at Moberly, Gary played basketball under the legendary Cotton Fitzsimmons on the 1962 3<sup>rd</sup> place National Junior College team and 1963 National Junior College runner-up team. Gary continued his education and athletic career at Harding University where he was a two-year letterman and ALL-AIC basketball player from 1963-1965. Gary’s athletic accomplishments earned him a spot in the Harding University’s Hall of Fame. In 1972, he earned his master’s degree in education from the University of Central Arkansas.

Gary began his coaching career in 1966 at Moberly Junior High School where he coached basketball, football and track. In 1968, he moved back to Little Rock and coached one year at Fourth Street Junior High School. Gary spent the next twenty years coaching football, boys’ basketball and boys’ track at North Little Rock High School. He was the boys’ basketball assistant coach when Bob Bowden led the Wildcats to a state championship in 1971. North Little Rock was the boys’ basketball state runner-up in 1979, 1980, and 1989 under Gary’s leadership. He served on the All-Star basketball coaching staff in 1980.

In 1989, Gary became the athletic director for the North Little Rock School District. During his tenure as athletic director, Gary initiated the Athletic-Academic award for student-athletes at North Little Rock High School who maintained a 3.0 GPA and lettered in a varsity sport; and the student academic incentive program for students that maintained at least a 3.0 GPA with a strong attendance record to receive free or reduced admission into athletic events. Gary also worked to improve athletic facilities. Improvements made during his administration were: a new press box area and score clock at the football stadium as well as a synthetic field in 2003; a new track surface; and the state of the art arena in 2002. He was also integral in the reorganization of the secondary schools during the 1990-91 school year. That year, North Little Rock merged two high schools into one and three junior high schools into one freshman campus. Gary was honored with the NIAAA Distinguished Service Award inside the AHSAAA in 1993 and was named the 2003 Athletic Director of the Year by his peers. Gary has been a member of the AHSAAA and NIAAA for 14 years as well as a 21-year member of the Arkansas High School Coaches’ Association.

Gary retired from Education in 2003 to end his 37-year career. After retirement, Gary and his wife of 44 years, Francene, moved to Romance, Arkansas, where they are active in their church. They live on 17 beautiful acres – enough space for Gary to raise and train beagles. They have five children: Coby of Chicago, IL; Dawn of

Beebe, AR; Whitney of North Little Rock; Taryn of North Little Rock; and Tony of North Little Rock.

They have been blessed with nine grandchildren who enjoy visiting them to fish, swim, and play.

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### **H. B. Stewart**

Halton Baxter "H.B." Stewart was born in 1935 in Greenwood, Arkansas to Halton and Ruth Stewart. He graduated from Greenwood High School in 1953. H.B. attended Arkansas Tech and the University of Arkansas Fayetteville where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Education. In 1956, he began his career in education at his alma mater Greenwood teaching science and biology. Growing up, H.B. was never far from the athletic fields where he served as the football, basketball, and track team manager. He worked as a basketball official from 1956 – 1976, calling the 1974 All-Star basketball game at Barton Coliseum with Norm DeBriyn, Bill Valentine, and Ollie Brantley.

In 1966, H.B. took over the Greenwood junior high football program. During his 15-year tenure as head coach he amassed an overall record of 120-23 while posting an undefeated season in 1969. In 1974, H.B. took over the Greenwood High School girls basketball program. In nine years at the helm of the girls' program, his teams won 129 games en route to three conference titles. Stewart took over as the head coach of the senior high boys' basketball program in 1980. During the ten years he served in this capacity, the Bulldogs won four conference championships and 144 games. For his efforts, H.B. was honored as the conference coach of the year seven times and twice named the Southwest Times Record Coach of the Year.

In 1985, H.B. was named the athletic director for Greenwood Public Schools, a position he held for 14 years. Under his leadership, a number of athletic facility improvements were made. Such improvements were a remodel of the football field house, a remodel of the football stadium that included a new three-story football press box with concession and restrooms, new field lights, a new scoreboard, increased seating, new gated entrance and ticket booths, as well as baseball and softball stadiums built on campus, six lighted tennis courts built on campus, an all-weather surface on the track, a covered picnic pavilion with grills and tables, and a lighted walking trail on campus with a bridge over a small creek. H.B. also led the efforts to build a state of the art fine arts

auditorium that seats 2100. The improvements to the athletic facilities that he oversaw were 95 percent funded by private donations and community fund raisers. In July 1990, H.B. retired from teaching but continued to serve as an athletic director in a part-time capacity. He considered twelve hour days to be part time.

The Greenwood School Board and community honored H.B. in 1996 by naming the newly constructed showcase arena the "H.B. Stewart Bulldog Arena." The Greenwood community also paid tribute to H.B. by naming its annual basketball classic in his honor. In 1999, he was honored by his athletic administrator peers as the AHSAAA Athletic Director of the Year. That same year Stewart was inducted into the Arkansas Coaches Hall of Fame. Governor Mike Beebe appointed H.B. to serve on the State Board of Electric Examiners in 2007. In 2008, H.B. was inducted into the Greenwood High School Hall of Honor.

H.B.'s presence and commitment to the community he so dearly cherishes can be felt far beyond the athletic fields. In 1972, H.B. assisted in establishing the South Sebastian County Boys' Club and served as its first president. He has been an active member of the Greenwood United Methodist Church, serving on various committees and teaching Sunday school. He is a 32<sup>nd</sup> degree Master Mason and is involved in the Lodge. He is a charter member of the original Greenwood Lion's Club, Mounted Patrol and Jaycees. He served as a merit badge counselor for the Boy Scouts, secretary of the Sebastian County Fair Board, and is a Life member of the Historical Society and Round Up Club, serving as Grand Marshall of the 1995 rodeo. In 1996, the Greenwood Chamber of Commerce honored H.B. and his wife of 54 years, Barbara, as "Citizens of the Year."

H.B. and Barbara reside in Greenwood – the only place they would ever consider living. They have four children: Hal Stewart, Jim Cox, Myra Bridges, and Jan Jamison as well as nine grandchildren and four great grandchildren.