

CLASS OF 2023

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James Blackburn

Contributor

James Blackburn has been a steadfast supporter of athletics at all levels, especially youth athletic programs for decades, He has served as coach, supporter, referee and mentee to numerous young men and women over the years.

Blackburn is well known in the Winston-Salem Youth Athletics Community for the positive impact his counseling, lectures, and one on one conversations had on former youth who are now adults. He has and still is dedicated to making a difference in the lives of others and stays in tune to the current challenges so that he can continue to share his wisdom. He is called upon often to speak on the challenges of growing up in inner city environments and keeping young men emotionally healthy.

Blackburn has been a driving force in many programs that he helped organized that had missions of helping youth through sports and mentorship such as the Incentive Program for Boys, this program involved getting African American youth involved in organized sport programs such as Pop Warner Football, Barnburner Basketball, and AAU Track and Field. This also required providing transportation and counseling these youth as support. Blackburn also was Teen Court Manager and Restitution Community Service Program Director for a program that laid the groundwork to help teen first-time offenders avoid having to them having to go to court.

Blackburn spent over 20 years being a part of the Twin City Little League Baseball Organization serving as a coach, administrator, and official. This organization got youth interested in playing baseball and taught youth sportsmanship, leadership, teamwork, self-confidence, and to pursue higher academics.

Awards received:

7 over 70 Achievement Award given by the Winston-Salem Journal

Ruth Van Hoy Community Service Award

Lifetime Community Service Award given by the Winston=-Salem Chronicle

Leadership Winston-Salem Community Service Award

Southeast Boys and Girls Club of America Employee of the Year

United Negro College Fund Volunteer Fundraising Chair (Golf Tournament Fundraiser for Bennett College)

Lloyd Leslie Booker

Parkland High School

Lettered: Basketball, Football

In 1968 Leslie won the Mr. Mustang Award for Football (award given to the most outstanding player for each game) 7 times out of 10 games. Leslie was the first football player to be chosen the Twin City High School Player of the Week four times. He was voted All-City County, All Central 4A Conference 1st Team as a defensive end. (This team was called the Coaches' Dream Team). Leslie also received the Landreth Trophy for being the most improved player.

Leslie was elected captain of the basketball team for his senior season 1968-69. In a game against East Forsyth in February 1969, Leslie scored 37 points, had 22 rebounds, and blocked 8 shots. The 37 points tied the school record for most points scored in a game. Booker scored 22 points in the first half which matched the total that the entire East Forsyth team scored in the half.

Leslie was voted All-City County in basketball. Booker led Parkland in scoring, rebounding, shooting percentage, and just about everything else according to an article written by Mary Garber in 1969. Booker was the MVP of a Parkland team that included, Mike Bennett, Mike Grace, and Paul Cloud, all of which are already members of the Winston-Salem Forsyth County High School Sports Hall of Fame.

After high school Leslie joined the Army where he retired as a Master Sergeant. Later he attended Livingstone College.

Lee Robert Brush

West Forsyth High School

Lettered: Football, Track and Field

Achievements:

1989 - 1990 Freshman Season

JV Football Team Captain, Team Defensive Player of the Year, Winston -Salem Chronicle All-City County and Central Piedmont All-Conference. Moved up to varsity, Varsity Letterman.

1990 - 1991 Sophomore Season

Varsity Football, Winston-Salem Journal All-City County, Central Piedmont All-Conference, Pepsi-Cola Scholar-Athlete, and Varsity Letterman.

1991 - 1992 Junior Season

Varsity Football, Winston-Salem Journal All-City County, Central Piedmont All-Conference, Pepsi-Cola Scholar-Athlete, Prepscene All-State Strong Safety, and Varsity Letterman.

Varsity Track, Team Captain, Central Piedmont All-Conference, NCHSAA State Finalist in 300 Hurdles, Pepsi-Cola Scholar-Athlete, and Varsity Letterman.

1992 - 1993 Senior Season

Varsity Football, Team Captain, Winston-Salem Journal All-City County, Central Piedmont All-Conference, Pepsi-Cola Scholar-Athlete, McDonalds and the North Carolina Coaches Association All-Star Game, and Varsity Letterman. Lee received football scholarships offers from the Air Force Academy, West Point Military Academy, Purdue, Georgia Tech, East Carolina, Wake Forest, Vanderbilt, Kentucky, South Carolina, Appalachian State, and Western Carolina.

Varsity Track, Team Captain, Central Piedmont All-Conference, NCHSAA State Meet finished 7th place in 300 Hurdles, Pepsi-Cola Scholar-Athlete, and Varsity Letterman.

Accepted Football Scholarship from Purdue University.

Michelle S. Clayton

East Forsyth High School

Lettered: Track & Field

Mike Jones, who was Clayton's coach at East Forsyth stated "Michelle isn't like you might picture her, she's a pretty average-size girl, 5-foot-6 and not much more than 145 pounds. She just happens to be unusually strong and quick-footed in the circle. Her body contains a lot of muscle and very little fat."

Near the end of her senior year at East Forsyth High School, Michelle heaved the 12– pound shot nearly 40 feet to win the event at the NCHSAA 4-A State Track and Field Championships. She also won the discus competition with a throw of 124 feet, 3 1/2 inches.

Achievements:

During Michelle's track and field career while at East Forsyth High School she broke the school records for the shot put and discuss in her 1992 sophomore season, which was her first at East. (She attended Millbrook High School as a freshman). She earned All-City County in the shot put and discuss in 1992, 1993, and 1994. Metro 4A All-Conference in the shot put and discuss in 1992, 1992, and 1994. Earned All-State honors in the shot put as a junior in 1993. In her senior season 1994, she broke the City-County record for the discus throw, she earned All -State honors in the shot put and the discus. As a senior Michelle was also the Outdoor NCHSAA State Track and Field Discus Champion. To top that she was the Indoor and Outdoor NCHSAA State Track and Field Shot Put Champion.

Michelle accepted a track scholarship to East Carolina after turning down offers from Wake Forest, UNC-Chapel Hill, Virginia Tech, Appalachian State, Western Carolina, and UNC-Wilmington.

In 2012 Michelle was inducted into the inaugural class of the East Forsyth High School Hall of Fame.

William “Bill” Hayes

Contributor

Born and raised in Durham, North Carolina, Hayes is a veritable sports legend in North Carolina as an athlete, coach, educator, administrator and champion for young people. Coach Hayes has mentored and served as a father figure to thousands of young athletes. Coach Hayes’ overriding passion is for the betterment of America’s youth and he actively serves the community with various organizations, most notably with the Boy Scouts of America. A member of the Southern Region Boy Scouts Executive Board, Hayes’ exemplary efforts earned him the Boy Scouts’ highest local honor, the Silver Beaver Award. Following his Silver Beaver Award, Hayes earned the Silver Antelope Award in May of 2001, the highest regional award that can be bestowed upon a Boy Scout volunteer.

Hayes, grew up just a few blocks from the campus of North Carolina Central University (NCCU) in Durham, N.C., he was a multi-sport student-athlete at Durham’s Hillside High School. Following a stellar high school career, he enrolled at NCCU and played four seasons of football as a center and linebacker, earning three All-America awards before graduating in 1965 with a degree in physical education.

After graduating from NCCU, Hayes worked the high school football circuit as an assistant coach making stops at Northside High School in Gretha, Virginia (1965), Paisley High School (1966) and North Forsyth High School (1967-71) in Winston-Salem, N.C., where the Vikings won a State Championship, as well as at his alma mater Hillside High School (1972).

He accepted his first college coaching job in 1973 at Wake Forest University, becoming the first African American coach in the Atlantic Coast Conference. Three years later, in 1976, Hayes took over as the head football coach at Winston-Salem State University a position he would hold from 1976-87. During his 12 seasons at WSSU, the Rams, captured three Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) championships (1977, 1978 and 1987) and seven division championships, turned in back-to-back undefeated regular season marks in 1977 and 1978 and posted an overall record of 89-40-2.

In 1988, Hayes was hired as the head football coach at North Carolina A&T State University where he guided the Aggies to an 11-2 record and the 1999 Sheridan Broadcasting Network Black College National Championship as well as leading the Aggies to a total of three MEAC titles, two NCAA Division I-AA playoff appearances and an overall record of 106-64-0 in 15 seasons.

In all, Hayes spent 27 seasons as a collegiate head football coach, compiling a 195-104-2 overall record enroute to establishing himself as the winningest coach at both Winston-Salem State and North Carolina A&T as he finished his career with more victories (195) than any other college football head coach in the history of the State of North Carolina.

In 2003, Hayes moved over into administration at his alma mater, NCCU. During his four-year tenure, he made a significant impact on the program by placing great emphasis on reviving the rich traditions of Eagle Athletics. Hayes went on to become a very successfully administrator at Florida A&M University and Winston-Salem State University. Hayes was a true fundraising visionary at all three universities. While at Winston-Salem State University the football program advanced all the way to the NCAA Division 2 National Championship Game.

Hayes has been inducted into nine halls of fame, including the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame, Black College Sports Hall of Fame, North Carolina Central University Athletic Hall of Fame, Durham Hillside High School Hall of Fame, North Carolina A&T State University Sports Hall of Fame, Winston-Salem State University Clarence E. Gaines Athletic Hall of Fame, Eastern North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame, Guilford County Hall of Fame, and the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association John B. McLendon, Jr. Hall of Fame.

<u>Community Service</u>

- City of Winston-Salem Bond Commission
- President of Men Country Club Annex Community Association
- Boy Scouts of America Chairman – Guilford County
- Forsyth County Inner City Churches (providing scouting opportunities for Inner City Youth)
- Forsyth County Board Commission Member
- Old Hickory Boy Scout Executive Board Member | Co-Chair of the Annual Golf Tournament
- Winston-Salem Sportsmen Club, Inc.

Gregory D. Holt

West Forsyth High School

Lettered: Baseball

Some baseball players are natural hitters, others are better as pitchers, Greg Holt filled both roles while playing at West Forsyth. Greg was quoted as saying he was definitely a pitcher who hits. Greg was also an outstanding 3rd baseman, he became one of the most prolific players in school history. He held a host of school hitting records and was one of the staff pitching aces for all four years of his high school career. As a senior in 2007 Greg pitched his first seven-inning no hitter of his career against East Rowan. He was ranked the No. 8 prospect in the state by Impact Baseball, and No. 216 in the country by Baseball America.

As a junior Holt pitched a perfect game and posted six wins with 79 strikeouts in 57 innings pitched. At the plate, he led the team with 7 home runs, hit .366, drove in 31 runs and had a slugging percentage of .789.

As a sophomore, Holt batted .416, drove in 42 runs and hit 6 home runs with a slugging percentage of .703. Holt was a four-time All-State player (2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007), a four-time Central Piedmont All-Conference player (2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007) and two-time Central Piedmont Conference Player of the Year. (2006 and 2007).

Achievements:

2004-2005 West Forsyth Student of the Year

2005 Gatorade Most Valuable Player Award

2005 High School Baseball Senior East/West Showcase

2006 Holt was one of only 36 high school baseball players selected to play in the Team One 2nd Annual Cape Cod High School Classic which was broadcast on national television.

2006 North Carolina Baseball Coaches All-State

2007 North Carolina Baseball Coaches All-State

2007 All-Forsyth County Baseball Team

2007 Rawlings Pre-Season All-Region Team

2007 Invited to participate in the USA Baseball Tournament of Stars, this invite was a tryout for the USA Baseball Junior National Team

Holt, who was considered a top pro prospect, signed an Athletic Scholarship to attend the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill.

After college Greg was drafted by the Washington Nationals

Allison Lippard Morris

R. J. Reynolds High School

Lettered: Soccer, Basketball, Tennis

Allison Lippard Morris stood out as an all around young athlete even before her high school career. At a young age she won the City Recreation Free Throw Championship 4 consecutive years, was a 3 time MVP of the Polo Park Recreation League. Allison was the first female to play in the all boys Northwest Forsyth Little Baseball Organization. As a 12 year old she led her team in pitching, fielding, and hitting. The late ESPN nationally-known sportscaster Stuart Scott was her catcher. She was even the quarterback and team MVP on the Polo Park Boys Flag Football Team.
While attending Reynolds High School Allison was a star soccer, basketball, and tennis player.

Accomplishments:
Soccer
District 8 All-Conference 1980, 1981, 1982, and 1983
District 8 Conference Player of the Year 1981, 1982, and 1983
NCHSAA All-State 1981, 1982, and 1983
NCHSAA Player of the Year 1981, 1982, and 1983
All-American 1982 and 1983
Set State and National Record for Goals Scored in a Season - 56 in 1981
Set State and National Record for Career Goals Scored - 175 from 1980 - 1983.
She led 1982 team to a 16 - 0 record.

Basketball
District 8 All-Conference 1981-82 and 1982-83
All-Northwest NC 1982-83

Tennis
Doubles Team Reached Quarter Finals of State Playoffs

Allison was voted the Most Outstanding Athlete of her Senior Class, she is one of only three to have jersey retired at Reynolds High School in 2005, she is the only female.

Allison Lippard Morris attended the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill on a Soccer Scholarship.

After college Allison returned to Reynolds High School as a teacher and soccer coach. As the Boys Head Soccer Coach her record was 102-55-9, she coached the team to two State Playoffs. As the Girls Soccer Head Coach her record was 116-35-7, she coached the team to six State Playoffs, she was Conference and Regional Coach of the Year in 1994 and 1995.

In 2009 Allison was inducted into the R.J. Reynolds High School Hall of Fame.

Michael G. Muse

North Forsyth High School, East Forsyth High School
R. J. Reynolds High School, Mt Tabor High School

Category: Coach

Experience: Served as teacher; coached basketball, softball, and football for over 30 years; Talent Evaluator; and Director of Alumni Relations

Accomplishments

Miscellaneous	East-West All-Star Coach – won 119 to 80 – 2019; 1st person to win a Frank Spencer Championship as a Player (1977) and a coach (2001, 2013, 2014, 2018); Also 1st coach to win Mary Garber and Frank Spencer Classics; People to People Ambassador – Coached teams representing the United States in: Italy, the Neverlands, Switzerland, and Australia; North Forsyth Teacher of the Year 2002; WS/FCS Teacher of the Year finalist 2002; McDonald's High School All-American Game Coach; Bob Gibbons All-Star Sports – Head Clinician, National Talent Evaluator 1999 - 2006
High School Football	RJ Reynolds Head Football Coach 1989 - 1990
High School Basketball	East Forsyth Basketball Head Coach – overall record 110 - 75 2012 - 2019, 2 conference championships; 3 – Frank Spencer Basketball Tournament Championships 2013, 2014, 2018; 3-time Coach of the Year
	Mt Tabor High School Basketball Assistant Coach 2010 - 2012
	North Forsyth Basketball overall record 236-116; Men's Head Coach 2000 - 2006; Frank Spencer Basketball Tournament Champions 2001 and Runner up 2002, 2003,
	2004; Women's Head Coach 1991 - 2000 – 4A State Championship Runner-Up 1997 – 1st team in WS/FS to make the finals since the 1950's; Mary Garber Tournament Champion 1993; Assistant Men's Basketball Coach 1990 - 1991
	RJ Reynolds Assistant Basketball Coach 1985 - 1990
High School Softball/Baseball	East Forsyth Softball Head Coach 2012 - 2019 overall record 115-67; 2 Conference Tournament Championships; 3-time Coach of the Year
	North Forsyth Softball Head Coach 1991 - 2006 overall record 288-94; 5 -time Coach of the Year
	RJ Reynolds Assistant Baseball Coach 1985 - 1988
	East Forsyth Assistant Baseball Coach 2010 - 2011
College Basketball	Employed by Wake Forest University 2006 - 2010, 2019 - present
	Appalachian State Assistant Basketball Coach 1983 - 1985

Cecil Thomas Oliver Jr.

Parkland High School

Lettered: Football

Two games into Cecil Oliver's senior football season Assistant Coach Tom Muse and Head Coach Homer Thompson decided that Parkland's backfield needed a change. They switched Oliver from fullback to halfback. Oliver was reluctant about the change because he was admittedly known as a "straight-ahead runner." Oliver had enjoyed a stellar fullback career his freshman and sophomore seasons at Hill Junior High School and his junior year at Parkland High School. (During Oliver 's career the Winston-Salem Forsyth County School System was divided up into a 2 plus 2 plus system, students where assigned to different schools for 9th and 10th grades, and 11th and 12th grades). Oliver didn't agree with the change at first but the results were obvious, he rushed for 135 yards and 2 touchdowns in the game following the position change. Oliver learned that he could find his open holes better from the halfback position. The position change propelled Oliver to an award winning senior season. Oliver was the City's Leading Scorer. Oliver's accomplishments resulted in him being selected for the:

Mr. Mustang Award given to Parkland's Most Outstanding Player

Sportsmen's Club All-City County Football Team

Central 4A District 7 All-Conference Football Team

Selected to play in the Boys Home North vs South Allstar Football Game

Jeffery M. Thompson

West Forsyth High School

Jeff Thompson coached six different sports at West Forsyth High School from 1989 - 2019. Those sports were:

Boys Golf	1990 - 1991
Girls Cross Country	1990 - 1994
Boys Cross Country	1995 - 2018
Boys Swim Team	1990 - 2001
Boys indoor Track and Field	2002 - 2019
Boys Outdoor Track and Field	2002 - 2019

Awards and Team Accomplishments

Girls Cross Country	1992 4th in NCHSAA State Meet
	1993 6th in NCHSAA State Meet
	1994 NCHSAA State Championship
Boys Cross Country	4 Central Piedmont Conference Championships
	4 Time Central Piedmont Conference Coach of the Year
	Team placed in top 10 in NCHSAA State Meet 4 Times
	NCHSAA Midwest Regional Champs Twice
	NCHSAA State Director (2005)
Boys Swim	9 Consecutive WS/FC City County Team Championships
	8 Consecutive Central Piedmont Conference Championships
	8 Consecutive Central Piedmont Conference Coach of the Year
	NCHSAA State Meet 3rd place (1994)
	NCHSAA State Meet Top 8 Finish 2 Times
Boys Indoor Track	NCHSAA 4A Runner-Up (2007)
	3 Other NCHSAA State Meet Top 7 Finishes
	Coached 6 Individual NCHSAA State Champions
Boys Outdoor Track	4 Time Central Piedmont Conference Championships
	4 Time Central Piedmont Conference Coach of the Year
	3 WS/FC City County Championships
	NCHSAA 4A State Championship (First in School History)
	NCHSAA 4A State Runner-Up
	2 NCHSAA 4A State Meet Top 6 Finishes
	Coached 3 Individual NCHSAA State Champions

Sean P. Vestal

North Forsyth High School

Category: Coach

Experience: Served as Athletic Director; Basketball, Volleyball, Softball/Baseball Coach.

Accomplishments

Miscellaneous	North Forsyth High School Athletic Director August 2012 - Present; Assistant Athletic Director 2007 - 2012; selected as Coach of the Year 5 times; made playoffs every year as a Head Coach in Basketball and Volleyball; 20 consecutive years selected as a Head Coach of People to People Basketball Team that traveled to New Zealand, Australia, Italy, Greece, England, and Holland for 3 straight years; all time winningest Volleyball Coach in North Forsyth History; second leading winningest Basketball Coach in North Forsyth history; member of 2013 ½ Century Basketball Team at North Forsyth High School; sent 17 volleyball players to the Play College Volleyball and 32 basketball players; 3 Regional appearances and 1 Regional Championship; 3 Sectional Championships with 5 Sectional appearances; 1 Conference Tournament Championship; 5 Coach of the Year awards; 1 District Coach of the Year award; Head Coach of the East/West All Star Game 2017; NCHSAA Homer Thompson Memorial Eight Who Make a Difference Award Winner for Region 5 in 2018
High School Basketball	North Forsyth Head Men's Basketball Coach 2006 - 2010, 217 wins and 114 losses, 66% winning percentage; Assistant Women's Basketball Coach 1998 - 2000
	Forbush High School Head JV Basketball Coach 1997 - 1998
	Head Basketball Coach of West All Stars in the 2017 NCCA East/ West Annual All-Star Game
High School Baseball	North Forsyth High School Assistant Softball Coach 2001 - 2006; Assistant Baseball Coach 1998 - 2000
High School Volleyball	North Forsyth High School Head Volleyball Coach 1998 - 2007
	Yadkin County Volleyball Club Junior Olympic Volleyball Coach 1997 - 2005
	Forbush High School Assistant Volleyball Coach 1997 - 1998

Timothy White

East Forsyth High School

R.J. Reynolds High School

Category: Athletic Director

Tim White has 30 years coaching experience in the Winston-Salem Forsyth County School System. He has coached both basketball and baseball throughout the Southeast region. After serving as Assistant Athletic Director at R. J. Reynolds High School for over 5 years, Timothy White returned to East Forsyth, his high school alma mater. White, a 1974 graduate of East Forsyth, supervised 32 teams and 13 sports. He spent more time at school than he did at home, from mowing fields, to working on schedules, hiring coaches, and general athletic field maintenance. Tim always gave 100% to East Forsyth and continues to do so as the Chairman of East Forsyth's Hall of Fame Committee.

Under his leadership East Forsyth athletic teams captured 30 Conference Championships. White was Athletic Director for 14 years, from 1999 – 2013.

Finding money to pay for the various teams was always a challenge so White resurrected the annual East Forsyth High School Booster Club Golf Tournament fundraiser during his tenue.

Achievements:

R. J. Reynolds High School: Assistant Athletic Director
Coach of the Year – 1986
2 Central Piedmont Conference Championships – 1984, 1986
Member of North Carolina Coaches Association – 40 Years
Member of North Carolina Athletic Directors Association (NCADA) – 7 years
Metro 4-A Conference Commissioner 2001-2002
Central Piedmont 4-A Conference Secretary 2013- 2017
Central Piedmont 4-A Conference Commissioner 2017-2021