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## Vision Statement

*The St. Francis Community Foundation makes grants to improve the quality of life in St. Francis County and partners with individuals, families and organizations to build our local community through philanthropy. You can be a part of our family of philanthropists working for good, for St. Francis County, for ever.*

# Forrest City Athletic Hall of Fame

September 24, 2021

The 21st Annual Forrest City Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony will honor sixteen new members. The honorees are chosen from three eras: Lincoln High School, Forrest City High School before 1970 and Forrest City High School after 1970.

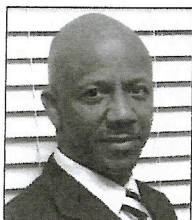
This year's honorees include: Mack Agnew '69, Bobby Bryant '69, Nathaniel "Nate" Saine '67, and Lue Esther Thelmon '64 from

Lincoln; J.P. Chism '48, Bobby Peevey '65, Tommy "Red" Hollowell '53, and Virgil Merrill '47 from Forrest City before 1970; and Barrett Astin 2010, Alex Bohanon '92, Rickey Benson '76, Vernettia "Nita" Lucas '87, Davyon "Sleepy" McKinney 2011, Donna Lockhart '87, Eric Walker 2006 and Fred Conley (Meritorious Service) Forrest City after 1970.

The induction ceremony will be

held September 24, 2021 at the Performing Arts Center at East Arkansas Community College at 4:30 pm. Tickets are \$15 each and can be purchased at Delta OfficeWorks, Forrest City High School or the Forrest City Area Chamber of Commerce.

For more information on the Hall of Fame or to purchase your tickets, please call Dr. Rodney Echols at 870-817-8381.



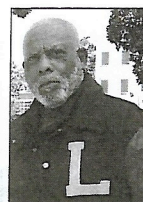
**MACK AGNEW** is a 1969 graduate of Lincoln High School. He lettered in football and track. Mack was a starter at wide receiver position on the Lincoln Tiger football team. He was one of the

most aggressive receivers in the history of Lincoln football and would pluck the ball out of the air. Mack is known for making many long receptions during the 1968 football season. He was a Region 2A All-Conference receiver and played on Coach Eugene Rook's 1968 undefeated Lincoln Tiger football team.



**BOBBY BRYANT** is a 1969 graduate of Lincoln High School. He was a three-year letterman in football and track for the Tigers. Bobby was a two-time 2AA All-Conference defensive end and

played on Coach Rook's 1966 and 1968 undefeated football teams. Bobby had a special ability to track down opponent quarterbacks for yardage loss and on several occasions tackled the opposing quarterback for a safety. He was an outstanding track and field athlete for the Tigers.



**NATHANIEL "NATE" SAINE** is a 1967 graduate of Lincoln High School. He lettered in football, basketball, and track for the Tigers. Nate was a starter on the Lincoln Tiger football team at the halfback and defensive back positions. He

played guard on the Tiger basketball team, ran a leg on the 440 relay team, and ran the 100-yard dash for the Tigers. Nate was a 2AA All-Conference defensive back and played on Coach Eugene Rook's 1966 undefeated Lincoln Tiger football team. Nate accepted a football scholarship from Alabama A & M University in Normal, Alabama.



**LUE ESTHER THELMON** is a 1964 graduate of Lincoln High School. She was a three-year letterman in basketball for the Lady Tigers. Lue Ester played

forward on Hank Dulaney's 1963 championship team. She averaged 10 points per game during the 1963 season. Lue Ester attended Tennessee State University and earned an academic scholarship while playing basketball for TSU.



**BOBBY PEEVEY** is a 1965 graduate of Forrest City High School. He earned 15 letters in the sports of football, basketball, and track. Averaging 40 yards per punt for the Mustangs. He had division one scholarship offers to walk-on from Arkansas Tech, Henderson State, Ouachita Baptist, Southern Baptist,

and John Brown to play football, basketball, or track. He selected AR Tech to play football & run track. During the spring football practice, the head coach said, "That Peevy kid may not be the biggest, fastest, or best football player on this team, but it is quite obvious that he has the high school training and ability to grow to become an outstanding player and punter for Tech". After graduation from Tech, Peevey moved to Washington D.C. and served his country in the Secret Service and later became a US Federal Marshall based in Little Rock, AR. He retired as a Senior Criminal Investigator.



**J.P. CHISM** (deceased) was a 1948 graduate of Forrest City High School. J. P. was a two-year letterman in football for the Mustangs. He was an All-District and All-State offensive and defensive guard. J. P.'s

quickness and aggressiveness made him an incredibly tremendous player on offense and defense.

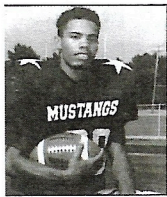


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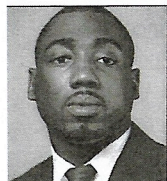
**TOMMY "RED" HOLLOWELL**

(deceased) was a 1953 graduate of Forrest City High School. Tommy was a two-year letterman in basketball for the Mustangs. He was All-Conference and played shooting guard on the 1953 Mustang District Championship team.



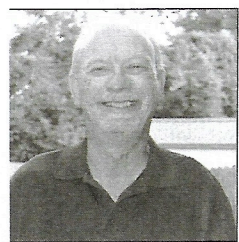
**ALEX BOHANON** is a 1992 graduate of Forrest City High School. He was a football, basketball, track, and baseball letterman for the Mustangs. Alex was a two-time All-Conference and All-

State football player for the Mustangs. He was a four-time All-Conference player in baseball. Alex was a two-time KFC Player of the Week and participated in the 1993 Arkansas Activities Association All-Star football game. He lettered in football for the University of Arkansas Razorbacks in 1993.



**DAVYON "SLEEPY" MCKINNEY** is a 2011 graduate of Forrest City High School and a three-year letterman in football and basketball. While on the football team, he was named to the 5A-East Conf. team as a sophomore, junior, and senior seasons and All-State his senior

year. Sleepy was named as one of the top 10 prospects in AR by Rivals.com, and ranked as the #107 wide receiver recruit in the country by Scouts.com. After receiving interest from Ole Miss & Tulsa, he signed with the Razorbacks. As a Razorback, he was a three-year letterman for the UofA's football team. Sleepy played defensive back and played in 26 games from 2012-14. He was named SEC All-Academic athlete 3 straight years and received a Bachelor's Degree in Business and a Master's Degree in International Business from the UofA. Following graduation, he played professional football in Europe for Dresden Germany before returning to NW AR and establishing his own business.



**FRED CONLEY** is entering the Forrest City Athletic Hall of Fame for Meritorious Service to the Forrest City School District athletic program. He always wanted to write. Fred started his newspaper career in 1984 with the Jacksonville Daily News as a freelance sports writer and photographer. He has served as managing editor (ME) for the weekly Pine Bluff News, ME for Jacksonville Daily, Associate Editor and sports writer for the Pulaski Leader newspaper in Jacksonville, and ME of the Wynne Press. Fred was hired as Forrest City sports editor for the Times-Herald in 1996. This started a 25-year career with the Times Herald Publishing. Fred has written about the Forrest City athletic programs for 25 years. Fred was a part of the initial meeting with the late Bill Baxter and Dwight Lofton to discuss and set the format for the Rumble on the Ridge. He has covered every Rumble tournament. Fred was on the ground floor working with the late Bill Baxter to help form the

Forrest City Athletic Hall of Fame. He worked with Mustang Channel 17 for several years interviewing Forrest City coaches from each sport when the show was aired on the local cable channel. Fred was responsible for interviewing and writing each article for every member of the Forrest City Athletic Hall of Fame. He has been the guest host with Richard Benson on the Morning Show and has worked closely with KBFC/KXJK radio over the years and working with Rob Johnson for several high school state basketball tournaments. He retired from full-time office work at the Times-Herald in 2016 but has continued to follow the Mustangs. Fred has been married 47 years to his wife Dorinda. They have three children: Rebecca Griffin (Colt), Daniel Conley (Kansas City, MO.), and Jennifer Marie Miller (Aiken, SC), and seven grandchildren.

**VIRGIL MERRELL** (deceased)

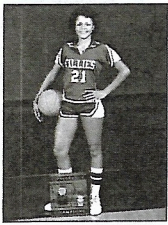
was a 1947 graduate of Forrest City High School. He was a two-year letterman in football for the Mustangs. As a quarterback,

Virgil acted as the "coach on the field" the entire season. He knew every player's assignment and his leadership was an important factor in each victory. Virgil made several gains on his quarterback runs and was a tremendous blocker when the other backs carried the ball.



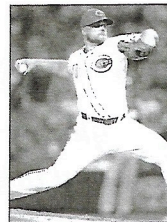
**RICKEY BENSON** was a 1976 graduate of Forrest City High School. He was a two-time letterman in football and track and field. Rickey was an All-Conference and All-State offensive and defensive guard on the

1975 state runner-up team coached by Al Miller. In track and field, he was an All-Conference shot putter and discus thrower. Rickey was a member of the 1975 and 1976 Mustang Conference and State Championship Track and Field teams coached by Eugene Rooks.



**DONNA LOCKHART** is a 1987 graduate of Forrest City High School, and a three-year letterman in basketball for the Fillies (now Lady Mustangs). Donna was a three-time 4A East All-Conference guard and forward, a three-time 4A East All-State selection, and was a member of numerous all-county

and all-tournament teams. During her high school career, she scored 1,346 points. Donna played a tremendous role as a forward for Coach Joe Carden's Fillies' two 4A East Conf. Championships. She ran track for the Fillies and posted a 2.28 in the 880 and a 4.16 in the mile. She earned an Associate of Arts Degree from East Arkansas Community College. Donna is the owner and operator of Glamour and Groom: Men, Women, and Children Hair Salon.



**BARRETT ASTIN** is a 2010 graduate of Forrest City High School. He was a football, baseball, and basketball letterman. In football, he led the Mustangs to the 2009 5A East Conference football championship. During his football career as a Mustang, he passed for 4,286 yards, was a three-time 5A East All-

Conference baseball player and was All-State his senior year. He was selected to the 5A East Academic team, played in the 2011 AR Activities Association All-Star baseball game, was selected for the Brandon Burlsworth Award, and was a State Farm finalist for offensive player of the year. Barrett accepted a baseball scholarship offer from the UofA as a pitcher. During the 2011-2012 Razorback baseball seasons, he made 59 appearances with six starts and had 14 saves. Barrett was drafted in the third round of the 2013 MLB Draft by the Milwaukee Brewers.



**VERNETTA "NITA" LUCAS** is a 1987 graduate of Forrest City High School. She was a three-year letterman in basketball for the Fillies (now Lady Mustangs). Nita was a three-time 4A East All-Conference guard, a two-time 4A East All-State selection, and was a member of numerous all-county and all-tournament teams.

During her high school career, she scored 852 points, pulled down 550 rebounds, and made 330 steals. Nita played a tremendous role as a guard for Coach Joe Carden's Fillies' two 4A East Conf. Championships. She served in the Army Reserves from 1988-90 and was the head girls basketball coach for Esprit de Corps from 2006-12. Nita is the owner and operator of Millbrook Painting and Landscape and Fae's Barbeque.



**ERIC WALKER** is a 2006 graduate of Forrest City high school, and a four-year letterman in track and field for the Mustangs indoor and outdoor teams. Eric was a three-time All-Conference, All-State, and All-American track runner. Eric won the 5A-East triple crown title. This was accomplished by winning the

100m, 200m, and 400m races. He participated in the "Meet of Champions" three years in a row. As a Mustang track runner, he had personal best in the 100m-10.79, 200m- 21.83, 400m-48.63, Long Jump-22ft. 8in., Triple Jump-44ft. 7in., anchored the 4x400 that posted a 41.79, and anchored the 4x1600 that posted a 3:18.03. Eric won the 5A-East Conference High Points Award four consecutive years. He won two state championships.