

# 1995 INDUCTEE



## SAM L. BECK

Category: Player

School(s): Gray High School

Sam L. Beck - was a champion before he played his first game of varsity football at Gray High School. Little "Sammy" was the starting quarterback for two junior high teams that won state championships under the "old school" alignment.

Coach Tom Cash at Gray knew he had a winner when he spotted the veteran 10th grader. It was a given that Sammy could direct the newly installed T-option and hide behind the line at the same time. Beck proved to be the straw that stirred the drink. He guided Gray High to glory for the 3 years he played varsity. Coach Wilburn Clary and the Children's Home seemed to have Gray's number for years, but it is said that Beck hastened Clary's entry into the Sporting Goods Business.

Beck was also known as a scrappy little baseball player and a very valuable, quick-footed basket-ball guard. He played on an undefeated Western District football team (1953) and a Western Conference baseball Championship team.

The "little general" was named All-City, All-Conference (1952); Member, Piedmont Bowl 1953 (starting quarterback and safety); All-State, Honorable Mention. The Brevard Hoover Award, presented as Gray High's MVP, was Beck's proudest moment. The award was presented by the great Charlie "Choo-Choo" Justice.

After graduation, Lees McRae College called for Beck and he gave them two years of razzle-dazzle. It was quite natural that the next stop would be Appalachian State University. After then, a hitch in the Air Force and again playing football all over Europe, Beck was convinced it was time to coach and "pass it on."

Beck pulled up at Mineral Springs Junior High and developed five (5) undefeated football teams. His talents were needed at West Forsyth High and he moved up and assisted Doug Crater. In the meantime, he coached two conference champion baseball teams in two years and seven of his players received scholarships. He was named 4-A Coach of the Year (1970).

Coach Beck has proven to be a coaching evangelist. Along the way, he has established outstanding programs at North Davie High School, Forbush, Hanes (9-10), and Woodland Christian School.

Beck has coached for 30 years and been an Athletic Director for 24 years. About all he can do now is show a kid how to punt. The record shows that he once punted in a game - averaging 38.5.



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## MARK L. CRATER

Category: Player

School(s): Anderson High School/Parkland Senior High School

Mark Lindsey Crater - showed leadership, scholastic astuteness and athletic prowess at an early age. At 9 years old, while attending Konnoak Elementary School he pitched a perfect game in the South Little League, striking out all eighteen batters.

At Philo Junior High, Mark was captain of both football and baseball teams during his 7th and " 8th grade years.

Mark continued to be a two-sport star as he moved on to Anderson High School (9-10). He became an interior lineman and pitched and played first base with ease. The Winston-Salem Journal recog-nized him as the anchor of the Bulldogs while slugging .476 and throwing "Aspirin tablets" on the mound. "

When Mark arrived at Parkland for his Senior High (11-12) career, he was greeted with open -arms and plenty of fanfare! Mark reported to Coach Homer Thompson and the athletic staff standing 6'2" and 260 pounds of granite. Needless to say, Mark was a jewel. He brought fear on the mound and created "truck holes" in the middle of the line. During his brief days at Parkland, Mark achieveed the highest of honors: The National Honor Society; The National Schoiar/ Athlete Award; The Tom Cash Award; Chronicle. All-City Team; All District Central4-A Baseball Team. 1984and 1985; Conference Player of the Year, 1985; All Central 4-A Conference Football Team, 1984and 1985; Member, Winston-Salem/Forsyth County "Super 25" Football Team, 1985; Most Outstanding Football, Scholarship to Elon College.

At Elon, Mark lettered in football, made the National Deans list, Alpha Chi Honor Society and Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society. (OPA 3.77).

After graduation from Elon, Mark volunteered at Parkland for three years as a football coach but recently moved to Lexington, NC to be closer to his work with Berlex Laboratories.

Mark is practically a newlywed but he still enjoys fishing, sports and meeting" people.

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## WAYNE ELLER

Category: Player

School(s): East Forsyth High School

Wayne Eller - decided at Walkertown Junior High that he would rather become a quarterback than the split-end he was getting killed trying to be! With plenty of encouragement, blood, sweat and tears, Eller went to East Forsyth - packing 175 pounds on a 6 foot frame - ready to go to work.

After one year of seasoning at the new-found position - and some tutoring from the great Norm Snead at summer camp - Eller was ready. Local players and coaches were in awe of this undaunted field general and scrambling warrior. Even in victory for the mighty Atkins Camels, Coach David Lash told East's Coach Carl Clarke that: "Eller is something else"!

By his senior year, scouts in the area were proclaiming Wayne as one of the finest. He was recognized by the Greensboro News as a "Century 100" player - The Best in North Carolina.

When Wayne wasn't throwing for record - setting touchdowns and running for sacred yardage, Coach Jack Blaylock had him throwing outlet passes and running the floor for his scrambling basketball team. In addition to starting at guard for the Hoopsters, Wayne kept in shape and lettered in track by running the 440 and taking a leg of the 880 relays.

Wayne's achievements and honors include: All-City/County Football Team 1967 and 1968; All-District Football Team, 1967 and 1968; All-State Football Team 1968; member, North Carolina Shrine Team 1968; MVP Award (Parkland-Football) 1969; Athlete of the Year (Parkland) 1969; Awarded Athletic Scholarship to Elon College, 1969, however he decided to attend Tampa University in Tampa, FA.

Wayne resides in Kernersville, NC and is now a rabid fan of East Forsyth's sports programs.



# 1995 INDUCTEE



## DON "Tobe" JACKSON

Category: Player

School(s): North Forsyth High School

Donald "Tobe" Jackson - was born to play basketball! From the playgrounds of the Kimberly Park Community - to the confines of the Martin Luther King Recreation Center - to the Mount Tabor 9-10 High School "Trojan Wars," "Tobe" was recognized as "The Man!"

At Mount Tabor High School, this 6'4", 190 pound, shy, unselfish forward had opponents dancing to his tune and left them singing, "Oh, What A Night". Coach Olan Shuler at North Forsyth was quoted as saying that when "Tobe" arrived to play for the Vikings, with his 25 points per game average, he (Shuler) was convinced that the "savior" had come to deliver the team from District 8 bondage. Shuler said, "He can do it all. 'Tobe' may be the best shooter I've ever seen." True to the prediction, this silky-smooth eleventh-grader carried the Vikings into the District 8 tournament with 545 point, 58% field goal percentage, 84% free throw percentage, 217 rebounds - (9.1 per game). Indeed, Tobe was "The Man."

"Tobe's" act got even better his senior year, 1977-1978. One night in December, against Parkland, he decided to break his own record of 38 points scored in a game. He was off but dropped in 43. He wound up the year along with the best in the nation, while averaging 27.4 points per game.

Shuler, a Hall of Famer, recently stated that Tobe Jackson may have been, in his opinion, the best player in Winston-Salem Forsyth County within the past 45 years to lace up a pair of sneakers. He did say that along the way he thought that Norton Barnhill and Jerry Gillespie were "sweet."

Comparisons withstanding, Tobe left his own footprints in the sand: Most Valuable Player - Frank Spencer Classic, 1976 and 1977; All-City/County, 1976 and 1977; Leading Scorer, City/County 1976 and 1977; Conference Leading Scorer, 1976 and 1977; North Forsyth, MVP, 1976 and 1977; District 8 Player of the Year, 1976; All-Conference Player, 1976 and 1977; Northwest North Carolina Player of the Year, 1977 (Runner-up, 1978); East-West All-Star Game, 1978; All-State Player, 1978; High School Association All-American, 1977; McDonald's All-American Team, 1978; and Converse All-America, 1978.

"Tobe," "The Man-the savior," was inducted into the North Forsyth High School Sports Hall of Fame on May 20, 1978. Good Game!

"Tobe" accepted a grant-in-aid to college but shifted gears. He led San Jacinto Junior College for two season before coming back east to Furman University. However, Tobe liked to run and shoot the pill. Johnson C. Smith's Golden Bulls offered a match made in heaven. The CIAA powerhouse allowed Mr. Jackson to run, shoot and shoot!

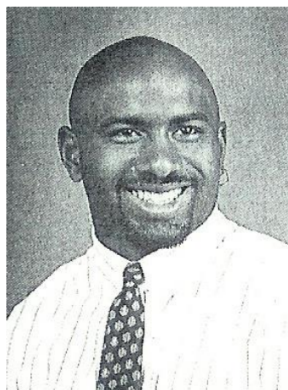
After the games had been played, Jackson came back to the Twin-City to "pass it on." He has been a Stop Child Abuse Now

(SCAN) volunteer, a YMCA Youth Basketball Association (YBA) coach and a worker with the West Forsyth Family YMCA.

When "Tobe" is not busy in his profession as a Rehabilitation Construction Advisor for the City of Winston-Salem and serving St. Stephens Episcopal Church he can be found scoping basketball on TV with his lovely wife, Janet - trying to figure out, who's the "Man."



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## RANDAL C. JONES

Category: Player

School(s): Glenn High School

**Randal C. "Randy" Jones** - has the wind at his back and lift under his wings for as long as anyone can remember. swear that he can fly!

Jones matriculated at Glen High School in 1984 as an ambitious track and football star but had to show patience as his skills developed along with his maturation.

By 1986, Randy Jones' name was a household word in Forsyth County as he blazed new trails in track and football. He was named to the All-City/County Track Team in 1986 and 1987. He was named All-State in 1986 and 1987 - leading Glenn to the State 4-A Championship in 1986. Randy was the 100 meter champion, State 200 meter champion and anchored the champion 400 meter relay during 1986-1987.

Steve Whicker, track coach at Glenn stated "he knew how to focus himself and gain what he wanted. Once he set his goal, he went after it." Randy was named a High School All-America (100 meter dash) in 1986. Randy one of a few gifted athletes who could transfer blazing speed to controlled grace on the gridiron.

As a slashing, cutting, "gone with wind" tailback and punt returner. Randy left a long shadow at Glenn. His records included: Most career running yards (2,197), longest kick return (92) and most kickoff yards (1,890) - with 3 touchdowns.

Steve Spurrier, the newly-appointed head coach at Duke University, was tickled pink when Jones chose to cast his lot with the promising Blue Devils! Randy ran and ran and ran for the Blue Devils! He played football and ran track with eyes on an Olympic spot. He was named captain of the football team (1990). Most Valuable Special Teams Performer (1990) and Career Kick-Off Return Leader. The 1988 and 1992 Track and Field Coaches named this bolt of lightning Most Valuable Performer.

After his graduation (1992), a funny thing happened to this track and football star. His speed was recognized and documented by some bobsled professionals who encouraged Randy to consider the sport - for international and Olympic competition. The rest is history! Randy has become a World Cup member with competition taking him to Monaco, Canada, Germany, France, Norway and Austria.

President Clinton invited the World Cup Team to the White House (1994) for a Presidential Dinner and motivated Randy to pursue the unheard of feat of bobsledding and running track events in the winter and summer Olympics, respectively.

Many thanks to Sean Malloy, a high school competitor who made Randy Jones' run to Glory!



# 1995 INDUCTEE



## HESSIE SMITH

Category: Player

School(s): Atkins High School

Hessie **Smith** - a three-sport athlete who was used for his heft/height combination. found comfortable positions at end (football), center (basketball) and first base (baseball) for the Atkins High Camels during their championship glory-days.

During this Super Star's hey-day, he lettered and started in football 3 years plus four (4) years of basketball and baseball. Along with a who's who of basketball- including the renowned Happy Hairston, Smith supplied the power for the maroon and gold and was named to the All-City Team in 1959 and 1960. The Western District Crown seemed to always belong to "Big Hessie" and the Golden Camels.

Football was football when Hessie played. During his varsity years, he was asked to go both ways (offense and defense) and he played the position as James Mark Webster played it before him. Here again, how could he not be a star? He had Donald Thomas, Robert "Big Daddy" Moorman, J. B. Sharpe, "Happy" Hairston, Carl "Moose" Eller, Robert Evans, James Price, Vernon McHam and a host of other super stars at the positions who were their own judges and jury. It has been documented that Coach Benjamin (Ben) Warren never criticized Hessie or the others - they were their own worse critics!

The 1959 Maroon and Gold produced a powerhouse that was unmatched and unstoppable. They marched through the West-em Negro AAA Conference like Grant through Richmond! The scores were laughable. The Western Conference playoff score was 54-8. Atkins crushed Hillside High, 50-0 to win the State 3-A Championship to remain untied and undefeated. Hessie had a career day in the State Championship game. He provided minus (-) yardage around his end and paved the way for tons of yardage on offense! He was subsequently named All-City. All-State and selected to the West team for the Shrine Bowl. He caught the touchdown pass that sealed a 22-0 victory for the West. Atkins chose Hessie as "Athlete of the Year" during his senior year. (1960).

Hessie has had a storied career since hanging up his varied sports uniforms. He attended Winston-Salem State University (WSSU) concentrating in Physical Education.

After serving in the military - with service in Vietnam, Hessie has earned an associate degree in Business Management from Winsalm Business College" and sold insurance.

Presently, he is an Instructor for Training with Roadway Express. Civically, Hessie is affiliated with the Prince Hall Masons, Ionic Lodge #7.2 and has earned an honorary thirty-third degree. He also has served as High Priest, Eminent Commander, Sentinel and Potentate.

When not serving his church, Diggs Memorial United Holy Church, in many capacities, Hessie enjoys watching games with his lovely wife, Mildred, and the Smith family.



# 1995 INDUCTEE



## DONALD "Horse" THOMAS

**Category: Player**

School(s): Atkins High School

Donald "Horse" Thomas - carries an athletic nickname that is justified in every sense of the word. Horse has been defined as "to move by brute force; large and course of its kind." A derivative, horsepower, states that you get 550 foot-pounds of work per second. Then there are Stallions and Thoroughbreds: First Class, Elegant - one bred from the best of bloodlines.

Thomas went to the Post at Atkins High School and raced superbly to earn letters in football, basketball, baseball and track. His exploits on the football field are legendary. Not only did he lead the Camels as field general, he also played cornerback on defense with the best of them. "Horse" was the quarterback of the mighty '59 team that cake-walked through the strong Negro 3-A Western Conference to become untied and undefeated. The State Champions "took no prisoners" and asked for no slack! "Horse" threw two quick bombs to 6-5 Happy Hairston and J. S. Sharpe crashed a 17 yarder to allow the Camels to grab a 22-0 halftime lead. It was all over but the shouting. Final score: Atkins - 55, Hillside, Durham - 0.

After that historic season, Thomas led nine (9) Camel and four (4) stars from Carver High to form the nucleus of a Western Conference All-Star team that played the East All-Stars in the Annual Negro Shrine Bowl. Due to the versatility of the "Horse," Coaches David Lash and Charles England stationed Thomas at cornerback and started Carver's Ossie Cunningham at quarterback. Smart move. "Horse" helped post a shutout West-22, East-O. Hessie Smith, Sharpe and Evans of Atkins scored the touchdowns. Thomas was named All City, All-Western District and All-State Quarterback, 1959. Along the way, Thomas continued to soar. He was crowned the North Carolina High School Athletic Conference (NCHSAC) -Western Section High Jump Champion, 1959. For fun and to contribute to the track team, Thomas also brought much bacon home in high hurdles competition. The great basketball teams and baseball sluggers of the Maroon and Gold during Thomas' career at Atkins also had a spot for his leadership, skills and enthusiasm.

After high school, the great Herman Riddick of North Carolina College (Durham) sent for "the Horse", and did he gallop into battle. He played quarterback and cornerback, as usual. NCC ate the CIAA alive during Horse's stay. They seemed to own A & T as they won championships repeatedly from their arch-rival. Horse always had career games against A & T both at quarterback and on defense. Coach Riddick said Thomas probably "rose up" because he had to secure bragging rights from his brother who was a star with the enemy.

Uniquely, Thomas had a crew of Winston-Salem Forsyth County players on those killer teams to help him brag- Robert "Cnp" Evans, Charles Nevels, James Price, Wilbert Rice, Milton "Pig Nose" Wright, Bobby Moorman and Roscoe Pouncey. When the smoke cleared at North Carolina College, Thomas had been awarded the J. S. Stewart Captain's Trophy, 1963; The H.M. Michaux Trophy for Best Defensive Back, 1961, 1962 and 1963; and the WSRC Outstanding Football Player Award, 1963.

Thomas earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education and headed for the Warren County School system where he coached a year of basketball. Campell County, VA Schools then hired him to teach Health and Physical Education, Driver Education and to be Head Coach of football, baseball, and J. V. basketball.

Thomas concurrently found the time to earn a masters Degree in Physical Education from Lynchburg College. With a stop over in Baltimore, MD, he returned to North Carolina and is presently employed with the Nash-Rocky Mount School System. Thomas was named the Outstanding Young Educator for the Rocky Mount School System in 1975. He has twenty-one years of experience as a class 4-A basketball official. He has officiated conference playoffs and girls 2-A Championships.

"Horse" is proud to be a Life Member of the North Carolina Central University Alumni Association which he serves as Treasurer of Region IV. The Mount Zion First Baptist Church of Rocky Mt. is the source of Thomas' faith and spiritual awareness. He serves on many boards and committees at the church. He was chosen "Man of Year" in 1981. This true thoroughbred is a 32<sup>nd</sup> Degree Mason and a Shriner PHA. He has served as Worshipful Master and Illustrious Potentate. He has garnered a Past Master's Award from his Lodge, state recognition as Secretary of the Year and 3 Outstanding Awards from the Shrine Temple.

Donald, "The Horse", is married to the former Kay Thompson. The couple has one son, Sean Antoine, who is a senior at North Carolina Central University.

