

Class act

Limestone County Sports Hall of Fame announces names of 10 inductees for 2022



AP PHOTO

Philip Rivers is a 2022 Limestone County Sports Hall of Fame inductee following his successful football career at North Carolina State, the San Diego Chargers, where he spent 16 years, and the Indianapolis Colts, where he played his final season. Rivers is a graduate of Athens High School.

By ADAM DODSON

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The Limestone County Sports Hall of Fame has announced their latest inductees into their ranks – their first class in multiple years as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to Jeff Hodges, chairman of the board for the LCSHOF, they are inducting 10 new members this year, and usually average around 8-10 members per class.

The class is to be inducted during their banquet ceremony, taking place on June 11 from the event center at the Alabama Veterans Museum.

Here are short profiles, provided by the LCSHOF, for each of the 10 new members being inducted into the 2022 class.

Danny Anderson

Anderson, of Elkmont High School, is the current boys basketball coach for Athens High.

For the Red Devils, he was a basketball standout. He was a four-time All-County player, a three-time All-Area player, All-Region and All-State.

At the collegiate level, he played ball for Calhoun Community College, Midland Junior College in Midland, Texas and UNA.

He won a state championship his freshman year with Calhoun.

At UNA for his junior and senior years, he played in 45 games with 39 starts.

Adolph Cosby

Cosby, of Athens High School, was a football standout for the Golden Eagles.

He was All-State in both 1976 and 1977. In 1977, he was named to the Super All-State team by the Birmingham News and also to the All-Southern team by the Orlando Sentinel.

His senior year for Athens, Cosby rushed for 1,700 yards and 17 touchdowns.

He signed a football scholarship with Auburn.

Mike Davis

Davis, of Athens High School, is a legendary figure for Ardmore High School athletics.

As the girls basketball coach for Ardmore, they became the first girls basketball team in Limestone County history to win a Regional championship and advance to the quarterfinals of the state tournament in 1981-1982.

Davis and Katherine Connor receive credit for starting the girls athletic program at Ardmore.

Davis also coached volleyball for two seasons and boys basketball from 1979 to 1981.

Mary Fletcher

Fletcher, a graduate of Athens High School in 1978, was a multi-sport athlete in basketball, volleyball and track & field.

In basketball and volleyball, she was All-Area and All-Region.

As a senior for Athens, Fletcher was a state champion in shotput, discus, 440 and mile relays as Athens would win the state track meet. At the time, the team set state records for both relays.

At the collegiate level, Fletcher wanted to play both basketball and volleyball. Despite being heavily recruited by legendary women's basketball coach Pat Summitt of Tennessee, she would end up going to West Georgia College, where they allowed her to play both sports.

Fletcher was a two-sport star for four years at the college. She was a three-time team MVP in volleyball and two-time team MVP in basketball.

Rashad Harris

Harris, a 1997 graduate of Athens High School, is also a graduate of the University of Louisville and has a Master's degree in Sports Administration from Michigan State.

A standout on the football field, Harris spent a couple seasons as a member of the Barcelona Dragons, an American football team in Europe.

Harris also spent time on the rosters for both the Cincinnati Bengals and Jacksonville Jaguars.

Venard Hendrix

Hendrix, of Gadsden High School, was a basketball star for Athens College and a legendary coach in multiple sports for Athens High School.

During his time playing for Athens College, Hendrix had a season where he led the NAIA in blocked shots, with 210. He also led the team in rebounds in 1974 and 1975. He was first team All-Southern States Conference in 1974-1975. He also spent time in the coaching ranks at UNA.

During his time coaching basketball at Athens High as an assistant Varsity coach and head Junior Varsity coach from 1976 to 2002, Hendrix was a part of two Final Four runs, four Elite Eight appearances and numerous Area championships.

Hendrix took over as head basketball coach for the boys team from 2002 to 2009. Hendrix set a record for wins over a seven-year period at the school, winning 134 games. They were state runners-up in 2004, had two Final Four appearances, two regional championships and four Sweet 16 appearances during his tenure.

Coaching tennis at Athens High from 1985 to 2013, Hendrix won three 5A state titles and had 18 state tournament appearances.

Walter Hill

Hill, of East Limestone, is known as one of the best football players in school history for both ELHS and also Tennessee Tech.

During his football career at East Limestone, Hill was an All-County, All-Area and All-State wide receiver. His senior year, he had 50 receptions for 1,172 yards and 17 touchdowns.

Hill was also a three-year letterman in basketball for East Limestone as well. His senior year, he was All-Area and All-County and was also on the All-Tournament team for the county tournament.

At Tennessee Tech for football, Hill set the school record for receptions in a career with 148.

After torching UT-Martin with seven receptions for 141 yards and two touchdowns, Hill was named OVC Conference Player of the Week.

He started 36 consecutive games over four years.

His head coach at Tennessee Tech, Mike Hennigan, said "Walter has had a good career and has rewritten some of the record books at Tech. He will go down in Tech history as one of the best to ever play the game."

John Johnson

Johnson, of Clements High School, was a football standout in Limestone County.

He was good enough to play for Ole Miss and UNA over his collegiate career. At both schools, he was a starter on the defensive line.

In 1981, for UNA, Johnson had 64 tackles, five tackles for loss and two fumble recoveries.

John Wayne King

King, of Clements High School, was a four-sport athlete at the school.

In basketball, King averaged over 15 points per game and 17 points per game in the state tournament. In 1967, he was All-Area and All-County. The same year, they were county, area and state champions.

At Calhoun Community College, King was a standout in both basketball and baseball. As a shortstop, he tied the single-game record for hits in a game with five.

At Athens College for baseball, he started every game for two years and was awarded the "Senior Award" in 1971.

He coached the 1972 Clements basketball team that won both the county and the area and appeared in the Class 1A state basketball tournament.

In 1976, King led the track team to the 1A-2A state title and received the state championship coaches' award.

During his tenure with Clements, he also served as an assistant coach with the football team.

Philip Rivers

Rivers, of Athens High School, is a Limestone legend on the football field.

Rivers attended North Carolina State for football, where he was at the helm from 2000 to 2003.

In 2000, the Wolfpack went 8-4 and defeated Minnesota in the MICRON PC Bowl. On the season he passed for 3,054 yards and 25 touchdowns.

He was Freshman of the Week eight times and was the ACC Freshman of the Year.

In 2001, the Wolfpack had a 7-5 record and Rivers led the ACC with a completion percentage of 65.2.

In 2002, Rivers captained the team to an 11-3 record, including nine wins in a row.

He was named MVP of the Gator Bowl after his performance against Notre Dame, where they won 28-6 thanks to him completing 23 of 37 passes for 228 yards and two touchdowns.

In 2003, Rivers was named MVP of his bowl game again, after defeating Kansas in the Tangerine Bowl in a game where he threw for 475 yards and five touchdowns.

Over the course of his college career, Rivers was named to first team All-ACC, second team All-ACC, ACC Player of the Year, ACC Athlete of the Year and ACC Freshman of the Year.

Rivers started all 51 games during his career at N.C. State had his No. 17 jersey retired by the school.

Rivers was drafted fourth overall by the New York Giants, before being traded to the San Diego Chargers for Eli Manning. Both would go on to have Hall of Fame careers in the NFL.

Rivers played 17 seasons in the NFL, 16 for the Chargers and one season for the Indianapolis Colts.

He is the current coach of St. Michael Catholic High School in Fairhope, Ala.



COURTESY PHOTO

LCSHOF 2022 inductee Danny Anderson.