



NEWS RELEASE

Irving Independent School District
Office of Communications
972-600-5200



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Irving ISD Athletic Hall of Fame Names Inductees

The Irving ISD Athletic Hall of Fame Committee is pleased to announce the Class of 2019, which includes a former Major League Baseball player, beloved coach, popular stadium announcer and triple-threat athlete. The inductees are (in alphabetical order):

- Tony Arnold,
- Joe Barnett,
- Stan Cason and
- Glenn Sullivan.

The 2019 Hall of Fame inductees will be honored at a banquet on Saturday, June 8, at the Sheraton DFW Airport Hotel at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$25. For sponsorship and/or ticket information, please contact the Irving ISD Athletic Department at 972-600-5215.

Now in its eighth year, the Irving ISD Hall of Fame is designed to honor those who have contributed to athletic excellence throughout the history of Irving ISD. Read more about this year's honorees below.

Tony Arnold

Before making it to the Major Leagues, Tony Arnold shined under the lights of fame as a pitcher for Irving High School. In March of 1977, Arnold matched up with Duncanville all-state pitcher Keith Creel for a 15-inning game that has been noted as one of the all-time best pitcher's duels in Texas high school baseball history. In that game, Arnold struck out 31 - five more than Creel's 26 - and that combined 57 strikeouts tied second in the National Federation of State High School Associations record books. Arnold attended Irving High

from 1975 to 1977, lettering each of those years and being named All-District, All-Conference and All-State in 1977.

After his storied high-school career, Arnold took his talents to the University of Texas at Austin, where he was a three-year letterman in 1978, 1979 and 1981, and named All-American and co-MVP in 1981. That same year, he was drafted by the Baltimore Orioles, making his Major-League debut on August 8, 1981. Arnold signed with the Los Angeles Dodgers in 1987, where he played until 1990 then coached until 1992.

Later that year, he signed with the Cleveland Indians, and he currently coaches for the team's minor league system.

Throughout his career as a player and coach, Arnold has amassed numerous superlative recognitions including Carolina League All-Star in 1982 and International League All-Star in 1986 as a player, and South Atlantic Coach of the Year in 2003. His league championships include Southwest Conference from 1978 to 1981 and South League in 1984, all as a player. As a coach, he led his teams to the Carolina League Championship in 1995, the Eastern League title in 2012 and 2016, and the International League in 2015. Tony and his wife, Sara, have three children: Devin, 27; Caroline, 26; and Avery, 22.

Coach Joe Barnett

A professional educator of 41 years, Coach Joe Barnett served the athletes and coaches of Irving ISD and the community for a decade. Barnett, a certified athletic administrator by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association, joined Irving ISD in 2003 as athletic director. In that role, he opened one middle school and supervised 180 coaches on eleven campuses - having an impact on each one. During his tenure at Irving, he was selected to the Texas High School Athletic Director's Hall of Honor in 2007 and served on the board of directors of the Texas High School Athletic Directors Association for eight years - as president in 2010-2011. He was selected Texas Athletic Director of the Year in 2011 and Dallas Gridiron Club Athletic Director of the Year in 2010.

Coach Barnett has 22 years of experience as an athletic director, eight years as an assistant athletic director, 25 years coaching a variety of boys' and girls' sports and 20 years as a math teacher. Before joining Irving ISD, Coach Barnett served Coppell ISD from 1990 to 2003 in various roles including athletic director, head football coach and math teacher. He also coached at Allen ISD as assistant athletic director, offensive coordinator and math teacher from 1982 to 1990.

Barnett attended the University of North Texas, earning a Master of Education in 1977 and a Bachelor of Science in 1972. He earned an Associate of Arts from McLennan Community College in 1970 and graduated from Valley Mills High School in 1968. He held teaching certifications in math, physical education, health and driver's education.

In addition to touching the lives of numerous student-athletes and coaches, Coach Barnett also serves his community as a member of the Carter Blood Care "Eight Gallon Club," and as a volunteer for the Leukemia Society, Austin Street Shelter, Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, Salvation Army and his church, First United Methodist Church Denton.

Stan Cason

For more than 45 years, the voice of Stan Cason reverberated across Irving Schools Stadium, later renamed Joy & Ralph Ellis Stadium, as he served as the voice of Irving ISD athletics. Cason was hired as the stadium's public address announcer in 1966, and throughout his career, he announced hundreds of varsity football games, varsity baseball games and Airline Relays varsity track meets. His last announcing event was the Airline Relays in 2015.

"I have been an admirer as a listener of Stan's work as an announcer since 1972 and as a co-worker since 1992, and he is the consummate professional announcer," says Wallace Banks. "His professionalism and attention to detail is without peer. He has, over a period of 45 years, presented a favorable impression of the Irving Independent School

District for those who attended athletic events at which he was the announcer. Stan is beloved by his fans, co-workers, coaches, athletes and students.”

Cason graduated from Southeastern State College in 1964 with a bachelor’s degree in physical education. He then worked at radio station KBEL in Idabel, Okla., as a popular music disc jockey.

He moved to Irving in 1965 and coached PE at Irving High School, before transferring to Crockett Middle School as a football coach and PE teacher in 1969.

In 1972, he moved to Lamar Middle School to coach PE before switching to Good Elementary School in 1976, where he retired as a PE teacher 20 years later in 1996.

Stan and his wife, Susan, reside in Irving.

Glenn Sullivan

Before achieving excellence as a two-sport athlete at the University of Oklahoma, triple-threat athlete Glenn Sullivan left his mark on Irving High school as a football, basketball and baseball standout from 1979 to 1983, serving as a captain in all three sports.

A three-year starter and letterman in basketball, Sullivan was named the *Dallas Morning News* All-Greater Dallas Sophomore of the Year. He led his 1982-1983 team to the state playoffs and was named to the first team All-District two of those three years.

A four-year starter and letterman in baseball, Sullivan was named to first team All-District three of those years. In football, he was a three-year starter and letterman from 1980 to 1983 and was named to the first team All-District two years.

“Glenn was the best three-sport high school athlete that I saw or coached in the 1980s,” says former Irving High School Coach Mike Kunstadt. “He was of the highest character to go along with his athletic ability.”

After high school, Sullivan took his talents to the University of Oklahoma, where he was a four-year letterman in football and three-year starter and letterman in baseball (1985-1987). In football, he was backup quarterback on the National Championship team

in 1985 and on three Big 8 championship teams. On the diamond, he was named All Big 8 first baseman and was a starter on the Big 8 Champion team in 1986 and Big 8 runner-up in 1985 and 1987.

In 1987, Sullivan was drafted by the Chicago Cubs and played for the organization for six years, advancing as high as Triple A baseball in 1991-1992. He was manager/hitting coach of minor-league team the Lubbock Crickets from 1995 to 1997, winning the Texas/Louisiana League Championship in 1995.

Sullivan retired from professional baseball and is now the head baseball coach in Bixby, Okla. In his 17 years as a head baseball coach, he has won two state championships at Jenks, Okla.

The Irving ISD Athletic Hall of Fame also includes:

The 2018 Class:

- Ken Dabbs, coach
- Barry Knott, Nimitz athlete & Irving coach
- Don Poe, coach
- Mike Sartor, coach

The 2017 Class:

- Brad Knouse, MacArthur athlete
- Hobart Lytal, coach
- Duane Miller, Irving athlete
- Thomas Uhr, coach

The 2016 Class:

- DeMarcus Faggins, Irving athlete
- Kelvin Korver, Irving athlete
- Ray Overton, coach
- Morris Sloan, coach and Irving athlete

The 2015 Class:

- Jim Bennett, coach
- Mike Phillips, MacArthur athlete
- Bill Rutherford, Irving athlete
- Kenny Walters, Irving athlete

The 2014 Class:

- Brandel Chamblee, MacArthur athlete
- Ruthie Lobb Davis, Irving athlete
- Aaron De La Torre, Irving athlete
- Margie Stipes, community contributor
- Randy Waldrum, MacArthur athlete
- Murphy Webster, coach

The 2013 Class:

- Michael Huff, Nimitz athlete
- Kerry Cooks, Nimitz athlete
- Joe Perryman, coach
- Anne Uhr, coach
- Joy and Ralph Ellis, community contributors

The 2012 Class:

- Akin Ayodele, MacArthur athlete
- Cedric Colby, MacArthur athlete
- Alan Lowry, Irving athlete
- David Rose, Irving athlete
- Deeanna Williams, Nimitz athlete
- Mike Farda, coach
- Bob Harrell, coach and athletic director
- Dick Lear, community contributor

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