



## **Roff Athletic Hall of Fame Sponsored by: The Roff Masonic Lodge**

The fifth class of the Roff Athletic Hall of Fame will be inducted Saturday, November 11, 2017 at 5:00 pm in the Roff Student Activities Center. The Roff Masonic Lodge will sponsor the event with all proceeds going to the Roff Educational Enrichment Foundation (REEF) for student scholarships.

The following are the inductees for 2017:

**1968 Boys Basketball and Baseball Double State Champions** – In late winter and early March of 1968 Roff boys basketball and baseball accomplished something no other team in Oklahoma had done and that was win a basketball and baseball State Championship coached by the same coach. That Coach was Don Hoover. Hoover was in his second year at Roff and turned the Roff Tigers into a powerhouse.

The Tigers in the Fall of 1967 barely missed out on a State Champion tri-fecta. The Asher Indians outlasted Roff in an 11 inning extra inning game at Asher in the Regional finals. Asher, the following week walked through the State Tournament.

Basketball rolled around and the Tigers were pre-season ranked 13<sup>th</sup>. As the season unfolded, the Tigers only lost two games. One loss was to the Byng Pirates at Byng. Byng finished the season as Class A State Champions. The Tigers had a win over Byng in the Pontotoc Conference Tournament at Vanoss. The Tigers won the Conference Tournament. The Tigers only other loss was to the Latta Panthers at Latta. Tigers won 2 out of 3 against the Panthers.

In mid-February come playoff time, the Tigers found themselves ranked 13<sup>th</sup> again in the final rankings. The Tigers walked through the district and met a very good Mead team in the finals of the Regional at Murray State College. It took a near perfect, one turnover game to defeat Mead and advanced to the State Tournament, the first such appearance for a Roff boys team since 1953, the only other boys appearance at that time.

The going was tough as we won against Carney in the quarter-finals and Deer Creek in the semi-finals moving to the finals vs undefeated Cheyenne Bears at 30-0. Cheyenne was ranked number one. The Tigers beat Cheyenne in the finals finishing with a 30 win and 2 loss record.

Spring baseball rolled around fast. Dirt work on our field began soon after Fall, and it was a wet winter. The field could not be made playable. The Tigers became road warriors and played the entire season on the road. The only loss of the year was against the Jackie Stripling led Holdenville Wolverines in the finals of the Moss Tournament. Stripling later was named Oklahoma High School "Player of the Year". The Tigers actually had a lead on him late in the game but couldn't hold on.

We marched through Districts, Bi-Districts and Regionals and played the four team State Tournament at Ft. Cobb. We prevailed over Oney in the first round and played Balko in the finals. Balko earlier in the fall of 1967 was 8-man State Football Champions. The Tigers again held on and finished the year with 22 wins and 1 loss.

The Tigers lost 4 games all year and three were against other State Champions. (Asher-Fall Baseball Class C in 1967, Byng-Basketball Class A in 1968 and Holdenville-Spring Baseball in Class A 1968).

Teammates were: John Bradford, Mel Bradford, Ed Britt, Dan Childs, Mike Fairchild, Darrell Hayes, Tim Hobbs, Buzzy Ivey, Fred Lamb, Danny Moore, Paul Quinton, Ron Scott, George Scroggins, Charles Sheppard, Harold Sheppard, Willie Souttee, Bubba Tidwell and Travis Wingard.

The Tigers gave credit to the Roff Community, their parents, families and Coach Don Hoover for their successes.

**MARVIN LEE BARBEE, JR** - Marvin graduated from Chandler High School, Eastern State College and East Central University, Marvin began his teaching/coaching career at Roff in 1973. He taught 8<sup>th</sup> grade physical education and coached boys' and girls' basketball. Upon becoming the elementary principal in 1975, he continued to coach basketball for seven years through 1980. After coaching, he became a sport/game official and rules interpreter; worked in ASA Softball, high school baseball, basketball and football; in 1988 he was selected to the ASA Softball Hall of Fame. He received a 20 years' service award in 1996 for officiating football and basketball in the Oklahoma Intercollegiate Conference. Marvin served as an OSSAA Director of Sports and in 2015 he was inducted to the Oklahoma Officials Hall of Fame.

Leaving education in 1980, Marvin served the Oklahoma Army National Guard as a training non-commissioned officer with the 120<sup>th</sup> Supply and Service Company. He strongly feels by receiving a "good education (college and military)" and "being in the right place at the right time" he was fortunate to be selected as the Fifth State Command Sergeants Major for the Oklahoma Army National Guard and served honorably in that position from 1995-2002. After retiring from the military, Marvin returned to education at Roff School for one year before going to Sulphur as Director of Alternative Education. Though retiring in the spring of 2017, he continues this passion on part-time basis.

Marvin credits his wife Lucretia's love and support, without which none of these accomplishments would have been possible.

**RHONDA STEPHENS**-Upon graduating in 1981, Rhonda Stephens completed her entire school career at Roff School. She was a 4-year starter on the forward end and was named Pontotoc All-Conference all four years; Ada Evening News All-Area first team as a junior and senior; 1981 Ada Evening News All-Area forward of the year and was an Oklahoma Girls' Basketball Coaches Association All-State alternate. Rhonda averaged 15 points as a freshman; 23 points as a sophomore and 28 points both her junior and seniors years. Her senior year the team qualified for the state tournament.

Rhonda is the daughter of Roy and Florence Stephens; mother of Dearth and Dayne Parker and MawMaw to Ryn and Jude Parker.

**M. W. POTTS**-After graduating high school, M. W. Potts attended the University of Oklahoma where he lettered in basketball two years in the mid to late 1940's. His coaching career began after college and he had coaching stops in eight school systems: Dibble, Wayne, Roff, Marlow, Friendship, Chattanooga, Sterling and Ninnekah. He coached the first three basketball teams in the history of Roff to reach the State Tournament. Coach was elected to the Oklahoma Coaches Hall of Fame in 1976. His teams made 11 state tournament appearances; won numerous county tournament championships, including eight straight Comanche County championships with his girls' team while at Sterling. He coached six players who received Division I scholarships. Additionally, Coach Potts was also a Baseball Man who was credited with knowing the game before his time. He served as a field scout for the Cleveland Indians for several years.

Undoubtedly his major accomplishment was the mentoring aspect of his coaching; always emphasizing hard work, positive attitudes, especially the never say "quit" attitude. He can be summed up in one word "Coach". Coach won 800 plus games of basketball in his illustrious career.

**COLLEENE AND ALVIN TIDWELL**-After twelve years of living close to his oil field work at various places in Oklahoma, Colleene and Alvin moved back to Roff to stay in 1960. They worked and raised their five children all of whom graduated from Roff in 1967, 1968, 1973 and 1984. Colleene was the Roff School secretary from 1960 until her retirement in 1991.

Alvin's brother Louis was in high school when they returned and began following Roff sports; together they were among the faithful in the stands at basketball and baseball games for 38 years until Colleene's passing in 1998. Alvin still attended regularly and watched three grandchildren play their Roff games; he now has two great-grandchildren in Roff School and has been able to watch some elementary games. With a recent decline in his health, he still attends when he is able.

For many years Alvin was a fixture at the hamburger grill during baseball and softball tournaments; coaches called on him many times to repair and keep their field equipment going. In 1997, Colleene was named Roff Citizen of the Year, an honor she truly cherished. That same year Alvin was named the Oklahoma Basketball Coaches Association "Friend of Basketball" award for the southeast quadrant of the state. Additionally, he was named the 2005 Roff Athletic Department Volunteer of the Year.

Colleene and Alvin Tidwell have always been proud to call Roff home. They stressed the importance of education to their children; all of them are strong education supporters as are their grandchildren.

**JENNY WILLIS**-Jenny graduated with honors from Roff in 1998. Coached by her father Richard Willis, she helped earn the District Championship in 1997; a Regional Championship in 1998. Additionally in 1998, she played two games in the Area Tournament for a trip to the State Tournament, but fell just short of that goal.

As a freshman, Jenny was named to the Ada Evening News Super Freshman Team; as a sophomore to the Ada Evening News All-Area third team and as a junior and senior to the Ada Evening News All-Area first team. Additionally, she was named All-Pontotoc Conference as a junior and senior. She led her team in scoring her last three seasons and in rebounding her last two seasons. As a junior and senior, the Daily Oklahoman named her All-State honorable mention. The Oklahoma Girls' Basketball Coaches Association honored Jenny as a 1998 All-State and she competed in the All-State game.

Jenny attended East Central University and received a Bachelor's Degree and was active in Alpha Chi Honor Society. After graduation, she taught at Roff and Sulphur and is currently in her seventh year at Latta Schools. She and her husband Kris Salter have two children, Abby and Mason.