



Irving ISD Athletic Hall of Fame Names Inductees

The Irving ISD Athletic Hall of Fame Committee is pleased to announce the Class of 2016, which includes two former NFL players and two beloved coaches, one of whom was also an athlete at Irving High. The inductees are (in alphabetical order):

- **DeMarcus Faggins** – a standout cornerback for the Irving Tigers who went on to play for Kansas State University, the Houston Texans, Tennessee Titans and Detroit Lions;
- **Kelvin Korver** – a record-breaking track star at Irving High School as well as a Super Bowl-winning defensive tackle for the Oakland Raiders;
- **Ray Overton** – a storied football coach of 47 years, including 11 years at MacArthur; and
- **Morris Sloan** – a devoted high school and college football coach as well as top athlete at Irving High School.

The 2016 Hall of Fame Inductees were honored at a banquet on Saturday, June 18th at the Sheraton DFW Airport Hotel. Now in its fifth year, the Irving ISD Athletic 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.



DEMARCUS FAGGINS

DeMarcus Faggins, also known by his closest family and friends as Petey, moved to Irving at the age of 12 in 1992. He didn't begin his football career until he was a sophomore at Irving High School on the junior varsity squad. When he joined the team, he was the only one out of his friends who had never played football. He quickly became a standout cornerback, and head coach Jim Bennett asked him to play on the varsity team the following year. He was selected Irving High School Athlete of the Year and earned First Team All-District and Second Team All-State honors.

Upon graduating, Petey was heavily recruited by many colleges and universities. He eventually decided to develop his talents at Navarro Junior College under the direction of Coach Swift Fletcher. He was a two-year starter and earned First Team All-Conference and Honorable Mention All-American Honors.

Petey was heavily recruited again upon completion of his success at Navarro. He ultimately decided to continue on to Kansas State University under the direction of Phil Bennett, brother of his high school coach Jim Bennett. He helped lead the Wildcats to the 2001 Cotton Bowl Championship and the 2002 Insight.com Bowl. All of his dedication paid off as he was selected in the 6th round of the 2002 NFL draft to be part of the inaugural Houston Texans team. After hard work on the practice squad, he received playing time at the end of the year, which resulted in a seven-year career with the Houston Texans. As a free agent, he signed a contract with the Tennessee Titans then was released and finished the year with the Detroit Lions, where he retired from the NFL. After playing for eight years in the NFL, he decided to become a player/coach for the Omaha Nighthawks United Football League (UFL) team for the next three years. Now, Petey enjoys coaching his eight-year-old son DeMari and other aspiring athletes.





KELVIN KORVER

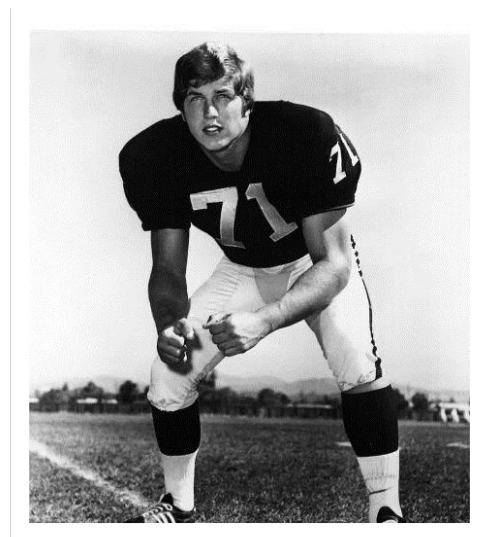
In addition to having a successful football career as a defensive tackle for the Oakland Raiders, Kelvin Korver broke state and national records as a track and field athlete at Irving High School in the 1960s. With a discus throw of 197 feet 3 ½ inches in 1967, Korver became the Class 4A UIL State Champion and set the state and national record, which stood for 13 years.

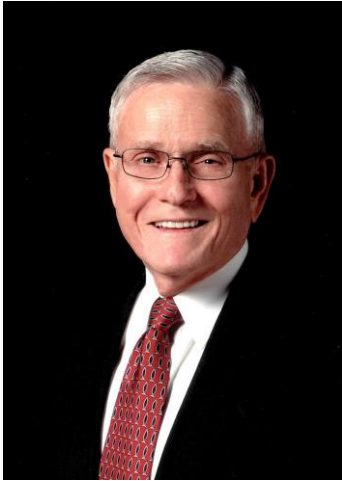
Korver attended Texas A&M University for two years on a track scholarship. He then transferred to Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa (his father's hometown), competing in track and playing football for the first time as a junior, earning All-American honors both years that he played. In 1972, he was honored to play in the Coaches' All American Game in Lubbock and the North/South Shrine Game in Miami and was inducted into the Northwestern Athletic Hall of Fame.

Drafted by the Oakland Raiders in the second round of the 1972 NFL draft, Korver played six seasons there as defensive tackle and was a member of the Super Bowl XI Championship Team.

Korver graduated from Northwestern College with a teaching degree in math and physics, but was driven by his entrepreneurial spirit to embark on several careers during and after retiring from football. Korver owned and operated an agricultural spray operation for 30 years near Adams, NE, serving as chief spray pilot. He now has spray operations in Paraguay, South America. Korver has patents for inertial over GPS guidance systems for autonomous steering devices and owns Zermatt Tool, a tool and dye machine shop with certifications in aerospace, ISO 9000, FDA and ATF. Kelvin Korver currently is a land developer for shopping centers in Lincoln, NE.

He and his wife Ardi have raised four children who are engineers, architects, and property managers, (and also stay-at-home moms) with 10 grandchildren located in Ashburn, VA, Chandler, AZ, Omaha, and Lincoln, NE. Although Kelvin and Ardi have lived near Lincoln, NE for the past 45 years, Kelvin still refers to his home as Irving, Texas.





RAY OVERTON

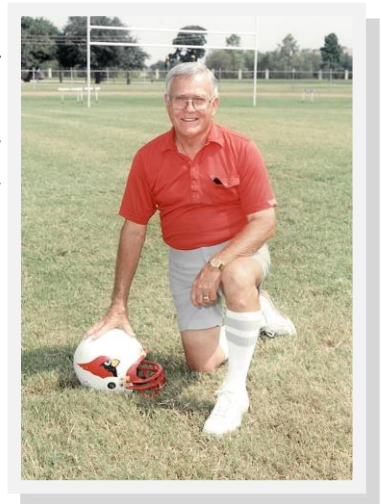
Ray Overton's plans did not always include coaching. After graduating from Paint Creek High School in 1941, Ray Overton attended Texas A&M for a year before joining the Air Force, where he was a pilot during World War II. He finished his bachelor's degree at Texas A&M and returned to the family farm in Paint Creek in 1948 to work with his dad. The Paint Creek superintendent talked him into becoming the school's head football coach when the previous coach quit two days before the start of the season and that was the beginning of Overton's 47-year coaching career.

Overton is one of the most well-known and well-respected Texas coaches of all time. With 30 years as a UIL head coach and 169 wins, Overton made history in high school sports. He led MacArthur to the playoffs seven years. His teams played in 13 playoff games, and won the district championship in 1985, advancing to the state quarter finals before losing to Odessa Permian. His coaching career included one year at Paint Creek High School, 15 years at Haskell High School, 19 years at Abilene Cooper High School, and 12 years at MacArthur High School beginning in 1983. He coached into his early 70s and continued influencing young people by teaching part-time at MacArthur into his early 80s.

Ray was very active in his community as well. He was a Sunday school teacher at the Methodist Church in Haskell and Abilene, a Scoutmaster, sponsor of the Student Union Council and member of the Haskell Volunteer Fire Department.

Recognitions earned by Coach Ray Overton during his storied career include becoming a member of the Texas High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame, the North Texas High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame, the Abilene Cooper High School Hall of Fame, the Big Country Hall of Fame, and now the Irving ISD Athletic Hall of Fame. In addition, he served as president of the Texas High School Coaches Association, was head coach of the North Team in the Texas High School Coaches Association All-Star game in 1976, and head coach of the Texas vs. California All-Star team. His most prized award is his Tom Landry Award of Excellence from the Texas High School Coaches Association in 1994. According to the Texas High School Coaches Association, the Landry Award is presented "for outstanding contributions to the game of football by a Texas high school coach whose life and actions have provided a positive role model for athletes and a credit to the coaching profession."

Many players still keep in touch with Coach Overton, decades after their high school years. Coach said, "I realized early in my career that I could do nothing more important than to work with young people. It was a thrill to watch them play football on Friday nights, but that's nothing compared to watching them live their lives today."



MORRIS SLOAN



Morris Sloan grew up in Irving, and attended John Haley Elementary, Bowie Junior High and graduated from Irving High School in 1969. Morris' biggest fans were his parents Faye and Gene Sloan.

Before Morris Sloan became a devoted high school and college football coach of more than 30 years, he was a top athlete at Irving High School. As a varsity starter on both offense and defense in 1967 and 1968, Sloan earned All-District, All-Greater Dallas Second Team and All-Metro Honorable Mention honors his senior year. Sloan lettered in both baseball and football.

Morris then went on to start all four years at Southeastern Oklahoma State University (SOSU). During his playing career at Southeastern, Sloan was named Honorable Mention All-Conference Linebacker in 1970, All-Conference Offensive Guard and Team MVP in 1972.

Having a love for the game and a heart for students and athletes, Sloan returned to Irving to coach football at Lamar Junior High from 1975 to 1977, Nimitz High School from 1977 to 1980 and Irving High School from 1980 to 1984. He coached at Bonham High School from 1984 – 1986 and SOSU from 1986 to 1988 as Offensive Line Coach/Strength and Conditioning. In December of 1988, Sloan took the reins as head coach until he retired in 2000.

As SOSU head coach, Sloan coached six nationally-ranked teams and won the OIC Conference Championship in 1988 and 1989. SOSU also went on to win the Aztec Bowl in 1989. In 1994 they were OIC Co-Conference Champions, returning to the Aztec Bowl, which ended in a tie. In 1999 the Savages were Lone-Star Conference Co-Champions.

Sloan was named the OIC Coach of the Year in 1995 and 1996 and the Lone Star Conference Coach of the Year in 1999 and 2000. He was the All-Time Winningest Coach in the history of SOSU. He coached 113 All-Conference athletes and 17 All-Americans. In 2007, Morris Sloan was inducted into the Southeastern Athletic Hall of Fame. In 2009, he returned to Irving ISD where he finished his career at Nimitz High School in 2014. Sloan's 31-year career included 14 years in Irving ISD.

Although Morris will always love the game, Friday Night Lights and Saturday afternoons, he really enjoys seeing student athletes become champions on and off the field. But more than their athletic achievements, he loves watching them mature into great husbands, great fathers, great employees and great Americans.

Morris attributes his successes to his faith in God, his parents, his wife and children and growing up in the great city of Irving. He is now retired and living in Keller, Texas with his wife of 29 years, Jana Sloan. Morris and Jana have three daughters, Courtney, Kennedy and Kylee, and two grandchildren Braxton and Bellamy. Morris is enjoying his retirement with his family and spending time with his buddies on the golf course.

