

Inaugural Class - Alabama High School Volleyball Coaches Association Hall of Fame

Montgomery, AL. (April 3, 2019) - The Alabama High School Volleyball Coaches Association (AHSVCA) is proud to announce the inaugural AHSVCA Hall of Fame class. Sherry Ammons, Gloria Birmingham, Susan Cook, Ida Corbett, Becky Dickinson, Rose Fiorella, Sandra Hunter, Noona Kennard, Louise Marbut, Connie McGuire, Amelia Rhoades and Glenda Wright will all be honored in a recognition ceremony in July in Montgomery.

This inaugural class sets the stage for recognizing the excellence and accomplishments of coaches, educators, and contributors that have contributed to the advancement of the sport of volleyball in the state of Alabama. "Our Association is thrilled to recognize this inaugural class of outstanding coaches who were instrumental in putting Alabama volleyball on the map," said Amy Patterson, President of the AHSVCA. "These women have impacted countless lives and their communities in their roles as leaders and mentors. Volleyball would not be where it is today in our state without their contributions."

Sherry Ammons



A pioneer for girls' athletics in Huntsville City schools for 31 years as a coach and teacher. She was a catalyst in rejuvenating girls' athletics at Huntsville High School where she coached volleyball for 23 years with an overall record of 802-211, including a state championship in 1994 and seven other top four finishes, the city female athlete of the year scholarship award was named in her honor. Also, a leader for girls' athletics statewide, she was instrumental in the reinstatement of the girl's state basketball tournament that she hosted in 1978. She served on the AHSAA volleyball and basketball committees. A graduate of Vigor High School and the University of Montevallo.

Gloria Birmingham



Influential in developing the girls' athletic programs at Grissom High School for 24 years, she built the volleyball program into a state powerhouse that won four state championships, was runner-up four times and made 13 consecutive appearances in the state final four. A wonderful coach with 848 career wins. Her contributions to girls' athletics had been recognized by the Huntsville City Schools and her induction into the Huntsville-Madison County Athletic Hall of Fame in 1996. A graduate of Butler High School and the University of Montevallo.

Susan Cook



This pioneer of girls' sports in Alabama built the volleyball program along with the entire girl's program at Homewood High School during her 32 years as a coach, teacher and girls athletic director. Her volleyball teams won over 700 games, including state championships in 1991 and 1992 and four runner-up finishes. She also coached basketball, softball, track, gymnastics and swimming and received state coach of the year honors twice. She started the volleyball officials' association in the Birmingham area in the 1970s and the volleyball program at UAB. A graduate of Satsuma High School and the University of Montevallo.

Ida Corbett



Was a pioneer in Barbour County girls' athletics for 41 years as a teacher/coach at Rebecca Comer, Barbour County/Clio and Clayton high schools. She had a 471-107 career record as a basketball coach and an even more impressive record in volleyball with a 394-86 mark and two state championships and three runner-up finishes in 17 appearances. She received two coach-of-the-year honors and served on several girls' sport committees. A graduate of Pearl High School (Tenn.) and Tennessee State University.

Becky Dickinson



Referred to as the "queen of volleyball in the state", Dickinson's Dirty Dozen volleyball teams combined for a 1,274-129 record. She had three undefeated seasons (1978, 1980 and 1985) and was named national coach of the Year in 1998. Her McGill-Toolen teams finished in the top three in the state 17 of 18 years and have won 11 state titles. She also has a 235-81 basketball record with three state titles and two boy's tennis crowns. A graduate of Russellville High and Florence State.

Rose Fiorella



A pioneer for volleyball in the Birmingham City School system, she coached 30 of her last 31 years at Ramsay where her teams won five state championships in six years—including four-straight in 1985-88—and finished runner-up twice. Her career record is 785-332. With her work ethic and competitive drive, she earned the respect of coaches statewide and became a legend as an outstanding teacher and coach. She helped found the Alabama-Mississippi all-star basketball games. A graduate of Sheffield High School and Florence State College.

Sandra Hunter



Spent 20 of her 24 years in coaching at Pleasant Valley High School where her softball, volleyball and track teams won 13 state championships. Known for her phenomenal coaching and motivational abilities, she guided her 20 volleyball teams to a 798-160 overall record and five championships. Her 15 softball squads compiled a 546-93 mark with seven state titles. She coached three years at Weaver High School where her track team won a state crown in 1981. She also coached a year at Ohatchee. She was a member of the volleyball all-star staff twice, served on the All-Star Week games committee and was a member of two state coaches' committees. A graduate of Weaver High School and Jacksonville State University.

Noona Kennard



Of her 37 years in education, she spent 21 at Bradshaw High where she was a true pioneer in Alabama girls' athletics. A coach of all girls' sports at Bradshaw, she produced seven championships along with six runner-up finishes in volleyball, two titles in track, five in archery, three each in bowling and badminton and an overall basketball record of 150-82. A graduate of Starkville High (Miss.) and Mississippi State University.

Louise Marbut



Spent 20 of her 28 years in education at The Donoho School where she coached for 15 years, winning five state volleyball championships and finishing runner-up six times while posting more than 600 wins. A promoter of girl's athletics for more than three decades, she hosted three AHSAA state volleyball tournaments. She served as principal at Donoho and coached for a short time at Anniston. A graduate of Jacksonville High School and Jacksonville State University.

Connie McGuire



Has been a pioneer in promoting girls' athletics in North Alabama during her 20-year coaching career at Lexington. She organized the first volleyball and track teams at her school and was instrumental in getting coaching supplements for girls' sports. Her volleyball teams won five state championships and compiled a 441-97 overall record during 20 straight winning seasons. She had a 210-128 career record in basketball and coached track, gymnastics and cheerleading. A graduate of Lexington High School and the University of North Alabama.

Amelia Rhoades



Has been a pioneer for girl's athletics in Southeast Alabama during her 32 years in coaching at Kinston and Elba. She brought volleyball to prominence during her 27 years at Kinston where her team won a state championship in 1997 and she earned state coach of the year honors. Her teams were runner-up five times and she coached in the all-star game. She also coached softball for 22 years basketball for 12 years and served as Kinston athletic director for nine years. A graduate of Kinston High School and Troy State University.

Glenda Wright



Spent 24 of 31 years in coaching at Hazel Green where she built one of the most successful volleyball programs in the state with six state championships and a final hour finish for 16 years. She had a fantastic career record of 1060-433. She never had a losing season in any sport she coached and received 17 coach of the year awards in volleyball and track. She initiated some of the first girls' teams in Madison County and Lifetime Achievement Award from Alabama Women's Athletic Association. A graduate of East Tallahatchie High School (Miss.) and Delta State University.

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About AHSVCA

The purpose of the AHSVCA is to maintain the highest possible standards in volleyball and the profession of coaching volleyball; to promote the game of volleyball, its players and coaches in the state of Alabama; to cooperate and work with the AHSAA; to provide a forum for the discussion and strong voice in affecting exchange of ideas on coaching methods and techniques. The Alabama High School Volleyball Coaches Association is a Signature Affiliate Partner of the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA). Further information is available at www.ahsvca.org.

