2014 EMCC SPORTS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

RONNIE CARTER

Having greatly impacted high school sports at the local, state and national levels during his lauded 42-year education career, Ronnie Carter’s successful journey in athletics began as a two-sport athlete (football and basketball) at Lee High School in Columbus. During his one-year stopover on the Scooba campus, Carter was a starting defensive back on Coach Bob “Bull” Sullivan’s 10-1-1 ballclub in 1963 and served as East Mississippi Junior College’s freshman class president. Upon graduating in 1967 from Bethel College in McKenzie, Tenn., Carter began his influential education career in Nashville with an 11-year stint as a math teacher while also coaching football, basketball, wrestling, and track and field at the junior high and high school levels. Hired in 1978 as assistant director of the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association, he was elevated to executive director in 1986 before retiring from the TSSAA in 2009. Carter was instrumental in bringing together all seven spring sports for championships in a five-day, Olympic-style format that is now in its 22nd year comprising as many as 4,000 athletes, 59 baseball games, 59 softball games, six track meets, 175 tennis matches and 20 soccer matches. At the national level, Carter played an integral role in the area of rules administration within the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) by serving on rules committees for football, basketball and wrestling. Along with being honored as a 2013 inductee into the NFHS National High School Hall of Fame, Carter is a member of the TSSAA Hall of Fame and Tennessee School Boards Association Hall of Fame. Among his numerous awards, Carter received the National Wrestling Hall of Fame Lifetime Service Award as a contributor along with having an award given annually in his name by the Universal Cheerleaders Association. Now officially retired, Carter still does consulting work with the Varsity cheerleading organization and serves as executive director for USA Cheer. Carter and his wife of 45 years, the former Caroline McMahan of Pleasant View, Tenn., have one son, Jim (Heather), and one daughter, Amy Whitfield (Keith), along with four grandchildren.