2014 EMCC SPORTS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

WILLIAM D. “BUDDY” CONN

As a three-year football letterman at Noxubee County High School, William D. “Buddy” Conn was selected to the All-Choctaw Conference team during his junior and senior seasons. His successful prep career was capped when he was tabbed by the head football coaches of the Choctaw Conference as co-most valuable lineman as a senior along with his high school teammate and eventual college teammate Ed Staten. Conn stayed close to home following his outstanding high school career and accepted a scholarship offer from legendary football coach Bob “Bull” Sullivan at East Mississippi Junior College. Often times playing on both sides of the football as a two-way standout lineman for the Lions, Conn was named all-state both seasons on the Scooba campus as a two-year starting tackle. He garnered All-America recognition in 1964 as a freshman for an EMJC squad that went 9-2 and finished second in the state. Conn was then elected team co-captain along with Charles “Bulldog” Coggins during his sophomore year. A mountain of a man for his era, the 6-foot-3, 265-pound Conn was recruited by University of Alabama football coaching legend Paul “Bear” Bryant among others. However, Conn instead chose to enter the work force while beginning a family. After working in the welding business for five years in Houston, Texas, he returned to the Shuqualak area, where he remained for the rest of his life working various jobs as a welder. Conn was an avid Ole Miss sports fan and enjoyed football, fishing and gardening along with spending time with his grandchildren. A member of the Macedonia United Methodist Church in Shuqualak, he became disabled several years prior to his death due to back injuries and subsequently died in 1999. Conn and his first wife, the former Janice Bell, had two daughters, Candy (Ashmore) and Angie (Cooper). He had two stepchildren, Roberta (Christopher) and Kevin (Miller), with his second wife, the former Reba Miller. Conn is survived by five grandchildren and three step-grandchildren and one great grandchild.