2014 EMCC SPORTS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

TOMMY SMITH

A three-sport standout at West Lauderdale High School, Tommy Smith had the unique distinction of playing two different sports for coaching legends at East Mississippi Junior College. As a two-time, all-conference performer in football, basketball and baseball during his prep playing days, Smith earned all-state hoops honors as a senior in leading West Lauderdale to the 1966-67 Class 3A state basketball championship. Along with playing center field on the baseball diamond, he also played on both sides of the football in high school as a halfback on offense as well as defensive back. Jointly recruited to the Scooba campus by Hall of Fame coaches Bob “Bull” Sullivan and Keyes T. Currie, Smith was a two-year starter on the hardwood for Coach Currie’s Lions while breaking into Coach Sullivan’s starting lineup as a strong safety during his sophomore season on the gridiron. As a starting forward, Smith was one of EMJC’s leading scorers and top rebounders both basketball seasons. He primarily played on special teams for the Lions during his freshman year of football. A member of East Mississippi’s football teams that went 8-2 in 1967 and 7-2 the following year, Smith owns the great honor of having played for Coach Sullivan during the legendary coach’s final two seasons on the Scooba sidelines. After earning honorable mention All-America football honors as a North Division All-Star in 1968, Smith was courted by Georgia Tech and Miami (Fla.) with scholarship offers. However, he had married the former Gail Brown of Collinsville during the summer between his freshman and sophomore years at EMJC and thus opted to enter the work force. Back home in Lauderdale County, Smith began a 23-year career as a telephone repairman for Hughes Telephone Company. He also began to raise beef cattle and later became an owner of a poultry farm. Smith also spent some time as a volunteer fireman. Now married 46 years, Smith and his wife have two girls, Shannon and Keely, and one son, Jason, along with three granddaughters and two grandsons.