

Former players fondly remember PHS coach Jimmy Haynes

Bill Vilona, bvilona@pnj.com

His former players from a half-century ago credit their beloved Pensacola High football coach Jimmy Haynes for values they've forever cherished.

It may be the greatest element of Haynes' decorated life as a player, World War II veteran and prep football coach in this area.

Haynes, 92, passed away Thursday morning in his Pensacola home. He had home hospice care attending to him. He was the PHS football coach from 1960-66 and was so revered that the current PHS training center is now called the James W. Haynes Athletic Complex.

"He leaves a wonderful legacy for all us," said Bill Carr, who played for Haynes at PHS, then went on to become a first team All-American center for the Florida Gators, then later became UF athletic director from 1979-86.



Pensacola High School Principal David Williams shakes hands with legendary former Pensacola High football coach Jimmy Haynes on Sept. 3, 2009 during the dedication Of the new Pensacola High Jimmy Haynes Field House named in his honor. The Dedication took place at halftime in the game between PHS and Pine Forest.

(Photo: Bruce Graner/bgraner@pnj.com)

"The memory of Coach Jimmy Haynes will never fade," said Carr, who lives in Gainesville and was inducted into UF Athletic Hall of Fame. "I know the mark he left on my mind has guided me to this point and will continue with me forever."

Haynes followed fellow PHS coaching legend Jim Scoggins as the school's head football coach. When Haynes began his tenure, there was no state football championship in Florida. His teams won regional titles. The state's first football championship occurred in 1963 as one classification before becoming three classifications when he left in 1967.

"His disciplined approach to the game which followed Coach Scoggins' disciplined approach stood out," said Kay Stephenson, a 1962 PHS graduate who was the PHS quarterback for two seasons, then played for the Florida Gators with Carr and later rose in the coaching ranks to become the Buffalo Bills head coach.

"I think the respect the players had for him.... and I can assure that was true... stood out," Stephenson said. "People thought the world of him personally and respected him greatly. He was a good overall football coach.

"He was grounded in all phases of the game. He could work with a punter or punt snapper as well as a defensive lineman or a linebacker. And there is a lot to be said for that."

Haynes was a star player at PHS. He was the 1940 team captain as a lineman. He is the only former PHS player who became a PHS head football coach.

"He raised guys who are today's leaders," said Rick Fountain, a UWF business professor and PHS graduate, who published a book chronicling Pensacola High's extensive athletic history. He devoted two pages to Haynes' impact. "They gave lot of credit to the lessons he taught them."

Haynes coached during the early points of integration in public schools across the nation, including Pensacola. The first two black football players at PHS played under Haynes.

Fountain recalls when PHS was set to play a school in Dothan, Ala., the mother of one of those players expressed concern for her son's safety in an area so hostile to African-Americans.

"Coach Haynes told her that before anyone got to her son, they would have to go through him, his entire coaching staff and the entire team of players," Fountain said. "I thought in 1966 that was a powerful statement."

After leaving PHS, Haynes went on to become an assistant coach at Florida, then worked at Vanderbilt.



Legendary Pensacola High football coach Jimmy Haynes cuts a birthday cake in his honor during a surprise party on Aug. 17, 2003 at Seville Quarter. (Photo: art, Copyright 2003 Pensacola News Journal; Yes)

A funeral service for Haynes will be Tuesday at 2 p.m. at Christ Episcopal Church on Wright Street where Haynes served as a church usher for more than 50 years. Burial will be at Barrancas National Cemetery.

"In terms of being a loyal and dedicated husband, a caring and loving father, a leader who shaped young boys into respectable men, he is truly the gold standard," said David Peaden II, a great nephew. "I always respected him for the way he treated others. He was especially good to my family and did things for us that I will never forget.

"I learned a great deal from him that I continue to use in my everyday life."

When PHS dedicated its athletic center in 2009, about 200 of Haynes' former players returned to be part of the celebration.

"He was a man of great character," Carr said. "He was authentic. There was nothing contrived about Coach Jimmy Haynes. His commitment to excellence really inspired me. He hated to lose.

"I have always been grateful to him. He was the one who always made us aware of what was out there in life. He wanted us to be the very best we could be."

As a coach, Stephenson said Haynes switched from the Single Wing formation to a more modern T-Formation after Stephenson's junior season. It reinforced to him how far ahead Haynes was in adapting to changes in football.

Using a homespun analogy, Carr said Haynes, "Never asked a race horse to plow or a plow horse to race. He was going to find the right position you could play."

ABOUT JIMMY HAYNES

AGE: 92

HIGH SCHOOL: Pensacola High (captain of 1940 team)

COLLEGE: Perkinson (Miss.) Junior College, Western Kentucky

POSITION: Lineman

COACHING AT PHS: Defensive head coach from 1956-60; Head coach: 1960-66. PHS record was 73-22-3.

NOTEWORTHY: At PHS, teams won three Big Five Conference Titles and 75-percent of all games. As defensive coordinator, team had 13 shutouts. Joined Florida Gators coaching staff in 1967 and worked at UF through 1972 season. PHS named and dedicated athletic training center as the James W. Haynes Athletic Complex on April 21, 2009.

FUNERAL SERVICE: Tuesday, 2 p.m. at Christ Episcopal Church on Wright Street.



James "Jimmy" Haynes

James Wyatt

"Jimmy" Haynes

August 15, 1923 -

June 30, 2016

James W. "Jimmy" Haynes, 92, of Pensacola, FL passed away Thursday, June 30, 2016.

Jimmy was a Pensacola native and a graduate of Pensacola High School, class of 1941. He was a US Army WWII Veteran. Jimmy studied at Western Kentucky University graduating in 1948. He earned a Masters

Degree in School Administration in 1983 from Troy State University.

As an athlete, Coach Haynes excelled in football and baseball. He was honored to be elected captain for every football team he played with. These natural leadership skills propelled him to a successful career. Coach Haynes dedicated his adult life to being a positive example and inspiration to all the lives he touched as a teacher, coach, and school administrator.

He was preceded in death by his parents, James Edward and Mary Ward Haynes; his brother, Lamar Hobson Haynes (Lou) and his son, James W. Haynes, II.

He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Betty Fernandez Haynes; daughters, Ann Hurbanis (Bob) and Lori Donahue (Pat); grandchildren, R.C. Hurbanis (Jackie), Dr. Matthew Hurbanis (Loni), Tiffany Ratchford (Clint), Steven Donahue (Erin), Ryan Donahue (Melissa); 11 great grandchildren and his brother, Rev. Warren Edward Haynes (Mary).

A Memorial Service to honor Coach Jimmy Haynes will be held 2:00pm Tuesday, July 5, 2016 at Christ Episcopal Church.

The family would like to thank Christ Church and his caregivers for their prayers, love and support throughout his illness.

In lieu of flowers, we ask memorial contributions be made to Christ Episcopal Church, 18 W. Wright St., Pensacola, FL 32501.

Express your condolences in our guestbook at pnj.com/obits