

WHERE ARE THEY NOW

Jim Bachus

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The late 1950s was a golden era for Pensacola High football. Hometown boy Jim Bachus played an integral role in two of the school's most successful seasons in history.

The formula was simple.

"We played a lot of great teams across the South, and we did pretty good," said Bachus, who started at defensive back in 1958 and 1959. "We had a good offense -- we ran the Single Wing -- and we had a good defense. We won every game we played our junior and senior year. We had some good ballplayers."

PHS was dominant in those two seasons with Bachus in its defensive backfield, winning state championships in 1958 and 1959. Back then, there were no playoffs; the state champions were picked by newspapers and magazines.

During Bachus' time on the team -- playing for legendary coach Jim Scoggins -- the Tigers beat Jesuit (La.), Woodlawn (Ala.), Knoxville Central (Tenn.) and Anderson High (S.C.). All four of those teams would go on to win their respective state titles.

PHS won a school-record 23 straight games, a record that could be broken by this year's team. And with Bachus in the secondary, there was not a touchdown pass thrown on PHS in 1958 or 1959.

"Scoggins always told us to surround yourself with good people and smart people because they make you look good," Bachus said. "The things that the coaches taught us, especially with discipline, we still use today. (Alabama head coach Nick) Saban now reminds me of Scoggins from when we played. It was all business -- there was no horsing around. You knew what to do and you won."

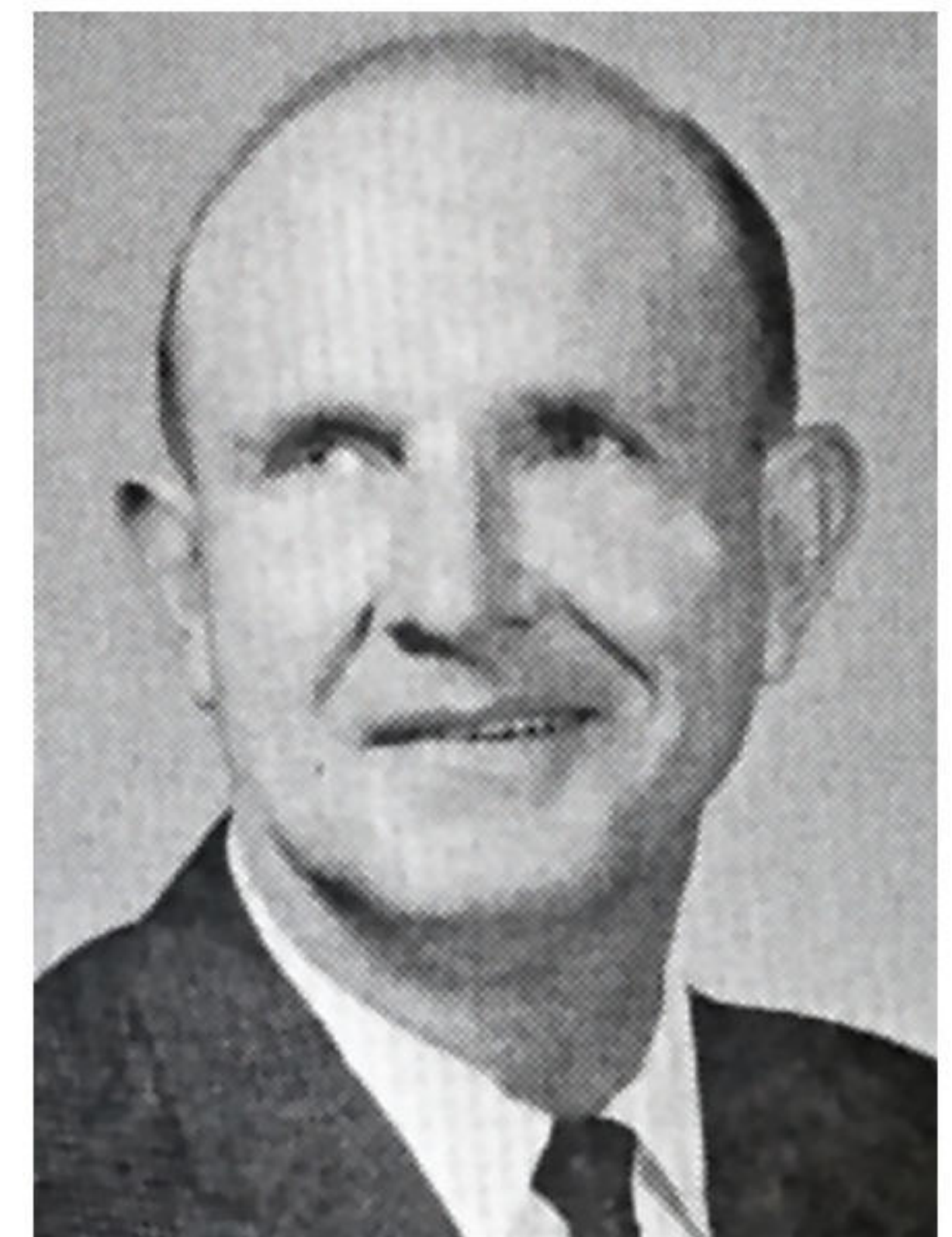
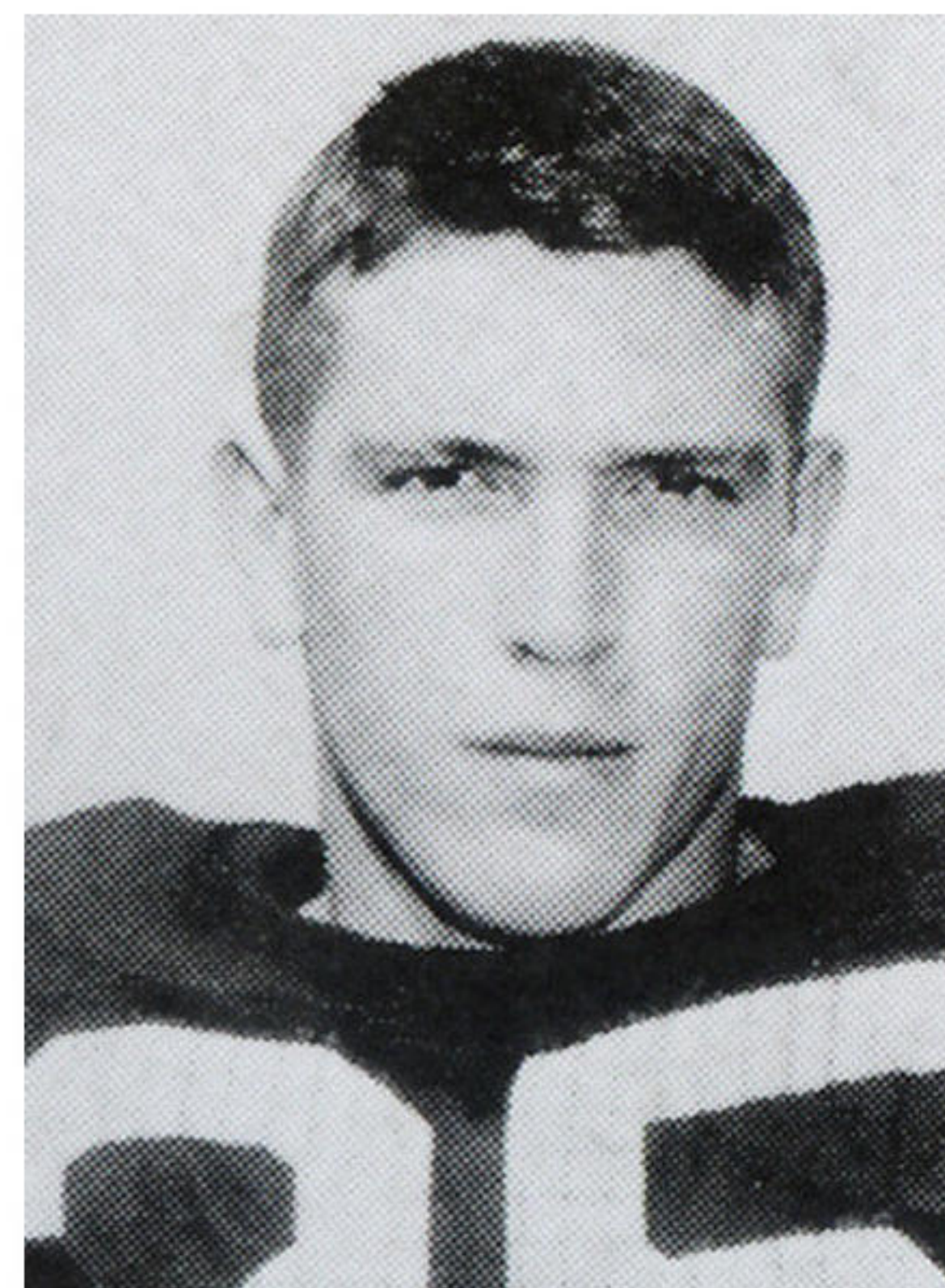
Bachus parlayed his success on the high school field into a successful adult life.

First, he went to Auburn, joining PHS teammates Larry Rawson and Dale Burgess. Bachus played baseball at Auburn while Rawson and Burgess

played football. A center fielder, Bachus impressed enough to dabble in the pros with the Minnesota Twins organization. Bachus returned home in 1965, taught one year of school at PHS, then purchased Harrell's Drug Store in downtown Pensacola in 1966. Bachus, who earned his undergraduate degree in pharmacy at Auburn, would run drug stores around the city before selling his last in 1986.

Bachus then entered the hospitality business, moving to Biloxi, Miss., to work in the gaming industry. He purchased New World Landing as well, then sold it a few years ago when he retired. Bachus still resides in Biloxi.

"What we learned from Jim Scoggins and (defensive coordinator) Jimmy Haynes we carried throughout our whole lives," Bachus said. "Those things we learned from them -- they taught us a lot of discipline, what it took to win and how to conduct yourself -- helped us in business and it helped us in life."



During the golden era of Pensacola High football, Jim Bachus starred in a secondary that didn't allow a TD pass in either the 1958 or '59 season.