

Release date: Immediate

Kill date: May 6

JCJC's McClellan to enter state juco Sports Hall of Fame

By Shawn Wansley

JCJC Sports Information Director

ELLISVILLE – Mike McClellan will be inducted into the Mississippi Community and Junior College Sports Hall of Fame on Tuesday.

The longtime Jones County Junior College supporter was a standout football player and track star at JCJC in 1962-63.

“To say I’m excited about it is an understatement,” McClellan said Wednesday morning. “It is a huge surprise to me and I was certainly not expecting it.”

McClellan will be inducted at a ceremony at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday at the Muse Center on the Rankin County campus of Hinds Community College in Pearl.

A Heidelberg native and an All-Rebel Conference performer for two years at Heidelberg High School, McClellan came to JCJC in 1962 and played for Hall of Fame coach Sim Cooley.

“My first thought about Jones was when Coach Cooley came up to me and asked if I wanted to be a Bobcat,” McClellan said. “And I told him, ‘Yes, I do.’”

The Bobcats went 5-5-1 during McClellan’s freshman year.

“Halfway through my freshman year, they accelerated me to the starting quarterback position,” he said. “I guess they felt I could get the job done.”

In 1963, the Bobcats improved, posting a 7-3 mark. However, they came up just short in claiming the South Division title when they lost their final game to Pearl River, 20-13.

“We had a really good group of players that year,” McClellan said. “We lost our first two games by one point each to Scooba (8-7) and Co-Lin (7-6). We then reeled off seven wins in a row before we lost in the last game at home to Pearl River. That was a really good game.”

McClellan received many postseason honors, including Most Valuable Back in the league, and he was named All-State, All-Region and JC Grid-Wire All-American as a quarterback. He was the first player under Coach Cooley to be named All-American.

“I think Coach Cooley and Coach (A.B.) Howard had a lot to do with me being named All-American by the California (JC Grid-Wire) group,” he said. “I was very appreciative of that. But I think I was proudest of being named Most Valuable Back in the state because that was voted on by the coaches.

“But we had a lot of players on that Jones team that were just as deserving of some of the honors I received.”

McClellan then received a scholarship to Southern Miss where he held the record for lowest percentage for interceptions for over 100 passes, a record that stood for many years. USM upset North Carolina State 7-6 when McClellan was there.

McClellan lettered in football and baseball at USM.

After graduating from USM, McClellan served as a teacher and coach for eight years before working in pharmaceutical sales. He then served his customers at Magnolia State Bank in the Heidelberg area for 35 years.

McClellan served on the JCJC Board of Trustees for 25 years, eight of those years as President of the Board. He also served as President of the State Organization for Trustees for the state's 15 community and junior colleges, and was instrumental in restarting the golf program at JCJC when his son, Scotty, was interested in playing golf while in school.

McClellan and his wife, Margie, have been married for 47 years and currently reside in Hattiesburg. His son, Scotty, and his wife, Kandi, live in St. Louis with their son, Logan. His daughter, Suzanne, and son-in-law, Jim Markel, live in Newnan, Ga., with their three sons, Tripp, Owen and Mac.

"It's going to be a fun night," McClellan said of the induction ceremony. "My son is flying in from St. Louis and we are going to have lots of family members there, along with lots of friends from the Heidelberg area."

McClellan becomes JCJC's 10th inductee into the MCJC Sports Hall of Fame. He joins Sim Cooley, Joe Flowers and A.B. Howard (Class of 2007); Randall Boone and John Perkins (Class of 2008); Gene Tullos (Class of 2009); Gwen Magee (Class of 2010); L.D. Ready (Class of 2011) and Parker Dykes (Class of 2012) in the elite group.

Photo caption

Heidelberg native and former JCJC football and track star Mike McClellan will be inducted into the Mississippi Community and Junior College Sports Hall of Fame on Tuesday.

Photo/Submitted

Sincerely,
Shawn

Shawn Wansley
Sports Information Director
Jones County Junior College

900 South Court St.
Ellisville, MS 39437
Email: shawn.wansley@jcjc.edu