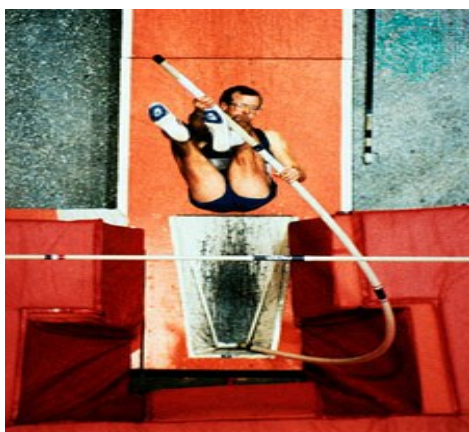


TTFCA Hall of Fame Class of 2012



After 42 years as Baylor's head track and field coach, Clyde Hart retired his position June 14, 2005, to become director of track and field. Hart's four-plus decades of leadership have seen Baylor track and field reach monumental heights while earning a world-wide reputation as "Quarter-Miler U."

His pupils won Olympic gold medals in the 400 meters in three straight Olympic Games with Jeremy Wariner winning the event in 2004 and Michael Johnson capturing Olympic gold in 1996 and 2000. All-told, Hart has coached eight Olympians who have won a total of nine Olympic gold medals, one silver and two bronze with Johnson claiming four gold medals, Wariner three and Darold Williamson and Reggie Witherspoon one each.



A graduate of Abilene High School and Abilene Christian University, Olson is the first vaulter to surpass 19 feet indoors. In 1986, he cleared a career-best 19-05.50. Known for his speed and fearlessness, Olson also helped pole vaulting reach unparalleled popularity by competing against Russia's Sergey Bubka. In his career, Olson set 11 world records.

He was ranked among the nation's Top 10 from 1978-1989. In 1976, Olson vaulted 15-10 to set the Texas boy's record and help Abilene High School to a 4A state title. In Olson's four years of eligibility at ACU, he won every single NAIA indoor and outdoor title and every Lone Star Conference championship. In 1988, he earned a spot on the US Olympic team



Ritter, a Red Oak graduate, won the gold medal in the women's high jump with an Olympic record jump of 6-08 at the 1988 Summer Olympics held in Seoul, South Korea. The national outdoor champion in 1978, 1982, 1985, and 1986, Ritter won three-consecutive AIAW high jump championships (1977-79) while a student at Texas Women's College. Under the guidance of Head Coach Bert Lyle, she won a 4th AIAW title in 1981—she left school in 1980 to concentrate on the Olympics, eventually boycotted by the U.S. The premiere high jumper for a decade (1979-80), Ritter totaled 10 national championships (indoor and outdoor) and earned a world ranking 9 times. In 1976, at Red Oak HS, she cleared 5-11.50.



Educated at Wiley College and then UNT, Coach James' coaching career began at Wiley College where he was the Head Track Coach, Asst. Football Coach and the Asst. Dean of Men. In 1962, he moved to Booker T. Washington as an asst. coach before taking over at Dallas Roosevelt from 1963-2006. His track squads won 200+ invitational meets, 18 district championships, 3 regional titles and 4 state titles. He produced 30+ individual and relay state champions, 3 national record holders, 1 world junior record holder, and 2 Olympians—Roy Martin and McClinton Neal. He has been awarded the Texas Sports Writers Track Coach of the Year (1985), the Coca Cola Bottling Company Achievement Award (1992) and the DISD Athletic Director of the Year (2003-04)



Considered by many as the greatest shot putter of all time, the Texas A&M product won the Olympic Silver Medal in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. From 1965-71, Matson won 73 of 79 competitions, including a 2-month span in 1965 where he broke the world record three times, including the first to surpass the 70-foot mark: 70-07.25. Matson then turned down offers from the NFL, NBA and ABA after earning a marketing degree in 1967 to concentrate on track & field.

At the 1968 Mexico City Olympics, he captured gold. Prior to this Olympics, Matson once again set the world record with a personal best of 71-05.25, earning him the James E. Sullivan Award, presented to the nation's outstanding amateur athlete. He's been inducted into the A&M Hall of Fame, Texas Sports Hall of Fame, National Sports Hall of Fame, National Track & Field Hall of Fame, and the National HS Sports Hall of Fame.