

2013-2022

Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Wall of Honor!

This has been an inspiring decade devoted to honoring our school's rich football history by inducting 29 Players, 3 Coaches and 5 Contributors, as well as 7 dominate Teams into the Dragon Football Wall of Honor. The impact of these great men and teams on Junction City's football legacy is truly immeasurable!

Go Dragons!

2013

Kevin Payne 2003 Team

2014

G.C. Emerson Paul H. Muse Bob McKinnon

2015

Tom Jerry Richard Wilson Michael Hall Marcus Godfrey Rod Harrington

2016

Eddie Malone Jerry McKinnon Jerry Brewer Randy Cole 1986 Team

2017

Joe McGoogan Ronald Farrar Sohn Enis David Carpenter Robby Lowe Gerod Payne



2018

Charles Garris John Kelly Tommy Bryant Sam Grayson 2008 Team

2019

Elton D. Kelly Glenn Elmore Tom Williams Koby McKinnon 1968 Team 1969 Team

2020

1953 Team 1960 Team

2021

Urban Wilson P.V. Griffin Rod Brantley Keo Noble Mario Carter

2022

James McCleskey
Jimmy "Bull" Mason
Danny McKinnon
Phillip Davis
Jahi Jones

2023

Ronnie Hall 1964 Team Terry Crumpler Lorenzo Lee Justin Easter

CLASS OF 2013 (INAUGURAL YEAR)



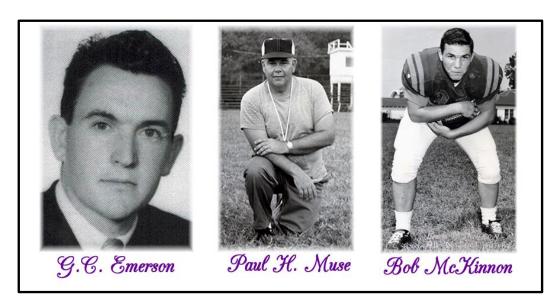
While in high school, 2002 Junction City High School alumnus **KEVIN PAYNE** was a three-sport athlete, excelling in football, basketball, and baseball. Though he compiled accolades in all three sports, football is where he gained the most notoriety as a running back, linebacker, and punter. In three high school seasons, Kevin proved that hard work and determination pay off. Kevin finished high school with 2,713 rushing yards on 323 carries and 39 touchdowns. As an inside linebacker for the Dragons, Kevin's amazing plays are truly legendary. In 2000 and 2001, Kevin was captain of the defense and led the team in tackles and tackles for loss. Kevin ended his high school career on a cold night in Springdale against Shiloh Christian in the state semi-finals. While in high school, Kevin received All-Conference, All-State, and All-Star honors. Kevin became one of the first Dragon football players to sign a Division 1 football scholarship. While at the University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM), Kevin continued his dominance being named Sun Belt Conference Freshman of the Year and All-Conference running back in 2003. In 2005 and 2006 Kevin moved to the defensive side and played safety for the Warhawks. Both years he was named to the All - Conference team. Kevin also punted for the Warhawks, further proving his versatility. Kevin represented ULM

In the spring of 2007 the Chicago Bears drafted Kevin in the fifth round as a safety. Kevin played four seasons in the NFL, three for Chicago and one for the St. Louis Rams.

at the 2006 Senior Bowl.

The **2003 DRAGON TEAM** used a high-powered offense and an aggressive defense on their way to claiming the school's first state title with a perfect 15-0 record and taking care of some "Unfinished Business". After losing in the semi-finals the previous two seasons, the 2003 team was determined to win it all. In the process they would score a state record 753 points and set a school record for offense by totaling 5,805 yards. The defense recorded 8 shutouts while allowing less than 38 yards rushing a game. Overall the defense allowed less than 98 yards of total offense per game.

CLASS OF 2014



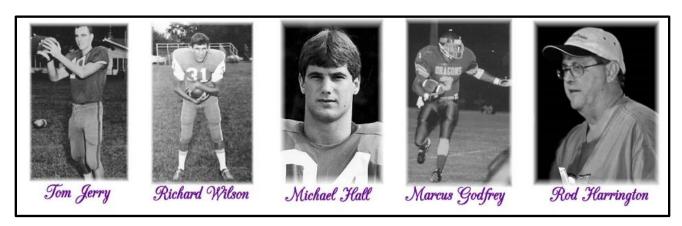
Dragon Contributor **G.C. EMERSON** began filming Junction City games in the mid to late 1960's until his death in 2001. It is estimated that he filmed over 500 games. "You cannot say enough about what he meant to this program." Carpenter told the story of Mr. Emerson's last game. "I remember he was in the hospital in Little Rock when we went to Charleston in 2000 (second round of state playoffs). He had been discharged and instead of going home, he was waiting on us. We pulled up to the hospital, he got on the bus and we took off to Charleston."

Coach **PAUL HOWARD MUSE** was involved with Junction City schools for thirty-six years as an administrator and coach. The football field is named in his honor, a field that he helped build. Records show he was head coach from 1960 to 1973. During his tenure as head coach, he had an overall record of 80-44-6. He was named outstanding District Coach of the Year four times (1960, 1964, 1968 and 1971) and was named to the State All-Star coaching staff in 1965. Mr. Muse played for Junction City teams in the 1940's that won 29 games in a three year period. Coach Muse will be inducted with one of his best players ever, Bob McKinnon.

BOB MCKINNON was one of the toughest to ever play for the Dragons. McKinnon played for the Dragons from 1959 -1962. On offense he played right tackle his freshman year on the varsity, then moved to fullback for the rest of his high school career. On defense he played linebacker. As a fullback, he finished his Dragon career with 2,702 rushing yards. That total is the sixth most in school history. At linebacker he recorded 19 tackles against Norphlet in 1962. There are several stories that

reference him having 33 tackles one game but none of the stories say when it happen or who it was against. He was recruited by several colleges including Arkansas, Alabama, LSU and Louisiana Tech. He chose Tech. While at Tech, McKinnon was a two time All-Gulf South Conference player and was named outstanding lineman in 1964. He started at guard on offense and linebacker on defense. A knee injury kept him from playing professional football. Bob died in 1973. Coach Muse considers him one of the very best to ever wear a Junction City uniform. In a story for the El Dorado News Times, Muse wrote, "In my 16 years of coaching I have been blessed with the opportunity of working with and knowing some outstanding young men. If I had to pick one young man and his accomplishments as a bench mark for others to reach for, then that young man would be Bob McKinnon.

CLASS OF 2015



In his first varsity game as a freshman in 1961 against Hampton, **TOM JERRY** intercepted a pass and returned it 68 yards for a touchdown. Jerry quarterbacked the Dragons from 1962-64 and was the school's second player to be elected to the state All-Star game. His record as a quarterback for the Dragons was 19 wins, 5 losses and 3 ties. When he finished his Junction City career, Jerry held nearly every record available for a quarterback including pass attempts, pass completions and touchdown passes. Jerry still ranks second on the school's pass completion list and fourth in attempts.

RICHARD WILSON played for the Dragons from 1969-71. In 1971 Wilson helped lead Junction City to an 8-1 record. He rushed for 1,221 on 211 carries and scored 14 touchdowns. In a showdown with highly ranked Class B powerhouse Norphlet, in a game that was billed as the Union County Championship, Wilson scored two touchdowns and intercepted two passes. Wilson made All-District, All-State and was named the 8A Outstanding Back. He still ranks in the top five in school history for most offensive plays in a season. After finishing his Dragon career, Wilson attended the

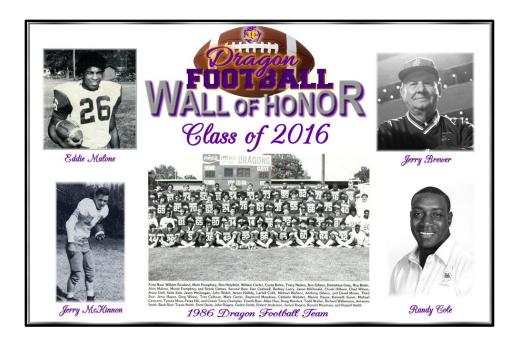
University of Arkansas-Monticello where he played from 1972-75. He was a starter in 1973 and 1975.

Along with Bob McKinnon (2014 Wall of Honor Inductee), MICHAEL HALL is considered one of the toughest Dragons to ever play the game. Hall played from 1978-80 and was an All-District performer. Besides playing both sides of the ball, Hall was a tough punt returner who didn't believe in signaling for a fair catch. After high school, Hall accepted a scholarship to Ouachita Baptist University where he played from 1981-84. Twice during his tenure at OBU, Hall made big defensive plays to help OBU defeat their rival Henderson State in the Battle of the Ravine.

Any running back who is assigned the number 3 is expected to be the Dragons next great back. The number 3 is called the "Dog Number" and even though **MARCUS**

GODFREY was not the first to wear it; he is the running back who made it famous. Godfrey played from 1997-99 and finished as the school's all-time leading rusher (4,494 yards), leading touchdown scorer (66), leading rushing touchdown scorer (56) and finished as the state's single season yards-per-rush average leader (14.52) In 1999 Godfrey turned in one of the school's best seasons by rushing for 1,992 yards and scoring 32 touchdowns (29 rushing) on 133 rushes. Godfrey made All-Conference, All-State and was named to the All-Star team. After finishing his Dragon career, Godfrey attended Arkansas Tech University.

Dragon Contributor **RODERICK "ROD" HARRINGTON** grew up in Southeast Missouri where he took part in football, basketball, track and baseball. After several years working in newspapers and radio, Rod earned his bachelor's degree in journalism in 1986 at Arizona State University, then his master's degree in communication from Central Missouri State University in 1990. In June 1990 Rod joined the El Dorado News-Times as a reporter and editor. That fall he helped out the sports department by covering the Norphlet football team. In 1991 he began his long tenure covering the Junction City Dragons. For the next *twenty* seasons, he covered the Dragon football team through good times and bad. He chronicled Junction City's rise as a powerhouse football program. During his tenure he submitted close to a thousand articles on the Dragons. Rod moved to northwest Arkansas in 2011.



The McKinnon family has a long history with the Junction City football program and this inductee is the one who started it all. **JERRY MCKINNON** is a 1955 graduate of Junction City and played for the Dragons from 1952-54. During his career he had over 30 touchdown scoring plays of 70 yards or more. He was known for his speed, his passing ability and for being a punishing runner. Instead of side stepping a would-be tackler, he lowered his head and ran over them! He was constantly tearing up the webbing in his helmet because of his tough running style! McKinnon was an all-conference performer for the Dragons and helped lead Junction City to the school's first ever conference title in 1954. After the 1954 season, McKinnon was selected to the all-state team becoming the first Dragon football player to receive this honor. At the conclusion of his Dragon career, McKinnon had set career records for total yards from scrimmage, most points scored and most touchdowns scored from 70 yards or more.

A 1984 graduate of Junction City, **RANDY COLE** is an excellent example of hard work and determination paying off. Cole played for the Dragons from 1981-83 and was an all-conference performer for the Dragons. After graduation, Cole enlisted in the marines. He played football and when his enlistment was up, his coach encouraged him to give college football a try. Cole enrolled at Santa Monica City College and earned All-American honorable mention. He was also named Academic All-American. Cole was recruited by the UCLA Bruins and played for them for two years. After College he tried out for the NFL's Seattle Seahawks.

The 1986 football season was a season that long-time Dragon football fans will never forget. The **1986 DRAGON TEAM** earned the school's first trip to the state football playoffs. They were conference champions in what was considered by the state newspapers as the toughest football conference in the state. They also earned the school's first number-one ranking in the state football polls and set over 15 different school records!

MALONE may very well be the best of them all. Playing from 1975-78, Malone played offense, defense and on all special team units where he handled all kicking duties. Malone set several school records in his career and finished in the top three in most of the rushing, kicking and scoring lists. Nearly forty years after he played, Malone's name still appears in the school's record book.

Dragon Contributor **JERRY BREWER** is a 1958 graduate of Sheridan High School where he played both football and baseball. He was a starter on the 1958 state championship basketball team known as the "Four Jerrys." Four of the five starter's names were Jerry, thus the nickname! In 1980, Mr. Brewer moved his family to Junction City where he became involved in the community and school. His involvement in Junction City Athletics spans over 30 years. He has helped in various ways including coaching both the boys and girls golf teams from 2001-06. In 1995, he took over the Public Address Announcing duties for Dragon football games. In 22 seasons, it is estimated that Mr. Brewer announced over 200 games using his unique style of announcing that Dragon football fans loved. Some of his favorite memories of Junction City football include working in the press box with fellow Wall of Honor Member Rod Harrington, watching the 2003 Dragons win the first state title, and watching his grandsons, David Brewer and Steven Jones, play for the Dragons!



JOE MCGOOGAN played for the Dragons from 1959 to 1961. He was an All-District and All-State performer for Junction City and is the school's first All-Star player. He is considered one of the Dragons' best linemen of all time. McGoogan played on the school's first playoff team, the 1960 Dragons who were the 7B East conference champions. He was part of an offensive line that helped establish school team and individual rushing records. After his Dragon career was over, McGoogan received a scholarship to Southern State/SAU. He would go on to a 44 year career in management in the poultry industry. McGoogan passed away in November of 2015.

RONALD FARRAR played for the Dragons from 1961 to 1963. He was a member of an offensive line that established rushing and passing records both individually and team. During all three of Farrar's seasons with the Dragons, Junction City finished second in the very tough 7B East. Farrar's post season accolades include All-District and All-State selections. Farrar passed away in November of 1992.

SOHN ENIS was one of the Dragons' best dual threat quarterbacks and played for Junction City from 1986 to 1988. Enis led the Dragons to their first state playoff appearance in 1986 and also to their first playoff win. As a starter, overall he finished 22-6 which was a school record at that time. Included in that total is a 3-0 record against Fordyce, one of the top teams in the state. At the conclusion of his Dragon career, Enis held the school record for total offense. He passed for 1,819 yards and rushed for another 1,445 for a total of 3,264 yards and 36 touchdowns. His passing yardage total is still the third most in school history. In 1987 he had 285 offensive plays which was a school record. An injury in 1988 forced him to miss the last four games of his senior season. Enis received several post season honors including All-County in 1986, Co-County Player of the Year in 1987 and All-Conference honors in 1987 and

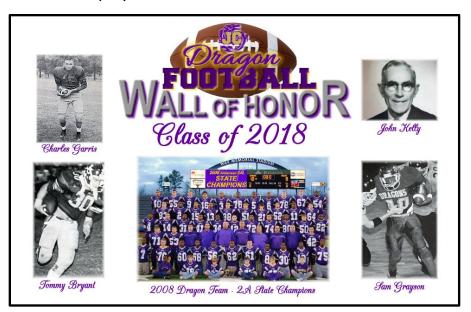
1988. Enis has the great distinction of scoring the very first Dragon touchdown in 1987 on what is now named "Paul H. Muse Field at David Carpenter Stadium."

DAVID CARPENTER holds every football coaching record at Junction City. His tenure spans from 1990-1993 then from 1996 to 2016. From 1996 to 2016 he compiled an impressive 213-47 record. Carpenter's teams won state titles in 2003, 2008, 2009, 2012, 2013, and 2014. In 2006 the Dragons were state runners-up. Twelve times he led teams to semi-final appearances and coached 19 teams that qualified for postseason play. From 2012-2015 the Dragons owned a 41 game win streak. While playing on home turf, Carpenter's Dragons had a 118-30 record with a 17 game win streak from 2001-2003, a 21 game win streak from 2006-2009, and a 23 game win streak from 2012-2014. In addition to Carpenter's Wall of Honor Induction on September 1, 2017, the football stadium was hereby named **David Carpenter Stadium** from that day forward by official proclamation of the Junction City School Board.

ROBBY LOWE began his Junction City coaching career as an assistant in the fall of 1993. In 1994 Lowe also became head Jr. High coach. After nine seasons, the Jr. Dragons had an 86-11 record, five conference championships, and five undefeated seasons. During this span the Jr. Dragons also possessed a thirty-four game win streak between 1996 and 1999. In 2000 Lowe took over Sr. defensive coordinator responsibilities, a position he would hold for the next nine seasons. During his tenure, the Dragons held opponents to ten points or less sixty-nine times. Included in that total is forty-four shutouts. Junction City's record during this time was 100-18. The Dragons also claimed six conference titles, two state titles, and one state runner-up. Two of the best defenses in school history were coached by Lowe. The 2003 Dragon defense dominated opponents' offenses by allowing less than thirty-eight yards rushing a game and giving up only ninety-eight yards of total offense a game as Junction City won its first state title. The 2008 Dragon defense is considered one of the very best in school history. They allowed less than seventeen yards rushing a game, gave up less than a yard per rushing attempt, and allowed only eighty-eight yards of total offense a game as Junction City won its second state title.

GEROD PAYNE is considered one of the best defensive backs in school history. The son of Levi and Jacqueline Payne, he was known for his aggressive play and leadership. Payne helped build the foundation that would turn the Dragon football program into a powerhouse. Coach David Carpenter summed up what Payne meant to Junction City football. "If I was starting a football team, the first player I would get would be Gerod Payne." A three year starter from 1997-99, Payne finished his Dragon career as the school's all-time leading tackler. He received numerous post season

accolades. Some of those accolades were All-State selections his junior and senior year. He was named an All-Star his senior year and played in the state All-Star game. He was elected outstanding camper for the East Squad and MVP of the All Star game. Payne went on to play for Arkansas Tech where, following his freshman season he was nominated Special Team Player of the Year in the Gulf South Conference. He was the only freshman to be nominated. Payne would later transfer to the University of Louisiana-Monroe and play with his brother Kevin on the Warhawk team.



JOHN KELLY was a 1928 graduate of Junction City and played football for the Dragons from 1924-1927. After school he attended college at the University of Arkansas-Monticello and played football one year for UAM. In 1947, Kelly became the Public Address Announcer for Dragon football games and handled those duties through the 1979 season. His 33 years of service to the Dragons is the longest on record of any volunteer. He was awarded a plaque for his service to Junction City athletics in 1967 during his 20th year of service. It is estimated that Kelly worked over 150 Dragon games during his tenure. He loved Junction City Schools and all Dragon sports. He was an avid supporter of the Dual State Basketball Tournament. Mr. Kelly passed away in 1980.

CHARLES GARRIS played offensive and defensive end for Dragon football teams during the 1953-1955 seasons. Known for their balanced offense that featured Wall of Honor member Jerry McKinnon's running game and the passing combination of Tommy Muse and Garris, Dragon teams during those three seasons earned a 74% winning percentage and a conference championship, at that time the second-most successful three-year stretch in school history. Garris's touchdown receptions and tough-nosed defense earned the attention of several major college programs across the South, but one legendary foot race cemented his future. As Garris remembered years later for an

interview, a Louisiana Tech assistant coach brought their starting end to Junction City, summoned Garris to the football field, and asked them to race 50 yards. Garris won over the Tech player. The Tech coach couldn't believe what he saw and asked them to race again. Garris won again and was offered a scholarship on the spot.

At Louisiana Tech, Garris earned All-Conference three seasons in a row and led his position in receptions and touchdowns on some of Tech's most successful teams of the era, including conference championships in 1957, 1958, and 1959, and a number one national ranking in 1959. After graduation from Tech with a degree in Mathematics, Garris turned down contract offers from the NFL's San Francisco 49ers, the New York Giants, and Vince Lombardi and the Green Bay Packers in order to play professional baseball for the St. Louis Cardinals.

TOMMY BRYANT is considered one of the Dragons' toughest players. From 1982-1984, Bryant was Junction City's go-to running-back. In 34 games at tailback, he rushed for 2,145 yards and scored 17 touchdowns against defenses that were keying on him. Bryant had several memorable games. In 1983 against Stamps, Bryant rushed for 114 yards and scored two touchdowns to lead the Dragons to a victory. That performance earned him AP Honorable Mention Player of the Week. He opened the 1984 season against Norphlet by rushing for 208 yards and scoring two touchdowns in a win over the Leopards and was named AP Player of the Week for his effort. Bryant led Union County in rushing in 1983. He was named Offensive Back of the Year and Player of the Year for that season. Bryant was selected All-District in 1983 and 1984.

SAM GRAYSON was a running-back for Junction City from 1996-1998 and one of the key components in Dragon Football becoming a statewide powerhouse. Grayson's 1998 season is considered one of the best in school history. That season he rushed for 1,491 yards on just 104 rushing attempts and scored 22 touchdowns. Due to the Dragons domination of opponents, Grayson saw limited time at running-back. His 1,491 yards rushing in 1998 was the second most in school history and is still the tenth most all-time. He averaged over 14 yards a rush attempt that season which was the highest average in school history at the time. It is now the third most today and statewide is the fourth highest average ever. Many Dragon fans remember Grayson for his performance at Rison in 1998 when he helped lead Junction City to a 43-28 victory against the Wildcats. That game is considered one of the key wins in Junction City's rise to statewide recognition. It was also the Dragons' first win ever against Rison. Grayson finished his Dragon career third on Junction City's all-time rushing yardage with a total of 2,610 yards and 32 touchdowns. He was selected to the All-State Team after the 1998 season.

2008 DRAGON TEAM

Any discussion among Dragon fans over which team is the best in school history would have to include the 2008 Dragons. In a very a tough AA classification, the 2008 Dragons were ranked number one in the pre-season and would go wire-to-wire to finish number one. They were the first team in school history to earn this distinction. The 2008 Dragons finished with a perfect record of 13-0. They did it with defense and a strong rushing attack. On defense they allowed only a foot per rushing attempt, which is a school record. They also allowed a school record 16 yards rushing a game. For the season, the 2008 Dragons allowed 214 yards rushing on 291 attempts. Opponents did not fare any better passing against them. They allowed only 71 yards passing a game. For the season, the 2008 team allowed an average of 4 points a game. They allowed 55 points all season, with 33 of those points being scored against the starters. In all, the 2008 Dragons set over 15 school records, including most tackles for losses in a season with 112. Offensively they set several school records in the rushing category including most rush attempts in a season with 522. They rushed for almost 4,000 yards. The 2008 Dragons will be remembered for getting the job done when it mattered the most. A fourth down stop late in the state title game led to a 59-yard drive that set up a 26yard field goal attempt with less than a second left. The field goal was good and Junction City had clinched its second state title!



ELTON D. KELLY is the first Wall of Honor Inductee from the decade of the 1930's. Kelly played for the Dragons in that decade and went on to play football for Northwestern State College. After serving in World War II, Kelly began coaching. He coached at DeRidder, Louisiana in 1940 and after returning from the war, resumed coaching at DeRidder from 1945 to 1956. In 1957 he began coaching at Minden until 1967. Kelly led the Crimson Tide to one state title. He was twice named Louisiana Coach of the Year and was an All- Star Head Coach in 1964. Kelly was also president of the Louisiana High School Coaches Association that same year.

TOM WILLIAMS played for Junction City from 1966 to 1968. During his Dragon career Williams was outstanding on both offense and defense. On offense he played halfback and rushed for over 2,800 yards, including 1,157 yards his senior year when he was selected Outstanding Back in the 8B Conference. During his senior year, Williams had a four touchdown game and two games where he scored three touchdowns. He finished as the school's all-time leading rusher and in the top ten all time in scoring. On defense Williams played safety and was known as a "Master Thief." In 1966, his sophomore season, he intercepted 10 passes, then a school record. He would break it his junior year when he intercepted 11 passes, setting a new school record for interceptions in a season. His senior season, Williams would intercept 19 passes, setting a new school and state record for interceptions in a season. His career total of 40 is still a school and state record. When Williams finished his Dragon career, his 40 interception total was the second most all time in the nation. He is currently tied for 7th all-time in the nation. Besides being named the 8B conference Outstanding Back in 1968, Williams was selected to the State All-Star game. Williams was also named All-Conference and All-State during his Dragon career.

The motto of the **1968 DRAGON TEAM** was..."If they don't score, they can't win". They were the most powerful defensive force the school had ever produced. This group of dedicated and talented players gave it their all to follow that motto, yielding a school record for fewest points scored, allowing a stunning 14 points for the entire season, and at one point holding opponents scoreless for eight consecutive weeks. The talented offense produced 230 points for the season. One of the highlights of the season was a district-championship deciding contest against Norphlet on homecoming night in Junction City. The 1968 team produced an 8-1-1 overall record and a 5-0-1 district record, good enough for a district 8-B championship. Their only loss was a 7-6 blemish against Bernice and they battled to a 0-0 tie with a powerful Stamps Yellow jackets team. Several individuals earned postseason honors for the Dragons. Tom Williams was voted All State, All District, and the Outstanding Back in the 8-B District and led the state in interceptions. Danny George was voted All State, All District, and

the Outstanding Lineman in the 8-B District. Other All District performers were Larry Carter, Roger Morris, Ronnie Hall, and Donny Cole. Teammates Johnny Sweet, Larry Carter, and Ronnie Hall are being inducted into the Dragon Wall of Honor for the second time. This trio of former Dragons has already been inducted as coaches for the 1986 Dragon Team! Coaches for the 1968 team were Head Coach Paul Muse and assistant coaches Albert Bolen, Billy Flurry, and Monroe Jones.

1969 DRAGON TEAM and Head Coach Muse welcomed several returning letterman. These Dragons delivered guite the follow-up to the dominant 1968 season with a better overall record of 9-1. But the season had its share of controversy. Unfortunately a ruling before the start of the season by the Arkansas Activities Association due to attendance increase cost the 1969 Dragons a chance to defend their previous season's conference championship and cost them a shot at the newly formed state playoffs. That didn't stopped the 1969 Dragons however because despite that ruling the Dragons were again dominant on defense, with shutouts over Bernice, Magnolia B., Strong, El Dorado B, Harmony Grove, and Bradley. They suffered their only loss in week 5 to the once-again powerful Stamps Yellowjackets. The 9-1 regular season ended with the team only surrendering 35 points total (second fewest in school history), and six shutouts. The defense was ranked in the top ten at the end of the season in several categories. The offense averaged more than 220 yards per game. Even without the official reward of a conference title, it was one of the best seasons in Dragons football history. Donny Cole led the team in rushing. Ronnie Hall led the team in kicking, including a 39-yard field goal. Jim Peace led the state of Arkansas in interceptions. Lettermen for the Dragons were Ronnie Hall, Jim Peace, Mike Morton, Charles Christian, Tony Pepper, Larry Thurmon, Larry Carter, Peter Jerry, Larry Jones, Billy Carter, Mike Rockett, Donny Cole, Randy Lyons, Jesse Hall, Billy Brown, Ricky Jolley, Dick Muse, and Bruce Pepper. Team captains were Ronnie Hall and Jim Peace. Coaches for the 1969 Dragons were Howard Muse, PV Griffin, Al Bolen and Phil Robertson "The Duck Commander." In 2013, the Junction City Athletic Department officially recognized the 1969 Dragons as conference champions!

GLENN ELMORE played running back for the Dragons from 1973 to 1975. Teammates remember Glenn as a special talent. He had several outstanding games for the Dragons during his career and was an All-Conference performer. Elmore accepted a scholarship offer to Grambling State University and played for the Legendary Tiger Head Coach Eddie Robinson from 1976 to 1979. During his time at Grambling, the Tigers were SWAC champions. After college Elmore had an NFL tryout with the Seattle Seahawks. Mr. Elmore passed away on December 29, 2017.

KOBY MCKINNON played for the Dragons from 2001 to 2003. During his three years as a Dragon, Junction City compiled an overall record of 38-5, winning two district titles and the school's first state title in 2003.

On offense McKinnon played tight end and would finish in the school's top five all for most receptions, yards and touchdowns by a tight end. On defense he played safety and finished in the school's top ten for tackles by a safety. McKinnon was selected all conference in 2002 and 2003. The 2003 season was Koby's best season as a Dragon. He set single season tight end records for receptions, yards and touchdowns that would stand for over a decade. McKinnon's play on special teams was also record breaking. He averaged a school record 37.5 yards per punt return, scored two touchdowns and he also returned two kickoffs for touchdowns.

During his Dragon career McKinnon made numerous big plays. One that he is remembered for is the interception return for a touchdown against Rison in the state semifinals that helped lead the Dragons to victory. In the state finals, McKinnon was elected MVP for his outstanding play. He recorded 10 tackles, three interceptions (1 returned for a touchdown) and two pass break ups. He also had a reception for a touchdown.

McKinnon was selected All State and All Star his senior year. He was also elected to the Democrat-Gazette All Arkansas Team and the Arkansas AP Super Team (the only Class AA player selected).

Following his Junction City career, McKinnon accepted a football scholarship to Arkansas State University. Koby played at ASU from 2004-07. He would go on to make All Sun Belt Conference in 2006 and 2007. In the 2007 pre-season, McKinnon was selected to the Butkus Award Watch List. This is a list of the top collegiate linebackers in the nation. Koby had a great senior season in 2007, leading the team in tackles with 101. He would finish with the second most interception return yards in Sun Belt Conference history.



1953 DRAGON TEAM

The 1953 Junction City Dragons were the first team in school history to win a conference title. Led by Coach G.M. Haynes, the 1953 Dragons finished the season undefeated in 7B conference play, while posting five shutouts on defense. On offense, the 1953 Dragons had big play capabilities on the ground and through the air. Overall the offense had over 30 plays of 15 yards or more.

Two members of the team, halfback Jerry McKinnon and lineman James McCleskey, were named all-state during their career. McKinnon and end Charles Garris are both inductees of the Dragon Football Wall of Honor. McKinnon received the honor in 2016 and Garris was inducted in 2018.

Members of the 1953 Dragons are: George Jerry, Van Byram, Jerry McKinnon, James Swanner, Reggie Elkins, Tommy Muse, Albert Bolen, Olin Owens, Jimmy Davis, Dwaine Laney, Gene Cameron, Max McDonald, George Mason, James McCleskey, Terry Burrow, L.Z. Pepper, Billy Laney, O'Neal Tucker, Tom Lowery (Captain), Leon Wood, Charles Garris, Charles Davidson, Wilton Hayes, Herbert Thompson, Van McDonald, R.D. Moss

Coaches: Head Coach G.M. Haynes, Assistant George Harmon Smith

Managers: Paul Rowland, Darrell Burrow

1960 DRAGON TEAM

The 1960 Junction City Dragons were the second team in school history to win a conference title and the first to do it under Head Coach Howard Muse. They achieved this by posting a 4-0-1 mark in 7B East conference play.

They were also the first team in school history to participate in a playoff game. By winning the 7B East, the Dragons played the winners of the 7B West, the Mineral Springs Hornets, for the overall championship of the 7B. Junction City lost by a score of 7-0.

Using a very strong rushing attack led by Bruce and Bob McKinnon, the 1960 Dragons piled up over 2,500 yards on the ground. Defensively, Junction City gave up less than six points a game.

Three members of the 1960 Dragons are in the Dragon Football Wall of Honor. Head Coach Howard Muse and running back Bob McKinnon were inducted in 2014 and lineman Joe McGoogan was inducted in 2017. The next season McGoogan would become the first player in school history to be selected for the state all-star game.

End Alvin Kelly and running back Bruce McKinnon would receive post season honors. Kelly was named all-district and all state. McKinnon was also named all-district and was also named Outstanding Back in the 7B East.

Members of the 1960 Dragons are: Alvin Kelly, Andrew Cook, Bill Lewis, Clarence Owens, David Wood, Russell Cottrell, Paul McGoogan, Kenneth Pumphrey, Charles Sones, Urban Wilson, Joe McGoogan, Stewart Hall, Benny Aycock, Jimmy Jones, Wayne Smith, Ronnie Daniels and Danny New, Larry Hall, Robert Lowery, Paul Smith and Paul Campbell, Bruce McKinnon, Ralph Langston, Gene Patterson, Bob McKinnon, Marcus Laney, Hubert Jolley, John McGoogan and Larry Slaughter.

Head Coach Howard Muse



URBAN WILSON - A Golden Era of Junction City Football shines even brighter in the Dragon Football Wall of Honor as offensive lineman URBAN WILSON joins teammates Bob McKinnon (Class of 2004), Tom Jerry (Class of 2015), Joe McGoogan (Class of 2017) and Ronald Farrar (Class of 2017) as well as legendary head coach Paul Howard Muse.

An excellent upfront grid player for Muse from 1961-62, Wilson was a key cog in an offensive line that helped set school records for rushing yards and total offense which came courtesy of the play of Wilson's aforementioned teammates, including McKinnon who set school records for rushing yards in a season and career.

Wilson earned All-District and All-State honors during his time as a Dragon. He was a part of the 1960 Dragon team, which was inducted into the Dragon Football Wall of Honor in 2020, that captured the school's second-ever conference title. Wilson earned the distinct honor of 1962 Outstanding Lineman for the Dragons.

Sadly, Mr. Wilson passed away on January 12, 2020. We know his family is so proud of his contributions to our rich Dragon Football history and he is forever considered a Dragon Legend.

<u>P.V. GRIFFIN</u> - No individual filled as many roles, over as many years, in support of JC Athletics, as our next inductee, Mr. P.V. Griffin.

Griffin was a varsity athlete for the Dragons until his graduation in 1960. After graduating from Louisiana Tech, and a couple of stops at other schools, this Dragon found his way home to JCHS as a teacher and coach in 1969. From 1969 until 1973, he served as an assistant football coach before becoming the head coach for the 1974 and 1975 seasons and then a scout for the 1976 season. During his coaching tenure, Griffin coached Wall of Honor members Glen Elmore, Richard Wilson, and this year's fellow inductee, Rod Brantley.

If you lived within the city limits, there is a good chance you can still remember Griffin's voice cutting through the fall air all over town on Friday nights. He was the voice of the Dragons on the PA system from the old Dragon Stadium starting in 1977 and continued describing the action in an exciting new era of Junction City football when the "new" stadium opened at this location in 1987. Griffin continued as PA announcer for the Dragons until 1991.

After his coaching career, Griffin didn't just lend his voice to the games; he also served an important historical role in Dragon football history as a sports journalist for the El Dorado News-Times, pulling double duty for years writing game previews as well as post-game articles about the Dragons. His detailed and thorough accounts named as many players as possible, which was well appreciated by Dragon players, coaches, and their families. And, he spent time photographing the Dragons in action whenever possible.

Griffin moved to the High School Counselor's role in 1980, in which he served until 1992.

ROD BRANTLEY - When discussing the Dragon Football program's top players of the 1970s, Rod Brantley's name surfaces quickly. A wide receiver during his sophomore season of 1975 under fellow Dragon Football Wall of Honor inductee P.V. Griffin, Brantley's athleticism allowed him to impact as a pass catcher that season before moving to quarterback for the 1976 and 1977 campaigns.

For a program that had never advanced to the state playoffs, Brantley's position change for his junior and senior seasons helped Junction City remain very competitive as the Dragons came within a game of earning a playoff appearance in both '76 and '77; an era that saw only the conference champion qualify for the postseason.

Brantley's performance in two seasons as the Dragons' signal caller earned him All-District recognition both years in addition to being named All-County and All-State following his senior season. The statewide honor made him just the second Junction City quarterback to earn an All-State accolade, joining fellow Dragon Football Wall of Honor inductee Tom Jerry (Class of 2015) who garnered the award in 1964.

Brantley finished his time as a Dragon ranked in the program's top ten of multiple career statistical categories including passing yards, pass attempts, completions, touchdowns and total offense. He also ranked in the top ten of several single-season passing categories as well.

Brantley found himself in the middle of some of the program's most memorable games as the '77 meeting with Stamps ended up being one of the coldest games in school history, while the matchup with Strong earlier in that season will forever be remembered as the "Chain Link Fence Game."

The Dragon Football Wall of Honor now includes two of the more prolific offensive players of that era as Brantley joins teammate and backfield mate Eddie Malone who was inducted in 2016.

KEO NOBLE - As dominant as small-school powerhouse Junction City is, the list of former players that greatly impacted on both sides of the football during their careers is quite a lengthy one. A name that belongs near the top of that list of the program's most prolific two-way players is Keo Noble.

A three-year starter at running back and linebacker for the Dragons from 1992-94, Noble remains the only player in school history to record over 300 tackles and over 2,000 rushing yards in his career. Legendary head coach David Carpenter remembers Noble not only as a "powerful runner with good speed and a great blocker," but also as a "very intense and focused player."

Noble, who "did so many things well as a running back and linebacker," was a three-time All-District selection and finished his career in the top ten of the school's career rushing yards list. He remains ranked in the top ten for single season and career tackles as well as in several other defensive categories. During the 1993 season, Noble averaged 14 tackles a game.

In 1993, Noble was named the El Dorado News-Times Player of the Year and following his high school playing career, Noble competed collegiately at Southern Arkansas University where he played for the Muleriders.

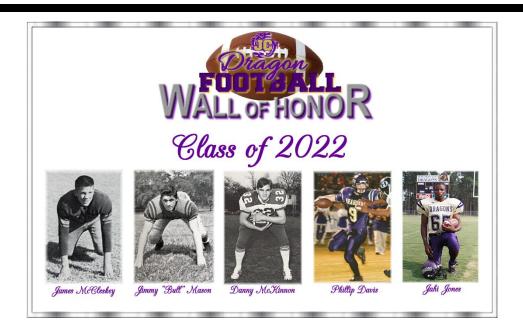
As impressive as his contributions were for the Dragons during his playing days, Noble's commitment to the Junction City Peewee program over the past dozen years has helped shaped the future of many Dragon Football players.

MARIO CARTER - As dominant as the now legendary running backs were that carried the football for the Dragons in the late 1990s and early 2000s, those up front leading the way were as equally impressive and none more so than guard Mario Carter.

A versatile trench player fully-loaded with all of the intangibles in a run-heavy offense, Carter played three seasons on that Dragon offensive front from 1998 to 2000 under head coach David Carpenter. Carpenter remarked that Carter's "quick feet, exceptional hip movement and powerful build" allowed for Junction City to run a lot of traps due to his ability to pull so well.

A three-time all-conference selection with a handful of other notable accolades, Carter helped pave the way for the likes of fellow Dragon Football Wall of Honor running backs Marcus Godfrey (Class of 2015) and Sam Grayson (Class of 2018) and in each of his three seasons operating along the interior of the Dragon offensive front, Junction City rushed for over 4,000 yards.

Additionally, the Dragons set over 25 offensive school records and posted an overall record of 31-4 with three conference titles during Carter's playing career. He becomes the fourth player from that program-shifting era inducted into the Dragon Football Wall of Honor joining Godfrey, Grayson and Gerod Payne (2017).



JAMES MCCLESKEY - Throughout its illustrious history, the Junction City football program has had its fair share of outstanding running backs. In addition to those ball carriers, there is a lengthy list of dominant lineman that have donned the purple and gold. Among those trench players and considered one of the very best lineman in program history is our first inductee: Mr. James McCleskey.

McCleskey played for the Dragons from 1952 to 1954 and was a key cog for a Junction City team that captured the program's first championship title in 1953. A hole opener on the offensive side of the ball as the team's starting right tackle, McCleskey was often considered the team's top offensive lineman, however, it was on the other side of the football that the bruising defender made name for himself.

Several game reports and postgame articles refer to McCleskey as the top defensive standout for the Dragons week in and week out and that was solidified following his senior season which saw him named to the All-State team.

McCleskey's reputation as a player precedes him into the Dragon Wall of Honor as he and his teammates were inducted in 2020 as members of Junction City's aforementioned first title-winning team of 1953. As a player, McCleskey joins teammates of that '53 squad in fellow Dragon Wall of Honor inductees Jerry McKinnon (2016) and Charles Garris (2018).

JIMMY "BULL" MASON - It takes quite the player in the "iron man" era of high school football to earn the nickname "Bull," but that is how Jimmy Mason came to be known to Dragon fans, coaches, and teammates in the 1950s.

This 1959 JCHS graduate anchored the offense at left tackle and the defense at nose guard. In addition, in short-yardage situations, Mason earned the nickname "Bull" by switching to fullback to gain the tough yardage by charging right into the heart of the defense, like a bull.

Despite a knee injury, Mason never missed a game his junior and senior years, playing both sides of the ball as well as handling all kicking duties.

In addition to football, Mason was also a standout basketball and baseball player for the Dragons. This All-District performer joins teammate P.V. Griffin, a 2021 inductee, in the Dragon Wall of Honor.

DANNY MCKINNON - At the small-school level, it's never a surprise to see a player play both sides of the football. However, what is a little more uncommon are the players that do it at an extremely high level. That was Danny McKinnon.

One of the program's top two-way players of all-time, McKinnon lived for contact as he played fullback and linebacker for the Dragons from 1970 to 1972. Offensively, he rushed for 1,500 yards during his career in the Dragon backfield. Defensively, the ironman tallied 256 tackles which at the conclusion of his career landed him inside the program's top 10 all-time.

A two-time all-conference selection, McKinnon's efforts helped Junction City post an 8-1 record for the '71 campaign which served as the best record for the decade of the 1970s.

"Danny was a dedicated, dependable player," noted PV Griffin, who coached McKinnon. "He never missed a practice or a game. I can count on one hand the number of plays he missed during his career."

McKinnon joins his position coach, PV Griffin (2021), his head coach, Paul H. Muse (2014), his teammate Richard Wilson (2017) and two of his brothers, Jerry McKinnon (2016) and Bob McKinnon (2014) in the Dragon Football Wall of Honor.

Danny McKinnon passed away in January of this year after a battle with lung cancer.

PHILLIP DAVIS - You absolutely cannot tell the story of Dragon Football in the early 2000s and not mention this player. In fact, this three-year member of the Junction City Football program deserves a chapter of his own.

Prior to the 2001 season, only four quarterbacks in program history had ever guided the Dragons to the state playoffs. But who was the first quarterback to lead Junction City to multiple playoff victories on the road as well as to the state semifinals? Phillip Davis is that player. And he did it in consecutive seasons.

Davis rarely left the field as a Dragon and that was good news for Junction City as he not only starred on offense, but played three seasons as a defensive starter in addition to being a major contributor on special teams. At the conclusion of his playing career in 2002, head coach David Carpenter noted, "Phillip is going to be a hard one to replace."

Chosen for the Select Six Sophomore Team, Davis bookended his career that included All-Conference, All-State and All-Star honors by being named the El Dorado News Times Player of the Year in 2002.

Davis concluded his career as the program's winningest quarterback with 23 victories; six of which were in the state playoffs and also a program record at the time. He led Junction City to a then-program record 12 wins in 2002. Davis polished his Dragon career as the leader in several offensive categories including yards rushing by a quarterback.

Phillip Davis joins his teammates Kevin Payne (2013), Koby McKinnon (2019), Mario Carter (2021) and Jahi Jones (2022) in the Wall of Honor as well as assistant coach Robby Lowe (2017) and head coach David Carpenter (2017).

JAHI JONES - When it comes to foundational players, those who helped set the standard that Junction City teams strive to reach, year in and year out, Jahi Jones is without a doubt in that conversation. A three-year starter as a tackle in both trenches for the Dragons from 2001 to 2003, Jones' presence on the edge contributed greatly to Junction City's high-powered rushing attack.

High-praise from your head coach is always something to hang your hat on as a player, but high praise from a legend that has coached numerous highly-talented young men is something entirely different." Jahi was one of the best I ever coached," said his head coach David Carpenter. "Everything he was asked to do, he did it. And he did it well."

During his three seasons as a Dragon, Jones was highly impactful on the offensive front as the Junction City offense continually rewrote the school's record book setting 23 offensive team records in that time span.

A three-time All-Conference selection, a two-time All-Area honoree and an All-Golden Triangle selection as a senior, Jones capped his final fall in the purple and gold as the 7AA East Outstanding Lineman and as an All-State and All-Star game selection.

Jones's admission into the Dragon Football Wall of Honor is greeted by teammates Kevin Payne (2013), Koby McKinnon (2019) and Phillip Davis (2022) as well as assistant coach Robby Lowe (2017) and head coach David Carpenter (2017).



Dragon Football History and Stats are researched and confirmed by Wayne Pumphrey. The DFWOH Committee is comprised of David Carpenter, Wayne Pumphrey, and Sohn Enis. DFWOH Inductee stories are written by Wayne Pumphrey and Jacob Pumphrey. Media posts and Dragon Football Wall of Honor Booklets created and printed by Melissa Pumphrey and the Junction City School District. The Dragon Football Wall of Honor Reception and Induction is proudly sponsored by The Dragon Sports Network and its generous advertisers!

Year 11 of the Dragon Football Wall of Honor



Ronnie Hall

Terry Crumpler



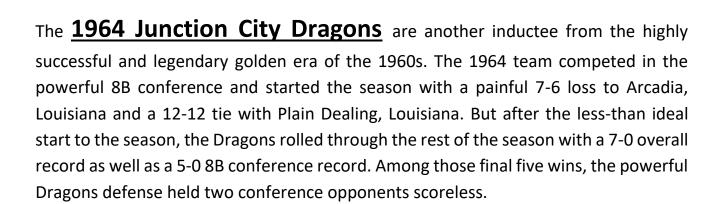




Lorenzo Lee



Justin Easter



In the end, the Dragons posted a 7-1-1 overall record and the 8B conference championship. The 1964 team produced the very first All-Star QB in school history in Tom Jerry, already a Wall of Honor inductee.

Additionally, Head Coach Howard Muse was the first coach in school history to coach at the yearly All-Star Game.

Ronnie Hall is one of the most decorated players in Junction City Dragons football history.

This four-year player graduated in 1970 after being a 3-time All-Conference selection, a 2-time Team MVP in 1968 and 1969, and the all-time school record holder in multiple kicking categories as well. Being a feared defender would have been enough for this Dragon legend to find his way to the Wall of Honor, but Hall also holds the school record for the most field goals in school history with 18 and finished his Dragon career as the all-time leader in PATs attempted and PATs made.

After high school, Hall added another title to his resume: national champion. He was a member of the 1972 Louisiana Tech Bulldogs team that won the Southland Conference Championship, the NCAA Mideast Region Championship, and the College Division National Championship.

Hall coached football at Junction City in the 1980s and 1990s and was a defensive assistant on the 1986 Conference Championship team and the defensive coordinator on several undefeated junior high teams.

He joins the 1968 and 1969 Dragon teams as well as teammate Tom Williams in the Wall of Honor.

Coach **Terry Crumpler** took over the Junction City football program in the fall of 1980 and by the time he was finished the Dragons had advanced to the playoffs for the first time in school history, picked up the 7AA Conference championship, and finished in the top three in the conference three more times, with Crumpler teams picking up 60 wins in his tenure.

Dragon football history buffs know that during the 80s, the state playoffs only allowed the conference winner and later the top two teams per conference to continue to the post-season playoffs. By the time he ended his career at Junction City, Crumpler's Dragons broke through that ceiling. By today's 4-team playoff standards, Crumpler-led teams would have made the playoffs 9 of his 10 seasons. But it was his 1986 team that ran and passed and defended through the powerful 7AA gauntlet, with a 9-1 regular season record, a conference championship, the first ever playoff appearance and first ever playoff win in school history against Clarksville, on the way to a 10-2 season. With

Crumpler at the helm, the 1986 Dragons were ranked number one in the state for several weeks. Statistically, his 1986 team fielded offensively and defensively the top two units in the state, across all classifications for several weeks throughout the season.

Crumpler and his assistant coaches Johnny Sweet, Ronnie Hall, and Larry Carter also guided the Dragon football program in the transition from the old Dragon Stadium over on the high school campus to this stadium we use today. Crumpler's 1987 team took this field for the first time in September 1987 to an announced crowd of two thousand spectators and won the first game over the Strong Bulldogs.

Crumper left Junction City in 1990 to pursue his career in administration, taking the principal job at Parkers Chapel Elementary School, before continuing his career in education as the principal at Jessieville Elementary School until his retirement.

There's tough and then there's **Lorenzo Lee** tough. An uber dependable Dragon for legendary head coach and fellow Dragon Football Wall of Honor inductee David Carpenter from 1999 to 2001, Lee's presence in the huddle over his three seasons in the harvest gold and purple was transformative to a program that was on the brink of a dynastic takeover.

A two-time All-7AA East performer in his junior and senior seasons, Lee earned All-Area acclaim in 2001 in his final year for the Dragons. For his career, he rushed for 2,294 yards and 28 touchdowns on just 269 attempts.

"During his time, Lorenzo played with a lot of other great backs and shared the ball," noted Carpenter. "But when he got the ball, he made something happen every time. He had a second gear. He was a great athlete who was a hard worker. He believed in what we were doing and that helped us have the success we achieved."

During his final fall for the Dragons, a determined Lee, which Carpenter remarked was one of the main reasons for their success during the '01 playoff run, served a vital role in Junction City earning the program's first-ever state semifinal appearance. A majority of his senior campaign was marred by injury, but that didn't keep him off of the field as Lee's reputation as one of the programs toughest ever has stood the test of time.

Carpenter added, "He never fumbled or dropped the ball. Not once. That is how dependable he was to us."

Just like his fellow WOH inductee Easter, Lee was a dependable asset defensively and his ability to cover every aspect of the field on defense routinely "put him in the perfect position to make plays. "He was always able to understand what the opponent was trying to do and he would react accordingly."

One of the absolute best to ever strap on a Dragon helmet, Lee takes his rightful place alongside teammate and Class of 2013 Wall of Honor inductee Kevin Payne.

A Dragon that could do it all. That was **Justin Easter**. From 2003 to 2006, Easter dazzled the Dragon faithful with his competitive fire in all aspects of the gridiron.

A three-time All-7AA East selection, Easter earned All-State plaudits in his final two seasons as a Dragon and was named an All-Star performer following his senior season of 2006. That same year, he was a finalist for the El Dorado News-Times Player of the Year and was named the Most Outstanding Back in the highly-competitive 7AA-East. Those accolades bookended a career full of recognition as Easter was named an All-Area performer and the El Dorado News-Times Rookie of the Year following his sophomore season of 2004.

"JJ was a good player for us who had a lot of ability, but played above that ability because he worked so hard," noted fellow Dragon Football Wall of Honor inductee and legendary head coach David Carpenter. "His work ethic set the standard for his teammates."

That work ethic was built to last as Easter's name remains littered throughout the Dragon Football Record Book. No running back in the vaunted annuls of Junction City Football carried the pigskin more than Easter's 524 attempts. In four seasons, he rushed for 3,786 yards, the third-most in school history, and scored 37 touchdowns. In all, Easter racked up 3,954 total yards of offense, the third-most of any player in school history, behind a school-record 533 touches.

A list of memorable moments involving Easter is a lengthy one, but there's one from a cold, November night in central Arkansas during Easter's junior season that rises to the top of every conversation.

In the epic 2005 playoff upset of top-seeded Harding Academy, Easter rushed for 104 yards and made a key reception that set up a Dragon touchdown. Carpenter remembers the play well. "JJ ran a route and saw that he had to alter it. He made a great catch that gave us a first down and we ended up scoring off that drive." That playoff victory was one of the biggest wins in Dragon football history.

Justin was more than an offensive threat as his ability in the defensive secondary aided Junction City in boasting one of the state's top defenses year-in and year-out. "JJ covered the whole field on defense," remarked Carpenter. "He saw the whole field, was always in the correct position and understood what the opponent was trying to do."

Opponents always had to know where Easter was on either side of the football. Now they can find him among the program's legends.

[Photo is of the actual Dragon Football Wall of Honor created inside Dragon Arena in August of 2023 by Wayne Pumphrey, Denton Ashcraft and Melissa Pumphrey. It contains all inductees from 2013 – 2023!]

