

Cherokee County Sports Hall of Fame announces Class of 2018 by Shannon Fagan, Sports Editor



Shannon Fagan

Four new members will join the Cherokee County Sports Hall of Fame in June.

The committee recently decided upon its class for 2018, which will include former Cherokee County High School standouts Kaitlyn Griffith, Danny Stubbs, Marc Johnson and Gaylesville legend Arthur "Tarzan" White. White is deceased.

The Class of 2018 will be formally inducted at a banquet held in their honor June 9 at 6 p.m., at the Gadsden State-Cherokee Arena. Local television personality Jon Holder will emcee the event. Tickets are \$25 per person and available at all area high schools and the Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce.

"It's always exciting to induct a new class into the hall of fame," Cherokee County Sports Hall of Fame President Mike Welsh said. "It's a very difficult task to choose from many very worthy individuals who have been nominated. This year's class is exceptional when you look at the accomplishments of each one. We're just excited to be able to put them in the hall of fame."

KAITLYN GRIFFITH - Griffith was a three-sport athlete mainly known as a power-hitting shortstop for Lady Warrior softball team (2006-2011). She batted .564 with 27 home runs, 26 doubles and 11 triples her senior season in 2011. She also drove in 96 runs, scored 80 more and walked 25 times.

Griffith's home run total that season is second in the Alabama High School Athletic Association fast pitch record book. Only Pisgah's Shelby Holley has more with 35 (a national softball record). During her varsity career, Griffith belted 72 home runs, which is also second all-time to Holley's 78. Griffith's 96 RBI total for a season is one short of Ragland's Emily Church.

A starter since the seventh grade, Griffith helped lead Cherokee County High School to six county championships, five area championships, three region championships and a Class 4A state runner-up. Griffith earned the Alabama Sportswriters Association's Class 4A Hitter of the Year, a first-team selection at shortstop and a spot on the Super All-State Team her senior year.

Griffith went on to play softball at the University of South Alabama, where she is tied with Christin Crocker as the school's career home run leader (28). She was chosen the Sunbelt Conference's Most Outstanding Player in 2015.

Griffith is one of only three softball players to have her high school number retired.

DANNY STUBBS - Stubbs is a former Warrior basketball guard, baseball player and football standout running back who played in the early 1970s.

In football, Stubbs rushed for over 1,300 yards as a junior and 1,100 more as a senior. He also broke the Warriors' single-season rushing record held by Sammy Hester.

He went on to play football at Southern University, where he moved to fullback as a junior which earned him NFL interest.

MARC JOHNSON - Johnson was also a multi-sport standout for the Warriors in the late 1980s. In football, he was an all-state receiver and played defensive back for head coach and father Bobby Joe Johnson. He caught 23 touchdown passes and had 23 interceptions in his varsity career.

Johnson played in the Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Classic following his senior season. He started at free safety in the game and had two interceptions to lead Alabama to a win.

Following graduation in 1989, Johnson continued his football career at Auburn. He played special teams and was a backup receiver until he transferred to free safety his junior year. Johnson had an interception his senior year against Georgia and was a member of the Tigers' 11-0 squad in 1993.

TARZAN WHITE - White, known to many for his wrestling career, was a teacher at Gaylesville in the 1950s. Earlier in his career, he was an All-American lineman at the University of Alabama in the 1930s. Following college, White signed a professional football contract with the New York Giants and played for the team for three years until he went on to the Chicago Cardinals. Following a two-year stint with the Cardinals, White served his country in the Air Force.

When White came out of active duty, he went back to the Giants for three more seasons. It was then when he began his wrestling career. White wrestled all over the world before becoming a promoter of the sport. He died in 1996.