

Duncan High School Athletic Hall of Fame was created in 1978. Along the way, there have been several changes in the goals of the Hall of Fame and the processes involved. With 8 new inductees in 2019, the number of Hall of Fame members – athletes, coaches, administrators, media, contributors and boosters – rises to 110.

The Hall of Fame was originally formed by members of the Duncan Booster Club and the school athletic director, back when Duncan Public Schools had a single universal Booster Club.

At the outset, the selection committee consisted of Booster Club members, athletic department administrators and coaches. The Hall of Fame induction was part of the Duncan Booster Club All-Sports Banquet, and one or two new Hall of Fame members were inducted each year.

From 1978 to 1994, many Booster Club members, coaches, administrators, media and supporters were inducted into the HOF, but there was slow growth in the number of athletes being honored.

That changed in 1995, when the universal Duncan Sports Booster Club dissolved. By that time, most of the sports at Duncan High School had their own booster club and were conducting their own banquets.

What had been the All-Sports Banquet became the All-Sports Assembly, held in the high school auditorium. An induction ceremony for the HOF was part of the assembly.

The composition of the selection committee also changed. The new committee usually consisted of a member of the media, the historian of the Stephens County Museum, the high school athletic director, two or three coaches, and one or two members of the public.

During its first 20 years, only 27 people had been inducted into the Hall. A new selection committee decided it was time to put an emphasis on inducting more athletes, coaches and athletic department administrators into the Hall. The committee, made up of the athletic director, three or four coaches, the museum historian and a member of the media, began inducting three people each year.

There was a dry period from 2002 to 2004, when there were no HOF additions. But the HOF returned in 2005, when a committee consisting of the athletic director, a member of the media, the county historian and one or two coaches named three new Hall members. The problem was: The HOF induction ceremony was slowing down the All-Sports Assembly.

It was a positive that between 1999 and 2015 there were 54 new Hall inductees. But the increase caused the All-Sports Assembly to seemingly go on forever.

So, in 2016, the selection committee changed the induction format once again. The HOF ceremony became a separate event that was affiliated with the athletic department but was no longer part of the All-Sports Assembly.

The selection committee in 2016 consisted of three former media members, the athletic director, the county historian, a member of the public, one HOF member and one high school coach.

The committee rented the ballroom at the Duncan Golf & Tennis Club. A banquet was held the first Saturday in June, and the committee inducted 10 into the Hall.

After the success of the 2016 banquet, the committee decided to take another big step in 2017 that worked well. The HOF Banquet was scheduled to coincide with Duncan's football homecoming weekend.

There were 10 people inducted and committee members hoped for a crowd of about 100 at the banquet. They got that - and more - as attendance for the second HOF Banquet was 160.

The selection committee is still in a catch up mode, trying to honor potential inductees who satisfy four basic criteria: 1. For a former athlete to enter the Hall they must have graduated at least 10 years prior to consideration; 2. Former athletes must have graduated from DHS; 3. Members of the media and individuals who have been support staff or boosters can enter the Hall at any time.

Today, there are more than 125 athletes, coaches, support staff and boosters listed as potential DHS Athletic Hall of Famers. The list grows every year with each new batch of fine athletes and the people who support them.