

JAMES S. [JIMMY] HUFF

LIVING ATHLETE CATEGORY

Date of Birth: March 25, 1923

Place of Birth: El Paso, Texas

Parents: Henry P. and Iva Mae Huff

Attended: Crockett Elementary School

Austin High School

University of Texas – Austin

Jimmy Huff entered the field of amateur athletics at an early age, as quarterback and captain of his Crockett football team, at age 12.

At Austin High School, he served as team manager of the varsity basketball team in 1937.

Jimmy was a three year letterman at Austin High in basketball, '38, '39, '40. He was named to the 1st team All District his senior year.

As a member of the track team, he won 1st place in the high jump, setting a new record of 5' 10 ½" a record that stood for ten years, and also finished 1st in the 120 yard high hurdles.

Advancing to the Texas state track meet in Austin, Tx., in the spring of 1940, he won the state high jump event, at 6' 1 ½". At the same event, his teammate from Austin High, Charles (Junie) White, won the 100 yard dash event. These two wins brought the Austin High track team a third place finish in the meet. It must be noted that the high jump in 1940 was well before the famous Fosbury Flop.

The year 1940 started a banner period for El Paso athletics, as it was also the year that Austin athlete Walter Driver won 1st place in the State singles in tennis. Walter was elected to the El Paso Hall

of Fame in 1987. The following year, the El Paso High School basketball team won 1st place in the state meet. The following year, the Austin High team advanced to the state tournament, losing in the quarterfinal round by four points.

Jimmy Huff had been awarded the outstanding athlete award at Austin High in 1940. He enrolled at the University of Texas in 1940, and participated in freshmen track in the high jump and high hurdles.

He entered the USAir Force as a volunteer in 1943, and was commissioned as a 2d Lt., and trained pilots in B-17 bombers, later serving as a flight instructor in B-29 bombers.

Jimmy continued his love for athletics as an expert handball player at the local YMCA in 1947 . He competed in singles and doubles, winning the single award, and teaming with Harold Wiggs to win the doubles championship. He competed in handball at the Y for almost 40 years. He was employed by the White House Dept, Store as a buyer, and later had his own clothing business in El Paso. He later was employed as sales manager and later president of the Bauman Outdoor Sign Business, is now retired and living in El Paso.