



Dr. Howard Davis

Athletic Director of Tuskegee University, 1972-1988,
Founder, Tuskegee University Athletic Hall of Fame

Howard Davis, a native of Camden, South Carolina an educator and an outstanding athlete whose commitment to academic excellence and athletic was exemplified through his performance in the classroom and on the playing fields. His stellar performance in the academic and athletic arenas earned him a four year scholarship to Allen University where he received a Bachelor of Science degree with honors. He continued his educational pursuits earning a Masters of Arts degree from New York University, a Doctorate of Education from Oklahoma State University and completed post graduate studies at Indiana University. As an athlete, he excelled in track and field and football. His performance as a star running back earned him the nickname "Flash".

Davis' professional career took him from Howard High School where he served as Chairman of the Physical Education Department and as Recreation Director for the City of Georgetown, South Carolina (1957-1964) to Chair of the Faculty Athletic Committee and Athletic Director at University of Maryland, Eastern Shore (1964-1971). In 1972 he was welcomed at Tuskegee where he served as Athletic Director and Head of the Physical Education Department until 1988. He then went to Jackson State University as Athletic Director and served until he retired in 1997.

Upon his arrival at Tuskegee University Davis' devotion to athletics and the student athlete was immediately known. He wanted all students to be remembered for their outstanding athletic performance in the athletic arena, in addition to their pursuit of academic excellence.

One of Dr. Davis' missions was to create a vehicle to recognize athletes who excelled beyond average. He felt that this recognition was long overdue because of Tuskegee's athletic history; therefore in 1974 he, along with other school administrators established the Tuskegee University Athletic Hall of Fame. Dr. Davis was keenly aware of the need for funds to support the athletic programs. To support this need, he facilitated the development of the Tuskegee University National Athletic Association (TUNAA).

In 1985, Dr. Davis was able to generate funding to build a new scoreboard, a new press box and coaching tower, remodeled locker rooms, improved weight training facilities and the practice field for the student athletes. He was also instrumental in helping the Chappie James Center to become a reality. This facility would replace Logan Hall as an athletic arena.

Dr. Davis held membership and positions in numerous professional organizations to include the National Association of Collegiate Directors, where he served as a member of the executive committee from 1983-1988, Commissioner of Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC), and National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II (NCAA). He was inducted into the National Hall of Fame of Athletic Directors. He authored 7 books and 25 research studies which published nationally.