

Tuskegee University Athletic Hall of Fame

Estella Pearson Smith

Class of 1931

ESTELLA PEARSON SMITH, '31 - a charter member of the Tuskegee track team for girls, set records in both the discus and javelin throwing activities, consistently placing high in the hurdling, high jump and broad jump events. Estella also played on the varsity basketball team and holds fond memories of having played tennis against the famous "Ma" Seams of Chicago. Mrs. Smith was one of the first two female students selected to compete in the 1931 Olympics, but because of certain circumstances at the time the two invitees did not participate.

After leaving Tuskegee, Mrs. Smith returned to Missouri and with the aid of her co-worker, who later became her husband, coached a non-losing basketball team for four years. They are noted for putting on "first class" physical education recreational demonstrations throughout their immediate and surrounding communities.

Presently, Mrs. Smith is head of the Home Economics Department at Nipher Junior High School, Saint Louis, Missouri. Her leadership in social and religious activities is evident throughout the community.