



**JAMES A. "BIG JIM" SWINNEY**  
**MR. 19**  
*Class of 1954*

James A. "Big Jim" Swinney, known widely as the "galloping gale" out of Booker T. Washington High School in Atlanta, Georgia, where he excelled as a triple-threat running back in football, a standout in basketball, and a City and State champion sprinter in track and field. He served as captain of all three activities, wearing his beloved Number 19, and was unanimously chosen "The Best All-Round Athlete" in the school.

Swinney started forty consecutive football games at Tuskegee, playing both offense and defense at several positions. He also participated in baseball. He was chosen Alternate Captain of the Golden Tigers his seniors season, and was the "Most Valuable Player" in the Tuskegee-Alabama State Classic after being runner-up the two previous seasons. Swinney won Honorable Mention All-America honors in football as well as All-SIAC accolades.

Swinney received "Distinguished Military" honors as a dynamic Honor Guard Commander in the Army ROTC, as well as his commission as Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He had previously served a stint of military duty in the U.S. Army-Air Force before entering Tuskegee. Before and during military service, Swinney was the proud possessor of thirty-two undefeated boxing bouts.

Swinney returned to his prep Alma Mater as a Physical Education Instructor and Athletic Coach. He coached football, basketball (girls and boys), and track and field. Among the most notable achievements were two State Championships in football, five State Championships in basketball, and numerous State Championships in track and field. Swinney boasts highly of his Girl's Track Team winning the vaunted "Triple Crown" three times - City, State and Tuskegee Relays.

The CORNELL-BAKER-ABBOTT annual award was presented by Jim Swinney to the top Physical Education student. He named the trophy for people who has made a meaningful contribution to his life and to whom he held in high esteem.

While serving as Administrative Assistant on the secondary level, Swinney held dearly the dedication of the school's annual to him, and proudly states that the accolade rated right next to having coached four youngsters who made it big in professional sports.