

JIM MOUSER

Distinguished Service Award



Jim Mouser, also known as simply “Mouser”, served as a track and cross country coach for 27 years at Highland Park High School. Born in Hannah, Oklahoma, he graduated from McAlester High School in McAlester, Oklahoma in 1957. He attended Eastern Oklahoma A&M, now Eastern Oklahoma State College, in Wilberton, Oklahoma, where he played basketball and ran track. He transferred to Northeast Louisiana State College, now the University of Louisiana at Monroe. There he ran the 440 yard dash and the mile relay. He was Gulf States Conference Champion all three years he competed. Jim and his wife, Tommie, were married in August 1963. They have two children and four grandchildren.

Mouser was hired by Highland Park in 1967 after coaching positions at Northeast Louisiana State and Iowa Park ISD in Texas. His career at HPHS started as assistant football coach and head boys track and field coach. In 1972, he started the boys cross country team at HP before UIL recognized cross country as a sport. In 1975, he took over the girls cross country and track and field teams. He soon established one of the most successful cross country and track programs in the United States. In 2011, Mouser was inducted into the Cross Country Coaches Association of Texas Hall of Fame.

When he retired from coaching at Highland Park in 1994, the boys cross country teams had won 10 district and 2 regional championships. The girls cross country teams had won 18 district, 17 regional and 5 state championships. The girls' track and field teams won numerous district championships, 1 regional championship and state runner-up twice. Mouser had the ability to push athletes to their potential. It was his “push” that brought the average to a champion and a group of individuals to a team. While his teams were successful, it is the life success of his athletes and the coaches who came in contact with him where he made the biggest impact. His example of grit, fairness, perseverance, and dedication made a profound difference in many athletes and coaches' lives. As one of his former athletes remarked, “He taught us to set lofty goals and tirelessly work until they were achieved. But inextricably imbued in those hard lessons was his never-ending love and support. He was always there for us, and that stability emboldened our confidence and self-esteem. Each of his former athletes is a better person, mother, father, spouse and professional in the workplace because of the values he taught.”

Mouser retired from HPIISD in 1994 but his legacy of hard work, integrity and resilience continues to influence future generations of athletes and students.