

Charleston to Honor Marshall's At JHMAC

*****Update Sept. 16**

This is in need of current time of the Homecoming with Kelly which will host the Marshall dedication.

*****First published Aug. 2015**

Talked with Alfred Marshall via a Facebook Conversation.

Again ~ see ~ the Positive Gains from Social Media.

He told me he was stoked about Coach Blackman and Junior (DeLay) doing what they're doing to Honor [Herb and Nina Marshall](#).

The passing of the Iconic Charleston Couple is still fresh. The Feelings still Raw for the Marshall Family. Healing takes time and gestures such as what the [Charleston R1 School District](#) is doing to Honor their Memories~ is, in a small way ~ helping with the Grief Process. **#HealingTakesTime**

So, it was with this in mind when I talked to Alfred; football ~ his adventures at [Evangel University](#) and [Central Methodist](#); family and such and asked him if he had a memory I could add to the story. He did. And it follows.

..."Yeah there's A Lot of History around these parts that's lost unless u have a good story teller who was raised in these parts who cares about it"

(Here's) a ...yeah... little ad libs to *ur* story I was a 4 year letterman two time HACC player of the week and was thought highly enough as a player to be hand selected by coaches for a NFL combine for Minnesota Vikings and stl rams; won the HACC conference in 2005 went to the final four and we're beat by the National champions...and had an end season ranking of #3 team in the nation...

"Oh, yeah, and Josh was also a 4 year letterman at [\(Murray State University\)](#) team captain. Played corner strong free, whimp, outside, nickel...versatile basically the word for it..."

Love the #Whimp Dig by Big Brother. But, just kool to Hear; Read and Listen to the experiences these Men had on the Gridiron. It's Legendary. It's Epic And Local.

And, it's Good Stuff. *It's Fact.*

'Because' ~ you can't make this stuff up; ain't a writer Alive that Good. :)

****Update** ~ Aug 14 with statement from the Charleston Football Boosters Club. Below is the transcript.

"At the Thursday, August 13th Charleston R-1 Board of Education meeting the Board gave the "green light" for the Marshall Memorial/Scoreboard Committee to purchase a new scoreboard for the John H. Marshall Athletic Complex. The scoreboard and memorial garden below will be dedicated in memory of Coach Herb Marshall and his wife Nina. The scoreboard will also feature a video screen, that will enhance spectators game experience. Not only will the scoreboard be used for football but it will also be capable of displaying times at home track meets.

The scoreboard will be erected on brick columns, in which Bluejay supporters will have a chance to have their name or team engraved on the bricks. The memorial garden below will be professionally designed and landscaped. A memorial marker will be placed in the garden for Coach Marshall and his wife.

The project will be completed and fully funded by donations from businesses and community members and will be completed over a four year period.

The scoreboard itself will be up and operational for Homecoming Festivities on October 2, 2015.

"We are very excited about the support we have received so far and look forward to honoring a couple who were true Bluejay Fans," stated Bluejay Head Football Coach Brett Blackman.

Details on how community members and CHS Alumni can help in the fundraising effort will be announced on Monday, August 17, 2015."

***Scoreboard design may be altered by the Committee*

At the Charleston R-1 School Board Meeting, Blue Jays Coach Brett Blackman and Charleston Football Booster and CHS Alum Hubert DeLay, Jr., detail new Scoreboard and Memorial Proposal.

The Board signed off on the project that will be Funded by Private Donations.

It was not a Hard Sell.

In fact, when the pair talked about how the financing would proceed there was a certain sense of accomplishment at Hand. Although close to the vest with the numbers, DeLay expressed confidence the project would be completed ~ and soon.

That's the biggest news to come out of the meeting. This isn't some long, drawn out affair. Blackman told the Board that if he got the Ok to proceed that A New Scoreboard would be in place at John Harris Marshall Athletic Complex by Homecoming ~ Oct. 2, against the [Kennett Indians](#) ~ if you're Fact Checking.

It was a Proud Moment for Charleston at the Board Meeting. Nina ~ and Herb ~ and the Marshall Blue Jay Legacy is unparalleled.

For Starters ~ *there's this...*

From **1913** to the early **21st Century** ~ almost nonstop ~ a Marshall has been involved in the Charleston Blue Jay football program, either as player, coach or school administrator.

Then, there's this. The Person the John Harris Marshall Athletic Complex is named ~ The late patriarch of the family, John Harris Marshall Sr., began the tradition as a player in 1913 and served as head coach, principal and superintendent of the Charleston schools from 1926-1963.

A Rich and Powerful Legacy ~ An Iconic in the Community of **Charleston**. It's not a made-up thing. #ItWasEarned

To wit:

John Sr.'s sons, John Jr. and Alfred Herbert II (Herb), followed as players in the 1940s and later Herb became head coach from 1960 to 1969.

Herb's sons, Alfred Herbert III (Al) and Edward, played for the Bluejays in the 1970s and 1980s.

Al's sons, Alfred Herbert IV (A.H.) and Josh, played for the 'Jays. **Got it?**

You don't make this stuff up ~ the Legacy of the Human Beings; their impact ~ the Love for Charleston and Everything Blue.

And, A Football Coach in a Small Town is A Big Deal.

Coaches Lead ~ Teams, Towns Follow.

Al, an assistant for several years, became the third Marshall head coach at [Charleston High School](#)

According to records from 1907 to present, the Marshall's have accounted for 184 Charleston wins as head coaches and many more as players.

John Sr. won 126 of 190 games with 10 ties in his 21-year tenure stretching from 1926-46. He had only two losing seasons, his first two, when the team went 3-5 each year.

Look at neighboring small communities in Southern Illinois; Western Kentucky; West Tennessee and in SEMO ~ Look at what ties a Lot of Communities together in these rural, social economic depressed areas of **#Merica**.

Sport. *Sports* ~ a common denominator; a central element ~ a key and pivotal part to the development of the sense of Community Pride. **#BlueJays**

Think I'm using a tad of [hyperbole?](#)

Read a History Book; or, go back Home to a Game this Year on a Friday Night. *Or, continue to Read.* It gets better.

#Something About A Paddle ~ or Board

While Herb's Legendary Coaching Career notched its First Scalp when ~ in 1959 ~ Marshall Led Jackson to a Big 8 Championship, after taking over a team that was 1-9 the year prior to his 4-year stint.

But, it was Big Blue that was his Calling and All of Charleston are the Better For It ~ in the Likes of [It's A Wonderful Life](#) ~ movie.

Herb Marshall Meet George Bailey!

And, it gets better yet.

Remember the 1972 Undefeated Miami Dolphins?

While at Charleston, he coached future All-Pro safety Charlie Babb, who as a starter for the Miami Dolphins was a member of the [undefeated Super Bowl champions of 1972](#).

Said Herb, "Charlie wasn't the biggest or the fastest and I had some other boys that I thought were better, but he had something the others didn't have ~ **Heart!**

And, singularly important the Family's Success~ Education ~an under-riding Fundamental Theme in the Marshall Family. #BlueJays

Four generations of Marshalls have played collegiate football.

John Sr., for whom the Charleston High School sports complex is named, lettered as an end at the University of Missouri in 1917.

Herb, an all-Southeast Conference guard at the University of Arkansas in his senior season of 1952, was drafted by the Chicago Cardinals, but chose not to pursue a professional career.

Al, a team captain his senior season, was a wide receiver at Southeast Missouri State University from 1974-79.

Al's son, Alfred Herbert (A.H.) Marshall IV, Murray State University ~ The six-foot, 170-pound strong safety was recently awarded the Special Teams award for his performance against Avila University. * *Some information from this story courtesy of the Standard Democrat ~ 2006 Larry Lewis article.*

It is with that backdrop that the decision to move forward with the Memorial for the Mashall Family was met with overwhelming support and unanimous Favor of the R-1 Board.

Further Details will be forthcoming. What I know now is this ~ A New Scoreboard is Coming; A Memorial to the Marshall Family will be included ~ as well as a Memorial Garden and the Brick Columns that will Border the Scoreboard.

Fund Raising Efforts will now be made Public. *We Will Update...*

****Part 2 ~ Sunday, Aug. 16 ` Sikeston V Charleston.**

Rivalry dates to 1908. Unofficial Game Count 130. Oldest Rivalry West of the Mississippi River, Charleston Proudly Proclaims

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