

— 2018 —

Forsyth-Monroe County Sports Hall of Fame

Rodney Walker



Rodney Walker played football for Dan Pitts at Mary Persons High School for the 1960-1963 seasons, first as an offensive lineman and later as a receiver/end. After Mary Persons, Rodney attended Georgia Southern and went into the high school coaching ranks. Over the course of his head coaching career Rodney won 300 games as a Georgia high school coach finishing with a Georgia coaching record of 300-141-3 over 39 seasons. In 1984 Rodney Walker returned to Forsyth as Coach of West Rome playing in the State AA title game against Mary Persons, and on December 15 Walker's team defeated MP on the field of his alma mater by 14-7 score giving West Rome the State Title. Rodney's career had coaching stops at Peach County, West Rome, Stephens County, and Sandy Creek, and in addition to the West Rome team of 1984 which won the State, Walker coached teams playing for State title games at Stephens County in 1988 and Peach County in 1998. Rodney returned to Mary Persons for the 2005 season as Athletic Director and in 2006 started his thirty-fourth season of coaching, at Mary Persons. He closed out his career with the 2011 season losing a second-round playoff game to a very good Alpharetta team to finish 9-3. His six-year head coaching career at Mary Persons ended with a 39-21-0 regular season record and 40-24 overall. His last win at Mary Persons was a 54-20 first-round playoff win at Americus-Sumter, which was also the 300th win in his Georgia High School coaching career. While coaching at Sandy Creek, one of Rodney's athletes was Calvin Johnson who later starred at Georgia Tech and with the Detroit Lions. Son Chip Walker was also Head Coach at Sandy Creek and is now at Newnan. Rodney and Chip are the first father and son coaches in the State of Georgia to both win State Championships, Rodney in 1984 and Chip in 2009-2010-2012. Rodney's home is in Forsyth with wife Adecia; his children are daughter Leigh Eastman (Kyle), son Chip (Meaghan), and his three grandchildren are Trey, Bryant and Marlowe.

