

Roland McElrath, Jr. attended Camden Central High School from 1975 - 1978. During this time, he was an athletic standout in football, basketball, and ^{baseball} football for the Camden Lions. He was a starter and lettered every year in each of these sports during his high school career. In 1978, Roland was named The Jackson Sun Male Athlete of the Year. During his high school years, Roland also excelled in academics. He consistently earned grades that qualified him to be named to the Academic Honor Roll during his high school career.

In 1979, Roland entered UT Martin on an athletic scholarship and played football for four years with the Pacers. He was inducted in the Academic All Gulf South Conference his senior year in 1982. Roland graduated from UT Martin with a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting. Additionally, he earned a MBA degree from Memphis State University and gain credentials as a Certified Public Accountant. In 2001, Roland retired from his position of Director of Finance for the City of Memphis. He is presently in the position of Comptroller for Memphis, Water and Gas Utility Company.

Roland always appreciated the education he received in Benton County Public schools. It provided a solid academic base which allowed him to pursue higher education and reach his professional goals. He considers sports a great avenue in which to learn the value of teamwork, dedication and commitment.

Roland lives in Memphis with his wife, Michelle. They have two adult children, Whitney and Roland 111. Roland's parents, Roland Sr. and Janice McElrath are lifelong residents of Camden, Tennessee.

Benton County High School Athletics Hall of Fame
Nominee Form

The public is invited to submit nominations for the Benton County High School Athletics Hall of Fame

Criteria for selection:

1. The nominee must have been a part of the athletic department in the Benton County high school system.
2. The nominee must have been out of high school for 10 years.
3. In the case of a professional athlete/coach he or she must have been inactive for one year following the announcement of retirement.
4. Nominations will be considered for a period of 10 years.

Inductee Form

Name Roland McElrath, Jr.
Address 7530 October Rose Drive, Memphis, TN. 38119
School Attended Camden Central High School
Sport/s Played Football, Baseball, Basketball
Nominated by Thomas Rowsey Phone 901-624-2392
Date of nomination February 25, 2015

In narrative form please tell why this person should be inducted into the Benton County high school athletics Hall of Fame. Feel free to add additional sheets if necessary.

See attached

Please turn this nomination form into a board member or:

Mail to: David Markham
1343 Cedar Drive
Camden, TN 38320

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Inductee Form

Name Roland Ray McElrath Jr.

Address 7640 OCTOBER ROSE DRIVE

School Attended CAMDEN CENTRAL / UT MARTIN / UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS

Sport/s Played BASBALL, BASKETBALL, + FOOTBALL

Nominated by JUDY L. SIMON Phone 901 493-3097

Date of nomination 2-25-15

In narrative form please tell why this person should be inducted into the Benton County high school athletics Hall of Fame. Feel free to add additional sheets if necessary.

ROLAND WAS A GOD GIFTED ATHLETE. FROM LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL, TO PEE-WEE FOOTBALL AND FROM PLAYING SPORTS AT CAMDEN CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL TO FOOTBALL AT UT MARTIN, ROLAND WAS A LEADER BOTH IN SPORTS AND OFF THE FIELD. HE WAS THEN AND HAS PROVEN TO BE AN ATHLETIC SCHOLAR. DURING HIS TENURE WITH THE CITY OF MEMPHIS GOVERNMENT AND NOW WITH MEMPHIS LIGHT GAS + WATER, HIS WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE IS EXCEPTIONAL. HE WAS A FIERCE THREAT IN SPORTS AND OPPONENTS DID NOT WANT TO FACE HIM.

Please turn this nomination form into a board member or:

Mail to: David Markham
1343 Cedar Drive

He has been and is active as a community leader in Memphis, TN and is widely respected as a top notch financial analyst all over the region.

Roland was a natural athlete and used his ability to the maximum. He was the hardest running running back I ever faced. Fortunately, I only had to try to tackle him in practice. On defense he was a fine defender and hard hitting.

He had a natural agility and nose for the ball in basketball including scoring the winning basket in the epic 4 ('07) game against Waverly in 1977. He was an integral part of the District Championship Team as a senior in 1978.

As good as he was in those sports, he was even better as a baseball player. He was truly a natural on the field or at the plate. He was good enough to be offered the opportunity to play pro ball, but chose to go to college and pursue a career. That decision proved to be a wise one as Roland has distinguished himself in business, government and citizenship. Roland has been married to his college sweetheart, Michelle, many years and they have two grown children.

Also, in baseball he represented the State Championship winning Benton County All Star Team in Senior Babe Ruth in 1977. This team went far in the Babe Ruth World Series that year.

In my opinion Roland McElrath, Jr. is one of the most deserving candidates for the Benton County Sports Hall of Fame. He was a great player and team leader. He gave 110% every play. He is truly one of Camden's greatest. Additionally, he has distinguished himself as a successful entrepreneur, city leader, community leader and family man since leaving the playing field.

I could write a book about Roland's achievements, but I think everyone in Benton County knows that he is a class act and deserving of a first ballot induction.

Scott Orr