

John W. Morriss III



EDUCATION

High School – Jesse H. Jones High School, Houston, Texas, 1961-1964

Football, 1961 – 1963

Basketball, 1961 – 1964

Track, 1961 – 1964

4 year Letterman; All District '61 – '64, Region III Champ in high jump '61-'64;

All State, high jump '61-'64

High point man in the State Meet, 1964

District Champion, high jump, high hurdles, low hurdles (180 yard hurdles)

State Champion, high jump '62, '63, '64 (Western Roll, highest jump 6'8")

National record holder in high hurdles in 1964 (13.7, 120 yard hurdles)

Placed 2nd in high hurdles and 3rd in 180 low hurdles at the Golden West Invitational in Lost Angeles.

Voted Best All-Around Athlete in 1964

Received more than 50 Division 1 scholarship offers.

College – University of Houston, Houston, Texas, 1964 – 1969

Bachelor of Science in Education

John W. Morriss, Jr. was the Head Cross Country and Track Coach 1954 to 1981. He has been inducted into many Halls of Fame around the country and held several world records in High Hurdles. Dad was a nationally known track figure during his running years and was on the USA Olympic Team in 1932.

Track accomplishments:

4 year Letterman in track, '64 – '69
4 year High Point Athlete and Most Valuable Athlete, '67 – '69
110 high hurdles, 13.7
High Jump, Western Roll, 6'10"
400 meters, 47.8
Long Jump, 24'
Triple Jump, 45'
4X100 Meter Relay, 40.5
Occasionally participated in the Javelin

College – Texas Southern University, Houston
Master of Education Degree, 1975

COACHING CAREER

Pasadena Middle School, 1970 – 1976
Coached track, football, basketball and taught Physical Education

Dickinson High School, 1977 – 1981 (Hired by an old coaching buddy, Doug Reid)
Coached cross country and track
Cross Country District Championships, 1979, 1980
Cross Country Regional Qualifiers, 1979, 1980
Cross Country State Qualifiers, 1979, 1980
Track District Championship teams, 1979, 1980
Track State Qualifier – one Pole Vaulter

San Jacinto Junior College on Beamer Road, 1980 – 1981
Set up Physical Education program

Spring Branch High School, 1982 – 1984 (assistant to an old Friend, Danny Jones)
Coached Track and Football; won District Meet in 1984

Pearland High School, Head Track Coach Position, 1985 – 2005 when I retired after more than 20 years as head coach and 34 years in teaching and coaching.

Football coach, 1985 – 1990

Cross Country, 1990 – 2005; started program for a boys and a girls team
3 District Champion teams
11 Regional Qualifying teams
5 Second place District teams

5 District individuals
2 Second place District individuals

Track

4 District Championship teams
57 Regional Qualifiers
10 District Championship relay teams
6 State qualifiers

Most Notable Athletes:

Pat Pearson – State Meet, 1987, placed 2nd in High Hurdles; 3rd in 330 Intermediate.

Kevin Reynolds – State Meet in 1994, placed 4th in Pole Vault

Jarrold Cooper – State Meet in 1996, placed 3rd in High Hurdles, 4th in Triple Jump. Jarrold went to Kansas State on a Football scholarship and played in the NFL for Carolina Panthers (played in the Super Bowl) and Oakland Raiders.
George Paraskevopoulos – State Meet in 1997, 3rd place in Shot Put.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

District – 72 Champions, 68 runner-ups, 9 team champions

Regional – 140 qualifiers

State – 4 individual runners.

Won 32 invitational meets and placed 2nd in 22 invitational meets.

NOTE OF INTEREST

In my first year at Pearland, I had 12 boys come out for Track and Field; that's counting Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors! Despite having one athlete that showed promise for a medal in District, Pearland failed to score a single point in the meet. After being laughed at by a fellow coach, I started really working on building a viable team. My last year at Pearland, I had 152 boys on the Track and Field team. We were able to win the District title for the last four years I was there, which was the first District title for Pearland since the legendary Danny Green had coached there in the '70's.