

Clyde Duncan, Sr.

Class of 1964

Inducted: 2019



Clyde's success as a high school track athlete for North High School began at home. His mother, Marie, cared for him and 13 other siblings—seven boys and seven girls. His father, Earthol, worked full-time as a custodian at The Des Moines Register, but toiled virtually around the clock to support the family. Clyde and his siblings would always help their father do the two, three, four, five and six extra night jobs.

While at North, Clyde won nine State titles in three events from 1962-1964—the 100, 220 and 440-yard dashes. As of 2007, he still owns the State's top time in (9.3) in the 100-yard dash.

Clyde states "There's no sense in me trying to fool anybody. Without North High, I wouldn't be the Clyde Duncan some people maybe think of, as far as the sport. It's just been a true dream, but a dream that has been real. This was all brought about

from my home, North High School, and those who helped me." He attributes credit for his success to his high school coaches, Jimmy Lyle and Ray Pugh.

He attended Texas Southern and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Physical Education in 1969, and a Master's Degree in 1972. While there, he was part of three world record-setting relay performances under the legendary Stan Wright (The Flying Tigers). Duncan and his teammates posted the 4x100 relay world record on two separate occasions. The Flying Tigers indoor mile relay squad set the 1966 world mark in this event. Also, the 1965 spring medley relay broke the world record, and Duncan earned the title of the "World's Fastest Human" during his freshman year. Additionally, he was the National Athletic Intercollegiate Association's 60-yard dash champion. He was inducted in the National Federation of State High School Association's Hall of Fame in July 2007. He was the 14th Iowa inducted into the National Hall of Fame, which was founded in 1982 to honor students, coaches and officials involved in high school extracurricular activities. Duncan was also inducted into the Drake Relays Hall of Fame and in 2010, he was inducted into the SWAC (South Western Athletic Conference) Hall of Fame.

Prior to Clyde's coaching arrival at Texas Southern University in 1969 under former TSU standout head coach Dave Bethany, he was on the pro circuit, training world-class runners in this "Prime Time Sports Track and Field Club" He founded and headed the organization for 12 years. During the mid to late eighties, Duncan served as the head men and women's track and field coach at Arizona State. Prior to his appointment, he spent three seasons at the University of Washington as the head women's track and field coach and was in charge of sprints for the men's squad. He spent five years with the University of Houston (1977-1982). He was responsible for sprinters, relay teams, hurdlers and recruiting. Clyde recruited University of Houston Hall of Famer and Olympian Carl Lewis to the Cougar program in 1980. He held head coaching positions at Grambling State University and at Wiley College earlier in his career. .

Clyde was named head coach of the men's and women's track and field team at his Alma Mater in 1996. As a world respected athlete and coach, Duncan brought a wealth of experience, knowledge and enthusiasm to the Flying Tiger program. Under his leadership, Texas Southern Men's Track and Field team captured the 2015 Southwestern Athletic Conference Indoor Title, marking the programs first Championship since 1994. They also swept the leagues Track and Field Titles during the 2015 campaign as they were claimed Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field Champions.

As Clyde says "There's some history, some glorified history, at North High School. And track and field has to be at the top of that list."