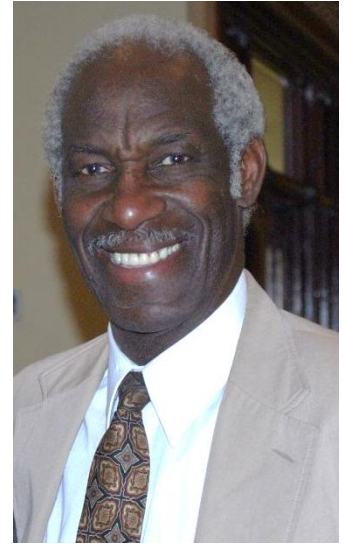


Roland E. Williams

My track and field career began in 1951 at Hatch Junior High School, Camden New Jersey when my first track coach the late Mr. R. Turner Dickerson introduced me to the sport and thus became my greatest influence.

However when I later entered Camden High School I participated mainly in football. My true track abilities surfaced at the college level while attending Virginia State College, Petersburg, Virginia, where I ran 9.8 (100) and 21.2 (220), and was winner of the 1956 Penn Relays college section mile relay, for which we received the Penn Relay Watch.

After two years at Virginia State College, I was drafted into military service, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where I continued to thrive in track and field setting the Third Army 220 record 20.9 and winning the Penn Relays, Service Section sprint medley championship. I completed my military service in Korea after winning the league scoring title as a running back and defensive safety for the US Army 7th Division Football Team.



It was in the late sixties when I recognized the need for track and field competition among females in South Jersey area. There was no organized training program available for females at this time and my idea was to organize a quality program for females to learn and excel in the sport of track and field. Before the state of New Jersey started track and field for girls in High School I was president and track coach for the Inter Community Youth Association (ICYA) located in Deptford, New Jersey, where we sponsored an all girls track team.

In 1973 the (ICYA) track team merged with Overbrook Track Club, coached by the late Al Coleburn, a member of Haddon Heights High School Hall of Fame. Under our guidance the renamed team, South Jersey Track Club (SJTC) became one of the largest track clubs in South Jersey and consists of boys and girls ages 9 to 18. Over the years (SJTC) has functioned as a feeder program for area high schools who did benefit from having (SJTC) athletes in their programs. The club athlete trained for national and international competition in their respective age groups, several athletes achieved State, National, International and Olympic status.

I later became a New Jersey State track and field official and was very active with TAC and AAU. I continue to direct local and national track and field events and receive awards from both organizations. The track club activities attracted many new athletes each year. Several universities contact me in regard to scholarships for these athletes.

In 1987 after twenty plus years of coaching (SJTC) I relocated to Orlando, Florida with my employer Westinghouse Electric Corp. I continued coaching and organizing the Central Florida Gliders Track Club (web site: cfgliders.com). This new involvement is a carbon copy of (SJTC), and my years of experience were utilized. After thirteen years of coaching (CFGTC) I retired from Westinghouse and returned to New Jersey December 2000. My Florida athletes achieved the same level of accomplishments as (SJTC), State, National, International and Olympic status. The athletes that transitioned through the programs remain my pride and joy and given the opportunity I would do the same thing the same way all over again, as each athlete was well worth the hard work and effort put into the training process. I remain active in track and field, elected to serve as AAU Athletics National Vice Chairman and was later appointed National Co-Chairman. My current position is National Coordinator, AAU Primary Track and Field Program, a national track and field series of track meets for athletes 5 to 8 years old.

Currently nine (9) **South Jersey Track Club athletes** have been inducted into the South Jersey Track and Field Hall of Fame:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------|--------------------------|------|
| 1) Dennis Mitchell | 2005 | 6) Dr. Lori L. Lewis | 2009 |
| 2) Lamont Smith | 2005 | 7) Nichole Bartley Govan | 2010 |
| 3) Gerard Reynolds | 2007 | 8) Denise Liles | 2010 |
| 4) Patricia Dunlap-Patouhas | 2008 | 9) Denise Mitchell | 2011 |
| 5) Eusheka Bartley | 2008 | | |