

# THE 50<sup>TH</sup> COACH DEE BONNER MEMORIAL RELAYS

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Hosted by  
**Harding Academy**  
Friday, March 28, 2025

## **Biography of Dee Eugene Bonner**

**by**

**Debbie Bonner Perkins**

Dee Eugene Bonner was born September 23, 1929 in Centralia, Illinois. He won his first track medal in first grade at Washington Elementary School in Centralia. His love for weightlifting started in eighth grade with weights that he made out of concrete blocks. He played three sports at Centralia Township High School – football, basketball and track. In his senior year, the track team won the Illinois State Track Championship. Dee was on the winning relay team and earned medals in three other events.

He graduated from Arkansas State University in 1951, where he had an outstanding athletic career in football, basketball and track. Ironically, in a career that began without an athletic scholarship, he earned 11 varsity letters, a long-standing ASU record. In his senior year, he was named Most Outstanding Athlete. As well, his personality earned him the titles of Most Popular and Wittiest Student. As a member of the track team, he ran the high and intermediate hurdles and the 100 yard dash, high jumped and threw the shot put. He held the Arkansas State record in the shot put for more than 20 years. His favorite event was the high hurdles in which he won many medals.

From 1951 to 1957, Dee coached men's and women's high school sports in the boot heel of Missouri. At Holland High School, Dee coached their first state medalist in track. Training by running alongside Dee's car, Kenneth Childers won the 440-yard dash. The women's basketball team he coached in Holland was his first undefeated team. He also coached football, basketball and track for seven years at Charleston High School. He was the winningest coach in school history for all sports. His undefeated track teams won ten meets in Missouri, Kentucky and Arkansas, including the Missouri state track meet, with team members winning five first place medals.

Dee worked for the Prudential Insurance Company for thirty years, but his first love was sports. He used his athletic gifts as volunteer coach for Harding Academy and Bartlett High School, turning "physical wrecks" into state champions and boys into men. Dee began his volunteer coaching at Harding Academy in 1975, a relationship that lasted seventeen years. He assisted with the hurdles, field events, and weight training as well as some of the women's track events. In 1989, he began volunteering at Bartlett High School where he developed the weight training programs for the high school basketball teams. Dee loved working with the youngest, most undeveloped students who showed a real potential for excelling in a given event. He had a real talent for observing a young man and identifying exactly the event in which he could most effectively use his talents. He had a nickname for everyone...just ask the "physical wrecks."

In 1953, he married his wife of 52 years, Sue Davidson Bonner. Their children and grandchildren are Debbie and Mark Perkins and their son Conner of Memphis; Susan and Curt Patton and their children Luke, Timothy and Elaina of Forrest City, AR; Dee Anna and Hubie Smith and their children Adam, Rachel and Rebecca of Nashville, TN. In 1992, he was diagnosed with cancer. In God's perfect timing, he died on February 13, 2006....the opening day of the track season.

## **50<sup>th</sup> COACH DEE BONNER MEMORIAL RELAYS**

Hosted by Harding Academy

**Friday, March 28, 2025**

### **PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS**

**Brighton High School  
Hutchison School  
Munford High School  
St. Mary's**

**ECS  
Memphis Rise Academy  
Rossville Christian Academy  
West Memphis**

**Harding Academy  
MHEA  
St. Agnes**

### **FORMAT (ALL RELAYS)**

Two running relay teams per school

*(Only each school's top team scores team points)*

Field event relay team – 3 athletes

### **SCHEDULE**

Field Events begin at 4:00 PM

Running Events begin at 6:00 PM

*Full schedule is at the back of the program*

### **SCORING**

10, 8, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1

### **AWARDS**

Championship and runner-up team trophies

Outstanding Athlete (male and female)

Medals for 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> place finishers

## Girls Team Results

Year	Team Champion	Team Runner-up	Outstanding Athlete
1974	Harding Academy	Wooddale	Jane Molner, Wooddale
1975	Central	Wooddale	Molly McLemore, Old Hickory
1976	Old Hickory	Harding Academy	Lisa Depriest, Old Hickory
1977	Old Hickory	Harding Academy	Melanie Clay, Harding Academy
1978	Catholic	Memphis Prep	Shelia Munns, Memphis Prep
1979	Bishop Byrne	Catholic	Shelia Munns, Memphis Prep
1980	Bishop Byrne	Harding Academy	Sandy Forsythe, Skyview
1981	Bishop Byrne	Harding Academy	Elizabeth Peek, Memphis Prep
1982	Memphis Prep	Harding Academy	Elizabeth Peek, Memphis Prep
1983	Harding Academy	Memphis Prep, St. Mary's	Elizabeth Peek, Memphis Prep
1984	Collierville	Catholic	Linda Gartner, Collierville
1985	Briarcrest	Collierville	Elizabeth Peek, Prep
1986	Briarcrest	Hutchison	Tonya Brooks, Collierville
1987	Bolton	Briarcrest	Freda Fields, Bolton
1988	Bolton	Briarcrest	Freda Fields, Bolton
1989	Bolton	Harding Academy	Andrea Crum, Harding Academy
1990	Hutchison	Harding Academy	Nikki Kendrick, Harding Academy
1991	Hutchison	Harding Academy	Nikki Kendrick, Harding Academy
1992	Hutchison	Briarcrest	Nikki Kendrick, Harding Academy
1993	Briarcrest	Hutchison	Lindley Harrison, Briarcrest
1994	Briarcrest	Hutchison	Aggie Quinn, Briarcrest
1995	Briarcrest	Collierville	Juanna Brown, Harding Academy
1996	Hutchison	Harding Academy	Anna Jones, ECS
1997	Briarcrest	Harding Academy	Kari Harris, Bartlett
1998	Bartlett	Harding Academy	Kari Harris, Bartlett
1999	Bartlett	Cordova	Emily Doss, ECS
2002	Cordova	Bartlett	Ashley Ferree, Cordova
2003	ECS	Briarcrest	Rachel Goodwin, ECS
2004	ECS	Bartlett, Briarcrest	Kendall Weaver, ECS
2005	ECS	Briarcrest	Liza Wellford, Hutchison
2006	Briarcrest	ECS	Renae VanWyhe, Collierville
2007	Briarcrest	ECS	Jessica Merriweather, Bartlett
2008	Arlington	Collierville	Alex Black, Harding Academy
2009	Harding Academy	ECS	Alex Black, Harding Academy
2010	Harding Academy	ECS	Alex Black, Harding Academy
2011	ECS	Arlington	Jessica Gray, Arlington – Kacey Nobert, St. Agnes
2012	Collierville	Bolton	Caroline Cook, St. Agnes
2013	Collierville	Bolton	Alexa Brainard, Collierville
2014	ECS	Southwind	Angelica Lightfoot, Southwind
2015	Whitehaven	Briarcrest	Maia McCoy, Whitehaven
2016	Briarcrest	Harding Academy, ECS	Angelica Lightfoot, Southwind
2017	Harding Academy	Southwind	Antoinette Lewis, Harding Academy
2018	Harding Academy	Munford	Jamisen Cobb, Harding Academy
2019	Southwind	Briarcrest	Tyra Nabors, Southwind
2021	Harding Academy	St. Mary's	Emily Patterson, Harding Academy
2022	Harding Academy	Southwind	Andrea Williams, Southwind
2023	Harding Academy	Hutchison School	Erica McGary, Harding Academy
2024	Harding Academy	West Memphis	Emory Miller, Harding Academy
2025			

## Girls Meet Records

Event	Performance	Athletes	School	Year
Triple Jump	103'4"	Michelle Bellican, Kendall Weaver, Heather Jamison	ECS	2004
Shot Put	100'3"	Jocelyn Bringht, Hailey Smith, Kimari Terrell	Harding Academy	2019
Pole Vault	29'6"	Collins Tuohy, Kristen James, Jennifer Garner	Briarcrest	2004
Discus	293'8"	Lindsey Allen, Sarah De LaCerde, Robynn Coleman	Collierville	2011
High Jump	14'10"	Jessica Merriweather, Sydney Ray, Caitlyn Manley	Bartlett	2007
Long Jump	47'6.75"	Maryanne Young, Kendall Weaver, Michelle Bellican	ECS	2004
Distance Medley <i>1600-800-800-1600</i>	16:10.5	McKenzie Nobert, Hannah Chamblin, Caroline Cook, Aiden Shea	St. Agnes	2012
4 x 100m	48.82	Andria Williams, Voniya Plez, Aliyah Duncan, Nyla Blackmon	Southwind	2022
Throwers Relay	56.8	Jasmine Merriweather, Yachole Martin, Shanta Moore, Jessica Gray	Arlington	2011
4 x 800m	9:56.2	Hannah Chamblin, Elizabeth Broughton, Caroline Cook, Aiden Shea	St. Agnes	2012
Sprint Medley <i>100-100-200-400</i>	1:48.17	Ciara Tate, Gatashyka Lyons, Maia McCoy, Kiara Rhodes	Whitehaven	2015
Shuttle Hurdles	1:05.51	Angelica Lightfoot, Isha Slaughter, Destiny Wilhite, Ashley Bell	Southwind	2014
4 x 400m	4:02.27	Kiara Rhodes, Taejah Robertson, Gatashyka Lyons, Maia McCoy	Whitehaven	2015

## Boys Team Results

Year	Team Champion	Team Runner-up	Outstanding Athlete
1973	East	Harding Academy	Bill Briggs, Harding Academy
1974	Westwood	Fairley	Mark Dorsey, Ridgeway
1975	MUS	Harding Academy	Cliff Hunt, MUS
1976	Bishop Byrne	MUS	John Harris, Bishop Byrne
1977	CBHS	Harding Academy	Keith Bland, Harding Academy
1978	Harding Academy	CBHS	Marcus Laughlin, Memphis Prep
1979	Harding Academy	CBHS	Tom Dorian, CBHS
1980	Harding Academy	MUS	Bryan Woods, Harding Academy
1981	CBHS	Harding Academy	Nick Dunning, Memphis Prep
1982	CBHS	Memphis Prep	Steve Osborne, Memphis Prep
1983	MUS	Catholic	Gary York, Catholic
1984	ECS	CBHS	John Horne, ECS
1985	Harding Academy	ECS	Martin Greene, Catholic
1986	Kirby	Catholic	Mario Wells, Catholic
1987	MUS	ECS	Warren Peek, Memphis Prep
1988	MUS	Harding Academy	Warren Peek, Memphis Prep
1989	MUS	Catholic, ECS	David Phillips, MUS – Mike Smith, ECS
1990	MUS	ECS	David Rubio, Harding Academy
1991	MUS	ECS	Bjorn Rekelhof, MUS
1992	MUS	ECS	Malcolm Saxon, MUS
1993	MUS	Harding Academy	Jeff Davis, Briarcrest
1994	MUS	ECS	Ryan Healy, ECS
1995	CBHS	Collierville	Matt Adams, Collierville
1996	Bartlett	CBHS	Mitchell Jones, Collierville
1997	Collierville	Overton	Sam Lea, Collierville
1998	CBHS	Collierville	Randez Ivory, Overton
1999	CBHS	Bartlett	Brent Canale, CBHS
2002	Bartlett	Cordova	Aaron Simms, Briarcrest
2003	ECS	CBHS	Anthony Chiulli, CBHS
2004	ECS	MUS	Timmy Linn, ECS
2005	CBHS	MUS	Marvin Webb, CBHS
2006	ECS	MUS	Matthew Sheppard, Briarcrest
2007	MUS	Bartlett	Robert Martin, Bartlett
2008	Bartlett, ECS, MUS (3-way tie for 1st Place)		Jared Davis, MUS
2009	MUS	CBHS	Stephond Allmond, MUS
2010	CBHS	Harding Academy	Willie Matthews, Bartlett
2011	CBHS	Collierville	Tim Jones, Collierville
2012	CBHS	Munford	Cedric Williams, Munford
2013	MUS	CBHS	Anthony Miller, CBHS
2014	Briarcrest	MUS	Josh Wheeler, Collierville
2015	MUS	Harding Academy	Chris Davis, MUS
2016	Harding Academy	MUS	Nicholas Martin, Harding Academy
2017	Harding Academy	MUS	Nicholas Martin and Ty Kimberlin, Harding Academy
2018	Harding Academy	MUS	Charles Nichols, Harding Academy
2019	Harding Academy	Bartlett	Austin Jackson, Harding Academy
2021	Harding Academy	Briarcrest	Jaxon Toney, Harding Academy
2022	Harding Academy	Southwind	Justin Davis, Harding Academy
2023	MUS	Harding Academy	Justin Davis, Harding Academy
2024	West Memphis	MUS	Amarion Pulliam, West Memphis
2025			

## Boys Meet Records

Event	Performance	Athletes	School	Year
Triple Jump	132'9"	Amarion Pulliam, Antwan Dawson, Jeremiah McGruder	West Memphis	2024
Shot Put	158'1"	Richard Wooten, Corey Mills, Patrick Howe	CBHS	2003
Pole Vault	39'0"	Jason Dunn, Gus Mealor, Ryan Spence	MUS	1994
Discus	435'11"	Matt Murphy, Lindell Mitchell, Bruck Brucker	CBHS	2009
High Jump	19'0"	Adam Canale, Brad Hill, Taylor Elfevig	CBHS	1994
Long Jump	60'5.5"	Jay Briggs, Jeremy Hull, Chris Deener	Bartlett	1996
Distance Medley <i>1600-800-800-1600</i>	13:22.8	Cody Rickert, Ben Griffith, Nick Smith, Kunle Oladehin	Bartlett	2002
4 x 100 m	42.40	Austin Jackson, Nicholas Martin, Charles Nichols, Calvin Austin III	Harding Academy	2017
Throwers Relay	49.0	Cameron Coile, Matt Curry, CJ Anderson, AJ Johnson	Collierville	2012
4 x 800 m	8:07.10	Clayton Turner, Pierce Rose, Terrell Jackson, Carlton Orange	MUS	2015
Sprint Medley <i>100-100-200-400</i>	1:32.9	Chris Springer, Willie Matthews Craig Jones, James Gilreath	Bartlett	2007
Shuttle Hurdles	1:04.59	Anthony Miller, Cameron Sanders, Rieves Wallace, Walter Pate	CBHS	2013
4 x 400 m	3:20.33	Chris Davis, Carlton Orange, Terrell Jackson, Harrison Williams	MUS	2014

## FIELD EVENTS

### Friday, March 28, 2025

<b>4:00 PM</b>		<b>APPROX. 5:00 PM</b>
Girls Shot Put	followed by	Boys Shot Put
Boys Discus	followed by	Girls Discus
Boys High Jump	followed by	Girls High Jump
Girls Pole Vault	followed by	Boys Pole Vault
Girls Long Jump	followed by	Boys Long Jump
Boys Triple Jump	followed by	Girls Triple Jump

**Shot Put, Discus, Long Jump, and Triple Jump - 3 throws/jumps per athlete**

**High Jump -3 consecutive misses**

## RUNNING EVENTS

(Girls first, then guys in each running event)

### Friday, March 28, 2025

*\*Times are approximate*

<b>EVENT</b>	<b>TIME*</b>
Distance medley (1600m, 800m, 800m, 1600m)	6:00 PM
4 x 100m	6:50 PM
Throwers Relay (4x100) – No Team Points	7:10 PM
4 x 800m	7:20 PM
Sprint Medley (100m, 100m, 200m, 400m)	7:50 PM
Shuttle Hurdle Relay	8:20 PM
4 x 400m	8:35 PM
AWARDS	Following 4x400



# **Harding Academy thanks the following for their contribution to the 50th Bonner Relays**

## ***The family of Coach Dee Eugene Bonner***

Sue Bonner

Debbie Bonner Perkins

Susan Bonner Patton

Dee Anna Bonner Smith

*And their families*

*Our friends and visitors from other schools*

*The many, many friends of Coach Bonner and the Harding Academy track program*

*The Harding Academy faculty & staff, numerous volunteers, and behind-the-scenes workers*

**Please join us next year for the 51<sup>st</sup> Bonner Relays**  
**March 2026**