

# Carver sprinter inducted to Lincoln University Hall of Fame

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The former Baytown George Washington Carver High School football and track & field athlete, Albert Wheatfall was recently inducted into the Lincoln University Hall of Fame in Jefferson City, Missouri as a track athlete.

Wheatfall played high school sports in Baytown and was a two sports athlete at the George Washington Carver High School. He was a member of Carver's 1958 football state championship team and was a running back. In 1958, he won the 100-yard dash and the 220-yard dash state championships and ran the anchor leg on the 440-yard relay team that also won the state championship.

Albert was a member of Carver's 1959 track & field championship team and finished second in the 100-yard dash behind Aubrey Hawley of Weldon High School-Gladewater and second in the 220-yard dash behind Homer Jones of Douglas-Pittsburg. Wheatfall again ran the anchor leg on the 440-yard relay team that won the state championship.

After graduating from Carver high school, Wheatfall earned a track & field scholarship to attend Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri.

In 1962, he was voted MVP of the Midwest Athletic Association for his accomplishments at Lincoln University in the 100-yard dash, 220-yard dash and 440-yard relay.

A champion track athlete for Lincoln University, Albert Wheatfall set school records in the 100-yard dash, 220-yard dash and the 440-yard relay during his time with the Blue Tigers.

I remember being an 8<sup>th</sup> grader who was moved up to the freshman track team and had an opportunity to see Albert Wheatfall practicing on the track at the old Memorial Stadium and running at track meets. Wheatfall had one of the best running forms I've ever seen for a high school sprinter. I also witness that he had no one else on the track team at that particular time that could run with him or give him any real competition. He was in a class by himself. Albert never had any real competition until he participated in state competition. He was the type of sprinter whom I personally think only ran as fast as he had to run to win. His only two losses,

taking 2<sup>nd</sup> place that I can remember in high school was at the state track meet in 1959 against Aubrey Hawley in the 100-yard dash and Homer Jones in the 220-yard dash. He never saw either one of those guys because he was told to watch someone else. I truly believe that if he had known about either of those two other guys and was running as fast as he was capable of running, he could have beaten both Hawley in the 100 yard dash and Homer Jones in the 220-yard dash that day.

I also remember Lincoln University running at an annual Texas Southern University track meet in the early 60's. Albert was running the anchor leg for the Lincoln University Blue Tigers track team. Florida A & M University sprinter Bob Hayes (**Bullet Bob**) was anchoring their 440-yard relay. Bullet Bob got the baton in front of Albert Wheatfall and Albert walked him down to win that race. Bob Hayes grabbed one of his legs after crossing the finish line and after realizing that Wheatfall had beaten him. I and many others witnessing that race thought that nothing was hurting Bob Hayes, except his pride, because Albert Wheatfall walked him down on that track at the old Jeppesen Stadium that day. All you could hear in the stands during that race was **whuuuu...**

The recent induction of Albert Wheatfall into the Lincoln University Hall of Fame is the second Hall of Fame induction for this outstanding Baytown track athlete. Wheatfall was also inducted into the Prairie View Interscholastic League Coaches Association (PVILCA) Hall of Fame in 2011 as a former George Washington Carver High School track athlete.