

A.J. "JELLY" MCDANAL

"JELLY" PLAYED ON THE 1930 WALKER COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM

that was undefeated and untied with a 11-0 record. This team scored 352 points and gave up only 26 points all year. This 1930 team ranks among the All-Time great teams in Walker County history.

A.J. was All-County, All-State and All-Southern. In one game against Cullman, he carried the ball four times for 231 yards and scored three touchdowns. In other games, he carried the ball four times for 258, four times for 280 yards, six carries for 249 yards and five TD's, and in one stretch, he carried the ball eighteen times for 1008 yards with an average of 55 yards per carry. He received a scholarship to the University of Alabama as a running back. While at Alabama he roomed with a young man named Paul "Bear" Bryant and they became lifelong friends. He was a member of the 1934 National Championship team. A.J. was a member of the "A" Club and Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity.



In 1938, at the age of 25, he was elected to the State Legislature under Governor Frank Dixon to become the youngest legislator up to that time. He then served a second term in 1947 under "Big" Jim Folsom. "Jelly" spent 7 years in the Air Force and was a veteran of the Korean War. He later coached at Tuscaloosa County High, Parrish High School, and Dora High School and ended his career as a 20 year teacher at Union Chapel Jr. High School. He was a former Sunday School teacher at First Baptist Church of Jasper, the State Treasurer of Alabama Retired Teachers Association, and was a charter member of the 1996 Walker High School Hall-of-Fame.

He was married to the former Pauline Brakefield and had four children: Judy Swann, Jane McLeon, A.J. III, and John Ed. He also has ten grandchildren and nineteen great-grandchildren.