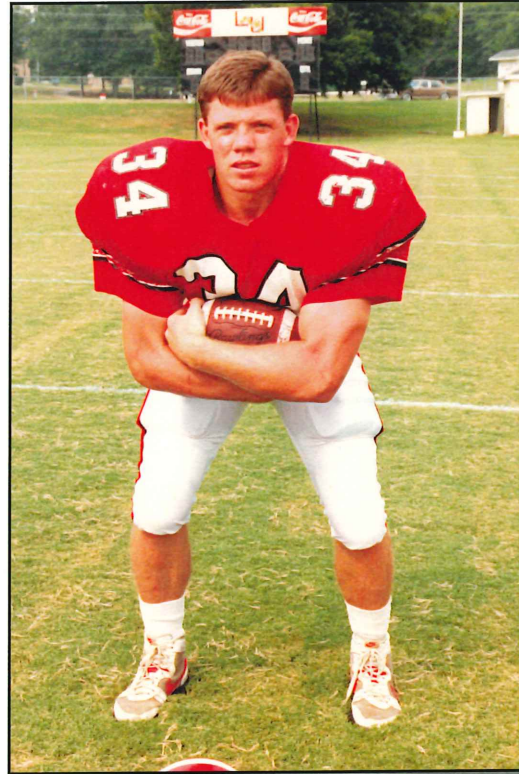


SHAY OLIVER

S HAY OLIVER WAS BORN IN JASPER, ON NOVEMBER 21, 1967, TO MIKE AND FREDIA OLIVER. HE ATTENDED

Curry High School where he graduated in 1986. During his time as a Yellow Jacket, he was a multi-sport athlete, playing football, baseball, and basketball. During his football career, he was named All-County, All-Area, All-Wal-Win, and All-State. He considered those awards an honor but recognizes that his success was in huge part to all the many people who supported, coached, and encouraged him along the way. As a seventh-grader at Curry High School, he remembers looking up to football players like David Elliott, Mort Kelley, Tracy Hubbard, Barry Cain, and Jamie Rigsby. He remembers Jamie Rigsby playing almost every game with a cast. These guys played tough and he made up his mind to play just as hard as them. Before his senior year, he was fortunate to be able to play with Ty Bennett, James "Coon" Aaron, Steve Bridges, and Paul Lay, who Oliver considered the all-around best player. Oliver says, "Those guys made me better." The 1985 Curry High School football team is arguably one of the best teams to ever come out of Curry. It was a great team full of guys who loved the game and played hard. "We lost our last game to the Dora Bulldogs 7-14 and missed the playoffs. Dora went on to play for the State Championship that year. That is how close that team was to being the best in the state," Oliver remembers. He isn't able to accept this award without his 1985 teammates knowing that he considers it an award for them all. Oliver says, "I guess we know now we must have done something right because all these years later people still talk about us." Oliver thanks his high school coaches that pushed him, "Danny Gambrell, Mike Ackerman, Jerry Pitts, J.D. Williams, Doug Wilson, and Hezzie Morgan. Those coaches mean the world to me and I am thankful to have lined up under their leadership."



After graduating from Curry High School, Oliver accepted a football scholarship to Livingston University (now University of West Alabama). Sam McCorkle, head football coach at LU, took Oliver in as one of his own. He turned a hotheaded high school boy into a man. After breaking both ankles as a freshman in college, he was redshirted. He battled back and started in all 44 games at Livingston for the next four years. He was voted as Offensive team captain and received the Phil Pusion Award, given to the football player who displays the most dedication and leadership. Oliver was named Honorable Mention Top 50 Team of the Decade 1980s. Oliver considers his time at Livingston to be a huge turning point in his life. He learned more about life, football, and leadership during his tenure as a Tiger than in any other period in his life. Today Coach McCorkle considers Shay one of the toughest players he has ever coached. McCorkle and Shay still have a wonderful relationship and swap football and life stories almost weekly. "I am so thankful he is a part of my life," Oliver says.

After finishing his college career, Oliver started his coaching career as a graduate assistant at Livingston. For the next 26 years, he coached and educated kids from Livingston to Carbon Hill before he ended up back home at Curry High School. After coaching at Curry he served as athletic director until he retired in 2020. Now Coach Oliver owns and operates his own lawn service. I am thankful for my wife, Katie Oliver, and my children Cade, Lane, Luke, Lila, Millie, and Hutt. He is enjoying his retirement with the ones that he loves. Oliver thinks back over his life and realizes that he has had many hard times. But the grind of playing football? That was easy.