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Keeton inducted at the Mississippi Community College Sports Hall of Fame

Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie resident Rex Keeton, a 1964 graduate of East Central Community College, was among fifteen inductees into the 2023 Class of the Mississippi Community College Sports Hall of Fame during ceremonies on April 25, at the Muse Center in Pearl. Keeton, who was inducted into the ECCC Athletic Hall of Fame in 2003, was an offensive and defensive lineman for the Warrior football team during the 1963 and 1964 seasons. He was considered a “60-minute” man – a person who played both offense and defense – and he excelled, as evidenced by his selection as most valuable lineman for 1964 by what was then known as the Mississippi Junior College Athletic Association. He was also named first

team All-State and was selected as a team captain by his ECJC teammates. In addition, he served as vice president of the student body association and was a class favorite. Keeton continued his athletic career at Delta State University, where he was two-year starter as an offensive and defensive lineman. He received the sportsmanship award and was president of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. A Morton native, he prepped at Morton High School (MHS), where he received All-Little Dixie Conference honors. He was also a member of the baseball team and selected Mr. MHS. Keeton received his bachelor’s degree in health and physical education at Delta State University and began a career in education that spanned thirty-five years.



Rex Keeton

Special to Pelahatchie News

His career began at Greenwood High School in 1968 as an assistant football coach and head baseball coach. He also had stints as a coach and/or teacher at Morton, Durant, Rosa Scott, Stringer and Bay Springs high schools, before serving five years as principal at Taylorsville High School. He was in private business for four years before returning to the field of education as a teacher at Choctaw Central, where he retired in 2011. Keeton, of the Crossroads Community, was also inducted into the Scott County Sports Hall of Fame at their ceremony on July 24, 2021. Keeton and his wife, Kaye, have four grown children, Kim, Richelle, Ryan and Chase, and eleven grandchildren.

East Rankin Academy students names STAR Students

Special to Pelahatchie News

East Rankin Academy (ERA) students Dylan Davis and Max Gainey were named as Mississippi Economic Council STAR Students. Dylan Davis is the son of Shannon and Heather Davis. He is a member of the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta (mathematics honor society) and ERA’s ACT 30 or Above Team. Davis serves as captain of ERA’s Academic Quiz Bowl Team and Science Bowl Team. He has been named a National Merit Finalist and scored 36 on the ACT. Davis will major in chemical engineering at the University of Alabama. His future career plans include attending medical school to become an orthopedic surgeon. Davis chose Mrs. Amy Mood as his STAR Teacher.

Max Gainey is the son of Kevin and Connie Gainey. Gainey is a member of the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta (mathematics honor society), and ERA’s ACT 30 or Above Team. He is also a member of ERA’s Academic Quiz Bowl Team and Science Bowl Team. Gainey has been named a National Merit Finalist and scored 36 on the ACT. He plans to attend the University of Alabama and major in mechanical engineering as he



Dylan Davis, ERA senior and Max Gainey, ERA senior

Photos special to Pelahatchie News

pursues a career in biomechanical prosthetics design. Gainey chose Mrs. Rachel Stroh as his STAR Teacher.

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