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JIMMY HITCHCOCK AWARD

What is the Award?

Shortly after the death of Jimmy Hitchcock, a few of his friends and admirers expressed to each other a mutual desire to be a part to some movement to perpetuate his memory in an appropriate way. These friends invited others to join them in forming a committee for this purpose.

Without a dissenting voice, the group organized for the announced purpose of dedicating their efforts toward selecting annually a young man at the high school level in Montgomery to receive the Jimmy Hitchcock Award for outstanding Christian Leadership in athletics as a lasting memory to one who truly was an outstanding Christian leader.

Each year, the respective coaches of each athletic squad of the Senior High Schools of Montgomery nominates athletes who have displayed the most outstanding qualities of Christian Leadership in that sport. These qualities are:

1. Strong Personal Character
2. Dependability
3. 100% Effort
4. Team Leadership
5. Church Leadership
6. School Activities Leadership
7. Scholastic Leadership

From this group of outstanding youth, one girl and one boy is chosen to receive the coveted Jimmy Hitchcock Award.

The objectives of the program are to recognize Christian Leadership in athletics and to encourage and inspire others to emulate the man whose memory is perpetuated by this award.

All nominees receive a Certificate of Merit and the two recipients receives a plaque. These awards are presented at an annual banquet in the spring of each year.

Scope of the Banquet

- High Impact Christian Speaker
- Over 600 Participants attend the Banquet
- Approximately 50 Senior High Nominees Recognized
- Approximately 51 Ninth Grade Students Recognized
- 18 Area High Schools Represented
- Over 100 Coaches in Attendance
- Over 300 Volunteer Committee Members



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JIMMY HITCHCOCK MEMORIAL AWARD

A Biographical Sketch of Jimmy Hitchcock

Jimmy was born in Inverness, Bullock County, Alabama, on June 28, 1911. For the record he was James Franklin Hitchcock; but early in life, the affectionate nickname “Jimmy” was used instead of the more formal “James;” and everywhere, he was just Jimmy. Even in his business life, where he was a loved and respected public servant, and in his varied civic, social, educational and religious activities, he was known as Jimmy Hitchcock—and his stationery always so stated.

One of five sons of J. F. Hitchcock, Jimmy played sandlot baseball and other sports with his brothers and friends in Bullock County; and when he was 15 years of age, he played varsity guard on the 1925 Union Springs High School football squad. The following year, one of Jimmy’s brothers, W.D. “Bully,” who was then coaching at Malone, Florida, High School, persuaded Jimmy to join him in Malone. Bully converted his younger brother to a half-back and by so doing, helped Jimmy launch a brilliant football career.

After a year at Malone High, Jimmy moved to Southern Military Academy, then located at Greensboro, Alabama, where he was trained by Nurmi Nelson. At the age of 18, he entered the college he was to help make famous football wise; and as an Auburn freshman, he was under the tutelage of Montgomery’s “Bull” McFaden.

In his first year of varsity competition at Auburn in 1930, he was outstanding as a triple-threat half-back. In 1932, as captain of his team, he led Auburn to an undefeated season and won All America Honors for his ability. He was Auburn’s first All American on the football field.

In the minds of Jimmy’s thousands of fans, the Auburn-Tulane game of 1932 stands out. In that game, the stands stood in admiration as the swift, swivel-hipped Hitchcock twice raced 70 yards for touchdowns, outdistancing a good Tulane defense and handing the Green Wave its only defeat of the season 19-7.

They also remember well the Ole Miss game that same year when Jimmy sat out the first half with a week-old injury, then entered the game with his Alma Mater trailing by one touchdown and in a matter of minutes, crossed the goal line with the tying touchdown. With only three minutes left in the game, Hitchcock fired a 20-yard pass to Allen Rogers for a touchdown and a thrilling 14-7 victory.

Ripley’s “Believe It or Not” column records that Hitchcock punted 232 times in his college career and never had one of his kicks blocked.

He led the Southern Conference in scoring his Senior year, literally racing across the goal line for 71 points.

He was also All America in baseball at Auburn for his fine play there in the spring of 1933. His baseball prowess eventually led to a big league career. He played short stop for the Boston Braves, and he also played in the Yankee system with Columbus of the American Association and with Chattanooga of the Southern Association. In between seasons, he acted as Assistant Football Coach to Head Coach Jack Meagher at his beloved Auburn.



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JIMMY HITCHCOCK MEMORIAL AWARD Selection Committee Responsibilities

1. Complete your membership form and pay your committee membership dues to the YMCA.
2. Call to Congratulate Nominee on being nominated for this award.
3. Review the information contained in this packet.
4. Visit Nominee in home or other convenient location.
 - a. Congratulate nominee and family;
 - b. Remind them that each nominee is a winner;
 - c. Explain Hitchcock Award;
 - d. Get to know the nominee;
 - e. Remind Nominee about pictures April 5-7 at Britton YMCA (as scheduled with nominees)
 - f. Pray with the family;
 - g. Obtain names of those attending the banquet;
5. Contact Nominee's references. (coaches, teammates, church, etc.- call them all and be prepared to write down quotes while you are talking to them)
6. Complete Selection Information Form and e-mail the form to hitchcock@ymcamontgomery.org. This form is used for your team presentation and the Banquet. It is filled out ONLY by the Selection team members who are working the nominee. This is NOT to be seen by your nominee. A Word version of this form can be found at www.ymcamontgomery.org/hitchcock.
7. Present your Nominee at your Team Meeting. (Use the Selection Information Form as your handout – provide 25 copies for your Selection Team Meeting)
8. Pray for your Nominee, the selection process, and the Awards program.
9. Attend the Selection Dinner.
10. Attend the Awards Banquet.

What if I have questions?

Contact your Team Captain first, or call YMCA Staff at (334) 229-0018



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JIMMY HITCHCOCK MEMORIAL AWARD

Hitchcock Interview Visit Information

The “home visit” with the nominee is one of the meaningful parts of the Hitchcock process. This is the opportunity to get to know your nominee and his or her family. This visit should be exciting and uplifting for all involved. In all that we do with the Hitchcock award, we keep these things in mind: We are advocates for: 1st - Jesus Christ, 2nd for the honor of the Award, 3rd for the nominee and their family.

The following are a few notes and tips for your interview:

Prepare for the Interview

- Call and set up a good time for the nominee and his or her family to meet with you and your co-worker in their home.
- Give them your name and contact information, so they can contact you if there are any changes.
- Review the forms you need to complete, so you have your questions prepared during your visit.
- Pray for your nominee, his or her family and your interview meeting.

The Home Visit

- Congratulate the nominee (and family) on being selected by his or her school...he or she is a winner and we acknowledge it
- Make sure the nominee and family members realize the purpose of this award.
 - o Tip: Review/ Read them what the award is about.
- Express your excitement about the Banquet! (Tuesday, May 4 @ TBD) This will be a very special night for their family.
 - o Info: Each nominee gets 2 guests
 - o You will sit with the nominee’s family / coaches and/or school admin
- Explain that “tonight’s visit is about {the nominee}.” The visit is to congratulate them and to get to know them better and hear all about their Christian leadership in athletics.
- It is always very powerful to pray with the family before you go and tell them how much you look forward to being with them at the banquet.

Common Questions to ask the Nominee for interview discussion

- Are you familiar with this award? What can you tell us about this award?
- Tell us about your { sport } season – how is your year going?
- Tell us about your Christian leadership activities

Required Question to ask the Nominee:

In an effort to ensure our nominee is an advocate for our primary qualification of being a Christian, follower of Jesus Christ our Savior, our God please ask him or her “Who is Jesus Christ to you?” (Please write good notes/quotes during the interview –so you have these for your presentation of the nominee)



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Team Meeting Process

- Each presenter will draw for the order of the presentations.
- The Selection Information Form will be distributed to all selection members. This information must be presented in the proper format. No other written information may be distributed.
- Presenter will have **8 minutes** to verbally present the qualifications of their nominee. No visual aids are allowed. This includes 2 minutes for questions and comments from selection members. A warning will be given at 2 minutes remaining if the presenter chooses to field questions at that time.
- After all nominees have been presented a secret ballot vote will be taken from the selection team.
- The nominee with a majority of the votes will advance to the Selection Dinner. If there is not a majority a runoff between the top two nominees will result.

RUN OFF

- The presenters will be allowed **3 minutes** for the presentation including one minute of questions from the team.
- A secret ballot vote will be taken and the nominee with the most votes will advance to the Selection Dinner.

Selection Dinner Process

- The process will begin with the female nominees.
- Each presenter will draw for the order of the presentations.
- The written information that has been previously submitted by the presenter will be distributed to all selection members. This information must be submitted in the proper format. No other written information may be distributed.
- Presenter will have **10 minutes** to verbally present the qualifications of their nominee. No visual aids are allowed. This includes 2 minutes for questions and comments from selection members. A warning will be given at 2 minutes remaining if the presenter chooses to field questions at that time.
- After all female nominees have been presented a secret ballot vote will be taken from the selection committee.
- If there is not a majority, a run-off between the top two nominees will result.
- The same process will be followed for the male nominees.

RUN OFF

- Presenters will draw for the order of the second.
- The presenters will be allowed **5 minutes** for the presentation including one minute of questions and comments, if the presenters choose to field questions.
- A secret ballot vote will be taken and the nominee with the most votes will be declared the representative of the award.
- The nominee must have a majority of the votes or a runoff between the top two nominees will result.

Captain's Review Team

In the event the team captain believes the nominee with the second highest number of votes from their team is due further consideration, the captain may designate said nominee as the at-large nominee from that team. All at-large nominees will then be forwarded to the captain's review team. This review team is composed of all team captains and co-captains along with the selection chairperson and co-chairperson. This review team meets subsequent to the completion of all team meetings for the purpose of reviewing and evaluating any at-large nominees. The at-large nominees will be presented to the review team by the team captain of the team the nominee was a part of. Upon completion of the presentations, the review team will vote on one additional male and female nominee to bring to the Selection Dinner. The Captain's Review Team does have the option to not bring any additional nominee to the selection dinner. These nominees will be presented with and given the same consideration as all other nominees at the Selection Dinner.



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Reminder of our Purpose

The purpose of the Jimmy Hitchcock Memorial Award is to recognize outstanding high school senior athletes, who by their actions have consistently represented the highest ideals of Christian leadership in athletics. Over fifty high school seniors from Montgomery County are nominated for this award. The student athletes are nominated by their coaches and the administrators of their respective schools. The nominees for the award are recognized for:

- Setting a Christian example of moral fitness and good sportsmanship;
- Accepting their God given gift of athletic ability and working to maximize their athletic potential;
- Athletic achievement:
- Obtaining the respect of their teammate and opponents;
- Being a positive role model for younger children and youth;
- Giving 100% effort at practice and in competition;
- A willingness to make personal sacrifices for the good or their team;
- Being dependable;
- Providing Christian Leadership both in and out of the athletic arena;
- Consistent church attendance, involvement and leadership;
- Involvement in Christian activities and in organizations which promote Christian ideals;
- Participation in student organizations, student government and other school activities;
- Achieving an academic performance level which reflects 100% effort and maximization of academic potential.

The nominees for the Jimmy Hitchcock award have set themselves apart by their moral character and Christian example. They have earned their nomination through hard work and by consistently exhibiting the qualities on which the award is based. We commend each nominee and their parents not only for what they have accomplished but also, more importantly, how they have gone about accomplishing it.

The Mission of the Jimmy Hitchcock Committee is to bring Glory to God by recognizing high school seniors from Montgomery County who profess Jesus Christ as the Son of God, their Savior and their Lord, and who reflect the genuineness of their profession through their leadership on the athletic field and in their school, church, and community.



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JIMMY HITCHCOCK MEMORIAL AWARD SELECTION INFORMATION FORM

NOMINEE: _____

A completed Selection Information Form is required for each nominee presented at the Team Meeting and Selection Dinner. There are eight areas that the nominees will be evaluated on including Primary Qualifications and Secondary Qualifications. Please include any quotes from teachers, coaches, ministers, peers, etc. as well as bullet points and anecdotes that will help the other members of the committee evaluate the nominee.

ALL FORMS MUST BE RETURNED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE TEAM MEETINGS AND SELECTION DINNER.

**This form is available online in Word format at www.ycamontgomery.org/hitchcock*

PRIMARY QUALIFICATIONS: CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP IN ATHLETICS

I. Sportsmanship and Moral Fitness On/Off Field: Christian Role Model

II. 100% Effort at Practice and in Competition

III. Dependability: Leadership: Sacrifices self for Team

IV. Maximizes Athletic Potential: Recognized for Athletic Excellence

V. Attendance, Involvement and Leadership in Church

SECONDARY QUALIFICATIONS: SCHOOL, EXTRA CURRICULAR, AND ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP

VI. Leadership in Student Organizations and School Activities

VII. Leadership in Other Christian Organizations and Activities

VIII. Academic Performance Reflecting 100% Effort