

Sports



Submitted

Former Shelby County Football Coach Tom Becherer joined by several former players during his induction to the Rockets' hall of fame Sept. 6.

Becherer inducted into Rockets' Hall of Fame

BY CASEY ROBERTS
SPORTS EDITOR

Tom Becherer, the former longtime head coach who helped shape the history of Shelby County High School football, has been inducted into the Rockets' Athletics Hall of Fame, capping a remarkable career spanning over 36 years in Kentucky high school football.

Becherer's journey to the Hall of Fame began as a stand-out player at the University of

Kentucky before transitioning into coaching. His career took off in 1966 when he restarted the football program at Maysville High School. After stints at Shelbyville High School and Christian Academy, Becherer became synonymous with success at Shelby County High, where he spent 25 years as the Rockets' head coach.

During his tenure, Becherer's accomplishments were numerous. He amassed over 225 career victories and led

the Rockets to a Class 4A State Championship in 1987, solidifying his place as one of Kentucky's elite coaches. His teams also reached the state finals in 1976, 1977, 1981, and 1993, with the 1981 squad finishing as State-at-Large Runner-Up and the 1988 team going undefeated during the regular season, earning a No. 1 ranking in the state.

"He was more than just a coach," said a former player. "He was a role model, a leader,

and someone who cared deeply about the players and the community."

Becherer's legacy isn't limited to the football field. He also spent 34 years teaching chemistry and physics at Shelby County High, influencing generations of students with his passion for education. His dedication to both academics and athletics left a lasting impact on the Shelby County community.

"Tom was not only a brilliant football coach but also an excel-

lent teacher who gave everything to his students and athletes," said a colleague. "His leadership and mentorship shaped the lives of so many young people in our community."

The Hall of Fame induction is a fitting tribute to a man who not only brought championships to Shelby County but also inspired countless students and athletes through his dedication, leadership, and commitment to excellence.

Rockets fall at Dunbar 48-7

BY CASEY ROBERTS
SPORTS EDITOR

The Shelby County Rockets (0-4) traveled to Lexington on Friday night to take on the Paul Laurence Dunbar Bulldogs (1-3), as both teams sought their first victory of the season. Despite a strong start and some promising moments, the Rockets ultimately fell 48-7 to the Bulldogs.

Shelby County's defense opened the game with grit, holding Dunbar to a turnover on downs after the Bulldogs worked the ball down to the 15-yard line. On their first offensive possession, the Rockets showed signs of life, picking up two first downs before their drive stalled near midfield, leading to a punt. The first quarter ended in a scoreless tie, with both teams showcasing defensive resilience.

Dunbar broke the deadlock early in the second quarter, capping off a long drive with a touchdown to take a 7-0 lead. Shelby County responded in dramatic fashion, as Clay Seaton ripped off an 80-yard touchdown run on the ensuing possession, tying the game 7-7 with eight minutes left in the half.

The momentum was short-lived, however, as Dunbar returned the ensuing kickoff for a touchdown, retaking the lead 13-7 after a missed extra point. The Bulldogs added another score late in the second quarter to stretch their lead to 21-7 heading into halftime.

Shelby County received the second-half kickoff but struggled to find offensive rhythm. Meanwhile, Dunbar's running game began to wear down the Rockets' defense, leading to another touchdown that



Casey Roberts

Clay Seaton carries the ball for an 80-yard touchdown run for the Rockets in their Sept. 13 matchup against Dunbar.



Casey Roberts

Gunnar Rhodes takes a pass upfield for Shelby County against Dunbar on Sept. 13.

extended their lead to 28-7. The Bulldogs would score again late in the third quarter, pushing the deficit to 35-7.

In the closing moments of the third, the Rockets' efforts to convert on fourth down led to a costly interception, which Dunbar returned for a

touchdown, making the score 42-7. Shelby County's struggles continued through the final quarter, allowing one more touchdown as Dunbar sealed a 48-7 victory.

Shelby County will look to bounce back next week when they return home to face North Oldham.



Caden Gaither

Jason Hence leaps for a catch in Collins' on Sept. 13 matchup against Oldham County.

Titans fall short in thriller against Oldham County

BY CASEY ROBERTS
SPORTS EDITOR

The Collins Titans (2-2) fought valiantly in a thrilling back-and-forth contest but fell just short against the undefeated Oldham County Colonels (4-0) on Friday night, losing 35-28 after a final-second Hail Mary attempt came up empty.

Oldham County struck first with a 59-yard touchdown run, putting the Colonels up 7-0 in the first quarter. Collins quickly answered, as quarterback Kade Goodin found Zaiden Baker for a six-yard touchdown pass, tying the score at 7-7 as the first quarter came to a close.

The second quarter saw the Colonels flex their running game, scoring consecutive touchdowns to build a 21-7 lead. However, the Titans responded in the closing minutes of the half with a crucial drive, capped off by a 15-yard touchdown run from Goodin to trim the deficit to 21-14 at halftime.

Collins came out strong in the second half, evening the score at 21-21 when Goodin connected with Dajari Hardy on a 50-yard screen pass for a touchdown.

Oldham County regained the lead quickly with a touchdown pass of their own, making it 28-21, and took advantage of a costly Collins turnover later in the third quarter. The Colonels converted the mistake into a 1-yard rushing touchdown, extending their lead to 35-21.

The Titans continued to fight, as Goodin found Jason Hence in the



Caden Gaither

Kade Goodin scans the defense and looks for a running lane in the first quarter of the Titan's contest with Oldham County Sept. 13.

closing minutes for a touchdown, bringing Collins within striking distance at 35-28.

With 1:15 remaining, the Titans' defense made a key stop, giving the offense one last chance to tie the game. Collins methodically moved down to Oldham County's 40-yard line, but a crucial sack stalled their progress, forcing a desperation Hail Mary from midfield as time expired. The pass fell incomplete, sealing the 35-28 victory for the Colonels.

The Titans will look to rebound when they travel to Fairdale on Sept. 20.