

ALONZO MATHEWS

Alonzo Mathews readily admits that his childhood was spent outside with his brother, running around, throwing things at each other, and getting dirty. He later used all of that strength, energy, coordination, and competitive fire to develop into an outstanding athlete. He also was astute enough to realize that there was more to life, and that these skills and traits could be used for the development of responsible and productive young men who could serve their families and communities.



Representing Whitten Funeral Home, Crawford's Carpet and Tile, and Coleman-Adams, Mathews first played organized sports in Dixie Youth Baseball, followed by experience with the Monelison Bruins, as they enjoyed consistent success in youth football. Wise beyond his years, Mathews learned that anger and frustration could be worked out on a football field in a positive way, with valuable results.

His mother provided him with the resources for success in sports: love, discipline, support, high expectations, and material goods, often at her own sacrifice. Other family members had excelled in sports, and recognized in Alonzo another emerging star. A lengthy list of youth and high school coaches provided the rest, and Alonzo was on his way to a life in football.

A three-sport athlete at ACHS, Mathews excelled at football, gaining All-District, All-State, and Blue Chip All-American designations. His team was a finalist in the state championship game in 1994. He parlayed his football skills to a scholarship to attend Liberty University, where he was able to expand his horizons with travel to other areas of the country. His first airline flight took him to California to play football.

But it is not football that brings Alonzo Mathews his greatest rewards – it is the development of strong values in the young men whom he reaches through sports and his IRON Man program that serve as his highest achievement, as co-founder. Working as a coach at several area schools has put him in the rarified air of two-time state championship winner, at ACHS in 2006 and 2007. More than a dozen football players have left his tutelage for college play; not only are they prepared for the game of football, but for making sound decisions in life after the buzzer or final out is recorded.

Alonzo Jermail Mathews – August 3, 1976

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- Youth: Baseball – Dixie Youth All-Star, Dixie Youth World Series; Football – Monelison Bruins, championship game
- ACHS: Football (1991-1995) – running back, All-District (2), All-State (2), All-Area (2), Blue Chip All-American, team state finalist (1994)
- Liberty University: Football (1995-2000) – running back
- Coaching: Baseball – Dixie Youth; Holy Cross (2001-02), state semi-finalist; Football – ACHS assistant (2002-07), state championships (2006, 2007); Appomattox County High School, assistant (2007-11); E.C. Glass High School, assistant (2011-present)
- Officiating: Baseball – High School (2004-2009); College (2008); Dixie Youth (2004-present), Dixie Youth World Series