

Robert L. Strayhan

Coach



Coach Robert L. Strayhan was born on July 17, 1923 in Jasper, Texas. He graduated Jack Yates High School in Houston, Texas in 1942. He received his Bachelor of Science degree (Physical Education) from Wiley College in Marshall, Texas in 1947 and played on Wiley's 1945 Negro National Championship team, along with Coach Johnny Peoples and former Baytown Junior School principal E. C. Woods. He received a Masters of Science Degree (Physical Education) from Prairie View A & M University in 1956.

Coach Strayhan served in the United States Army from 1948 to 1952, during the Korean War. He came to Baytown in 1952, to serve as an assistant football coach while Coach Johnny Peoples served in the Korean War. He coached at Baytown George Washington Carver High School from 1952 until May 1967. As the assistant football coach, he helped lead Baytown Carver to seven (7) District Titles and three (3) PVIL State Championships in football. Coach Strayhan also served as the boys' head basketball coach and led the Baytown Carver High School Basketball Team to five District Titles (1952, 1957, 1959, 1962 and 1963) and four (4) PVIL State Basketball Tournament appearances (1957, 1959, 1962 and 1963). They lost in the 1957 PVIL State Finals game to Lubbock-Dunbar 98-79.

He has been married to Pinkie J. Strayhan for fifty-five years and they have two sons: Robert C. Strayhan, M.D. and Allan H. Strayhan. They are the grandparents of five: Alicia Strayhan, Robert G. Strayhan, Mark A. Strayhan, Erika J. Strayhan and Vincent Henry Strayhan. He is a member and a deacon of Unity Missionary Baptist Church in Lewisville, Arkansas. He is very loved and respected by the school community and the church. He retired in 1989 with thirty-seven years of teaching service. His favorite saying: "A Quitter Never Wins, A Winner Never Quits".

Coach Strayhan was also an innovator. Seeing that the youth of Lewisville, AR had no positive outlets, he created & operated a summer recreation program for 43 years, until his health wouldn't allow. He also developed and coached a girls and boys Pee-Wee basketball program for more than 25 years.

At Lewisville High School, he served as the head track coach, assistance football coach and defensive coordinator and bus driver. In 1972, the Junior High team won the State Championship. In 1974, the Senior High went to the Meet of Champs in every event.

He retired from teaching in 1989, having given thirty-eight (38) years of service, but continued to drive the bus for several more years. An avid golfer, Coach Strayhan has over 35 trophies.

He was a member of the Unity Missionary Baptist Church in Lewisville, AR, serving a deacon.