



## 2007/08 Hall of Fame Inductee

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### Ben Eaton

#### Dunbar High



Long time varsity Football Coach, Ben Eaton began his interest in football at Frederick Douglas senior High School in Baltimore City under Coach Ray Cragway. He was able to obtain a football scholarship at Morgan State College which is now Morgan State "University". Coach Eaton lettered in football for four years, and received numerous honors. In 1974, he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education from Morgan.

After Graduation the late Coach Earl Banks placed Coach Ben under the offensive line Coach James Phillips. In 1976 Coach Tom Morris gave Ben his first full time assistant coaching position as an offensive line coach at Virginia State University. When Coach Morris moved to the

Universities to coach, he took Coach Eaton with him as an assistant. Coach Eaton has also been on staff as an assistant Coach at Fayetteville University.

In 1993, Head Coach Stanley Mitchell placed Coach Eaton in charge of building an offensive Line at the Paul Lawrence Dunbar High School, and the rest is history. The Dunbar Poets have been in playoffs every year. In 1994 and 1995, the team won back-to-back State Championships in two divisions (2A and 3A)

Coach Eaton became Head Coach at Dunbar in 1999, and the winning tradition continued with six playoff appearances, 2 semifinals and the 1A State Championship in 2004.

Coach Eaton has been a member of the Baltimore Touchdown Club since its inception in 1995. He has coached the offensive line in two All-Star games, and was Head coach in 1999. He was instrumental in starting the first Big Man's Clinic, which was held at Lake Clifton-Eastern High School in 1997. The clinic has grown into the big Man Jamboree and it continues to develop the concepts of basic fundamental line play to young men throughout the state of Maryland. Remember, "its what up front that counts".

On December 9, 2006 Coach Eaton celebrated his 58th birthday at M&T Stadium where the Dunbar Poets won the 1A State Championship.

Coach was proud of his son Benjamin who attended The Gilman School. He had the distinction of coaching the Offensive Player of the year Tavon Austin and being the father of Defensive Player of the Year, his Son, Ben Jr.

On August 27, 2007 before the start of the football season , the Dunbar community and those who knew Coach suffered a great loss with the passing of coach Ben. The team dedicated the 2007 in honor of the late coach with a repeat performance as the 1A State Championship. Coach Eaton was married for 27 years to his college sweetheart and best friend Sandra. Coach Eaton will always be remembered for giving Hugs not handshakes.