



**Walter Thompson - Head Football Coach
1972-1989**

(Coach Thompson provided the following biographical article. Coach Thompson also taught Civics during his time at Southeast.)

Walter Thompson, former Head Football Coach at Southeast High School was the 3rd Head Coach in school's history following Cecil Patterson; 1939-1969 and William "Bill" Myles; 1969-1972, who went on to become an assistant football coach at Nebraska under Tom Osborne. His distinguish career includes 17 seasons where his teams won or shared 11 League Championships from 1972-1988.

As Head Coach at Southeast High School, Thompson's career record was 129-55-1 (.708) earning him "Coach of the Year" three times. His teams were consistently in the top 10 rankings every season in the Kansas City Metropolitan Area and in the State of Missouri 4A division. During his tenure at Southeast, not many other Missouri high school football programs could boast having over 50+ All Conference, 30+ All Metro, 15+ All State and 7 All American players. Many of his players went on to play at notable universities or colleges; Earl Everett/Uni. of Nebraska, Lester Dickey/Uni. of Missouri, Wayne Washington/Uni. of Missouri, Prentiss Carson/Uni. of Texas-El Paso, Herbie Hardwick/Dartmouth College, June James/Uni. of Texas/Detroit Lions/Indianapolis Colts, Larry Connors/Uni. of Kansas, Robert Harper/Uni. of Houston, Lorenzo Hicks/Uni. of Nebraska, Duke Banks/Uni. of Pittsburgh, James Scott/Uni. of Arkansas and Terry Scott/Uni. of Tennessee who once held the best (high school) 100-meter time in the country in 1982; running a 10.3.

In addition, Thompson became the first African-American Coach to be selected as the Head Coach for the annual Big Brothers and Sisters All-

Star Football game held at Arrowhead Stadium. However, he is most proud of his sons he mentored/trained who were either selected All-Conference, All-Metro, All-State or All-American; Walt Jr., HB, Center High School – All Conf., Selected to the Big Brothers and Sisters All-Star Football Game in 1983 and earning a football scholarship to the Uni. of Houston, Mark Thompson, QB, All Conf., All Metro, All State lead Center High School to the 4A State Finals in 1985 and Mike Thompson, DB, All Conf., All Metro, All State and All American, lead the state with 14 interceptions in (1985) one season – both earning football scholarships to Missouri Southern.

A native of Monroe, LA., Where he lead his High School (Carroll High School) football team to its first outright Black High School State Championship in 1961. Thompson graduated from the University of Arkansas, Pine-Bluff where he set several passing records as a Quarterback and was nominated for All-American in 1963 and 1965. Thompson also received the Amos Alonzo Stagg Award in his sophomore year (1963). Thompson is a member of the UAPB Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2005.

Thompson got his start in coaching at Paseo High School in 1970 — as an assistant coach before becoming the Head Coach in 1972 at Southeast High School.

Walter Thompson is married to Lisa Thompson and they have one child; Emma and he has four children from a prior marriage; Walt Jr., Michael, Mark and Jennifer. Also, he has eight grandchildren.

Currently, Walter Thompson is the District Athletic Director for the Kansas City Kansas School District.

Walter Thompson's Head Coaching career at Southeast High School:

1972 5 – 4	1978 8 – 2 *	1984 7 – 3 Wyandotte 2-6 *
1973 9 – 1 *	1979 6 – 4	1985 9 – 1 *
1974 6 – 3 *	1980 7 – 3 *	1986 7 – 3 *
1975 7 – 3	1981 5 – 4 – 1	1987 6 – 4
1976 7 – 3 *	1982 7 – 3 *	1988 8 – 3 *
1977 7 – 3	1983 8 – 2 *	1989 8 - 2 *

* Denotes League Championships