

James William Slaughter, Jr, '47



James Slaughter, 1947 Recall

Jimmy Slaughter was a native of Roanoke. At six foot eleven, he had led the Jefferson High School basketball team to glory... then he came to AMA for one PG year in 1946-47 to play for Coach Chapman.

That '47 team lost only one game... and along the way demolished jayvee teams from VMI and Washington and Lee. Slaughter was the leading scorer... and leading rebounder in 19 of the 20 games that season. We played VMI twice that season... and Jimmy scored 45 points in the second game.



Jimmy was selected as best center in the league...an All Star in every way. He had an even 200 field goals for the season. Sports Hall of Famer Jerry Izenberg, says Jim had a "deadly hook shot."

Then Jim went off to the University of South Carolina. You can't help but wonder if he had been on the Gamecock team this year... South Carolina and North Carolina might have played each other for the national championship!

But back to his days at South Carolina! Jim holds the school's second highest rebound average...and is considered one of the best rebounders ever.

He was an All American in 1951... the first ever for the Gamecocks... and he still is remembered fondly for his poise... grace... and unparalleled ability on the basketball court. Needless to say... Jim Slaughter is in the University of South Carolina Sports Hall of Fame.

From 1948 through 1951... he led the Gamecocks in scoring. He was the first South Carolina basketball player to be given a full scholarship.

In 1951... the Baltimore Bullets drafted him. Unfortunately in those days... NBA salaries were puny... his wife remembering that his first check from the Bullets bounced!

So he stayed in South Carolina...played in the Southern Textile League leading Piedmont to a league title in 1958.

Jim Slaughter passed away in 1999... and eighteen years later... we inducted James William Slaughter,



THE 1947 AMA BASKETBALL TEAM - Front row, Mackey, Winecoff, JIM SLAUGHTER, Muncney, Reed, and Gliboff. Back row, Manager Ruth, Bradford, West, Powell, Blair and Coach Chapman.