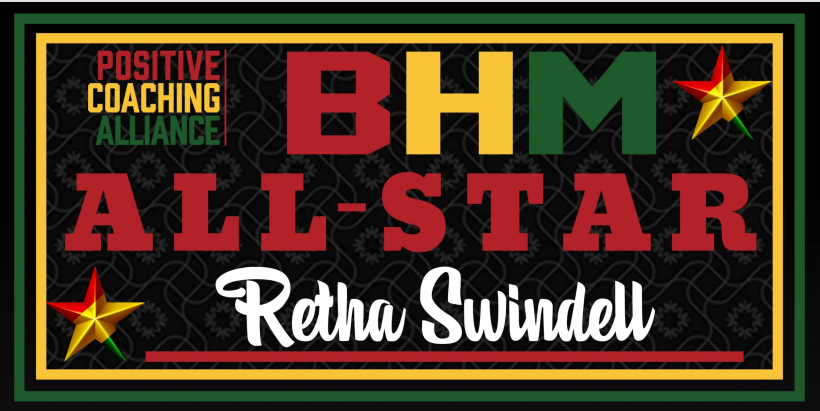




Black History Month All-Star: Retha Swindell



Retha Swindell has deep roots in Texas sports, let alone with the University of Texas. Swindell was born and raised in Center, Texas, located in East Texas close to the state border, about an hour’s drive southwest of Shreveport, Louisiana. There she was a two-sport athlete in track and field and basketball. Swindell dominated track and field, setting a national record in the triple jump at the 1973 University Interscholastic League Class A Girls Track and Field competition. That same year in the state competition, she won the high jump leaping 4 feet 10 inches. Swindell then landed first in the long jump leaping 16 feet 4 inches. Then she triple jump 35 feet 10 inches to win that crown. The following year, her triple jump was 39 feet 2 inches to break her record at Austin’s state track and field event.

Retha Swindell and Rodney Page Conversation with...

After being recruited by the University of Texas women’s coach, Rod Page Swindell would attend the university on an academic scholarship. She originally majored in computer science but her passion for sports convinced her to change it to education to physical education.

At UT, she set milestones as she was the first African American woman to play varsity from 1975-79. As a freshman, she missed the final cut to the Montreal Olympic women’s basketball team in 1976. Swindell’s junior season at Texas, she averaged 11 points a game. She would then make the US Select Team and Asian Tour in 1978. Her senior year, she averaged 9 points and 8.4 rebounds and led the team in blocks.

After college Swindell would join the Women’s Professional Basketball League. She was drafted 13th overall by the Chicago Hustle would trade her to the Milwaukee Express, who immediately folded. As a free agent, Swindell landed with the Dallas Diamonds and helped them defeat the Nebraska Wrangles in the championship. After two just years in the WBL would fold in 1981.

Five years later, in 1986, Swindell would be back involved in basketball where she took a job coaching the girls’ varsity team in Baytown, Texas, a Robert E. Lee High School. In 2001 she was inducted into the University of Texas’ Women’s Athletics Hall of Honor.

[Click here](#) to listen to the complete All-Star list.

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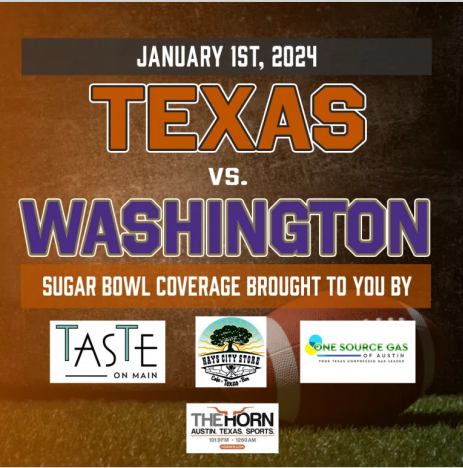
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