



Noel Douglas Blackwell

April 23, 1949 - July 11, 2025

Noel Douglas “Doug” Blackwell, 76, of Oxford, Mississippi, passed away peacefully surrounded by loved ones. A devoted husband, father, grandfather, coach, and teacher, Doug leaves behind a legacy of leadership, service, and inspiration.

Born in Oxford on April 23, 1949, Doug was one of five brothers, and some of his earliest and most spirited athletic rivalries were with his siblings- Bernie, Jim, Hal and Sid. The son of Mississippi Sports Hall of Famer Bernard Blackwell, Doug excelled in four sports: track, cross country, football, and basketball. During his senior year at Mississippi College, he went undefeated in track and set a new state record in the mile. At one point, he held all of the school’s distance track records. These early achievements helped shape his lifelong passion for athletics and mentorship.

Beginning his career in 1973 at Moss Point High School, Doug quickly became a fixture in Mississippi high school athletics. His coaching journey led him to East Flora, Biloxi, Greenville, and Lake Howell High School in Winter Park, Florida. Where he dramatically grew the track program and led athletes to state championships, national records, and All-American honors. His passion for excellence and ability to inspire others helped transform every team he led.

In 1988, Doug joined the University of Mississippi as Associate Head Coach for Men's and Women's Track and Cross Country. Over twenty five years at Ole Miss, he coached NCAA Champions, All-Americans, and SEC Champions across multiple events. His contributions went far beyond competition- he managed meets, shaped programs, and mentored generations of student-athletes and colleagues alike.

It was during his time at Mississippi College that he met the love of his life, Sarah Channell. They wed on May 17, 1974 and welcomed their two children, Thomas (1976) and Genia (1982). They spent many happy years together as a family in Oxford, Mississippi.

In retirement, Doug traded his title of "Coach" for "Papa D" to his beloved grandson Elliott. He and Sarah enjoyed traveling and welcoming family and friends into their home in Oxford, Mississippi. In the final six months of his life, they moved to Richmond, Virginia, to be closer to their children.

Doug was known for his integrity, humor, and devotion as a teacher, coach, and man of faith. A loving husband to Sarah for 51 years, he will be remembered for his quiet strength and the lasting impact he made on countless lives.

Doug is survived by his wife, Sarah Channell Blackwell; his children, Thomas and Genia, their spouses, Elizabeth and Kevin; his grandchildren, Elliott, Zeldyn and his wife Lianna, and Ahmya; his great-grandchild, Lyla; his brothers, Bernie, Jim, Hal and Sid Blackwell and his aunt, Norma Blackwell Jenkins.

He was preceded in death by his parents Bernard Brown Blackwell and Mary Catherine Blackwell (Holston).

The family extends their deepest gratitude to James River Hospice of Richmond, Virginia that provided support and guidance in Doug's final days.

He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

A graveside service will be held July 19 at 11am at Gallman Cemetery with a gathering to follow. Details provided at the service.

Previous Events

Graveside Service

JUL 19. 11:00 AM (CT)

Gallman Cemetery
West Gallman Road
Gallman, MS 39077

Tribute Wall

T2

“ The Ole Miss CC/Track Teams of 2002-2007 purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Noel Douglas Blackwell.



The Ole Miss CC/Track Teams of 2002-2007 - July 17, 2025 at 12:30 PM

T2

“ The Ole Miss CC/Track Teams of 2002-2007 planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Noel Douglas Blackwell.

The Ole Miss CC/Track Teams of 2002-2007 - July 17, 2025 at 12:30 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Noel Douglas Blackwell.



July 17, 2025 at 11:23 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Noel Douglas Blackwell.

July 17, 2025 at 11:23 AM

DL

“ Damon Harris, Stacey Andrews, Chris Lawson purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of Noel Douglas Blackwell.



Damon Harris, Stacey Andrews, Chris Lawson - July 16, 2025 at 02:37 PM

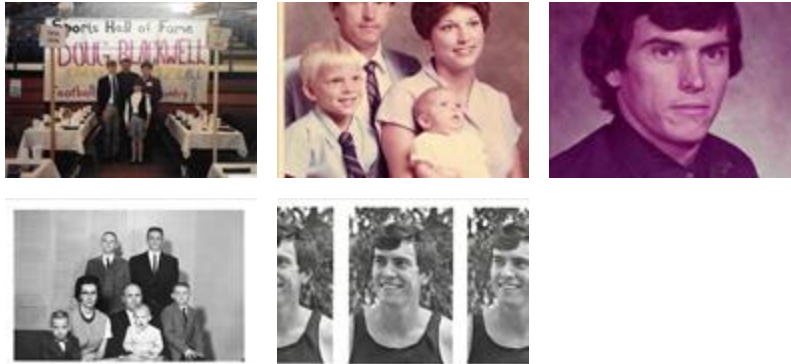
PS

“ Pat and Lynn Sheerin planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Noel Douglas Blackwell.

Pat and Lynn Sheerin - July 16, 2025 at 10:32 AM

GR

“ 12 files added to the album Coach Blackwell



Genia Rosenblum - July 14, 2025 at 10:07 AM

PC

“ Patricia C. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Noel Douglas Blackwell.

Patricia C. - July 13, 2025 at 07:55 PM

PM

“ Pat M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Noel Douglas Blackwell.

Pat M. - July 13, 2025 at 07:31 PM



“ Coach Blackwell was tough and had a big heart. I used to be scared of him until I finished my track career at Ole Miss. Then I got to know him better when I was a graduate assistant coach. What I learned is he has a huge heart, was enamoured by his beautiful wife, and would do anything for his children, even if that meant fast-forwarding the movie on the bus with more than PG-rated content to the chagrin of a bus full of adults, he was going to protect them. He really had a fun sense of humor. I most enjoyed seeing him interact with Mrs. Blackwell; these observations were the sweetest thing ever. He was the epitome of hospitality when alumni returned to Ole Miss to visit. A rare quality that only a few have. Rest well, Coach Blackwell, and prayers for comfort to the family.



Brandy Holloman - July 12, 2025 at 09:36 PM

DF

“ Doug was a fellow classmate at Clinton, a teammate on several athletic teams, and was a neighbor in our growing up years. We played hundreds of pickup football, basketball, and baseball games in our neighborhood. He was a loyal friend. I will miss him. My prayers go out to his family in this great loss.

David Foster - July 12, 2025 at 07:53 PM

FC

Thanks, Coach Blackwell. Ill cherish the ole miss track workouts and funny jokes always. 🙏

Frederick Cummings - July 12, 2025 at 08:31 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Noel Douglas Blackwell.*



July 12, 2025 at 07:22 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Noel Douglas Blackwell.*

July 12, 2025 at 07:22 PM