

Herb Dudley was born in Youngstown, Fl on December 19, 1919. His family moved to Clearwater in 1928. He fell in love with sports playing in leagues sponsored by Clearwater Recreation Department. He play football, basketball and baseball at Clearwater High School. His senior year he was an All County Guard in Football and Captain of the Baseball team. While in high school he learned how to pitch a softball.

After graduation he worked for Florida Power as a lineman. He married his wife Lucile, in 1942 and over the years they had five children. With start of World War II he moved to Mobile and worked in the Navy ship yard building destroyers and mine sweepers. In 1944 he joined the Army and served in the Pacific in New Guinea and Philippines. While in the Philippines he served as a diver and assistant chaplain.

Upon returning to Florida he entered Stetson College. He graduated in 1950 with a degree majoring in Bible and minor in Physical Education. He was voted one of the ten most outstanding men by his graduating class. He then enrolled at the University of Florida and entered the Masters program earning Masters in Physical Education and History. He then enrolled in the Educational Specialist program which gave him certification in administration and supervision and guidance and counseling. In 1953 he was hired by Pinellas County Schools and began his teaching career at Clearwater High School. He taught Bible History, History and Physical Education. He served as Department Head for Physical Education for twenty eight years. During his tenure at CHS he coached football, basketball and baseball. He retired in January 1982.

Herb Dudley is known world wide as the greatest mens fast pitch softball pitcher. During his career it is estimated he won over 1,000 games over five decades. He compiled a record of 28 wins and 9 losses in sixteen American Softball Association National Tournaments. He earned five All American ASA honors and was MVP of the 1949 and 1957 tournaments. During the 1949 tournament he struck out fifty-five batters in a twenty-one inning game. The next day he struck out twelve more in a a seven inning game. Most of Herbs career was spent with the Clearwater Bombers. As a result of Herb's pitching, the ASA created the Herb Dudley outstanding pitcher award which is given to the best pitcher in each ASA National Tournament.

Coach Dudley loved softball and loved to teach others how to pitch. He conducted clinics throughout the USA and when competitive girls softball came about he taught many Pinellas County pitchers the art of softball pitching.

Herb Dudley was inducted in the ASA Hall of Fame in 1986. He was enshrined in Stetson University's Hall of Fame and the Florida Sports Writers and Broadcasters Hall of Fame. Herb passed away in March 2007.

Today we honor him as a star student athlete, an outstanding teacher and coach who showed how to prepare for life through practice and discipline and his distinguished service to Clearwater High School and the City of Clearwater through softball, by inducting him into the Tornado Athletic Hall of Fame.