

## Tommie Jack “Jocko” Potts, Class of 1966

Jocko Potts is a combination of two abilities that people rarely think of together, athlete and publisher.

The athletic part showed itself in football, baseball, and basketball here at Murphy. He participated in football and baseball from grade 10-12 and basketball 11-12. He excelled at baseball and football, but is best remembered at Murphy for leading undefeated Murphy to a 14-6 victory over an unbeaten Vigor team led by Scott Hunter in 1965. It was the largest crowd to see a high school game at Ladd Stadium (30,101 fans). He attended Mississippi State on a football scholarship. He played baseball there as well and gave up football after his first year to focus solely on baseball. He made the All-SEC team and was drafted by the Mets. Jocko was unable to pursue his professional career as he returned home to take care of his family after the sudden death of his father.

Jocko then turned his drive to the publishing business. He started a little newspaper called *The Azalea City News*, and it was well-received. He sold the paper and created PMT Publishing around 1985. The first publication was a political newsletter *Inside Alabama Politics*, a “must-read” for those interested in Alabama politics. The next year he started a statewide business publication, *Business Alabama Magazine*. In the late 1980s, PMT acquired *Mobile Bay Monthly* and then started *Birmingham Home and Garden*. *Mobile Bay Monthly* has been invaluable to the city of Mobile and includes the listing of events around the area, and articles highlighting varying aspects of Mobile and its surrounding communities which keep citizens informed and entertained. He also has turned the publication’s spotlight on Murphy several times, publishing features on Murphy’s past and also its present programs.

His relationship with Mobile and Murphy has not been all business. He has served the community through his participation in several organizations: Rotary Club of Mobile, Senior Bowl Committee, Dauphin Island Sea Lab Board, Gulf Quest Museum Board, and the Mobile Chamber Advisory Board. He has also served Murphy through his participation in the Edith Murphy Foundation board, which provides the necessary financial support to the International Baccalaureate program by paying for membership fees and teacher training, as well as providing financial rewards for students who participate in and complete the rigorous curriculum.

Murphy High School is proud to claim T.J. “Jocko” Potts as its own.