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# News from



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## **YOUNG TO BE INDUCTED INTO KALAMAZOO COLLEGE ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME**

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The late Ralph Young is one of fourteen individuals in the inaugural class of the Kalamazoo College Athletic Hall of Fame. Young, who served as a coach, athletic director, and professor of physical education at Kalamazoo College from 1916 through 1923, will be honored in a special ceremony at the Homecoming dinner on October 18, which begins at 7 p.m.

Ralph Young was born in Crown Point, Indiana. In high school, he played football, basketball, and track. After graduating from high school, he attended the University of Chicago, playing football for the legendary Amos Alonzo Stagg. He also competed in basketball and track.

After two years at Chicago, Young transferred to Washington and Jefferson College in Pennsylvania. He played football there for three seasons (1912-1914), and, as a fullback, was the leading scorer in the East in 1913. He also set varsity track records in the shotput, discus, hammer throw, and javelin.

Following his graduation, Young took a position as coach at DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana, where he coached football, basketball and track.

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Ralph Young came to Kalamazoo College in 1916 to serve as athletic director, professor of physical education, and coach of the football, basketball, and track teams. His very first football team was undefeated in 1916, and he coached the MIAA (Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association) championship football team of 1919. He also coached MIAA championship teams in basketball (1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, and 1923), baseball (1916, 1918, 1919, 1920, and 1923), and track (1919, 1920, 1921, and 1922).

Young's coaching career at Kalamazoo College was briefly interrupted by a service obligation in 1918. He attended the University of Michigan in the fall of that year to get required training for duties in the Army signal corps. Rules at that time permitted army students eligibility to participate in intercollegiate sports, so Young became a starting tackle for the Michigan football team, and played during the 1918 season for coach Fielding H. Yost.

In 1923, Young left Kalamazoo College for Michigan State, where he became athletic director and coach of four sports, including football. After the 1927 season, the pressures of being athletic director forced him to give up coaching football, but he continued coaching track and field. In his 18 years as track coach at Michigan State, he had 27 All-Americans, and four of his athletes made the United States Olympic team. Young was the founder of the NCAA Championship meet in cross country in 1938. He served as president of the NCAA Track Coaches Association and the Michigan Amateur Athletic Union, and was a member of the U.S. Olympic track and field committee. He was associate track coach of the 1932 Olympic team, and was chairman of the 1952 NCAA Olympic Finance Committee.

Young served as athletic director for 31 years, and under his leadership Michigan State's athletic programs rose to national prominence. The culmination of this growth came when Michigan State was admitted as a member of the Western Conference, renamed the Big 10, in 1949.

Young retired as Michigan State athletic director in 1954. He then went on to serve three terms in the Michigan legislature, representing the East Lansing district. Mr. Young passed away on January 23, 1962.

Ralph Young was elected to the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame in 1962, and to the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics Hall of Fame in 1979. The Ralph Young Scholarship Fund at Michigan State University is named in his honor, as is the outdoor track and field complex at MSU.

Ralph Young will be represented at the induction ceremonies by his daughter, Mrs. Marshall Hines, of East Lansing, Michigan.

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