

Phillip Fulmer Welcome
Rohe Track Era Reunion Banquet
May 11, 2018

As Athletics Director at the University of Tennessee, it is my pleasure to welcome back to campus Coach Chuck Rohe and all the outstanding student-athletes that performed for him between 1962 and 1971. The 1960s were wonderful years for UT athletics as coaches Doug Dickey, Ray Mears, Chuck Rohe, and Ray Buzzard transformed underachieving programs into the best of the Southeastern Conference. Your record is unmatched with 6 SEC cross-country championships and 15 SEC indoor and outdoor track championships in just 8 years!

You all know that while Coach Rohe was coaching the track team, he was also Doug Dickey's Director of Football Recruiting and started a tradition of finding quality individuals like Richmond Flowers who excelled on the football field as well as the track. Both programs benefited immeasurably from their talents. Well I know from my UT coaching career that Olympic-quality trackmen like Willie Gault and Sam Graddy were also superb football players. Some of the dual sports athletes are here tonight. I would like at this time to recognize those that I know are here: Richmond Flowers, Chip Kell, Sam Graddy, [Copley, please fill in the blanks from the registration list.] Throughout their careers, they have been outstanding representatives of the University of Tennessee.

It is my great honor to introduce your keynote speaker tonight, the legendary reporter, Marvin West. A graduate of the University of Tennessee,

Marvin began writing for the Knoxville News-Sentinel 63 years ago in 1955! Along the way he became the News-Sentinel sports editor in 1980 and managing editor in 1983. Then he went with the Scripps Howard wire service as its first sports editor. He was managing editor of the news service from 1995 to 1998. He has continued to write in his semi-retirement, and I was privileged to write the foreword to his 2005 classic, *Legends of the Tennessee Vols*. In addition to covering football and track, he covered many Final Fours in basketball and was inducted into the Hall of Fame of the United States Basketball Writers Association in 2006. He is a member of the Greater Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame and an honorary member of the UT Lettermen's Club. Let's all welcome Marvin West!