

Eddie Steward

Athlete: Football and Track & Field

Santa Ana HS – Class of 1967

1967 Santa Ana graduate Eddie Steward began his athletic career on the football field and track at Willard Junior High in Santa Ana. Everyone soon realized that he was just scratching the surface of competitive sports, which really began for him at Santa Ana High School in 1964 where he went on to excel in both football and track and field.

By Steward's junior year he had become a two-way player in football, and in his senior year of 1966, he competed for a Santa Ana team that was ranked in CIF and as one of the top teams in Orange County. He again found himself playing both sides of the ball that year when star running back Kent Haddif was injured, missing most of the season. Steward's senior year performance earned him selection to the All-Orange County Team as well as CIF Honorable Mention honors. He was also picked to play in the summer Orange County Classic North-South football game in 1967, where Eddie rushed for 238 yards – a record for the North-South game that stands to this day.

Steward continued to impress when he turned his attention to the spring season and track and field. He was one of the top three sprinters in Orange County his senior year when he ran a remarkable 100-yard time of 9.6, and a 220 time of 21.1. With his combined accomplishments in both football and track his senior year, Steward was named the Santa Ana High School Athlete of the Year.

Steward went on to Santa Ana College where he was again a two-sport star in football and track & field. As a running back on the Dons football team, Steward was named All-South Coast Conference following his sophomore season while also being named the team's Most Valuable Player.

In track & field at SAC, Steward was a member of the 1969 South Coast Conference Championship team. Individually, Steward won the conference championship in the 100-yard dash, the 220-yard dash, and was a member of the 440-yard dash championship team. His accolades earned him the honor of Most Valuable Sprinter.

Following his stellar career at SAC, Steward went on to play football at San Diego State University for coach Don Coryell where he was the team's leading rusher in 1970, averaging 6.9 yards per carry. After graduating from San Diego State, Steward became a teacher, eventually returning to Santa Ana to teach and coach at Santa Ana Valley High School from 1973 until 2011, serving as head football coach for six years.

Steward gave back to the Santa Ana community as a member of the Orange County Black Educators Association as well as the Orange County Coaches and Teachers Association.

