

BILLY BECK

BILLY BECK WAS BORN IN CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS, ON JUNE 10, 1945, TO BILL BECK AND THELMA MARTIN BECK.

Billy was born while his dad was serving our country during World War II. In his younger years, Billy and his family moved around due to this father's military service. He was the oldest of three siblings. After the war, the Becks moved to Oakman. During his junior high years, Billy and ten of his closest friends got involved in athletics and remained teammates, as well as friends, through their high school years. Billy humbly gives credit to his teammates for any accomplishments or awards he received.

While Billy was at Oakman, he played football for three coaches. His first years were spent with Herman Crider and Lelton Gray. Beck remembers these men as coaches who knew how to make men out of young boys. At one point, Billy thought about quitting, but says he was way too afraid of the coaches. Coach Hosea Collins became the head coach during Billy's senior season. Coach Collins utilized a spread offense and Billy and his teammates did very well. Beck played halfback; he was 5'10" and weighed 185 lbs.

Billy made All Conference for three years, (1960-62), and All County for two years. During his senior year, Billy was named All State by the Birmingham News and the Birmingham Post Herald. In 1962, Billy led the state by scoring 23 touchdowns in 9 games. He was selected to play in the Alabama High School All Star game for the winning North squad and was honored by being selected captain for that squad.

Beck was heavily recruited by Alabama and Auburn after his senior year. He eventually signed with Auburn and was recruited by legendary Georgia coach, Vince Dooley, who was at Auburn as an assistant coach under Head Coach Shug Jordan. Billy was competing well with the likes of Tucker Fredrickson and Jimmy Sidle. Unfortunately, Beck suffered a knee injury from which he never fully recovered, while serving as a starter during his sophomore year.

Billy returned to Oakman and married his high school sweetheart, Sara Savage. Billy and Sara have two daughters, five grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Billy began working for Alabama Power in 1966 where he remained for 31 years and retired in 1997. Billy currently enjoys hunting, fishing, and spending time with his family. He continues to attribute his success to his teammates and friends.

