



**James Payne**

**January 30, 2016**



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James Payne is a 1972 graduate of Ironton who went into a career in education.

He has been a teacher, coach and superintendent at Ironton, Symmes Valley and Coal Grove school districts. He is currently the Superintendent of the Lawrence County Educational Service Center.

At Ironton, Payne was a four-sport standout in football, basketball, baseball and track. He served as captain of the baseball team with Keith Parker.

James was an All-Ohio wide receiver in football and signed with Mississippi State. Payne was the leadoff hitter and shortstop for the 1972 Class AA state championship team. He was co-captain of the football and track teams. Payne also ran the 100, 200 and relays in track.

At Mississippi State, Payne was a starter as a sophomore and had a key 51-yard reception against Georgia and also threw a big downfield block to spring Walter Packer for the decisive touchdown in the Sun Bowl win over N.C. State. Payne's career was cut short by two knee surgeries and a finger surgery.

Mr. Payne earned his Ph.D. from Ohio University in 1998.

