

Herb Neathery

Herb Neathery was an outstanding athlete at John Greer High School in the late 1940's. He set many records in basketball, football and track.

As a senior, he scored 87 points, averaged 8.8 yards per carry, and helped lead the football team to a 7-2 record. He was the captain of the 31-1 basketball team and ran track and played baseball.



Herb placed 5th in the 880-run in 1948 – the only Hoopston athlete to medal in a track final that wasn't in a 2-class system. Herb was a scholarship football player on the University of Illinois Football Team that won the 1952 Rose Bowl Championship. While attending the U of I, he also played on the Fighting Illini 1949 Basketball Team and the 1951 Baseball Team.

After graduating from the University of Illinois, Herb was drafted by the Cleveland Browns. Instead of pursuing a career in professional football, he chose to serve his country as an officer in the United States Air Force. He spent 30 years aiding his country on flying missions and commanding squadrons in the Tactical Air Command and Air Training Commands throughout Europe and the United States.

Herb retired in 1983, and spent his time enjoying his family and pursuing his interests in golf and traveling. Herb Neathery passed away on December 12, 2008.