

*Calvin Jordan
Kern Jordan
Posthumous Honorees*



It's been said that records are made to be broken.

In the mid and late 1970s, those words certainly applied to **CALVIN JORDAN** and his younger brother **KERN JORDAN**, two of the best running backs in local high school football history, who took turns rewriting the record book.

Calvin Jordan, who passed away in 2009 at the age of 52, and Kern Jordan, who was 54 when he left us in 2016, are being honored posthumously by the Norwalk Old Timers' Athletic Association for their achievements on the gridiron more than four decades ago.

The Jordan duo was part of one of the greatest family backfields in Norwalk annals, joining their two other brothers, Carnell and Stevie,

running the football. All four played at Brien McMahon, all four led the Senators in rushing, and all four were city scoring champs their senior year.

It all began with Calvin Jordan, who played the first three years of his scholastic career at Norwalk High School and led the Bears in scoring as a junior before transferring across town to McMahon for his senior year. He played only one season for the Senators, but what a season it was. All he did was lead the FCIAC in scoring while his 14 touchdowns and three conversions for 90 points, which represented the third best single-season total in city history. His 138 career points were second all-time on the city charts.

What's more, he set a new McMahon school rushing record with 1,306 yards, including seven games over 100 yards. He was never better than in a crucial win against defending FCIAC champion Greenwich when he carried the ball an amazing 45 times and ran for a career-high 215 yards. Then in the regular-season finale against Danbury, with the Western Division title on the line, Calvin rushed for 180 yards on 26 carries and caught three passes for another 56 yards, giving him 236 total yards while scoring all three McMahon touchdowns in their come-from-behind victory. His individual effort gave the Senators their first outright division crown and initial appearance in the FCIAC championship game. He capped off his outstanding season by being named All-FCIAC First Team and All-City MVP.

But that was just the beginning of the Jordan family football legacy. Soon his three younger brothers followed.

"Calvin paved the way for the rest of us," Kern once said. "We all wanted to be like him."

Carnell, two years younger, was a bruising power runner like his brother and, as a senior in 1977, rushed for 871 yards and was third in the FCIAC with 10 touchdowns.

Then along came Kern who, unlike his two older brothers, was smaller in stature. At 5-6 and 143 pounds, he was about five inches shorter and 40 pounds lighter than his older siblings, but had the same power-running style that made him a threat every time he touched the ball.

Combined with his speed and determination, Kern Jordan had one of the best offensive seasons a running back from Norwalk ever had. As a senior in the fall of 1979 he broke his brother Calvin's Brian McMahon rushing record with 1,451 yards on 255 carries (an average of 28 carries a game) while scoring 19 touchdowns and 132 total points, another single-season school record. And he did all that in just nine games.

Meanwhile, going into the final game of the season, and his career, Kern needed 12 points to break the all-time city scoring record of 144 points. He ended up scoring three touchdowns and a two-point conversion to finish with 20 points in the Senators' 26-0 win over Stamford Catholic. That gave him 152 points for his career and placed him No. 1 on the city's all-time scoring list.

He also needed just 15 yards to break his brother's single-season school rushing record, and he ended up shattering it by gaining 160 yards on 38 carries.

And like Calvin, Kern was named All-FCIAC First Team as well as All-City MVP.

Two seasons later, in 1981, youngest brother Stevie Jordan closed out the family's six-year run in the McMahon backfield as the 5-5, 145-pound running back became the fourth Jordan to lead the city in scoring.

But football wasn't the only sport the Jordan Family shined in. Calvin played basketball at both Norwalk High and McMahon. At NHS, he was named MVP of the annual Christmas Tournament, while in his one season at BMHS he averaged double figures in scoring to help the Senators go 21-3 and reach the state semifinals. Carnell and Kern also played basketball at McMahon.

Calvin also founded the El Shaddai Track and Field Club in town for local boys and girls, while Kern volunteered as a coach.

It's almost fitting the two of them will now be honored together by the Norwalk Old Timers.