

Harold Mullins was born to be an athlete... at least it seemed that way. Harold was born in January of 1923. He was the ninth child of 12 born to William Henry and Leona Mullins. His home area was Keaton in Johnson County near the Lawrence County line. Harold played basketball as a freshman at Blaine High School in the 1938-39 season. His football prowess did not go unnoticed by others and the Lynch High School football coach told William if he would move his family to Lynch so Harold could play football he would help get him a job as a blacksmith. So the family moved to Lynch where Harold played basketball at least as a junior (maybe as a senior, also) as well as football two years, graduating in 1943.

The Lynch basketball team finished at 9-19 in 1941. Harold was selected to the All District Tournament basketball team, playing for coach C.H. "Hopper" Kennedy. Kennedy also coached the Lynch footballers. It cannot be found that Harold played basketball his senior season at Lynch. But he did play football in the fall of 1941 and fall of 1942 for Coach Kennedy. Twice at Lynch Mullins was named to the All Cumberland Valley Conference team as a tackle. Both seasons Lynch finished undefeated in football. As a senior he added to his awards by being named All State 1st Team. Remember there was no class system in those days in Kentucky high school football so he got that honor over more players than today. He also started for the East squad in the East West All Star football game where he was coached by his high school coach Kennedy. Mullins was selected as the outstanding lineman in that All Star game. He also was the placekicker for the East squad. The lineups shows he was the largest footballer on the roster. After high school Mullins would play for Duke University where, as a freshman, he was the first freshman in that university's history to ever play in a varsity game. There is a statement there about his ability. After his freshman year at Duke in 1942-43 he was inducted into the Navy for two seasons. While at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station in Illinois he played football on the station's team and made the All Mid-West Service All American team. His coach at Great Lakes was Paul Brown who in just a couple of years would found the Cleveland Browns professional team and coach them. Brown was well loved and respected by Mullins. One of Mullins' teammates at Great Lakes was Ara Parseghian who would become a legend as coach of the great Notre Dame football teams that won two national championships in 1966 and 1973. After his stint in the Navy ended Mullins returned for another year of football at Duke before signing to play with the Cleveland Browns and his favorite coach Paul Brown. He would be traded by the Browns to Baltimore and was released there although it was thought it was a mutual leave as he did not like their coach at all. Mullins headed back home and enrolled at Morehead where he would star for two more years in football, graduating in 1950. I do not know the rules of the time on playing pro and then playing college but it is on Mr. Mullins personal time line. At Morehead he continued to excel and was All Conference both years. He was named as a Little All American Honorable Mention selection his senior season. Once again he played under a big name in coaching-Ellis Johnson. In the 1950-51 school year Mullins coached the football team at Elkhorn City which was called Cumberland Elks at the time. The school name and mascot was changed to Elkhorn City Cougars to begin the 1952-53 school year but Mullins had left by then. He also was an assistant basketball coach there under head coach Arthur J. Mullins. (Unknown if they were kin)

After being a pipefitter for a few years Wheelersburg (Ohio) High School asked him to join their coaching squad for football and he jumped at the chance. He was an assistant there for the years of 1956, 57, 58 and 1959. He then became the head football coach at the school until 1963 when one son became a freshman and Harold decided he did not want to coach a son. He also was the head baseball coach at Wheelersburg in 1959 and 1960. (Thanks [Mountain Sports Hall of Fame](#) for the information provided on Facebook)