**Edward Curtis Dowdy, Sr.**

Curt Dowdy was born December 23, 1954 in Pine Hurst, NC. Curt began his coaching career at Jacksonville High School in 1980 as the assistant track and field coach. He became the head coach in 1985. That year he also began coaching the junior varsity boys basketball team. He coached that team through 1991. He began coaching the varsity girls basketball team in 1992 and coached them through 2002. During his time with the track and field team, the girls' teams have won 25 Conference Championships (1985-1998, 2000-2003, 2005-2008, 2013, 2015, 2025). They have also won 11 Regional Championships (1990-1991, 1993, 1996-1998, 2000-2002, 2005, 2008) and three State Championships (1991, 1993, 2008). The team were runners-up three times (1990, 1999, 2007) and runner-up in the Indoor State Championship in 2008.

The boys' track and field team have won six Conference Championships (1997, 2002, 2006, 2019, 2023- 2024, won two Regional Championships (2016-2017) and two State Championships (2005, 2016). Coach Dowdy has coached 82 individual state champions in both indoor and outdoor (43 women and 39 men). His track teams were also invited to participate in various invitationals. In 1983, he started the Jacksonville Express Track Club which ran until 2004. During that time, the club transported well over one hundred athletes across the United States to participate in various track and field events. Several athletes that participated in the program went on to participate in the United States Olympic trials to include Jackie Humphrey who made the 1988 Olympic team. He also started the Jacksonville High School Invitational Track Meet in 2003. Coach Dowdy received Coach of the Year Award 1985-1998, 2000-2003, 2005-2008, 2103, 2105, 2025 for his girls' team and 1997, 2002, 2006, 2019, and 2023-2024 for the boys'. He received a Proclamation from Mayor of Jacksonville in 1991 for coaching the first-ever girls state champion from Onslow County in any sport. In 2005, he was honored at the opening ceremony of the New Bern Track and Field facility for his many years of dedicated service and impact on the sport in Eastern North Carolina.

In 2009 he was inducted into his high school's (Union Pines High School) Hall of Fame for his contribution to the track and field and football teams. He was a two-time all-conference selection in track and field, the state runner-up in the long jump in 1971 and in 1973 was the conference track MVP. In 2024, the Onslow County Track and Field Championships were renamed the Liles Dowdy Onslow County Track and Field Championship. In 2025 he was inducted into the Jacksonville High School Hall of Fame for his contributions and achievements.