

Blessed To Be an Athlete- God given talent- Leon Wayne Hawker, Sr.

At age 12 was MVP on Presbyterian Saints basketball team with 12.8 points average per game. Was too old at 13 when Little League started in Davville, Va.

At age 14 All City League Quarterback on Green Street Park Team. Played for Crescent Drive-In Pony League baseball. We won the Championship. Nick Warren was our Coach. I learned a lot of baseball from him and my father. Pitched 15 Innings in a Pony League Game, struck out 28, gave up 6 hits and won 1-0. Struck out one of my best friends, Gerald Lewis six times in the game. Beat Don Chandler three times, all close games. He was a good left handed pitcher. Game was 4 hours and a half in 90 degree weather. Won batting Title with .371 average. Undefeated as a pitcher. Was on All-Star team beaten in the Regional Finals in Elizabethtown Tennessee. Unable to play in Championship game due to a head blow, knocked over the top rope of a boxing ring onto a hardwood floor as we were playing chicken, taken to the hospital.

Freshmen in High School played on a State Championship baseball team as a substitute shortstop. Led team in hitting with .500 average. 4-8 with all hits coming in a 30-0 win over Martinsville High School. Lefty Wilson was our Coach.

Sophomore in High School on the JV basketball team, first game scored 33 points in a win against Roxboro High School 42-38. In football scored three touchdowns against Reidsville 27-0. Moved up to Varsity football and broke my finger in practice. Played on State Championship baseball team at shortstop. Promoted to varsity basketball team at seasons end.

Junior year in High School started on varsity basketball team and was voted MVP. MVP AWARD presented to me by North Carolina Coach Frank McGuire. Played on Co-State Championship football team. 8-0-2 Co State Champs with Woodrow Wilson High School. Played all forty quarters as a defensive back, second string Quarterback to Pryor Millner who went on to Duke and was Co Captain with Sonny Jerginson, both shared series as quarterback. Scored one touchdown against EC Glass High School. Averaged punting at 36 yards a punt. Was shortstop on baseball team. State of Virginia did not have a State Championship in baseball. Played on Post 10 American Legion team beaten in State Tourney Finals.

Played Quarterback on football team. Was hurt in the first game and only played last four games. Team ended up 6-4. I was pitcher and shortstop on baseball team. Lost one game to Drewry Mason 1-0 on a homerun by Martin a future Major league player one of UVA all time great players. The only High School game I lost as a pitcher. Basketball team won District Championship, made it to the State Championship semi-finals. Was chosen Captain and First team All District and chosen one of five players on First Team All State. Was on All Tourney team at State Championship. Didn't receive MVP Award but was made second team All Little League the free throw Award for shooting 75% for the year. Award presented to me by Buzzy Wilkison. He was one of UVA's all time great players. Chosen Most Outstanding Athlete my Senior Year. American Legion team Post 10 went to the State Championship and was beaten again in the finals of Mason Dixon Conference.

Went to Hampden-Sydney College 1956-1960. Graduated with my Class.

Freshmen year played on Mason Dixon Championship team at shortstop. Was kicked off the team before season ended due to not hustling and bad attitude. Started on basketball

team and led team in scoring. MVP in Little Eight Tourney. Only HSC player to ever make All Mason Dixon Conference first team. Made All American at 1956 Christmas Collegiate Tourney along with two All-Americans. Only HSC player to ever to accomplish this. Made All Little Eight first team. Honorable Mention Little All-American Team. Made Who's Who in American College basketball.

Sophomore year broke my wrist just before basketball season began. Made second team All Little Eight. Played shortstop on Mason Dixon Conference Championship team. Made first team All Little Eight and Mason Dixon in baseball. Team won Little Eight title.

Junior year Captain of basketball team. Leading scorer on team. made second team All Mason Dixon Conference. MVP of Little Eight Conference. All Little Eight First Team. Started at shortstop on baseball team. Pitched and lost only one game in College career. The loss came in the semi-finals of the Mason Dixon Conference, lost 2-1. We won Mason Dixon Conference Title the next day with Lew Drew pitching. Won MVP in basketball and baseball. Captain of baseball team.

Captain of basketball team Senior year. Broke HSC scoring record with 1861 points. Average 19.6 points per game for four years with no three points during that time. Scored more than 30 points in ten games. Made All Little Eight and All Mason Dixon Conference first teams. Captain of baseball team. Played shortstop and pitched. Made All Mason Dixon Conference at two positions. shortstop and pitcher. It is recorded I tagged up from first base on a fly ball to left centerfield and scored. Only player at HSC to make All Little Eight for four years.

Elected to the HSC Hall of Fame in 1980. The second group inducted.

Signed a contract with the LA Dodgers during exams my Senior year at HSC for \$ 10,000. Played one year in the Florida State League. hit .220 and didn't do to well. Went to Spring Training at Vero Beach, Florida and decided to give it up. Came home and married and have a great family. Try not to look back.

Played basketball until 55 in various leagues. Played on five Virginia State Championship fast pitch softball teams. Won MVP twice in State Tourney. Played Regionals at Dover, Delaware, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania twice, Washington D.C. Winchester, Virginia. Lost to Rising Sun Pa. in 13 Innings 2-1 the only time we came close to making it to the World Tourney. Team beat Bill Dudley whom the softball was named after 4-3 in the bottom of the seventh inning David Crawford hit a grand-slam homerun. Scored the winning run in State Tourney by tagging home plate with my head. The throw was low to home plate and I jumped, the catcher came up and flipped me over and my head touched home plate. He never tagged me..

Have won Golf Tourneys in seven different States, Virginia, North Carolina, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi South Carolina and Louisiana. At 55 years of age was a minus two handicap. Qualified for Senior Open in New Orleans. Last shooting a 72 with only amateur in the Tourney. Didn't go to Medina as an alternate. At Skyline Golf club in 3 day Tourney I shot 64,66,71 with 17 birdies and one eagle and four boggies. 15 under for three days. Have won Tourneys at all Country Clubs I've belonged, Danville County Club, Skyline Country Club, Azalea City Club, Stonehenge Golf Club, Glen Oak Country Club. Have shot 29 on nine holes twice, that's 7 birdies in nine holes. Have had 6 holes in ones. Glen Oak Country Club, Skyline Country Club

Elected to Danville Hall of Fame as an Athlete and twice more as a player on two State Championship High School Baseball teams. Have had six hole in ones., Skyline Country Club twice, River Oaks Country Club Myrtle Beach, Glen Oak Country Club, Stonehenge Country Club