

NOSTALGIA

Let's take an ego trip. I think my children and my grand-children should know the forgoing facts. History needs to be recorded. I lack in many areas but have been blessed to have been given eye-hand coordination. This God given trait has given me many accolades in athletics. Let's go down memory lane.

FOOTBALL---At 14, I played quarterback for Green Street Park. We won the Championship with only one defeat. I was chosen on the All City All-Star Team.

At 15, I was a Sophomore at GWHS. I was the quarterback on the Jayvee Team. We had a record of 5-1. Against Reidsville I scored three touchdowns and an extra point in a 27-0 win.

At 16, I played defensive back and second string quarterback on the Varsity. We were Co-State Champions with Woodrow Wilson of Portsmouth. We were 8-0-2 for the season. We tied William Fleming 0-0 and Roanoke 14-14. I played all 40 quarters. I was the punter on the team and averaged 36 yards a punt for the season. Against E.C. Glass of Lynchburg I ran a punt back 96 yards and didn't score as I was tackled on the two yard line.

At 17, I was the starting quarterback on the Varsity. In the first game of the season against Reidsville, I broke my finger on the right hand in the third quarter and was out for the next five games. We didn't have a good season 4-6 and that was the end of my football career.

At Hampden-Sydney they would not allow you to play three sports due to academics, so I did not play football, only baseball and basketball.

SOFTBALL--At 18, I was asked to play on the Mens City Softball Team. We went to the State Tourney in Richmond but did not win.

After my baseball career ended, I played on five State Championship Teams for Danville. I was MVP in two of the State Championships. We never could get past the Regionals. We played Regional Games in Philadelphia (twice) Dover, Delaware, Washington D.C., and Fredricksburg.

I faced some of the best fast pitch softball pitchers in history. Names such as Joe Louis Abney of the Washington Brothers Furniture, Sea Biscuit Simmons of Roanoke, Mel Stoflett of Rising Sun Pennsylvania and Ron Peterson 6'7" who pitched for Fox Hill. Fox Hill out of Norfolk, Va., won several World Championships behind the pitching of Bob Saunders and Ron Peterson..

I also played against Bill Dudley whom the softball at that time bore his name. The only time in my life, I went berserk after a win was when David Crawford hit a grand slam homerun in the bottom of the seventh inning off Bill Dudley in Dover, Delaware as we beat him 4-3. We lost in the Championship game to Rising Sun 2-1 in 13 innings. It was the closest we came to making the World Championship in Dallas, Texas.

I faced Bob Saunders whom I think was the best ever. We played him in Norfolk. He threw a perfect game against us striking out 19 of 21 with two of us bunting and they threw us out. He could make the ball rise three feet and drop three feet.

Eddid Feinter and His Court came to Danville. He was a great pitcher with only three other players, catcher, infielder and outfielder. We tied them 1-1 in nine innings. He was World known. He could throw the ball from behind his back as well as between his legs and strike you out. He always started warming up from second base and could throw strikes from that position.

The greatest play I ever made was in the State Championship in Lynchburg, Va. This was a wide open field. They had lines behind the bench which indicated you could not catch a fly ball behind the line as would not be counted as an out. I was playing third base. The batter popped up a short fly ball which was behind the third base bench. I jumped over the bench and caught the fly ball while it was in the air and before coming to the ground I threw the ball to our pitcher and it was counted as an out.

BOWLING--Danville opened a new Bowling Alley in 1962. I bowled only one season on The Danville Recreation Team and averaged 160 per game.

Tennis--I took off one year from golf and played tennis with my good friend Richard Haymore. I won several local tournaments as a 3.0 player.

GOLF--I took this game up at 40 after my softball days were over. At one point I had a +2 handicap which is an average of 2 below par. At the present time I have an 8 handicap.

I qualified for the U.S. OPEN Seniors once at New Orleans Country Club as an alternate. I was the only Amateur in the Tournament. I shot 72 and the winning Pro shot 71. I did not go to Medina as an alternate as the cost was \$1600 in expense for the trip to wait and see if someone dropped out.

I was second Alternate at Green Valley Golf Club in Birmingham the next year.

I have had six hole in ones. The last one was 2016 at Stonehenge Golf and Country Club. The others were at Daulphin Island Country Club (Tournament), Glen Oak Country Club and two at Skyline Country Club and International Club Myrtle Beach (Tournament).

I've won Tournaments in seven different States, (Virginia, North Carolina, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, South Carolina and Louisiana).

I've had Memberships at Glen Oak Country Club, Danville Country Club, Skyline Country Club and Stonehenge Country Club.

My best Tournament was in Mobile when I scored 64 and 66 at Skyline Country Club. Mr. McAleer (the founder of Kris;p-Kremm) was my partner in the Tournament. He bought our team for \$40 and asked if I wanted half of it. I said no and he won \$946 on the bet. The next day I shot 71. In those three days I had 17 birdies and one eagle along with two bogies. Tommy Marr and I won the Memorial Day Tournament at Skyline. I chipped in on the third hole of the playoff to win. I've been beaten twice in the Finals of the Skyline Club Championship.

Leon Jr. and I won the Father Son Tournament at Danville Country Club.

The best score I've had at Stonehenge is 66 in the Cancer Tournament of which Dave Daniels and I won the Tournament. At Danville Golf Club my low score was a 71.

I've had 29 twice on nine holes with seven birdies. Once at Glen Oak and once at Skyline.

I played in the World Tournament in Myrtle Beach in 2009 and placed sixth in the World out of over 600 players.

I've won the Senior Championship at Stonehenge.

BASEBALL---Little League did not start until I was 13 years of age and too old to play in Little League. When I was 12 and 13 the Recreation Department had a program for us to gather on Saturdays at Ballou Park and choose up teams. I was generally on the winning team as a pitcher.

At 14 Pony League started in Danville. I had my appendix taken out during tryouts and couldn't attend. I was chosen last on the Crescent Drive In Team. Nick Warren was our Coach and taught me many fundamentals of the game. We won the Championship.