



Well Crafted. Well Played.

PRESENTS
the
20th INDUCTION CEREMONY



Monday, May 9th, 2022 6pm
Highland Recreation Center - 1451 8th St. Dr. NE
Hickory, NC 28601

Tonight's Program



Well Crafted. Well Played.

Welcome **Mark Seaman**
Hickory Metro Sports Commission

Invocation **Mike Mackie**
Hickory FCA Area Representative

Dinner **Box Car Grille of Claremont**

Opening Remarks **JuJu Phillips**
Master of Ceremonies/Hall of Fame Chair

Recognition of Scholar Athletes of Excellence
Scholarship Presentation **Helton, Cody & Associates**

Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

Closing

An advertisement for Dale Earnhardt Chevrolet. The background is a photograph of an orange Chevrolet Camaro ZL1 sports car parked on a road at sunset. The car is shown from a rear three-quarter view. Overlaid on the image is the name "Dale Earnhardt" in a large, black, cursive font. Below the name is the Chevrolet logo (a red bowtie) and the word "CHEVROLET" in a black, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the advertisement, the text "SALES SERVICE BODY PARTS" is written in a bold, orange, sans-serif font. Below that, the address "1774 NC Hwy 16 In Newton, NC" is written in a white, cursive font. At the very bottom, the website "EARNHARDTCHEVY.COM" and phone number "888.333.DALE (3253)" are written in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

Dale Earnhardt
CHEVROLET

SALES SERVICE BODY PARTS

1774 NC Hwy 16 In Newton, NC
EARNHARDTCHEVY.COM - 888.333.DALE (3253)

2022 Scholar Athletes of Excellence

Bandy High School Caroline McIntosh, Parker Styborski
Bunker Hill High School Ava Hamlett, Preston Workman
Challenger High School Angela Moore, Peyton Garrett
Fred T. Foard High School Alexis Wolgemuth, Evan Steiger
Hickory Christian Academy Anna Sipe, Braden Runyon
Hickory High School Madeline Mosteller, Lewis Tate
Maiden High School Alyssa Keener, Ethan Rhodes
Newton-Conover High School Katie Foster, Xavion Coulter
St. Stephens High School Olivia Beane, Elijah Godfrey
University Christian High School Anna Grace Patel, Philip Wilson

2021 Scholar Athletes of Excellence

Bandy High School Whitney Stewart, Joseph Cockman
Bunker Hill High School Addison Wray, Ethan Hildebran
Challenger High School Hope Cable, Hayden Whalen
Fred T. Foard High School Karina Coulter, Justin Simpkins
Hickory Christian Academy Julia Robinson, Dylan Morrison
Hickory High School Kellen Morin, Jack McIntosh
Maiden High School Lainee Hentschel, Daniel Harris
Newton-Conover High School Grace Loftin, Cole Clark
St. Stephens High School Peyton Beiland, Dorian Whitworth
Tabernacle Christian Jenna Hickman, Jacob Mladin
University Christian Caroline Congro, Jay Sowers



2020 Inductee - Billy Baker



Lincoln County native Billy Baker became a Catawba County Sports Hall of Famer thanks to a distinguished career as wrestling coach at St. Stephens High School, where he became the first coach or athlete recognized by the CCSHO for contributions to the sports of wrestling.

In three decades as a wrestling head coach, Baker has garnered accolades as a nine-time Conference Coach of the Year with over 700 wins; a State Dual Championship in 2018-19; 10 Conference Titles, and three State Dual Runner-up finishes.

During an illustrious career, Baker's teams at Saint have dominated opponents having amassed wins in 84 percent of the matches participated in; including a winning percentage over 90% of the dual matches within conference play.

During his years at St. Stephens, Baker became one of the best High School wrestling coaches in NC guiding numerous student-athletes to Conference, Regional, or State awards and honors.

In addition, he was inducted into the Lincoln County Sports Hall of Fame in 2016, has served as V.P. and President of the N.C. High School Wrestling Coaches Association, and has been a longtime Athletic Director at St. Stephens High School.



2020 Inductee - Tiffany Chappell Freeman



Tiffany Chappell Freeman made her mark on the hardwoods throughout Catawba County as one of the most decorated women's basketball players of her time, starring at Bandys High School as a multi-sport athlete for the Lady Trojans.

Tiffany Chappell Freeman was a four-year All-SD-7 Conference selection in the proud and storied Bandys High girls' basketball history.

She was Conference Player of the Year leading the Lady Trojans to the 1994 2A State Championship. In addition, she was selected honorable mention All-American, was a two-time N.C. All-State selection amassing nearly 1900 career points and over 900 career rebounds in her prep career.

Chappell Freeman was a valuable member of the AAU National Championship Carolina Flight 18 & under Teams in 1993 and 1994.

She later starred at Appalachian State and had a stellar career for the Lady Mountaineers as a four-year starter and a nearly 1,000 point scorer. Chappell Freeman still ranks in ASU's record books on the career three-point leader list.



2020 Inductee - James Andrew “Pud” Mosteller



Maiden native James Andrew “Pud” Mosteller grew up in Conover and was a four-sport standout at Newton-Conover High (1949-53), before he became an All-SEC lineman at the University of Georgia and long-time Southeastern Conference official.

Mosteller is remembered first as a 215-pound tackle and captain of the Red Devils and was the second player in school history to play in the Shrine Bowl All-Star game in 1952.

He later starred as a lineman for the Georgia Bulldogs from 1953-56 where he was an All-SEC and Honorable Mention All-American selection. He was drafted by the NFL’s New York Giants in 1957, but injuries curtailed his pro career that same season.

Mosteller was able to remain active in football, first by officiating high school football, where he then embarked on a distinguished 25-year career as a referee for the SEC.

Mosteller refereed 12 bowl games; and was the referee of the 1981 Iron Bowl between Alabama-Auburn, in which Alabama coach Paul “Bear” Bryant set the record for wins by an NCAA Division I head coach.



2020 Inductee - Jo Anne McCaslin Potts



Catawba County native Jo Anne McCaslin Potts was a women's basketball pioneer, who became a phenomenal prep basketball player at Maiden High School in the late 1950's.

In an era when rules limited girls participation, length of their seasons with no state playoff games, Jo Anne McCaslin stood out. She is believed to be the first women's basketball player in Catawba County history to score over 2000 points, finishing with 2,121 in just sixty-eight career games.

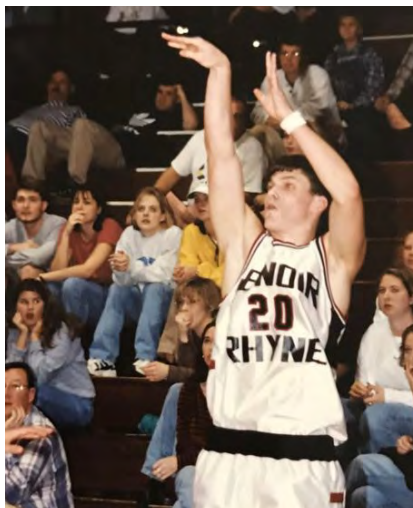
Her 31.1 average points per game is one the highest of any H.S. basketball player in Catawba County sports history.

A four-year starter, and a three-time All-Conference selection, McCaslin helped lead Maiden High to the Southern District VII Conference Tournament Title in 1960. She also became an All-State selection, and was one of the most decorated scholastic players of her time. McCaslin played professionally after high school and was selected a First Team All-World with teams from the United States, South America, and Europe.

She attended Old Dominion University and Appalachian State, and later became a business education teacher for 34 years in Gaston and Lincoln Counties. During her career she was also a cheerleading coach and mentor/leader of the Future Business Leaders of America organization.



2020 Inductee - Daniel Willis



Hickory native Daniel Willis is one of the most all-around, talented athletes that Hickory High School has produced in the last 50 years.

Willis was a multi-sport prep and collegiate athlete at a time when many contemporaries began to specialize.

Willis starred in football, basketball, and baseball for the Red Tornadoes from 1993-97. He was the star quarterback on the 3-A State Champion and 2019 CCSHOF 'Team

of Distinction' Red Tornado squad that went 16-0.

He was a 1,000-point scorer and led the Red Tornadoes to back-to-back appearances in the State 3-A Basketball Finals (1996, 1997), while becoming a two-time All-Conference selection as a pitcher for the Tornado baseball squad.

Willis later became one of the greatest players in men's basketball history at Lenoir-Rhyne University where he was a four-year letterman, three-time All-Conference selection, and a First-Team All-American ranking second in school history in total points scored with 1,980.

In his life's work, Willis has been a collegiate coach with stops at Western Carolina, Tusculum, VMI, The Citadel and most recently taking over as Head Coach of his alma mater at Hickory High.



2020 TEAM OF DISTINCTION

“The Untouchables” - The 1964 Ridgeview High School Panthers



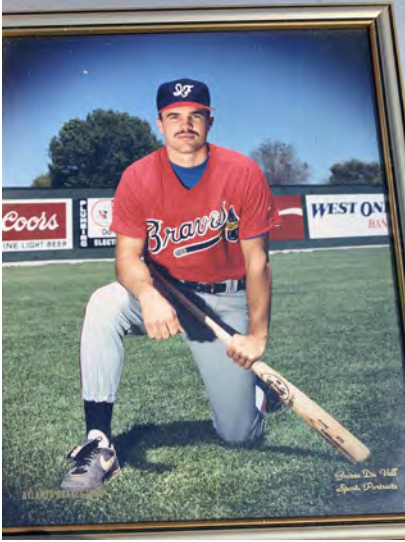
Merriam Webster describes the word ‘iconic’ as, “Being widely known or acknowledged for distinctive excellence.” Such was the case for the 1964 AA State Champion (12-0) Ridgeview High School Panthers; considered one of this region’s iconic high school football teams.

Dubbed, “The Untouchables” by Hickory sportswriter Ellis Johnson, the Panthers steamrolled their way to the title, outscoring opponents that special season, 446-0.

Led by head coach Samuel Davis, and assistant Roger Scales, the Panthers amassed 12 consecutive shutouts including a 16-0 victory over Hamlet in the Championship played at Lenoir-Rhyne University’s then College Field.

In a time, when schools were still segregated, Hickory’s African American High School proved to be a state powerhouse. The team still holds two famed N.C. High School State football records of 74 consecutive regular season victories and 14 consecutive shutouts.

2022 Inductee - Grant Brittain



Hickory native Christopher “Grant” Brittain has enjoyed a long and successful career in professional baseball as a player and scout for over three decades.

Mr. Brittain was a standout infielder/shortstop for the Hickory High Red Tornadoes (1982-1986) where he was named All-Conference and team MVP in 1986.

Mr. Brittain later starred at Western Carolina University where he was a four-year starter, captain, and stand-out shortstop. He was selected the

Southern Conference Player of the Year in 1990 after slugging .439 with 20 home runs and 68 RBI's. For his efforts, he was named an American Baseball Coaches Association First Team All-American and WCU's Athlete of the Year. During his collegiate career, Mr. Brittain helped lead WCU to four straight regular season Southern Conference Titles, three SoCon Tournament Championships, and three NCAA Tournament appearances.

Mr. Brittain continued his playing career in the pros, when he was signed by the Atlanta Braves as an amateur free agent in 1990. He played three seasons in the minors, with Idaho Falls, Macon, Ga., and for the Durham Bulls.

For the past three decades, Mr. Brittain has taken his knowledge and passion for the sport to become a successful professional scout for several organizations including the Pittsburgh Pirates, Boston Red Sox, Detroit Tigers, and Oakland A's.



2022 Inductee - James T. “Jim” Ledbetter (1927-2002)



Mr. James “Jim” Ledbetter will always be remembered as one of Catawba County’s most beloved sportsman, environmentalist, and goodwill ambassador for the sport and art of fishing.

Mr. Ledbetter was a resident of Newton for over five decades and made his mark first as a professional baseball player in the late 1940’s for the Newton-Conover Twins.

Later he rose to prominence when he parlayed his love of the outdoors into “The Piedmont Sportsman” fishing show which aired on WHKY-TV Channel 14 in Hickory and Cable TV outlets in Western NC for over three decades.

During his HOF career, Mr. Ledbetter organized, and sponsored many fishing events that raised awareness of and excitement about the sport he loved. He gave seminars, spoke at boat shows, bass clubs, sponsorship events, and numerous youth organizations throughout the Hickory Metro region.

A founding board member of the Hickory Metro Sports Commission in 2000, Mr. Ledbetter also served with distinction in helping to create the Catawba County Sports Hall of Fame.



2022 Inductee - Elwood “Buck” Perry (1915-2005)



Elwood “Buck” Perry was born in Taylorsville, but grew up in Hickory where he became a star athlete, educator, and later a renowned sportsman who was widely acclaimed as the top fisherman in North America.

A member of the Lenoir-Rhyne Sports Hall of Fame, Mr. Perry earned a degree in Mathematics from L-R and was co-captain and MVP of the 1936 Bear football team where he earned

All-Conference honors as a running back.

He taught and coached at Hickory High School before he entered World War II becoming a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army.

Mr. Perry will be remembered for generations of fishermen as Buck, with his name forever linked to the lure he patented in 1946, the Spoonplug. Over the years he sold millions of those lures from his family business, Buck’s Bait Company, in Hickory.

Mr. Perry was a nationally known author and speaker and distinguished himself as the ‘Father of Structure Fishing’. In `1984, Mr. Perry received the most prestigious honor in fishing when he was inducted into the National Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame in Hayward Wisconsin.



2022 Inductee - Dennis Setzer



Newton native Dennis Setzer is regarded as one of NASCAR's most versatile and respected short track drivers of his era.

Mr. Setzer drove in all three of NASCAR's top series in a career that spanned over four decades. He joins an impressive list of racing legends that are enshrined in the Catawba County Sports Hall of Fame.

Mr. Setzer got his racing start at the Birthplace of NASCAR stars, Hickory Motor Speedway, where he was a two-time track champion (1983,1993). He also earned short-track championships at Tri-County, Wake County, and Caraway Speedways where he amassed a win total of over 180 career victories in Late Model Stock competition.

Mr. Setzer later experienced his greatest success in NASCAR's Craftsman Truck Series where he achieved 18 career victories, and 160 Top Ten finishes, was voted as the Series 'Most Popular Driver', and finished runner-up for the Truck Series Championship in 2003, 2004 and 2005.

In his career, Mr. Setzer made close to 500 starts in NASCAR's three national series winning over 20 races.



2022 Inductee - Jerry Willard



Maiden native Jerry Willard's impact on Catawba County sports history was as a highly successful coach, community leader, visionary teacher, and administrator for over four decades.

Mr. Willard rose to prominence at Newton-Conover High School where he was an assistant football coach for 23 years, and head varsity basketball coach for both the men and women's programs for 13 seasons.

Mr. Willard compiled an impressive record of 241-105, for a winning percentage of 70 percent. His teams made the post season in 12 of his 13 years. From 1985-88, he guided the Newton-Conover women to a 70-9 record helping the Red Devils become a perennial regional power in girls basketball.

Mr. Willard was also a three-time Southern District Seven Conference Coach of the Year, while winning five Conference Championships (three girls, 2 boys).

In addition, Mr. Willard's impact was felt in the classroom where he earned N-C City Schools Teacher of the Year and was an 11-time winner for Excellence in Teaching as voted on by N-C's senior class.

After his coaching career at N-C ended, Mr. Willard became the Founding Principal and lead teacher at Newton-Conover Health Science High, and most recently was Principal, teacher, and coach at University Christian High School on the campus at Lenoir-Rhyne University.



2022 TEAM OF DISTINCTION

St. Stephens High Baseball Program (1971-1973)

The St. Stephens High School baseball teams of (1971-73) set the standard for excellence in high school baseball in North Carolina when they won three consecutive State AA Championships, becoming the first school in the modern history of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) to capture a three-peat.

The Indians were led by Catawba County Sports Hall of Fame coach Harry Frye (343-179 record) and a total of 33 players, including six who saw action on all three title winning squads.

During the magical run from 1971-73, the Indians compiled a record of 63-7 (20-4 in '71, 22-1 in '72, and 21-2 in '73). The Tribe knocked off Jones Senior High School in a best-of-three series winning the final two games for the school's first ever team championship.

In 1972 the team lost the first game of the season before winning their next 22 straight, including a two-game sweep of Mt. Pleasant High in the finals. The '72 squad also posted the highest team batting average of any squad guided by Frye at SSHA.

The '73 team won its first 16 games, before losing an extra inning affair late in the year. The third straight title was later secured as the Tribe defeated Southern Guilford High School in three-games, winning the finale 6-2.

The team also held the NCHSAA record at the time for consecutive victories with 38. The squad is also believed to be the only high school team of any kind from Catawba County to have won three straight state championships.

Photos of these Teams of Distinction from St. Stephens High School are shown on the back cover.

2022 TEAM OF DISTINCTION

St. Stephens High Baseball Program (1971-1973)



1971 NCHSAA AA State Champions

Row 1: R. Hefner, L. Harris, Mgrs. R. Barnette, K. Sipe, R. Allebach, M. Queen, S. Bridges, D. Bolick, S. Weaver, Mgr. D. Green, Scorekeeper
 Row 2: T. Gilbert, C. Bumgarner, L. Justice, T. Mitchell, D. Guest, S. Simpson, M. Beck

Row 3:

J. Johnson, Scorekeeper, L. Eckard, D. Stallings, D. Clontz, R. Huffman, M. Bortz, A. Dunton, G. Miller, B. Good, Scorekeeper, L. Sullivan, Trainer
 Not Pictured Coach Harry Frye



1972 NCHSAA AA State Champions

Row 1: G. Miller, D. Guest, D. Stallings, S. Simpson, S. Bridges, D. Green, Scorekeeper
 Row 2: T. Byers, Mgr. C. Bumgarner, D. Ball, D. Wilson, R. Allebach, B. Thornburg, K. Sipe, J. Kale
 Row 3: G. Probst, Mgr. M. Cockerham, M. Queen, R. Barnette, K. Nieuwalis, L. Justice, L. Miller, J. Reeves, Mgr.
 Not Pictured Coach Harry Frye



1973 NCHSAA AA State Champions

Row 1: M. Cockerham, E. Kent, E. Lane, L. Miller, J. Kale, C. Bumgarner
 Row 2: K. Nieuwalis, D. Wilson, D. Ball, K. Sipe, B. Thornburg, D. Eggers, D. Starr, Mgr.
 Row 3: R. Barnette, M. Queen, B. Lawing, K. Nieuwalis, R. Sullivan, L. Justice
 Not Pictured Coach Harry Frye