



North Carolina High School Athletic Association  
Physical Address | 222 Finley Golf Course Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27517  
Mailing Address | P.O. Box 3216, Chapel Hill, NC 27517  
Phone 919-240-7401 Fax 919-240-7399

## NCHSAA HALL OF FAME NOMINATION FORM

(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE ALL INFORMATION)

### I. NOMINEE INFORMATION

NAME Faulk Paul Edward Jr.  
LAST FIRST MIDDLE NICKNAME  
ADDRESS 128 Retreat Place Little River SC 29566  
STREET CITY STATE ZIP CODE  
AGE 69 DATE OF BIRTH 7/14/54 PLACE OF BIRTH Lawrenceburg, NC  
TELEPHONE: WORK (910) 638-5528 HOME ( ) DECEASED\* ☒ YES ☐ NO  
NAME OF HIGH SCHOOL Hamlet High School YEAR GRADUATED 1972  
NAME OF COLLEGE Pembroke State YEAR GRADUATED 1976  
ADDITIONAL DEGREES (MASTERS, DOCTORATE, ETC.) \_\_\_\_\_  
\*\*\*IF NOMINEE IS DECEASED, GIVE DATE OF DEATH AND FILL IN SECTION II\*\*\*

### II. NEAREST RELATIVE

NAME Faulk Amanda Blair Daughter  
LAST FIRST MIDDLE RELATIONSHIP  
ADDRESS 590 W. Denny Ave. Pinebluff NC 28373  
STREET CITY STATE ZIP CODE  
TELEPHONE: WORK (910) 947-8030 HOME ( ) 910-691-5159

### III. SPONSOR INFORMATION (PERSON MAKING NOMINATION)

NAME Faulk Amanda Blair  
LAST FIRST MIDDLE  
ADDRESS 590 W. Denny Ave. Pinebluff NC 28373  
STREET CITY STATE ZIP CODE  
TELEPHONE: WORK (910) 947-8030 HOME ( ) 910-691-5159  
TITLE/POSITION School Counselor  
SCHOOL SYSTEM Moore Co. Schools  
SIGNATURE Amanda Blair DATE 8-30-2023



#### IV. PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

IN CHART BELOW, PLEASE LIST CHRONOLOGICALLY THE NOMINEE'S POSITION  
(COACH, PRINCIPAL, ETC.) AND OTHER APPROPRIATE DATA

POSITION	DATES	SCHOOL OR SYSTEM	HONORS	COACHING RECORDS
Head Baseball, Football, Basketball Coach	1976 - 1978	Richmond Co. Schools (Richmond Co. HS) Hamlet HS	State 4-A Champions (Georg. Whitfield)	
Head Baseball Asst. Football	1978 - 1986	Garner High School	Conference Champs x8 Coach of the Year x6	
Head Baseball Coach Asst. Football	1986 - 1989	South Brunswick High School	State 2-A Champs Conference champs x1	29-0, ranked 5th in nation
Head Baseball Coach Asst. Football Coach	1988 - 1989	Scotland High School	2nd place Conference Coach of the Year x1	

CIVIC/CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (INCLUDE CHURCH, CIVIC OR CHARITABLE INVOLVEMENT)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

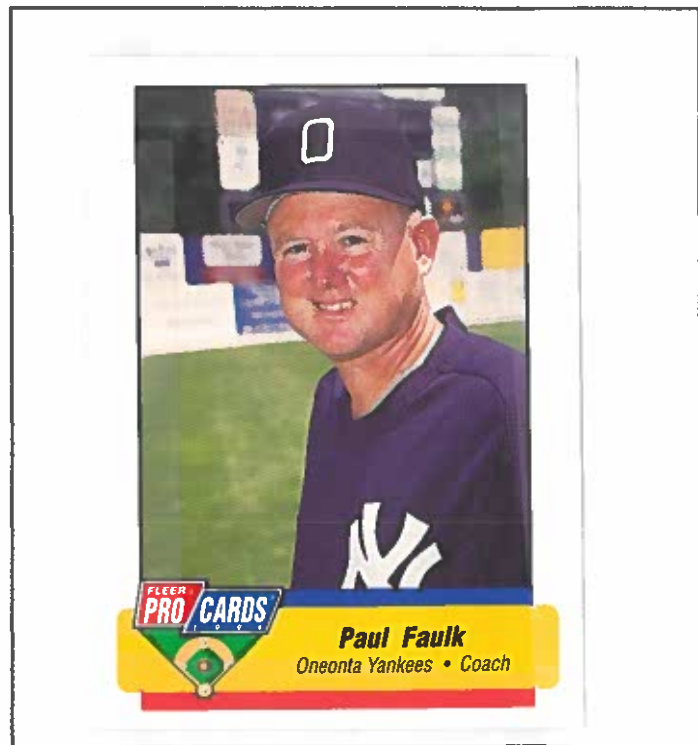


#### HONORS

(PLEASE LIST HONORS EARNED IN COLLEGE, POST GRADUATE WORK, AWARDS FROM CIVIC CLUBS, ETC.)  
(EXAMPLE: PHI BETA KAPPA, MAGNA CUM LAUDE, JAYCEE PERSON OF THE YEAR, ETC.)

1. Professional Baseball Representative Scout of the year 2003
2. Mid Atlantic Scouts Association Cross checker of the year 2008
3. Mid Atlantic Scouts Association Scout of the year 2002
4. Mid Atlantic Scouts Association Hall of Fame member 2019
5. NC Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame member 2015
6. Garner Senior High School Hall of Fame 2013
7. George Whittfield Hall of Fame 1994
8. Key to the Town of Leland, NC 2018
9. Coach Paul Faulk Day Town of Garner Proclamation 1982
- V. PHOTOGRAPH
10. South Brunswick High School Cougar Baseball Team Day (1988)

ATTACH A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE NOMINEE  
(preferably head and shoulder shot, wallet size)



#### VI. SUPPORT OF CANDIDACY

Using whatever supportive data you may wish, please describe the activities and accomplishments of this candidate which make him/her a viable candidate for the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame. Please remember that only thorough and complete documentation will be considered. Two letters of recommendation (minimum) will be necessary, and newspaper articles, etc., in support may also be submitted.

The committee shall seek to honor those who have directly influenced the history and evolution of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association. Attachments are considered appropriate.

FOR OFFICE USE: DATE RECEIVED \_\_\_\_\_



Dear NCHSAA HALL OF FAME NOMINATING COMMITTEE :

I am honored to support induction into the NCHSAA Hall of Fame my coach, mentor and friend Paul Faulk. Coach Faulk has been a special part of my life for 36 years. He truly is an inspirational figure, one who changed the perception and landscape for North Carolina High School athletes for generations to come. The dream of becoming a collegiate student-athlete, and/or professional baseball player was a distant illusion for many young high school student athletes like myself until Coach Faulk literally came crashing into my life. His endearing lifelong commitment to the student-athletes he has coached or scouted in his communities has helped so many of us turn our dreams into reality.

It was the summer of 1987, first week of football practices at South Brunswick High School and my first impression of our new assistant football coach was "who is this small frame, fiery, energetic coach, pushing us beyond our physical and mental comforts, demanding excellence in the execution of every practice drill..??.." Having been the returning starting shortstop on the SBHS baseball team, I was frightened to learn this new "high-spirited" man with the big personality would also be my new head baseball coach. Within a matter of days, all of those fears proved to be unfounded as I came to realize the passion, knowledge and love for teaching Coach Faulk exudes would help propel SBHS Athletic Programs and all of my fellow student-athletes to new heights both on and off the field. For the sake of progress we all grew to be "comfortable being uncomfortable", and more confident in our elevated skills and abilities to compete outside of our small Brunswick County pond. The hard work, discipline and attention to detail Coach Faulk instilled in us laid the foundation for developing championship players, people and culture...a winning culture which was anchored in Coach Faulk's team motto or "keys to life"..the first being ; 1) don't get excited...and 2) don't buy a lottery ticket". Armed with this new somewhat ambiguous life "principle" with emphasis on proper relaxation and preparation, our 1987 SBHS football program would become 2A conference champions and state playoff contenders. While our baseball program under Coach Faulk's leadership would make state history and national headlines with an undefeated season (29-0) record winning the 1988 North Carolina State 2A Championship and USA Today 5th Nationally Ranked High

School Team. The fundamental principles we learned coupled with the solid academic and athletic foundation created at SBHS paved the way for me to achieve my big league dreams. I'm blessed to have played 4 years of baseball at Duke University and 11 years in the major leagues. That being said, to this day my fondest memories in the game of baseball remain that "magical" 1988 NC State Championship Season under Coach Faulk's tutelage. The impact he has had in my life, and the thousands of student-athletes lives he touched along his coaching stops at Garner High School and Scotland High School, still resonates today.

Coach Faulk embodies the very definition of a mentor, he is a person who takes the time to get to know you and the challenges you're facing and then uses that understanding and his personal experiences to help serve others. Having been a standout high school and college athlete drafted into professional baseball, Coach Faulk has traveled and understands the road that many of his former players aspire to travel. He used his wealth of wisdom in the game of life to guide and advise me throughout my collegiate and professional playing career. From patiently walking this young raw high school shortstop through the exciting, yet unnerving college recruitment process, to inspiring this same semi-developed collegiate shortstop after I went undrafted my junior year, Coach Faulk reassured me that I could play and compete at the professional level. He has always been available and present for me showing his love, unwavering support and constructive feedback I would utilize for my betterment. As my career transitioned from the playing field to the front office, Coach Faulk has also been an outstanding sounding board, listening to my thoughts and ideas, sharing his perspectives on various Major League Baseball departments, operations and markets along with the challenges each may present. His meticulous journey from all-star high school player, to state championship winning coach and veteran MLB scout with 40 plus years of service to others, genuinely lends this native son to being one of the foremost experts regarding "baseball" and the NC amateur athletic ranks. To this day I often bombard Coach Faulk with questions about the landscape of local talent. And in that same "fiery" energetic voice I have come to love, one can still hear that passion he feels for all the young talented players in the Tar Heel State in his detailed scouting reports.



There's an old Phil Spector song titled "To Know Him is to Love Him" , Paul Faulk personifies this song as everyone who crosses his path has come to love him. His genuine nature, wholesome character and infectious smile endures him to one and all. He is a loyal, trusting friend who makes everyone in his presence feel good...he's never met a stranger !! There are 100 counties in NC, you can travel to any HS baseball park within those counties and I will guarantee you there's someone ; player, coach or administrator who is familiar with Coach Paul Faulk. His cheerful laughter and engaging personality continues to warm the hearts and souls of everyone every place his travels take him. To put it simply, Coach Paul Faulk is a North Carolina legend and treasured friend.

The North Carolina High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame recognizes past personalities and their significant contributions to our statewide organization as models for future generations to emulate. Through his vision, passion, unyielding spirit and mentorship, Coach Paul Faulk is one of those personalities. It is an honor to add my voice to those recommending Coach Faulk for inclusion into the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

Quinton McCracken

**Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Club**  
**[Quinton.mccracken@brewers.com](mailto:Quinton.mccracken@brewers.com)**

Special Assistant- Baseball  
Operations/Player Development  
American Family Field, One Brewers Way,  
Milwaukee, WI 53214





10/5/2023

NCHSAA,

Coach Paul Faulk for Hall of Fame induction, sounds a little redundant. He has always been a Hall of Famer. From playing, to coaching, to mentoring after we finish playing for him. I played for Coach Faulk, and yes, he is still my coach 37 years later, at Garner Sr. High School from 1983 to 1986. I really started playing for him seven years before that when he first came to Garner and my older brother played for him. After watching him in games all I wanted to do was play for him. It was an honor, not a right. When I did get to officially play for him, it was some of the hardest, repetitive, no excuses days I've ever had. The end result wasn't just a lot of wins, it was life lessons for the future. No short cuts, do what you say, respect your teammates and your opponents. Zero mental errors, only physical ones. Plan, Prepare, Execute. These are things that I manage by and expect from my employees to this day. 37 years later and I can call my Coach about a problem, a blessing, or, a need, and he will drop it all to help, celebrate, or console. Natural Born Hall of Famer.

Sincerely,

Wayne Barbour

(919)422-3277



Tommy Mitchell  
9137 Sauls Road  
Raleigh NC 27603

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

I am writing to recommend Coach Paul Faulk, Jr., as an inductee into the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame. I have had the privilege of witnessing his outstanding contributions to the Garner Trojans as well as other teams in the State of North Carolina.

Coach Faulk is an exceptional individual whose dedication, leadership, and accomplishments have significantly impacted our community and state. He possesses a rare combination of talent, drive, and passion that sets him apart from others.

One of Coach Faulk's most notable achievements is the way he treats the game. Coach Faulk pulled me up to legion ball when I was right out of 8<sup>th</sup> grade, at 14-years old, which makes me one of the players that played for him the longest. I didn't know then but I have realized over the years and appreciate at 56-years old, the impact Coach Faulk had on me and the kids he coached.

The long practices, miles we ran, the winter gym practices, and running the hallways of Garner High School; it all makes sense to me now. Coach Faulk instilled values in us. These values have been with me my entire life, through my career as a firefighter and owning two companies. I learned never to give up no matter how bad today is, there will always be tomorrow. Balls and strikes are part of the game, but integrity and loyalty are for a lifetime, and regardless of the outcome of a game, your opponent wants to be treated with the same respect.

Coach Faulk coached the game and while coaching he taught life skills, life skills that made many of his players leaders and coaches. He was fair and treated everyone equally regardless of their talent. He devoted time and effort to kids with special needs by including them as team managers. He cared so much that he even provided transportation to the kids that needed it. He celebrated each player's achievement on and off the field. Coach Faulk stays in touch with his past players and their families. An example is when my son was playing in the World Series at Ripken Park in Myrtle Beach, Coach Faulk showed up to support him.

Words that best describe Coach Faulk are legend, hero, teacher, and mentor. I owe Coach Faulk a huge thank you for the difference he made in my life and the lives of other kids that had the pleasure of being coached by him.

In addition to Coach Faulk's professional accomplishments, he has generously devoted time and resources to making a tangible difference in the lives of countless individuals.

I wholeheartedly support Coach Paul Faulk, Jr., as an inductee in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame, and I believe that he will be a valuable addition to the esteemed list of honorees.

Thank you for considering Coach Faulk for this well-deserved honor. Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information.

Sincerely,

Tommy Mitchell

919-369-8367

## F.E. "WOODY" WALLS

October 16, 2023

NCHSAA HOF Committee  
PO Box 3216  
Finley Golf Course Road  
Chapel Hill, NC 27515-3216

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you today in support of the nomination of Paul Edward Faulk, Jr. for induction into the NCHSAA Hall of Fame. I have known Coach Faulk for over 37 years since he arrived as a coach in 1986 at South Brunswick High School in Southport, NC. In that time the relationship that we have enjoyed goes far beyond what you might expect of a coach and student athlete. Coach Faulk has come to be one of my closest friends and in a lot of ways is more like a father figure in my life. I treasure the times that we spend together, the conversations that we have, and the stories that we reflect upon as our lives have progressed.

Coach Faulk's accolades are well documented including leading South Brunswick High School to the state 2A baseball championship in 1988 with an undefeated 29-0 season and a #5 national ranking in the USA Today high school baseball poll. He has been inducted into the North Carolina Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame and the Mid-Atlantic Scouts Association Hall of Fame for his stellar career achievements as a Major League Baseball Scout. There are many more accolades and awards recognizing Coach Faulk's stellar achievements as a player, coach and scout, but it is his investment in student athletes that long outlast the high school years that make him so special.

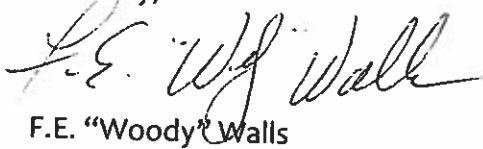
As I have mentioned, our relationship began when I was a high school junior in 1986 and has grown over the last 37 years. Coach cared much more about me growing into a successful person, good father and husband, and productive member of society than any accomplishment as a part of a sports team. Coach Faulk is the kind of person and coach that you want representing the NCHSAA as a member of this elite group.

It would be easy to move on when student athletes graduate, but Coach Faulk works to nurture and invest in relationships with his student athletes. It was 26 years after graduation in 2014 when I looked across the high school gym during my son's Senior night for wrestling and saw my coach sitting there to cheer him on and support me. He had made the hour and a half drive because it was a special night for my family and he wanted to be there. It was eleven days after my dad had passed away when I looked out into a church congregation as I was being ordained as a pastor and there sat my coach, 33 years after we had played our last high school game.

Coach Faulk is always there to lend a listening ear, talk about life, reminisce, or just catch up. His successes are many, but his legacy will not be wins and losses on the field, but the young men who he has invested his life to encourage and serve. My experience is one of so many, because Paul Faulk the man is far greater than Paul Faulk the coach, and with the successes he has achieved, that speaks volumes.

Adding Coach Faulk to the NCHSAA Hall of Fame is worthy recognition of one North Carolina's greatest student athletes and coaches.

Sincerely,

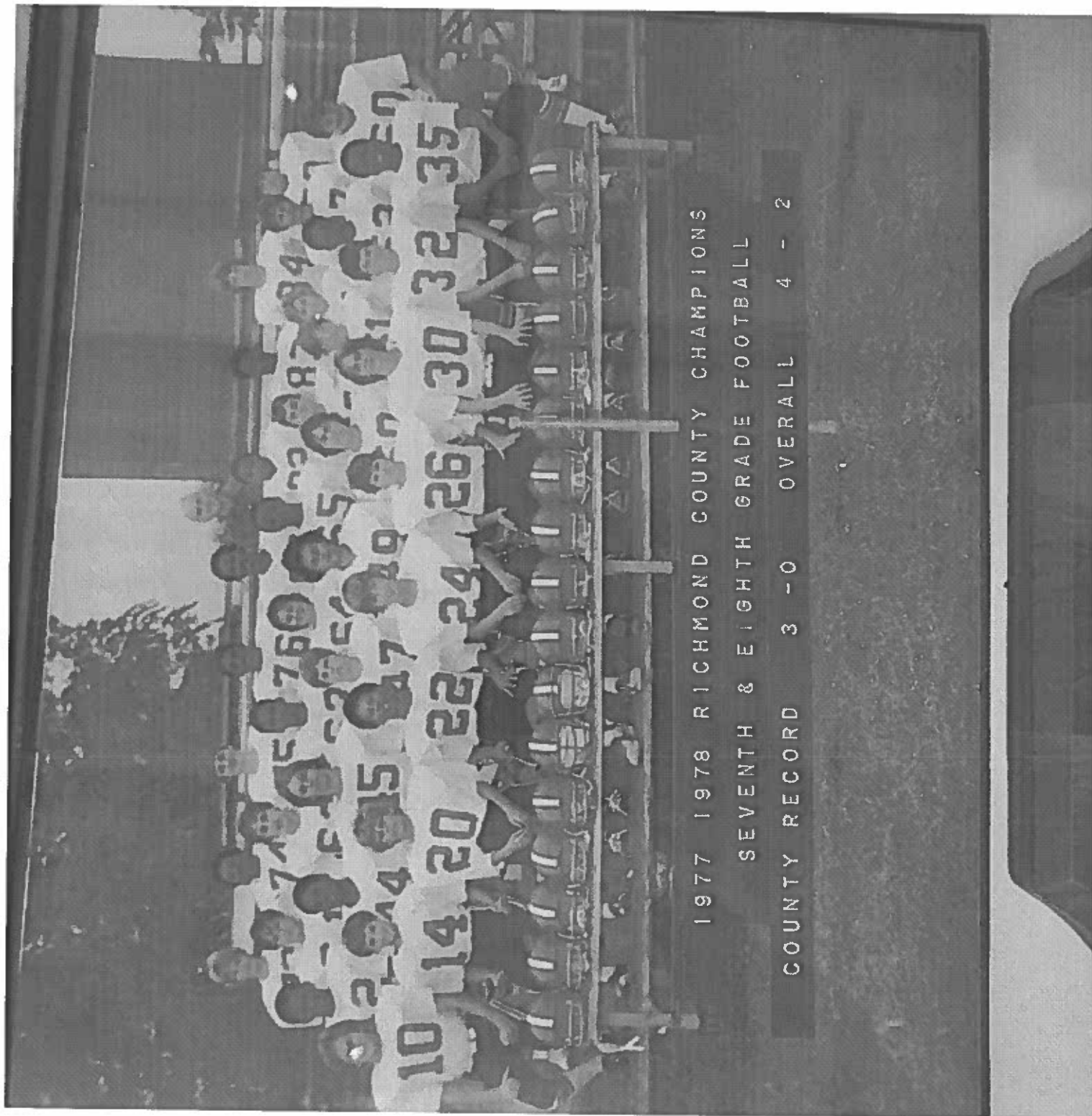
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "F.E. 'Woody' Walls". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

F.E. "Woody" Walls

South Brunswick High School Class of 1988

State 2A baseball championship team member





1977 1978 RICHMOND COUNTY CHAMPIONS

SEVENTH & EIGHTH GRADE FOOTBALL

COUNTY RECORD 3 - 0 OVERALL 4 - 2





CLASS AA BASEBALL  
STATE CHAMPIONS  
COACH

1987-88

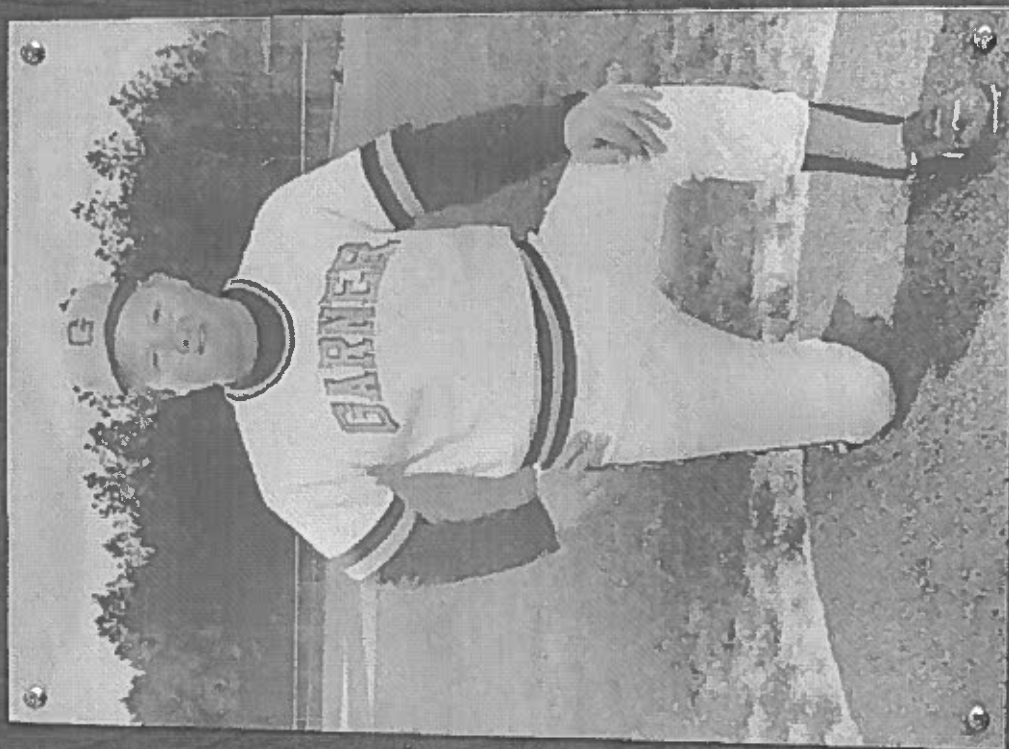




Paul Faulk, former South Brunswick High School baseball coach who led his 1988 team to the state 2A title, a 29-0 record, a fifth place national ranking and all sorts of success. Another sign, officially presented a sign to the high school commemorating the year's success. Another sign, funded by B...



GARNER HIGH SCHOOL  
2013

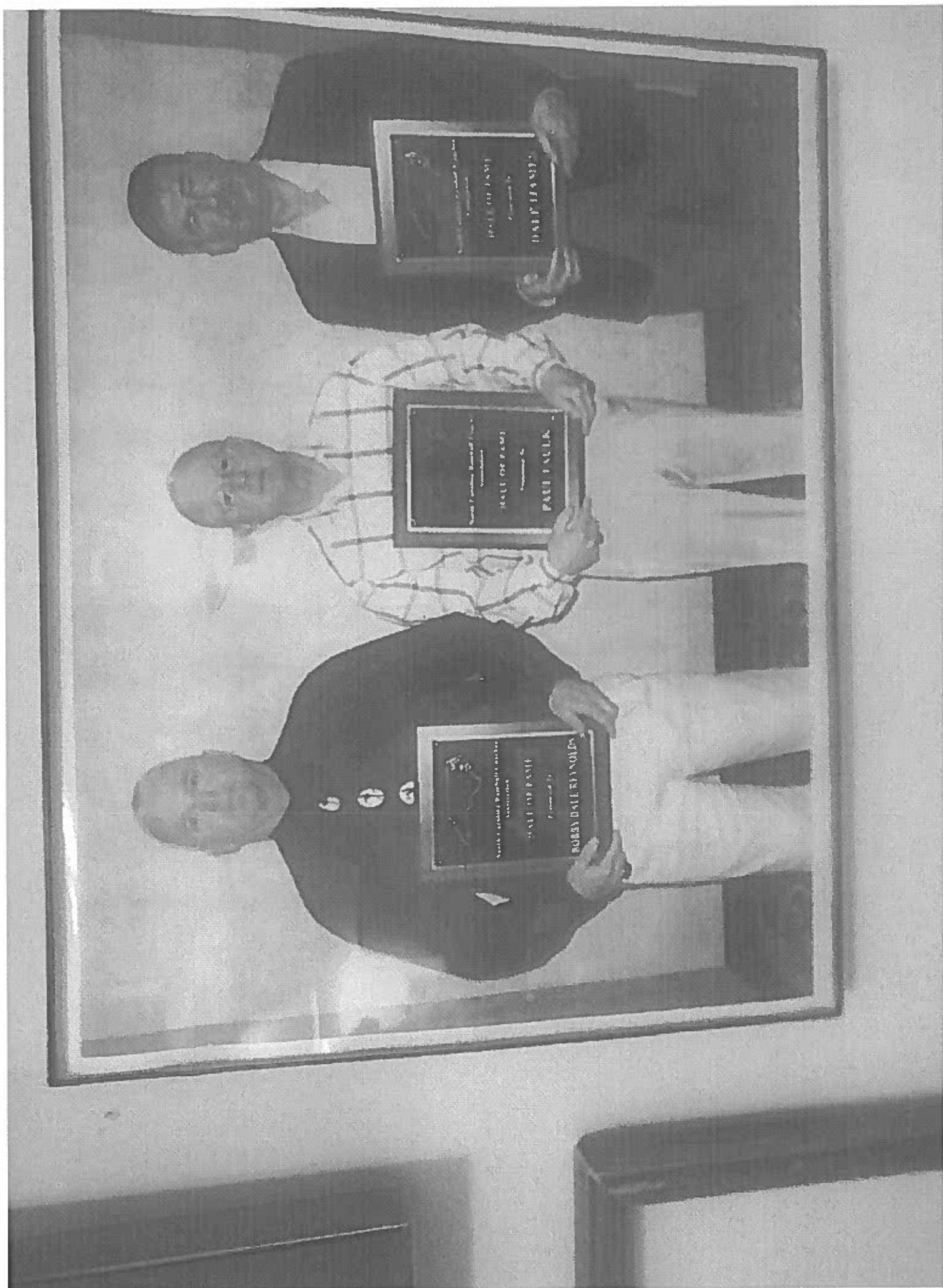


FAULK, FAULK  
Basketball Coach













*Paul Faulk*

Professional Baseball Scout



Presented Key to Town of Leland  
by Mayor Brenda Boseman

January 13, 2018

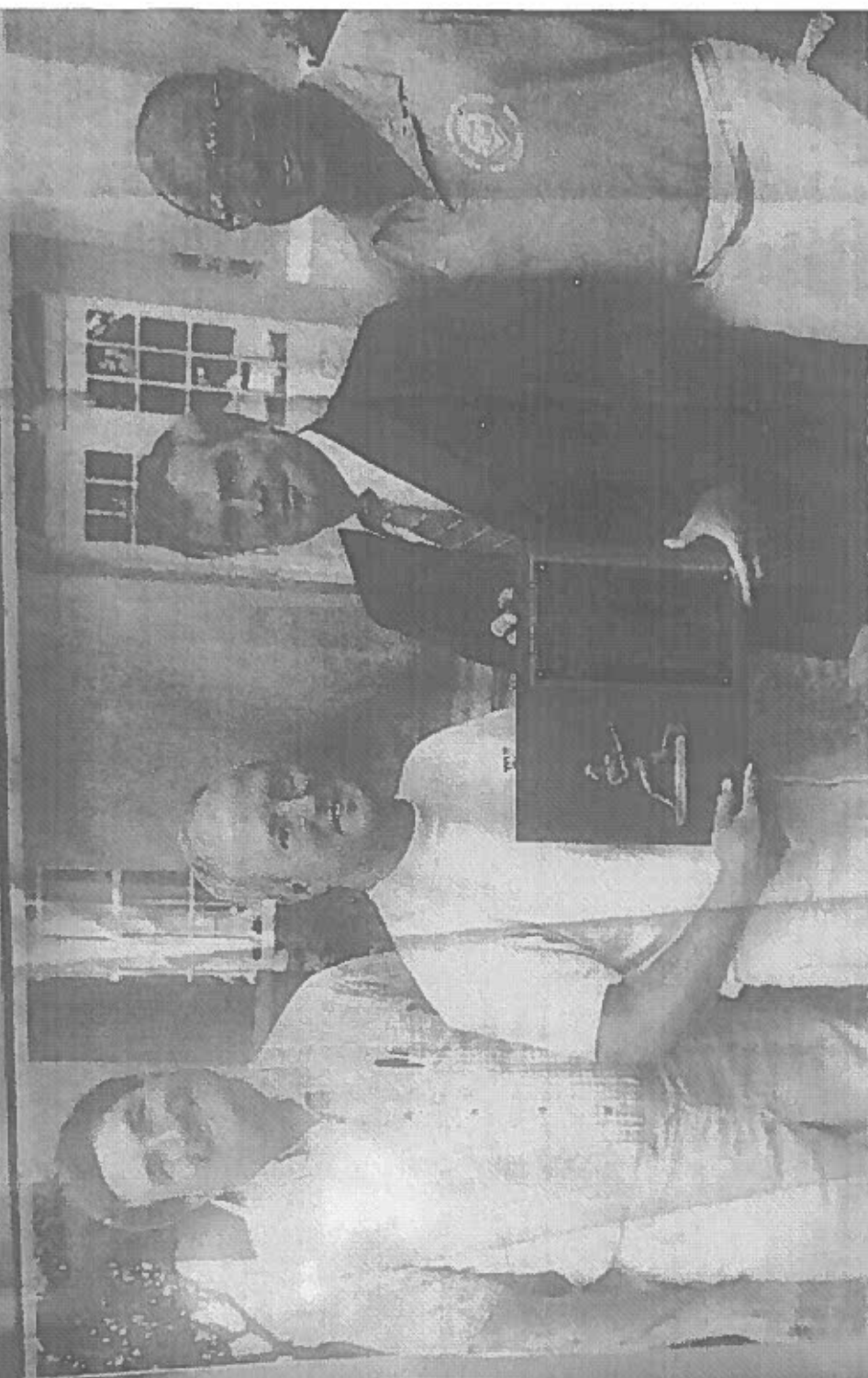


Leland Hot Stove Presents our 19th Annual!

*Banquet Dinner*



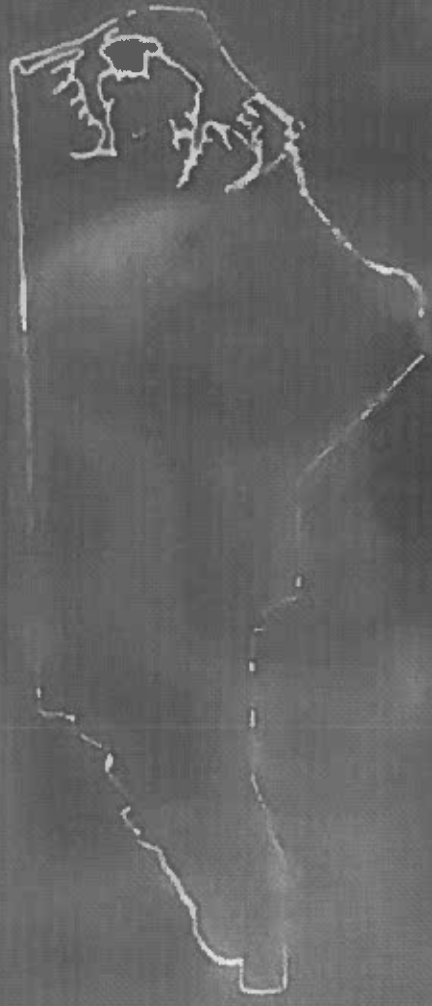




Completion of the 20-0 state championship season of the South Brunswick Cougars followed this week as the City of Southport presented a plaque for display in the school, a diploma of which will hang in City Hall. Left to right are city manager Nelson Smith, Brunswick coach Paul Fulk, Southport Mayor Norman Holden and South principal Mose Lewis.

City of Southport, North Carolina, Wednesday, July 20, 1988.





North Carolina Baseball Coaches  
Association

HALL OF FAME

Presented To

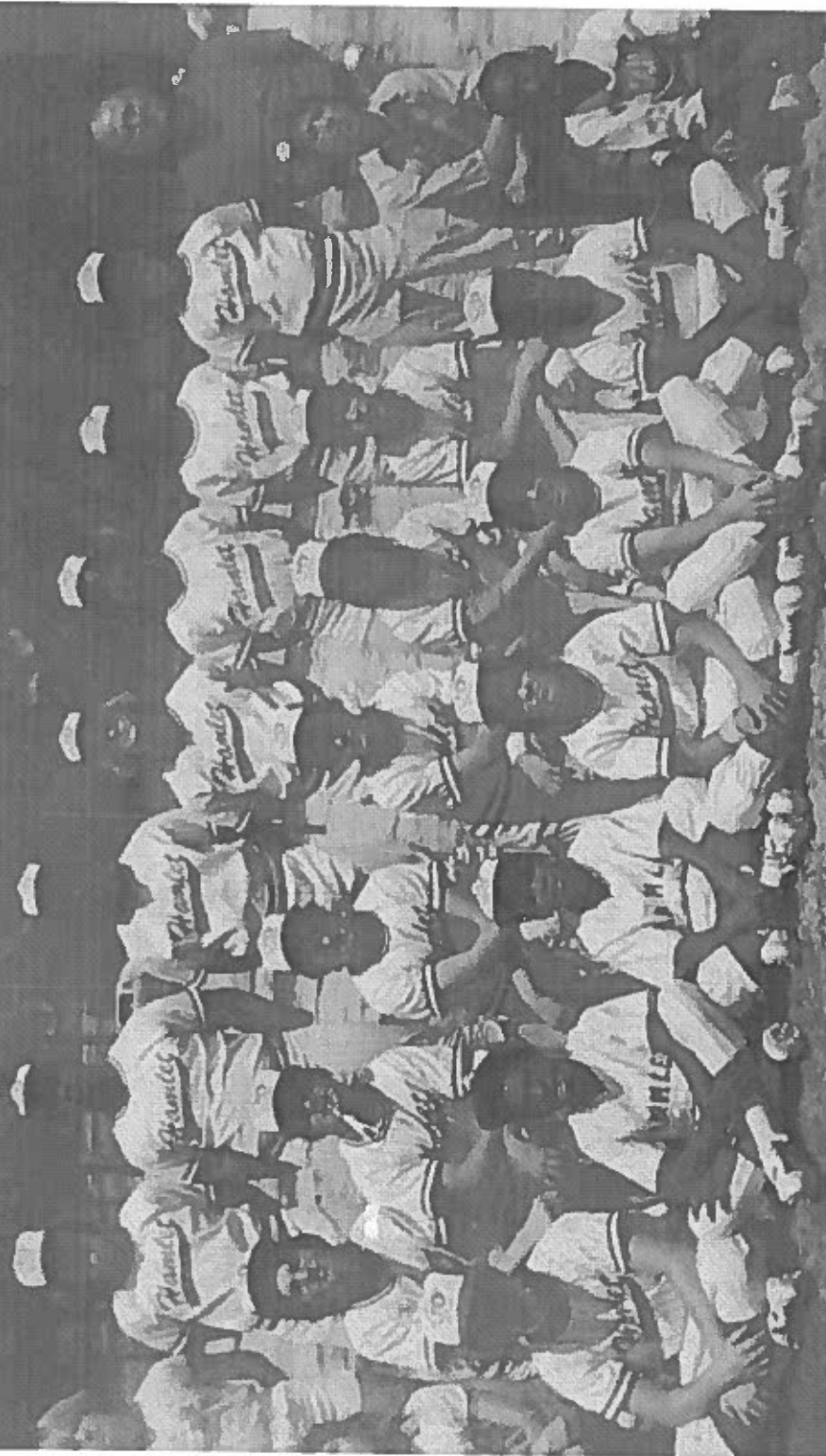
PAUL FAULK











1977 - 1978 HAMLET JR. HIGH BASEBALL TEAM

OVERALL RECORD 5 - 5



STATE OF NEW YORK  
HONORABLE

Coach Paul H. Hinkle

COACH OF THE YEAR

2A STATE CHAMPIONS

20-0

1988

A YEAR TO REMEMBER



# Baseball Cougars finish 5th in USA

South Brunswick's 29-0, state championship baseball team keeps getting better.

*USA Today*, in its Friday edition, published the final rankings of the nation's top high school baseball teams. In a previous poll published in late June, the Cougars were ranked 7th nationally; in the Friday listing the Cougars are fifth, following a thorough review of the 1988 season by *Easton Sports/Collegiate Baseball*.

South Brunswick was the only undefeated team among the nation's top 30 squads and received 493 points. West New York Memorial (N. J.), which finished the year with a 28-1 record, polled 499 points in a system that involves a team's record, strength of schedule, win streaks, depth of pitching staff, and balloting by high school and college coaches across





*Recognition Award*

*Presented To*

SOUTH BRUNSWICK HIGH SCHOOL



1988

STATE 2A BASEBALL  
CHAMPIONS



*Presented By*

Atlantic City Officials Association



FAULK



**owp**

COUGARS

1988 NC STATE CHAMPS 29-0





# Garner keeps Cap 8 lead

By DAVID JUSTICE  
Times correspondent

Garner High fireballer Tony Lee threw a four-hitter at Broughton Tuesday to pace the Capital Eight 4-A Conference-leading Trojans to a 5-1 victory.

With two conference games left — at Athens and at home against Sanderson — Garner has a 10-2 league mark and is 15-3 overall. Broughton is 4-3 in the league.

"The key again was pitching," said Trojans coach Paul Faulk. "Our staff has been coming through in flying colors. Tony has been clocked at 63 miles per hour that spring and he threw well today."

Garner, which won the state 4-A title in 1978 under current Broughton coach Brinkley Wagstaff, is a traditional hitting power. The current squad has a .288 average, but that is not considered exceptionally high by today's prep standards.

"Timely hitting, that's how we've scored," Faulk said. "We'll score a little bit here and there. I would like to have a running team, but we don't have the speed and have just 36 stolen bases. The name of our game is pitching."

Lee entered yesterday's game with a 1.60 earned run average and is 5-0. Benny Tart, who will start against Athens Friday, is 5-3 with an ERA of 2.99.

Wagstaff said, "Right now, Garner is the best team in the league. We only got four hits today, but that's a credit to Tony. He stayed ahead of the batters and it was a good experience for us to face a pitcher as good as he is."

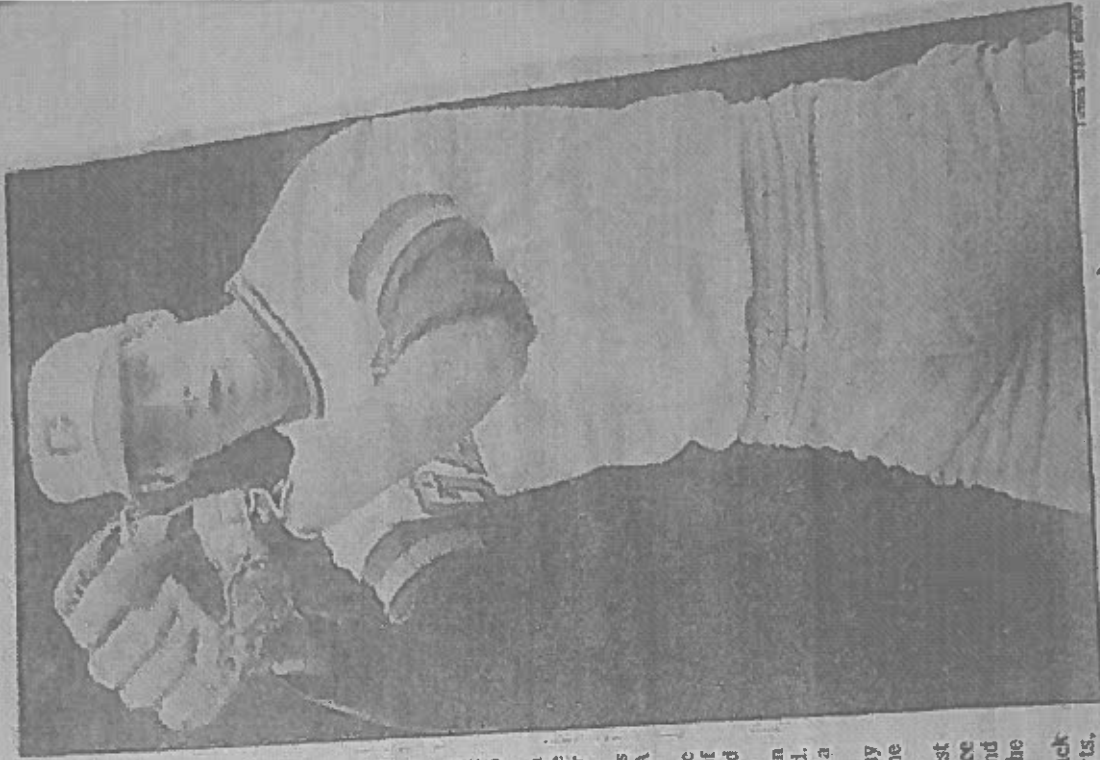
Garner third baseman Todd Carter slashed a wind-aided home run over the rightfield fence in the second inning for a 1-0 Trojan lead. Catcher Doug Phillips, the Trojans' leading hitter at .350, added a run-scoring single in the third for a 2-0 margin.

Broughton scored its run in the fifth as first baseman Tommy Atkinson, the only Broughton player with two hits yesterday, led off the inning with a single. Todd Harris' two-out single scored Atkinson.

GARNER ADDED TWO RUNS in the sixth on singles by Carter, first baseman Chris Roberts, leftfielder Heath Smitherman, and a sacrifice fly by centerfielder Dorsett Clement. Two walks and singles by second baseman John Kelly and Smitherman finished the scoring in the seventh.

Garner managed 11 hits off Broughton's Bryant Balentine, who struck out five and walked six. Shortstop Richard Clement, Carter, Roberts, and Smitherman each had two hits.

Wagstaff's young team has three games left and can still achieve a goal it set before the season started.



Garner's Tony Lee

leads Trojans toward Cap 8 crown

# Garner survives scare





WAYNE COUNTY BASEBALL CLINIC  
PROUDLY SALUTES

PAUL EDWARD FAULK, JR.

HAMLETT JUNIOR HIGH  
SOUTH BRUNSWICK HIGH SCHOOL  
CINCINNATI REDS, SCOUT

GARNER SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL  
SCOTLAND HIGH SCHOOL  
NEW YORK YANKEES, SCOUT



An Outstanding Athlete in Football and Baseball at Scotland and Hamlet High Schools. Played on Hamlet Post 49 State Championship Legion Team In 1972 Coached By George Whitfield - Won 35 Lost 6. Leading Hitter. All-State. All-District for Nationally Ranked Seminole Jr. College in 1973.

Signed With San Francisco Giants in 1973.

Coached High School Baseball for 11 Years With a 206-66 Record-

Four Players Drafted by Major Leagues.

Teams Participated in State Playoffs Nine Times.

Conference Coach of the Year Nine Times.

Coached American Legion Baseball for Nine Years 165-87 Record.

Won State AA Championship at South Brunswick in 1988.

Team Was 29-0 and Ranked 5th in Nation by USA Today.

Four Years Area Scout With Cincinnati Reds. Signed 30 Players-

Two First Round Picks.

Presently Area Scout and Coach With New York Yankees.

January 21, 1994





The nation's 30th  
ranked high school  
baseball team plays  
here tonight, 7:30

# Top high school baseball teams

Eastern Sports Illustrated Baseball National High School  
Baseball Poll. Records through April 11, compiled by Lou  
Pettinato, Jr. of College Baseball

Ranking	Team	Record	Pts.
1	Chattanooga (Tenn.)	13-1	495
2	Greenville (S.C.)	16-0	494
3	Shawnee (Miss.)	17-0	490
4	New Orleans (La.)	19-2	487
5	Edward Rucker (Tenn.)	18-2	483
6	Edwardsville (Ill.)	15-1	481
7	Edwardsville (Ill.)	15-0	480
8	Lakeland (Fla.)	16-2	478
9	Towson (Md.)	16-0	475
10	Owasso (Okla.)	16-2	470
11	Monrovia (N.J.)	2-0	468
12	Oak Park River Forest (Ill.)	5-1	466
13	South Houston (Texas)	17-2	465
14	Go-Locks (Fla.)	21-2	461
15	Columbia (S.C.)	11-0	460
16	Marietta (Ga.)	19-1	458
17	Ermond (Okla.)	14-4	455
18	Ermond (Okla.)	17-0	453
19	Greenville (Miss.)	19-1	450
20	Russboro (Ga.)	10-2	449
21	Winnings (Va.)	8-0	446
22	Porter (Ind.)	7-1	443
23	Porter (Ind.)	3-0	442
24	Modesto (Calif.)	11-2	440
25	New York (N.Y.)	5-0	439
26	Alabama (Tenn.)	13-1	435
27	Albion (Ohio)	7-0	434
28	Vegas Valley	14-1	430
29	Creek (S.C.)	14-1	430
30	Port (N.C.)	14-0	428
31	Port (N.C.)	11-0	425

on record, strings of schedules, winning streaks, catching runs  
playing by high schools and college interests across the USA.

## gar milestone: in the nation

High's head coach, Rogers, achieved another milestone  
by rated them as the 30th best high school team in

Edison team was rated and two South Carolina teams  
weekly poll - Immo High out of Columbia (15th) with  
third High from Goose Creek (29th and 14th).  
third 425 votes. Goose Creek 428 and Immo 460.  
the team's record, strength of schedule, winning  
chance, and ballgame.



George  
Cox  
Sports editor

## Faulk-Whitfield a perfect combo

I'd give a million dollars for my obnoxious, Patrick, to someday play  
baseball under the guidance of South Brunswick High mentor Paul Faulk.  
After 16 years of sport-writing, it is my conclusion that Faulk is the per-  
fect blend of teacher-coach-friend. I feel sorry for those youngsters who  
will never have a close association with the South coach. And I envy those  
who have been so fortunate to play for him.

Faulk is a rare commodity in today's coaching ranks. Not only does he  
have superb knowledge of the game and how to teach it to his players, he  
has achieved something only a few ever dare attempt.

The South coach literally treats his players like his own children. He's  
that close -- a true friend in each one while maintaining ultimate respect.  
He can show love and discipline at the same time.

His background accounts in some measure for this unusual blend and  
philosophy toward coaching. The South mentor was raised by his dad and  
played the high school game under one of the most respected coaches in  
North Carolina -- George Whitfield. Whitfield's high school and American  
League teams at Goldsboro, Hamlet and Richmond County won conference  
and state championships.

Three of Whitfield's teams won prep high school state titles -- Richmond  
County in 1968 and 1973 in 2A ball and in 1974 in the 4A ranks when the  
school moved up in classification. His Legion teams captured state  
championships in 1972 and '79.

After Faulk's team captured its 14th straight victory without a defeat  
over Whiteville on Friday night, Whitfield, who had made a special trip to  
see his former pupil's team, was introduced to the South players in the  
dugout.

"I'd like to introduce you to the best high school and American Legion  
coach around," Faulk said. "I'm glad he came to see us play."

Faulk played on Whitfield's 1972 American Legion state championship  
team which compiled a 36-4 record. That same year, Whitfield's high  
schoolers went 21-3. "We lost in the eastern finals," Faulk noted.

The first time I met Whitfield was on July 22, 1981, when I was a sports  
correspondent for the Wilmington daily. At that time he said it was much  
more difficult to win a state high school title than a Legion championship.

"True, you can have one good pitcher to win a Legion championship,  
but you have to consider the other team has at least one good pitcher, too,"  
Whitfield said. "Anything can happen in a one-game situation. It takes a  
little more luck to win a state high school title than a Legion title."

"In high school, you can have a great, great team and one thing happens  
to one of your boys or your team, and you're knocked out."

So Faulk knows first-hand the tremendous odds a high school baseball  
team faces in North Carolina in winning the big one. Even some of the  
great coaches never get the top prize.

Take Wilmington New Hanover coach Buck Harder. Five of his Amer-  
ican Legion Post 10 teams captured state titles. None of his high school  
teams, basically with the same material, could go all the way.

Has Faulk emulated Whitfield's style? Like most coaches, some of his  
former teacher's tactics have been inserted into his coaching philosophy.

"I guess I've taken about 99.9 percent of what coach (Whitfield) had and  
it has rubbed off," Faulk explained. "I enjoy playing for him so much. The  
biggest thing that impressed me about him was that he cared about every  
individual on the team even to the last person. That's what I want. I want  
my ballplayers to know back years later and visit, I want that kind of  
respect from them. As I tell them before every game."





