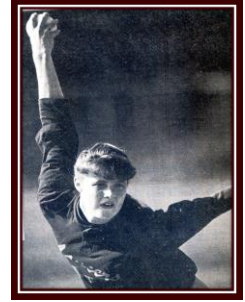


ADRIENNE MADDOX HOWARD

Thinking of the “magical summer of 1989” is a reminder to Adrienne Maddox Howard of how much of a family activity her years in softball provided, with involvement of parents, grandparents, and sister as her support team. Her first memories in sports lie on the softball fields at Monelison Middle School, with her father, George Maddox, as coach.



Adrienne played softball in the Dixie Youth program for seven seasons, with the highlight coming in 1989 when her team played in the Dixie Softball World Series. Madison Heights hosted the state tournament, and Bedford hosted the World Series, giving family and friends the opportunity to cheer the Ponytails team all the way. George and Adrienne Maddox spent many hours practicing to develop her into a highly successful pitcher; they were undeterred by snow on the driveway, a problem snow shovels could solve, assuring year ‘round practice.

She also played youth basketball, and especially enjoyed being taller than all the boys, thereby challenging them to fight for points or rebounds. A member of the ACHS basketball team, Howard credits Hall of Fame Coach Barbara Wood with pushing and challenging her in that sport, but it is in softball that she reached her greatest achievements.

Coach William Gouldthorpe, an Amherst Hall of Famer, commenced coaching the same year Adrienne was a ninth grader, when she became the starting pitcher. They won two district championships, had a runner-up finish in the regionals, and an appearance in the state tournament. Highlighting her senior season were two 1-0 games against Rustburg in district and state tournaments. Even though both games were losses to their rival, she still takes pride in those achievements and in the lessons of effort and perseverance that were learned in those venues. In her four years of softball at ACHS, she had recorded more than 500 strikeouts and selection to all-district and all-region teams. Her academic achievements paralleled and exceeded her sports highlights, as she graduated as valedictorian in the ACHS class of 1994.

Underlining the fact that softball had become such a family affair, she enjoyed being able to play her senior season at ACHS along with her sister, Suzanne. Her parents, George and Patsy Maddox, could witness the results of their many years of support.

Several schools, including a national power, investigated Howard’s interest in playing softball in college, but she chose to forgo that opportunity to attend the University of Virginia, graduating cum laude in history, followed by law school at Washington and Lee University. After several years in the McGuire Woods firm in Richmond in Labor and Employment Law, Adrienne now enjoys watching her sons play Dixie Youth baseball, where they are all-stars, and her father maintains his involvement as manager of their travel teams. It is still a family affair.

Adrienne Maddox Howard – August 17, 1976

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- Youth: Softball – Amherst County Dixie Youth (1985-92), Ponytails, State Champions (1989), Dixie Softball World Series, strikeout record (28, 12 innings)
- ACHS: Volleyball – JV (1990), Varsity (1991); Basketball – JV (1990), Varsity (1991-93); Softball – Varsity (1991-94), pitcher, All-District (1992, 1993), All-Region, second team (1992, 1993), All-District, second team (1991, 1994), more than 500 strikeouts; District Championship (1992, 1993, 1994), Regional Finalist (1994), State Tournament (1994)