

BEVERLY JONES

Eugene Campbell instilled a love of sports in his daughter, Bev, who was growing up, first in Lynchburg, then in Madison Heights, in the 1950s as any typical kid. She was, however, being a typical kid while recovering from polio, which struck when she was two years old, rendering her right leg diminished in size and strength. She did it all – jump rope, dodgeball, hide and seek, even sliding in the mud – with her sister Nita and cousins. Despite a series of operations, casts, and braces, Bev never let this condition interfere with participation in sports all through high school and college.



Her physical education teacher at Central High School, Janet Cashwell, encouraged her to try every activity. She captained the basketball team her senior year. Even though Virginia public schools had few opportunities for girls' participation on interscholastic teams at that time, girls at Central created their own teams to play volleyball and softball, without school sponsorship, against a few other schools. Their proudest moment came when they beat Lynchburg's Dunbar High.

Jones attended Virginia State University, where she was active in intramural sports, while preparing to become a teacher. She returned to Amherst County following graduation, and commenced her career at Amherst and Central Elementary Schools, later moving to Amherst Junior High. After that brief hiatus from sports, her move to the junior high brought her the opportunity to venture into unknown territory – that of sponsor of the cheerleaders. She readily admits knowing absolutely nothing about cheerleading, but she knew she could use it as an avenue to renewed enthusiasm for the school's sports program.

After being assigned to the new Monelison Junior High, later Middle School, she continued as cheerleading coach for 25 years. Her squads featured an array of stunts, dances, and pyramids in competitions, even against high school teams, and emerged as a consistent winner. The involvement in cheerleading enabled Jones to stay close to the action, often organizing pep rallies, helping with game management such as clock-operation in basketball, and patrolling the sidelines in football. In one football game, the team was so far ahead that the coach asked Jones to call the next play – a triple reverse that resulted in a touchdown.

These many years of involvement had one constant thread – that of being a “Trojan”, from Central High School, to Virginia State, to Monelison. By the time she retired, she was considered “the heart and soul” of the school, fulfilling her dream of having “all students . . . join hands, walk in harmony, and reach for the stars through education and sports excellence, molding the world into a greater society”, as expressed on a plaque in her honor. Her many community involvements and awards serve as a testament to her energy, enthusiasm, and continued effort to build a better Amherst County, and world.

Beverly Campbell Jones – June 12, 1947

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- Professional and community: Teacher, 37 years; Cheerleader coach (25 years); Amherst Education Association, president; VEA District 12, president; Mary McLeod Bethune award; Amherst County Teacher of the Year; Profound Educator Award (2); Diversity Council; yearbook dedication; Amherst County Educational Foundation; Adjunct professor Sweet Briar College; Boards -- Endstation Theatre, CVCC, LC Advisory, IRON, Education Foundation; Who's Who Among American Teachers; Scott Zion Baptist Church, trustee, Sunday School teacher; Amherst County Planning Commission, chair (2015)