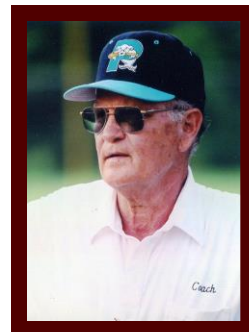


BILL OGDEN

Bill Ogden spent much of his youth playing backyard baseball in Elon. His father had provided a baseball, and Bill practiced throwing it against the barn door, causing cracks in the door and broken seams requiring the ball to be wrapped in tape. He listened to the national pastime, especially the Yankees, on the radio, and later watched games on television at Martin's service station in Madison Heights. Men would gather inside to view the TV, but boys had to stay outside and watch through the window.



Madison Heights High School offered Bill his first experiences in organized sports, with basketball and baseball. He lettered in both sports and was named "Most Athletic" in 1955. He played third base and pitched for the high school team, and hit a memorable home run against the star pitcher for Temperance. The team was 9-1 in 1954, defeated E.C. Glass, and won the area championship. Bill continued to play in the Amherst County League for another decade.

When his son began youth sports, Bill commenced a coaching career that spanned 36 years. His experiences included district and state playoffs, with three trips to the Dixie Youth World Series. His work in Dixie Youth Baseball included many hours devoted to team practices, and the peripheral duties of facility construction, improvement, and maintenance, lining fields, installing fences, and building dugouts. Reflecting upon his experiences, Bill cited the importance of the assistant coaches who worked with him throughout the years. They included his son, son-in-law, and nephew, and many others. Bill Ogden also supported the ACHS sports programs and enjoyed watching his children, Billy and Tammy, participate. He built a batting cage for ACHS baseball during the years that Hall of Famer Jim Procopio coached.

He managed to put in all the hours necessary for coaching at the same time that he, along with his wife, Sharlean, was raising his family, working as a maintenance superintendent at Mead/Rock-Tenn and serving in the Army National Guard. Bill believes that an organized sports program develops many important qualities in the participants, as he emphasized hard work, discipline, punctuality, and respect for teammates and opponents alike. More than 200 boys can attest to the value of his leadership. Several went on to the college, professional, and coaching ranks. After coaching his son and grandson, Bill now watches his great-grandson play, three generations removed from that dilapidated barn door.

William Hammond Ogden, Sr. – October 9, 1935

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- Madison Heights High School: Baseball (1952-54); Basketball (1952-54); Most Athletic
- Adult: Amherst County Baseball League
- Madison Heights Little League Baseball: Coach (1971-76), League Champions (1976), District Champions (1976)
- Amherst County Recreation: Basketball coach (1975-76); Football coach (1975-76)
- Madison Heights Dixie Youth Baseball: Coach (1977-2007), league championships (9), district championships (2), State championship (2), World Series appearances (1978, 1980, 1986), World Series runner-up (1980), All-Star Coach (8); special recognition, 33 years as coach with Dixie Youth