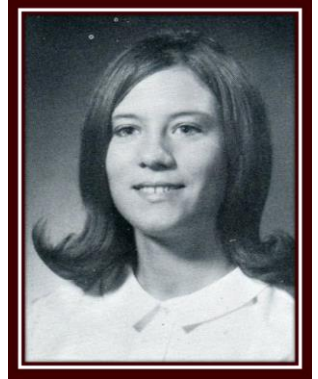


BRENDA HARVEY FRANKLIN



Brenda Harvey's seventh grade physical education teacher at Madison Heights Elementary School, Dick Holt, recognized her potential in sports, and encouraged her to stay after school to practice and play basketball on the outdoor courts. She competed successfully with the boys who were also staying. With Holt's teasing about her being the girl in the group, she used his provocation to ignite competitive fire and passion for the game.

The only interscholastic sport for girls in the 1960s was basketball. Harvey proved her worth, becoming a starter her first year. She quickly became the star on the court. One advantage that she exploited was that she was a left-handed shooter, a rarity in the district. Hall of Fame Coach Barbara Wood and Harvey sought the aid of the boys' coaches in developing a jump shot.

Wood described Brenda Harvey as an intelligent, confident, and fluid athlete, one who had great savvy for the game, who was cool under pressure and could quickly pick up on keys to success in a game. She used height, speed, and her jump shot to lead the Amherst team. Her sophomore and junior years featured a team that was highly successful in the district; Harvey led the team in scoring and rebounding. She was, by far, the best of her era, although there were no post-season play-offs or honors and awards.

Before her senior season, ACHS was reclassified from Group II to Group I-B, the Valley League. That change immediately dealt a deathblow to the team; the Valley League did not have girls' basketball. The hopes for a season of high expectation had suddenly evaporated. Great changes in opportunities for girls' sports were on the horizon by the mid-1970s, but too late for this team, "the lost team of 1969", to realize its dream.

Wood sought avenues for girls to participate in sports, and fielded teams in a few invitational track meets. Harvey used her speed and jumping ability in dashes, relays, hurdles, and high jump. She set a record for the high jump at a regional track competition held at Lynchburg College. She also was able to participate in some intramural volleyball matches, and led the newly-formed Drill Team. Harvey, a true student-athlete, graduated fourth in the class, served as student government president, and earned the DAR good citizenship award.

Local colleges, Sweet Briar and Lynchburg, sought Harvey as a student and athlete, but she had become interested in the emerging field of the computer world, and decided to forgo further athletic pursuits for a degree in data processing. She later achieved another degree in accounting and became a CPA. Throughout her adult life, including a 41-year career at B&W/Areva, she has often noted the importance of traits and values learned through her experiences in sports: discipline, leadership, teamwork, goal setting, overcoming adversity, all while developing and maintaining lifelong friendships.

Brenda Harvey Franklin – January 14, 1951

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- ACHS: Basketball – Most Improved Player (1967), team captain, Most Valuable Player (1968); led team in scoring, rebounding; Track –100, medley relay, hurdles, high jump (Lynchburg College regional record); Volleyball intramurals; Drill Team; Senior Athlete Award