



Carl Wood



Carl Wood meets all the criteria of a member of the Amherst County Sports Hall of Fame. Born in 1923, Carl was a Madison Heights resident from day one. Raised in Lower Madison and lived in that area until his death in 1993. Carl had 3 brothers and there was no organized baseball program in Amherst County. That didn't stop them. They played baseball every day in a local cow pasture and that's where his love for baseball began. Carl continued playing baseball until February of 1943 when he enlisted into the United States Army. He served only six months in the Army. After being deported to Ireland, he was severely frost bitten and lost his toes and was sent home with an honorable discharge.

Carl never let his disability stand in his way of anything. He entered the work force. He worked at Craddock & Terry and drove a truck to Hill City Trucking. He and his wife Lois McKenna Wood worked tirelessly to support their family. Even though he worked every day his love for baseball was still there. In the 70's Carl started coaching in the Madison Heights Baseball Association. He spent most of his coaching career in the Dixie Youth age division. He coached alongside past Hall of Fame members Jimmy Diuguid, Charles Hubbard and Leroy Floyd. He was a competitor to say the least but winning was not the ultimate goal for him. He encouraged his players to not only be the best athletes they could be, but to be the best person they could be. While teaching them the fundamentals of the game he instilled in them the importance of working hard to reach your goals. Madison Heights Baseball became as much a part of Carl and Lois' life as anything they had ever been involved in. He was at the fields every time there was a game going on. Lois right by his side. He was a winning coach. During his almost 20 years of coaching, his teams won numerous League Championships. He coached several All-Star teams, winning District and State titles and taking three teams to the Dixie World Series.

Carl was known to hold several unnamed positions at the ball fields. He was the 50/50 man. If he wasn't on the field coaching, he was out among the fans selling 50/50 tickets. There is no way of ever knowing just how much money he raised for the organization all those years selling 50/50. He was the popcorn man. As soon as he would get to the fields everyday he went into the concession stand, filled that ole big popcorn machine up with kernels and got the popcorn popped and bagged before the fans got there and most nights would return to do a second batch. His third unnamed job was his legacy. He repaired baseball gloves and mitts. He would look at every players glove at the ball field and if he found one that needed repairing he would tell them, you better let me take that home and fix it. Once the word got out, people from all over the area were bringing him gloves to be fixed. He never turned one away. Most of the time only charging enough to cover the rawhide he used and a lot of time not charging anything.

Carl and Lois donated the first electronic scoreboard that was ever owned by Madison Heights Baseball. MHYBA dedicated the scoreboard in honor of Carl's son, Carl Kenneth Jr. who died in a car accident in 1967. To sum it all up Carl was one of the foundation pillows of Madison Heights Baseball Association. Not far from the cow pasture where he played as a child, he helped build a strong baseball program that still to this day provides organized baseball for the children of Amherst County.