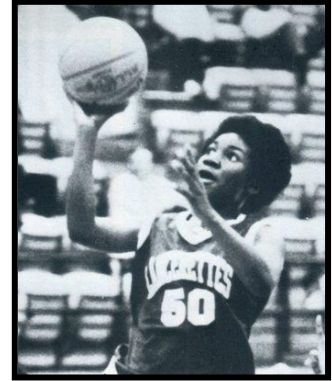


COLLETTE COLLINS GIAMBRONE

As a student at Amherst Elementary School in the early 1980s, Collette Collins chose to spend her precious minutes at recess by joining “Mr. Holland and the boys” to play basketball. This early introduction to competition helped hone the skills that served her well as she often faced a difficult assignment in driving for a lay-up against certain male cousins who were determined not to let a younger girl score against them.



Coach Rick Osmer, at Amherst Junior High, continued the process of “toughening her up” while going up for a shot or rebound. The junior high team was undefeated her ninth grade year. Collette’s academic and athletic prowess earned her the school’s two highest year-end awards.

At Amherst County High School, Collette was a three-sport athlete in volleyball, basketball, and softball, earning distinctions in each. The longest list of accolades came in basketball; following her senior season, when she led her team to the regional finals, she was the Lynchburg *News & Advance* Area Player of the Year. She also participated in the Virginia High School Coaches Association all-star game. For four outstanding years of sports participation, she was named the ACHS female athlete of the year.

Noted for her quickness and intelligence, she led by quiet example. Especially meaningful was the experience of scoring her 1000th point in basketball, an event that was officially acknowledged by a stoppage of the game, allowing her to run off the court to give the ball to her mother, Malissa Collins Austin, who was in attendance that night.

Collette made the team at Old Dominion University as a walk-on in 1991, affording her the opportunity to be a member of the Colonial Athletic Association championship team. She had the distinction of being the only walk-on who traveled with the team to all games, and logged game minutes in the NCAA tournament.

However, she hopes her influence is more far-reaching than a few high school and college highlights. Her “Bounce Back” program, in conjunction with Lynchburg’s Jubilee Family Center and the Girl Scouts, is founded upon principles of transferring game skills to life skills, and building on the many positives derived from sports participation.

Collette Lauren Collins Giambro – May 5, 1973

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- Youth: Recreation league basketball (1985)
- Amherst Junior High: Volleyball – hitter (1986-88); Basketball – center (1986-88); Softball – centerfield (1986-88); Outstanding Student-Athlete Award; Student of the Year
- ACHS: Volleyball (1988-92) – hitter, leading scorer, highest number of kills, All-District (2nd team); Basketball (1988-91) – forward, leading rebounder, MVP, Seminole District champions, regional finalist, state semifinalist, Player of the Year (*News & Advance*), ACHS Outstanding Female Athlete (1992), Virginia High School All-Star game
- ODU: Basketball – forward, Colonial Athletic Conference champions, NCAA tournament
- Coaching: Basketball – Amherst recreation, ACHS assistant, Girl Scouts, Lynchburg recreation; Jubilee Family Center, founder of “Bounce Back” program