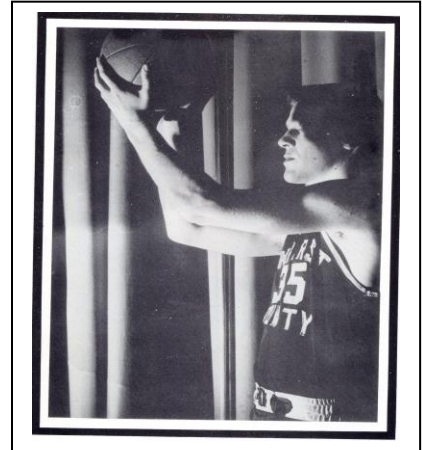


DONNIE WOOD

Donnie Wood entered Amherst County High School at a time when many rural counties were building consolidated schools as a way to expand both academic and extracurricular offerings. In this environment, Donnie thrived in the only three sports available, one each season: football, basketball, and baseball.

He was motivated and showed signs of athletic ability from an early age. The first organized sport available was baseball, with encouragement from local men such as Gates Ware, Marshall Mays, and Will Mays. Baseball had been part of their lives and they worked to develop programs to give the young boys of Amherst opportunities to play.



Participation in sports at ACHS not only meant an introduction to the finer points of the games, but also included field maintenance; athletes from that era probably had stronger arms because of all the rocks they had thrown down the hillside from the playing field. Versatility was paramount, as well, with very few substitutions, especially in football – there was no specialization on offense, defense, or special teams.

One highlight that stands out to Wood occurred in a baseball game in the heated rivalry with Nelson County HS. From such events legends are built. Wood came to the plate in the last inning of a scoreless tie and proceeded to hit a home run to win it for Amherst, and, at the same time, provide Amherst's only hit of the game, breaking up the Nelson pitcher's bid for a no-hitter. Such heroics provided the players with a lifetime memory.

At the time of Donnie's participation in high school sports, there were no all star selections, players of the year, or other accolades that have frequented the news in later decades. He was captain and MVP for each of the three teams his senior year at ACHS.

Donnie Wood contributed to Amherst County with his connection to athletics for many years after high school as a coach and supporter of youth sports. He coached baseball for more than a decade and football for three years. He served his entire professional life in the Amherst County Treasurer's office, first as deputy, then as the elected treasurer, for a period covering almost a half-century.

Donald Thurman Wood – September 22, 1943

Career Highlights

- ACHS: 3-sport athlete: football, baseball, basketball
- ACHS: Team captain in three sports, senior year
- ACHS MVP: baseball, basketball, football
- Amherst County: Youth baseball coach and supporter, 15 years
- Amherst County: Youth football coach, 3 years