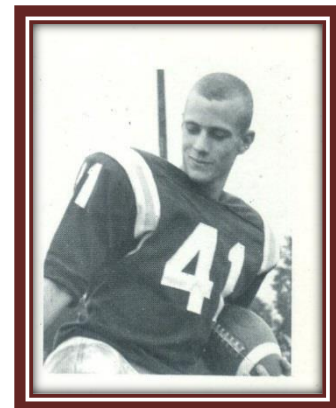


## Donald Wilkerson

Donny Wilkerson started playing baseball in the Madison Heights Youth Baseball Association at 13 years old. At the time, Amherst did not have a youth baseball program. His first organized team was the Wright Shop Ruritans. This was a simple beginning to a life time of Amherst County Sports.



Donny played JV baseball and football as an eighth grader at Amherst County High School. His freshman year he played on the varsity teams but didn't see a lot of playing time. Most of the starters on the teams were seniors. In 1965 as a sophomore he continued to play baseball and football and decided to add wrestling to his sports agenda. 1965 was the first year ACHS had a wrestling team. The next three years at ACHS, Donny became a sports figure to reckon with. Football, for three years, he started on both offense and defense. He scored his first touchdown in the Championship game. This was the first team championship in school history. In 1967, he served as co-captain on yet another championship team. In baseball, his success was just as great as his football career. A three-year starter in center field, he served as co-captain on the 1968 undefeated District Championship team. After the 1968 season he held the school record with 54 stolen bases. As if all this wasn't enough, his senior year he played on the basketball team.

As great an athlete as he was, it was coaching that built his legacy. He was inspirational in helping start youth football in the Town of Amherst area. He chose the blue and orange as the team colors and they became the Wolverines. Today the Amherst Wolverines still wear the same team colors and are still a powerhouse league among their competitors. From those early teams, he coached many athletes who went on to enjoy successful college and professional careers. Kenny Dixon, Russell Henderson, Buddy Bailey, and David Smith, all great athletes and all Amherst County Sports Hall of Fame inductees. Donny coached Amherst youth league baseball in the early 70's. He was known to take expansion teams compiled of players who were cut from other teams and gave them the opportunity to compete.

For the next 30 years Donny would build a coaching resume at Amherst County Middle and High School that was applauded by his mentors who helped structure his work ethic.

### CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- Coached football, baseball and basketball at Amherst County Middle School for three years.
- Coached ACHS JV football in 1977, finished with a 7-1 record
- Coached ACHS JV baseball for seven years, had five undefeated teams
- Coached the 1976 Golf team, Undefeated Seminole District
- Head football coach at ACHS 1981-1986, playing in the AAA Western District.
- Assistant coach on the football team the next 15 years, coaching in three State Championship games, winning the State title in 1995.
- Coached the ACHS Softball teams for twelve years as an assistant coach and outfield coach.