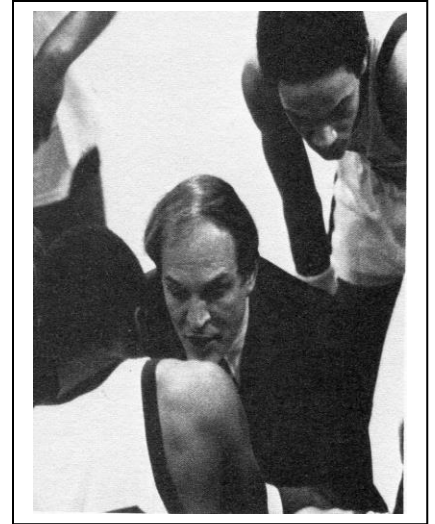


ERNIE GUILL

Ernie Guill developed an affinity for sports in his youth on the playgrounds of Lynchburg. From an outdoor court at Grove Park to Memorial Gym at Lynchburg College, and finally to the “new gym” at Amherst County High School, Guill developed into an All-Conference college basketball player, then coach of a perennial title contender. His affiliation with the Amherst County School System covered more than forty-one years – as teacher, coach, guidance counselor, and principal, followed by several years as part-time central office administrator.

Guill cites his parents for instilling a strong work ethic from an early age, a quality that served him well when he became a member of the Lynchburg College basketball team. Those teams won conference championships his first two years (Mason-Dixon and Dixie Conferences). An All-Conference first team selection his final two years, Guill gained an honorable mention slot on the Small College All-State team.



Over a ten-year period at ACHS, in the 1970s and early '80s, he coached various sports, including track, golf, football, and basketball. As basketball coach, Guill recorded 155 wins while claiming three Seminole District titles, 3 tournament championships, competing in one Western District final, and participating in the regionals 6 times. He was named district Coach of the Year on three occasions; his players consistently made all-district teams, with one named Player of the Year.

During his years as ACHS basketball coach, he developed a reputation as one who could instill confidence in his players, enable them to reach their potential, and set ambitious goals for themselves. He had high expectations for them, not only as basketball players, but also as honorable citizens. Among his athletes were several who later played and reaped honors at the collegiate level, one college coach, and one Major League baseball player.

Finally, as principal, Guill led the school during a time of great success in sports, most notably in football, when they played in four consecutive state finals, winning twice. During his tenure at ACHS, it seemed that most of his waking hours were spent at the school and its activities, and, as one colleague described, “learning every inch of the school and knowing every student. He was steady, honest, and fair, with the unique ability to always remain calm; he could disagree with someone without being disagreeable.”

Ernest Talmadge Guill, Jr. – June 24, 1945

Career Highlights

- LC: basketball – conference championships (1966, 1967); All-Conference, first team (1968, 1969); Most Valuable Senior Athlete (1969); Small College All-State, honorable mention (1969); 1000-point scorer; baseball – outfielder, 2 years; track – sprints, 440, shot put
- ACHS coach: basketball – 155 wins, 8 Seminole District championships, 3 tournament titles, Western District tournament title, advanced to regional play-offs 6 times, Seminole District Coach of the Year 3 times; football – JV and assistant varsity, football; track – assistant; golf