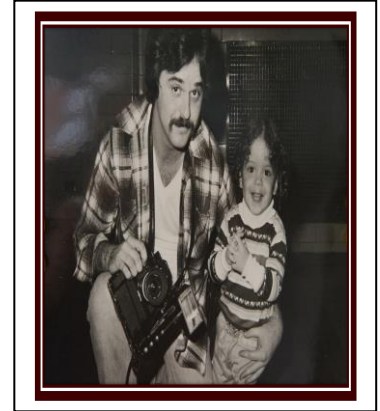


LEE LUTHER, JR.

As a child in Lynchburg, Lee Luther Jr. joined in the typical Sunday afternoon visits with family members and always enjoyed looking at their picture albums. His interest in photography escalated further when his family had a small camera, and he would go outside and pretend to take pictures.



From this childhood amusement, Luther developed a passion for photography, even though his initial ambition was to become a TV cameraman. Coupling this interest with a love of sports, he has now amassed a collection of photographs numbering in the tens of thousands, chronicling events in Amherst County over the past 40 years.

Luther's job as a photographer with Amherst Publishing Company began in 1978. His first sports assignment was a boys' and girls' basketball doubleheader at ACHS, where he was so nervous that he stood, filled with awe, in exactly the same spot for two entire games – causing some physical discomfort. He has now evolved into an award-winning photographer who accumulates multiple awards annually at the meeting of the Virginia Press Association.

Luther photographed the runs for World Series titles by Dixie Youth teams in the late 1970s. Covering the team that failed to win the title in Louisiana, he was so caught up in the experience that he admits that he went back to his motel room and cried about the loss.

Leroy Floyd, Amherst Sports Hall of Famer and fixture in Dixie Youth baseball, whom Luther had first encountered as an umpire in Lynchburg years earlier, asked him to cover the team the next year. That team brought home the trophy, a first for Madison Heights and for Virginia. In the elation over the win, the Madison Heights team and supporters were so close that Luther even donned a uniform at one point.

Another moment he captured on film occurred as Luther covered an ACHS state championship in baseball, a home game with a tremendous crowd. People were standing and jumping on the dugout roof, which collapsed, spilling fans onto the field, with no injuries. And ACHS won the title to complete an evening filled with excitement.

Luther continues to photograph Amherst County sports events and continues to get excited along with the players and coaches. He long ago overcame his nervousness and now positions himself in strategic locations for countless award-winning shots.

Lee Luther, Jr. – April 16, 1955

Career Highlights

- Photographer: Dixie Youth World Series, Madison Heights championship; ACHS baseball state championships, football championships
- Newspaper photographer and sportswriter: 1976 to present, *Amherst New Era-Progress*, *Nelson County Times*, *Lynchburg News and Advance*, *Danville Register*
- *News and Advance*: Sports photographer – Virginia Tech football and basketball, University of Virginia football, James Madison University football
- Virginia Press Association: More than 40 state awards in four categories – sports photos, feature photos, spot news photos, personality portraits