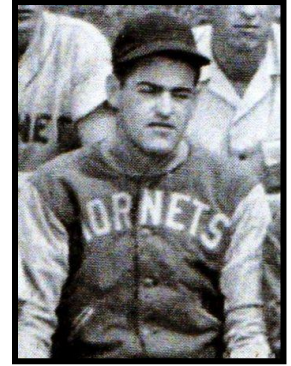


MARSHALL MAYS

Anyone growing up during the Great Depression in rural Amherst County knew much about hard work and little about “leisure time”. Marshall Mays spent his youth during the Depression, the only boy among three sisters, in the Mt. Pleasant community. Following chores and church on Sundays, extended families often gathered for food and fellowship, with the young people playing the national pastime, baseball. Equipment was in its most rudimentary form, with a bat fashioned from a spare fence post and a ball from walnuts or wound-up twine.



Such was Mays' introduction to the sports world. Temperance High School, opened in 1939 as Amherst County's most modern school, fielded teams in basketball and baseball. Basketball was played on a dirt court, with baseball in an open field with a backstop. Opponents included teams from nearby schools, Pleasant View, Amherst, and Madison Heights.

Following graduation in 1946, he attended Lynchburg College, playing baseball and junior varsity basketball, and being actively involved in the student government and the Platonian Literary Society. The baseball team his final year had a 7-4 record, playing many Virginia small colleges, as well as Atlantic Christian, MCV, Elon, and the University of Delaware.

Mays' first job following college was that of teacher and coach at Low Moor High School in Covington, Virginia. He also joined the Skyline League in 1949 and 1950. A line drive to his elbow ended his career as a pitcher, but later gave him the opportunity to travel in Europe with the U.S. Army as an umpire.

Returning in the mid-1950s, a time of a post-war boom in school consolidation and growth in youth sports, Marshall Mays assumed a leading role for launching teams in the county. The development of the athletic field at ACHS became a community activity, with volunteer support in clearing the area, followed by the preparation of a track. Mays used business trucks to haul the track's base material, which was then spread by volunteers with rakes.

Mays assumed a leading role in promoting area sports, with support from Amherst civic organizations, developing playing venues around the county. Further community involvement helped in building accessories for the fields, such as concession stands and dugouts.

Mays maintained an interest in sports throughout his life, enjoying the growing success of ACHS sports teams, and attended many games. For his efforts as a pioneer in youth sports in Amherst County, he received a citation from Dixie Youth.

Marshall Anderson Mays, Sr. – October 22, 1927 - May 29, 2011

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- Temperance High School: Baseball, Basketball (1943-46)
- Lynchburg College: JV Basketball (1946-48); Varsity Baseball (1945-49); Intramural Council
- Military and Professional: Baseball – Skyline League (1949-50), U.S. Army, officiating, Germany (1950-52)
- Coaching: Low Moor High School, Covington VA; founding and coaching Jaycee baseball, Amherst (1950s), Dixie Youth League's certificate of appreciation (1988-89)