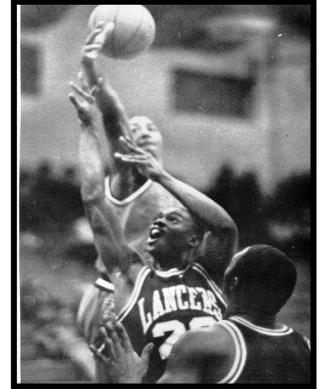


ROGER FORD

As a young child in Esmont, Virginia, Roger Ford spent his earliest years witnessing his cousins and uncles engaging often in sports, especially in basketball games played with a bicycle rim attached to a piece of scrap wood for a backboard. Other memories included these same cousins and uncles engaging in high school basketball, with some memorable games being played at University Hall at the University of Virginia.



Summer Sunday afternoons were filled with baseball games with the Esmont Giants, a local team that included many of his relatives. These many hours on the sidelines caught Roger Ford's interest and motivated him to start experiencing these memories as he grew old enough to play.

His family's move to Madison Heights in the early 1970s gave him his first opportunity, with the Madison Heights Youth Baseball Association and with the Amelon Bruins football team. His teams enjoyed considerable success in that time period, with the Bruins losing only 3 games in four years; he was named All-Star in baseball, and also participated in recreation league basketball.

Junior High football and basketball teams at Monelison were undefeated for two years, and Ford was named Most Valuable Player in each sport. As a leader of the teams, he was known for his playful pranks and lighthearted manner on road trips, but a clear change in demeanor would come over him as they drew nearer their destination. He made it his business to be sure that the team members were mentally ready for the task ahead.

Ford joined the football and basketball programs at Amherst County High School, with his greatest success coming in basketball. His senior year was filled with highlights, with the greatest single memory being his game-winning shot against rival E.C. Glass, capping a night that he scored 22 of his team's 34 points. After being named to the Western District and All-Area teams for two years, he capped his senior season with All-Region and All-State recognition and designation as both Western District and Lynchburg Area Player of the Year.

Roger Ford's parents instilled in him a desire not only to participate in sports, but to work to achieve to the best of his ability. Other coaches important to his development as an accomplished athlete were youth coaches Donald Justice and Andy Anderson, and later junior high and high school coaches John Lange and Rick Webber.

Roger J. Ford, Jr. – November 12, 1965

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- Youth: Football – Amelon Bruins (1975-78); Basketball – Amherst Recreation (1975-79); Baseball – Dixie Youth (1975-80), All-Star (two times)
- Monelison Junior High: Football (1979-81), MVP (1980), undefeated teams; Basketball (1979-81), MVP (1980, 1981); Track (1979), high jump, hurdles
- ACHS: Football (1981-83); Basketball – All-Area (2nd team, 1982-83), All-District (honorable mention, 1982-83), Western District Player of the Year (1983-84), Lynchburg Area Player of the Year (1983-84)