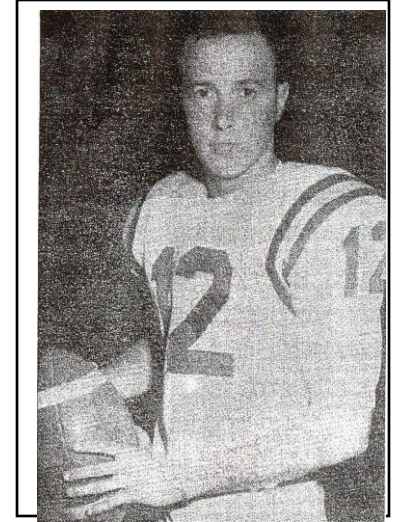


RONNIE MEEKS

One of the most talented all-around athletes of the 1960s at Amherst County High School, Ronnie Meeks could do it all – football, basketball, and baseball. He started playing organized sports in youth leagues of Lynchburg, earning All-City honors, and being named “best back” in the football league.

He credits his parents and siblings, two brothers and a sister, for encouraging him in sports, probably providing him with some early competition that served him well in high school sports. His coaches in Lynchburg, Happy Lee and Doug Brooks, as well as high school coaches, Howard Anderson and Amherst Sports Hall of Famers Tom Berry and Allen Campbell, helped mold Meeks’ raw talent into a team player who could lead by example.



Campbell was impressed with Meeks’ athletic ability, which was demonstrated one day when Campbell was conducting track practice. Meeks strolled by the high jump practice area on his way to baseball practice, and proceeded in his only try to clear the height that the track team’s leader had cleared, without ever having practiced. Such was the ability of a natural athlete.

Meeks was a four-year athlete in football, basketball, and baseball, assuming leadership roles on each team. The football team his senior year, 1965, earned the District Championship with a 9-0-1 record, led by Meeks at quarterback.

He was starting in that position his final three years in high school, while also serving as safety, punter, kick-off returner, and punt returner. He was the type of player who could raise the level of play among those surrounding him, with his poise, toughness, and competitive fire. His athletic ability at quarterback allowed the team to feature an effective option-based attack. Coach Berry had been quoted (probably more colorfully stated) as saying that Meeks was the “toughest little football player” he had ever encountered. Meeks could ignore injuries and keep playing.

Surrounded by good backs and receivers, Meeks completed several long passes late in critical games to assure the Lancers of winning the district championship. That championship season featured several close games, with his play vital in each.

Fittingly, he was named Outstanding Senior Athlete in the ACHS Class of 1966. He later coached baseball in Dixie Youth in Madison Heights, first with T-ball, then later for a Dixie Minor League team that won its division championship.

Ronald Dale Meeks – November 19, 1946

Career Highlights

- Youth leagues: Lynchburg city leagues – football, basketball, baseball; tailback for Exchange Club team; best back award, *News and Daily Advance*.
- ACHS: Football – 4-year player; District Championship team quarterback, 1965; co-captain; Basketball – 4-year player; co-captain; Baseball – 4-year player; co-captain
- ACHS: Outstanding Senior Athlete
- Coaching: Madison Heights T-ball; Dixie Youth Minors, Championship