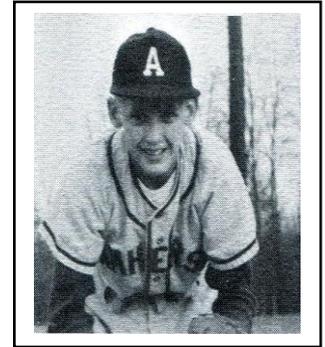


WILLIAM GOULDTHORPE

William Gouldthorpe, encouraged by his father who loved sports, has spent most of his life involved at a variety of levels, starting with playing baseball in jeans and a t-shirt for the "Wine Wildcats" (name based on color of the shirt). More than forty years later, he was named athletic director at Amherst County High School, spending countless hours overseeing a program that had grown to offer 23 sports to boys and girls.



Gouldthorpe enlisted in the U.S. Air Force following high school, an experience that afforded him the opportunity to enjoy sports success through the Air Force fast-pitch softball program, culminating in the "World Tournament."

After four years of college and nine years in the Nelson County School System, he returned to ACHS for the next three decades, until retirement in 2012. During that time, he served as a teacher and coach, including eleven years as head coach of the girls' softball team. Gouldthorpe's teams consistently contended for district and regional championships and fed an enviable number of players into the collegiate ranks.

The ACHS athletic program had grown to a point in the 1990s that required full-time leadership for the increasing complexities of scheduling, venue preparation, transportation, and administration of games throughout the region. William Gouldthorpe's background in teaching and coaching led him to the position of athletic director in 1999. In addition to administration of the program itself, he often found himself the general troubleshooter with the unpredictability of weather and any other circumstances that might arise to complicate the schedule.

One of his primary achievements, outside the program's success in general, was the oversight of facility improvements, to the point that the Amherst football/soccer field and track are now the envy of Central Virginia. During Gouldthorpe's tenure as Athletic Director, Amherst fielded state championship teams in three sports – track, football, and baseball – and a plethora of district titles and other post-season accolades for players, coaches, and teams.

William Albert Gouldthorpe – November 15, 1947

Career Highlights

- Youth: Little League Baseball (1956-60); Babe Ruth Baseball (1961-63), All-Stars (1963)
- ACHS: Baseball (1963-65), second base
- U.S. Air Force: Fast Pitch Softball (1968-69), Air Force "World Tournament"
- ACHS: Football, assistant coach; Baseball, assistant coach; Softball, head coach, 11 years – District Championships (5), Regional Championships (2), Regional Coach of the Year (2), All-Area Coach of the Year, more than 25 players into collegiate softball programs
- ACHS Athletic Director: 1999-2012, program with 23 sports, 2 track state championships, 2 football state championships, and 1 baseball state championship; Athletic Director of the Year (2005); Virginia Athletic Administrators Association, President (2006-07)
- MHYBA: President (1989-90)