

2019 Cabarrus County Sports Hall of Fame Induction

October 26, 2019 – 5:00 P.M.

Program of Induction

Greeting	Tony McClamrock
Procession of CCSHOF Members	Laffette Jordan
Invocation	Harry Mills
Remembering Bob Boswell, and “Dink” Jordan	Scott Barringer
Introduction – Current Members of CCSHOF	Laffette Jordan
Application Process.....	Harry Mills
Our Sponsors (Our Finances)	Jimmy Auten
Recognition of Committee Members	James Fleming
2019 Awards Presentation	E.Z. Smith, III Scott Barringer Bryan Tyson
Closing Remarks	Harry Mills

Inductees please gather for group photo. Everyone gather for refreshments.



Don't forget to visit: Concord Museum located at the old courthouse downtown.

Cabarrus County Sports Hall of Fame Committee

Tony McClamrock, Chairman

William “Andy” Andrews, Vice-Chairman
Harry Mills, Secretary
Jimmy Auten, Treasurer

Gene Furr, Photographer
Becky McClamrock, Committee Assistant

Scott Barringer
Grey Clarke
James Fleming
Tim Furr

Jerry Hathcock
Laffette Jordan
Dane Laney
John Patterson

Ashley Sedlak-Propst
Brad Riley
Mark Tracy
Bryan Tyson

Hospitality Committee

Betty Lapish, Linda Earnhardt, Doris Mills, Judy Mullinax

2019 Cabarrus County Sports Hall of Fame — Inductees

Vernon L. Long

A. L. Brown High School Graduate – 1968

- Vernon along with Richard Brown were the first African American athletes to integrate A. L. Brown High School's athletic programs, 1964-1966.
- Played basketball for the Little Wonders 1965-1968, starting point guard in 1967 and led the team to an 18-3 record. A. L. Brown won the South Piedmont Conference Tournament in 1967 and then defeated R-S Central for the 1967 WNCHSAA 3-A Championship (State).
- In 1968 the Wonders won the SPC Championship and the SPC Tournament with Vernon scoring 46 points in the tournament.
- Advanced to the North/South Piedmont Conference championship game and won with Vernon scoring 26 points. A. L. Brown then played and defeated unbeaten Kings Mountain for the WNCHSAA title and finished with an overall 22-2 record.
- Named to the SPC All-Conference and to the Southern Piedmont Division All-Conference teams.
- Scored 24 points in 2nd Annual Marion Civitan Basketball Classic.
- Accepted a basketball scholarship to Lenoir-Rhyne College, playing from 1968-1972.
- Was the school's first African American athlete, breaking the color barrier at Lenoir-Rhyne. Scored more than 1,200 points during his career - without a 3-point line - and led the Bears to 75 wins.
- On October 5, 2019, Vernon was inducted into the Lenoir-Rhyne Sports Hall of Fame.
- Retired from United Airlines with over 30 years of service. He and his wife, Pamela, have one son, Thomas King.



Tony M. McClamrock

Concord High School Graduate – 1958

- Outstanding three-sport athlete making the Concord High School varsity teams his freshman year.
- Was starting quarterback for the Spiders 1955-1957.
- In 1957 threw for 17 touchdowns and scored 43 points rushing and receiving. Scored the only touchdown to beat A. L. Brown for the first time in five years.
- That same year was Spiders Football team captain and selected CHS Football Most Valuable Player.
- Was a unanimous selection to the Concord Tribune All-Cabarrus County football team and was the Concord Tribune selection for the Cabarrus County Most Valuable Player award.
- Tony was unanimously selected to the All-South Piedmont Conference Team and chosen to play in the annual North Carolina East-West All-Star game.
- Attended and graduated from Lenoir-Rhyne College, 1958-1962, playing football 4 years (at tailback) and track and field 3 years.
- In 1959, the Lenoir-Rhyne Bears Football team won the Eastern NAIA Championship but lost to Texas A & I in the National Championship game (Holiday Bowl).
- In 1960, the Lenoir-Rhyne Bears Football Team with Tony at tailback again won the NAIA Eastern Championship beating Northern Michigan and advanced to beat Humboldt State in the Carnellia Bowl for the 1960 NAIA National Championship.
- During this period the Lenoir-Rhyne Bears football team compiled a 38-3-2 record, with season records of 9-1, 10-1, 11-0-1, 8-1-1 and produced four conference championships.
- Coached football, basketball, track & field and wrestling at Statesville High School for 6 years, 1962-1968.
- Founded and became owner of McClamrock Business Forms in 1990 and continues to this day.



- Tony was inducted into the Lenoir-Rhyne University Sports Hall of Fame on October 10, 2009.
- Recognizing the need to honor outstanding athletes, coaches and contributors to the sports legacy of Cabarrus County, Tony formed the Cabarrus County Sports Hall of Fame in 2010. He continues as Founder and Committee Chairman.
- Tony and his wife, Becky, are parents of Todd and Kellee.

Pat Moore

A. L. Brown High School Graduate – 1988

- Played football and wrestled for A. L. Brown from 1984-1987.
- As a freshman (age 14) he started on the 1984 Wonders 3-A South Piedmont Conference Championship team. Played defensive tackle in all 14 games and was selected to the South Piedmont Conference All-Conference Team.
- In his sophomore year in 1985 his team advanced to State 4A Playoffs. In all 11 games Pat started as a two-way player, defensive nose guard and offensive guard.
- In 1986 was selected to the All-Cabarrus County Football Team and to the 4-A Central Piedmont All-Conference Football Team.
- During his senior year, A. L. Brown won the 4-A Central Piedmont Conference title, and Pat was selected to the All-Cabarrus County Football Team and to the CPC All-Conference Football Team as a unanimous two-way player.
- Named Player of the Year in the 4-A Central Piedmont Conference and selected as a starter and Co-Captain on the 1987 North Carolina Shrine Bowl Team.
- Pat was 6'2", 244 lbs, and ran the 40-yard dash in 4.85 seconds.
- Wrestled for A.L. Brown from 1985-1988 and made sectional or regional finals his first three years.
- His senior year Pat won the 4A State Heavyweight Title with a 21-2 record, never losing a match by decision or by being pinned. His 2 losses were due to disqualification.
- In 1988, he set A. L. Brown school weightlifting records of 500 lbs. in Bench Press, 625 lbs. in Dead Lift, 525 lbs. in Squatting, and 305 lbs. in Power Cleaning.
- Received numerous football scholarship offers from major Division One Universities. Accepted a full football scholarship from Appalachian State University and was a starter 1991 and 1992.
- Graduated from Appalachian in 1992 with a Degree in Criminal Justice.
- Pat has been employed for over 26 years as a Probation Officer with Cabarrus County, NC.
- He and his wife, Patrice, have a daughter, Beverly.



Larry Rucker

Northwest Cabarrus High School Graduate – 1977

- Was an outstanding three-sport athlete at Northwest Cabarrus High School 1973 – 1977.
- Played varsity football 4 years, varsity basketball 3 years and ran track & field 4 years. He was a team Co-Captain for 2 years in football and basketball.
- As a freshman tailback, Larry played on the varsity football team, scoring 17 touchdowns.
- In football he amassed over 4,500 yards rushing, scored over 400 points and had four games where he rushed for over 200 yards.
- Played linebacker on defense averaging 10 tackles per game.
- In his senior year, led the Trojans to the Western Region Finals and was named to the Rocky River All-Conference team and named All-State.
- Was honored by being selected to the North Carolina Shrine Bowl



team and chosen to play in the annual North Carolina East-West All-Star game.

- Named to the Rocky River All-Conference football team three years.
- In basketball, scored over 650 points and grabbed over 450 rebounds while playing forward and center, at 5' 11".
- Was a state track and field qualifier for Shot Put, Discus, 100-yard dash, 220-yard dash, and was a member of the 440 Relay Team.
- Received a football scholarship to the University of Georgia where he played tailback and linebacker for three years. He transferred to Lenoir-Rhyne where he earned his degree and played tailback for one year.
- Larry retired from the Concord Police Department (CPD) after serving 30 years in the following roles: Officer, Detective, and Corporal. He achieved the North Carolina Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate while working for the CPD.
- Larry is a faithful member of Rock Hill AME Zion Church where he has served as a Trustee and Usher Board. He has served on the Cabarrus County Boys & Girls Club Board and coached at the Club for several years. Larry and Gloria Rucker had two children, Larry Rucker, Jr. and the late Lashunta Rucker.

Lester J. Smith, Jr.

A. L. Brown High School Graduate – 1988

- A. L. Brown outstanding three-sport athlete in football, basketball, and track & field all 4 years.
- As a sophomore played running back and safety on the Wonders varsity team.
- Junior year played running back and safety on the 8-3 Wonders team and was named to the All-Cabarrus County and the All-Central Piedmont Conference (4A) football teams.
- Senior year again played running back and safety for the Wonders who finished with a 10-0 regular season record and won the Central Piedmont Conference.
- Again selected to the All-Cabarrus County Football Team, to the All-CPC Football Team and to the 1987 North Carolina Shrine Bowl Team.
- Attended college at The Citadel where he was an outstanding football player from 1988 – 1992.
- In 1991 and 1992, named to Southern Conference Media All-Conference, Coaches All-Conference, All-South Carolina, Sports Network All-American and Walter Camp All-American teams. In 1992, he was named Associated Press All-American and Kodak All-American and chosen to play in the prestigious College Senior Bowl.
- Lester was inducted into the Citadel Sports Hall of Fame in 2000.
- After college he continued his football career by playing in the Canadian Football League from 1994 – 2001. Played safety and



was a kick returner for the Baltimore Stallions, Toronto Argonauts and the Montreal Alouettes teams.

- Selected to the CFL Eastern Division All-Star teams in 1997, 1998 and 2000.
- Named to the Canadian Football League All-Star Team in 1997.
- Remarkably, Lester played in 5 Canadian Grey Cup Championship games winning in 1995, 1996 and 1997.
- Lester is presently working for the Ford Motor Company in Ypsilanti, Michigan. He and his wife, Tiffany, have a 10 year-old son, Morgan. They often attend Eastern Michigan University football games.

Mark Anthony Smith, Sr.

A. L. Brown High School graduate – 1983

- Was the starting football quarterback on the A. L. Brown varsity 1981, 1982 seasons.
- In 1981 -1982 was named to the All-South Piedmont Conference and All-Cabarrus County teams.
- Was South Piedmont Conference Player of the Year in 1982, leading A. L. Brown High School to the 1982 South Piedmont Conference Championship.
- Was team's Most Valuable Player and Honorable Mention All-State in 1982.
- A 3-year starter on A. L. Brown's varsity basketball team 1980- 1983.
- In 1981-1982 season he was named to the All-South Piedmont Conference and All-Cabarrus County basketball teams.
- Was team captain and named to the All-South Piedmont Conference, All-Cabarrus County, All-Piedmont, and All-Western Regional teams in State Basketball Playoffs.
- Selected as South Piedmont Conference Player of the year and Honorable Mention All-State honors 1982-1983.
- Mark was the first player in the history of the South Piedmont Conference to win Player of the Year awards for 2 major sports in the same school year, Football -1982 season and Basketball 1982-1983 seasons.
- He was named Cabarrus County Athlete of the Year 1982-1983.
- Received a football scholarship to North Carolina State University where he played from 1983 – 1987. Was a 2-year starter playing outside linebacker and was team Co-Captain in 1987.
- Was signed as a free agent by the Dallas Cowboys in 1988.
- He has served as a strength and conditioning coach for 27 seasons at the college and professional levels and has trained 22 NFL first-round draft picks. Mark is presently employed at Oklahoma State University.
- He and his wife, Frances, have been married for 23 years. They have two sons, Mark Jr., and Dylan, both of whom play college basketball.



2019 Cabarrus County Sports Hall of Fame — Posthumous Inductees

Ralph L. Earnhardt (Deceased)

J. W. Cannon High School – 1947

- In 1998 Ralph Earnhardt was named one of NASCAR'S 50 Greatest Drivers.
- He began his racing career, part time, on local dirt tracks where he was famous for keeping his cars in top condition every race. In 1953 racing became his full time occupation.
- Became legendary by building engines for local teens in the 50's and 60's.
- Was inducted into the National Motorsports Press Association Hall of Fame in 1989 and into the Motorsports Hall of Fame in 1997.
- He was the first car builder/driver to understand and use tire stagger.
- In 1956 Ralph won the NASCAR Sportsman Championship.
- Ralph filled in as a relief driver for Cotton Owens in the 1961 Daytona 500 and earned a 5th place finish.



- Was selected for induction into the Oceanside Rotary Club of Daytona Beach Stock Car Racing Hall of Fame in 2004 and into the National Dirt Late Model Hall of Fame in 2007.
- Was the reigning South Carolina State Champion and Track Champion at the Columbia Speedway and Greenville-Pickens Speedway in 1967.
- He helped give legendary Bobby Isaac his start in racing.
- In 1965 he won the 250 mile late model sportsman race at the Charlotte Motor Speedway.
- Ralph won the GASCAR Points Championship four straight years.
- Cotton Owens called Ralph Earnhardt one of the finest drivers in the business and one of the toughest on the track.
- Ralph and his wife, Martha Coleman Earnhardt, were the parents of five children including Cabarrus County Sports Hall of Fame Member Ralph Dale Earnhardt, Sr.
- Ralph L. Earnhardt passed away on September 26, 1975.

**Bernie A. Edwards (Deceased)
Hartsell High School Graduate – 1951**

- Outstanding athlete, coach, teacher, administrator, politician, devoted Christian and admired and respected by everyone in Cabarrus County. He served in the U.S. Army from 1952-1954. Played football, basketball, and baseball at Hartsell High School from 1947-1951. He later played and coached baseball at the local semi-pro level.
- Attended and graduated from Catawba College with degrees in English and Physical Education. He began his career as an English teacher at Winecoff High School 1958-1966 and continued at Northwest Cabarrus High School 1966-1978.
- Became Northwest Cabarrus' first football coach 1966-1967.
- Was Northwest Cabarrus High School's first Girl's Basketball Coach serving from 1967-1978. During this period the girls' teams won 170 games while losing 92.
- The Lady Trojans, under Bernie as Coach, won the Rocky River Conference title 4 times, the Rocky River Conference Tournament 4 times and reached the District Playoffs 2 times.
- From 1969-1978 was Northwest Cabarrus' baseball coach. During these 10 years the team recorded 124 wins and 52 losses.
- The Trojans won the Rocky River Conference title 6 times and reached the North Carolina State Baseball playoffs 3 times. In 1971 they won the North Carolina State Baseball Championship finishing with a record of 23-0. In 1972 they again reached the championship game but lost, finishing the year with a record of 23-4.
- At Northwest, Bernie also served in the roles of Athletic Director, Assistant Principal and later, Principal.
- Worked for 5 years for the Cabarrus County School Administration Office and was Principal of Mount Pleasant Elementary School for 11 years.
- Bernie was elected and served as an Alderman for the City of Concord for 13 years, and Mayor of Concord for 12 years.
- He was a member of Trinity United Church of Christ holding several key positions. He and his wife of 52 years, Rose, were the parents of one son, Bernie H. Edwards.
- Bernie Edwards passed away on May 06, 2005.



football, basketball and baseball at J. W. Cannon High School 1932-1936 and an outstanding student leader.

- The highest and most prestigious award a football player at J. W. Cannon and later at A. L. Brown High School could hope to receive is the coveted "Lug Leazer Trophy." This trophy was presented to J. W. Cannon High School in 1945 to be honored as a memorial for Harold "Lug" Leazer who lost his life in 1944 during World War II. This trophy is to honor annually a football player, voted by his teammates, who has shown good sportsmanship and leadership during the year, qualities which "Lug" Leazer always displayed not only on the football field but throughout his life. This trophy was first presented in 1946 and has continued each year for 73 consecutive years.
- "Lug" played offensive and defensive tackle/guard in football at J. W. Cannon High School 4 years, 1932 – 1936.
- As a sophomore, received Honorable Mention notice as a guard on the South Piedmont All-Conference Football team.
- His junior year he was the starting offensive and defensive tackle and selected as Team Captain. "Lug" was selected to the First Team on the South Piedmont All-Conference Football Team as a tackle, punter and kicker.
- Boomed a 94-yard punt against Hickory High School on November 29, 1934.
- Received Honorable Mention notice on the 1934 Football All-Star Team by the Charlotte News.
- Was Team Captain and selected again to the First Team on the South Piedmont All-Conference Football Team as tackle, punter, kicker his senior year.
- Played basketball 1933-1936, playing center, and starting all 4 years. The 1936 team won the South Piedmont Championship with a 15-3 record.
- Was catcher on the J. W. Cannon Baseball team in 1935-1936 and led the team in hitting in 1935. Was captain of the 1936 team.
- A student leader, he was president of his junior class 1934-1935, president of his senior class 1935-1936. He was a member of the Monogram Club for 4 years.
- Harold Leazer entered the U. S. Army Air Corps at the onset of World War II and was commissioned as a pilot. He was assigned to the European Theater of Operations flying dangerous missions.
- On June 26, 1944, while piloting a B-24 Liberator, he was shot down and killed over Austria.



**Harold "Lug" Leazer (Deceased)
J. W. Cannon High School Graduate – 1936**

- Harold "Lug" Leazer was an outstanding 3-sport athlete playing

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