overall team batting average of .308 with Van Weeks having an individual batting average of .295. Playing in Smithfield-Selma Legion Park, in a game against Wendell, "Coats and Weeks" were the top batters leading Smithfield to top Wendell 6-1 in that game. During that same 1951 season, they played a highly recognized and contested game against Asheboro’s McGrady Eagles. Van was in the catcher position when the Smithfield Leafs made their appearances in the National Baseball Congress Semi-Pro National Championships in Wichita, Kansas in the 1950s. In 1951, he along with his Smithfield teammates, attended the 1951 World Series watching the New York Yankees vs New York Giants. Van continued playing baseball in Johnston County through the mid-1950’s until he moved his family to Asheboro, North Carolina permanently in 1956 because of his employment with Weeks & Andrews Construction.

Van never forgot his Johnston County roots, returning frequently on the weekends to visit with friends and assist with Johnston County sports. When he was asked to help with the lighting project on the original Cleveland Baseball Field and the South Johnston High School fields, Van was more than willing to donate the electrical and lighting materials, as well as, his expertise and manpower, from Weeks & Andrews Construction, to help get the job completed. Always thinking about how to promote baseball within Johnston County, Van, twenty-five years ago, proposed the idea of the “Old Timers Baseball Meetings” an idea that his friend, ’Spot’ Coats continued to develop.

Van Duke Weeks passed away on March 6, 2008, his obituary reading that "as a young man he played baseball with a passion." Van’s love of baseball has been passed down through the generations in his family to his grandsons and great-grandsons, who have man he played baseball with a passion.”  Van’s love of baseball has been passed down through the generations in his family to his grandsons and great-grandsons, who have

### Johnstown County Athletic Hall of Fame

**Class of 2007**
- Bruce Coats
- Reginald Ennis
- Barry Foote
- Doug Parnell
- Robert Poole
- Ray Tanner
- William Willions

**Class of 2008**
- Fred Bartholomew, Jr.
- Bob Etheridge
- Harvey Heartley
- Dwight Hinnant
- Glenn Nixon
- Wanda Watkins
- Mike Wooten

**Class of 2009**
- Jeff Adams
- Mike Atkinson
- Genia Beasley
- Roy Brown, Jr.
- Waverly Jones, Jr.
- Shelly Marsh
- Dr. Anthony Parker

**Class of 2010**
- Ron Avery
- Harvey Brooks
- Alfred Coats
- Norvell Lee
- Andy Pleasant
- Frank Skinner
- Ben Strift

**Class of 2011**
- Evelyn Andrews
- Clyde Boyette
- George Drawhorn
- Amby Foote
- John Kernodle
- Sam Narron
- Donald Sinclair
- Wayne Stephenson

**Class of 2012**
- Bickie Boyette
- Steve Coats
- Art Medlin
- Elbert Mose
- Phil Pittman
- Reginald Poole
- Paul Sanderford
- Raymond Sugg

**Class of 2013**
- David Bagwell
- Joey Barbour
- Gary Fowler
- Marion Frazier
- Charles Hooks
- Raymond Massengill
- Jim Montague

**Class of 2014**
- Ted Avery
- Thomas Jackson
- Donnie Jones
- Mike Vinson

**Class of 2015**
- E. O. Adams Jr.
- Mickey Bridgers
- Anisha Gaine
- Alfred (Al) Heartley
- John Chris Johnson, Jr.

**Class of 2016**
- Al Byrd
- Travis Jeeter Johnson
- Deacon Jones
- Jim Laughter
- Susan Wall

**Head Table Introductions**
- Jamie Lee
- Dr. D. Ross Renfrow

**Recognition of Special Guests**
- Stacey Houser
- Bruce Proctor

**Recognition of Past Hall of Fame Classes**
- Kirk Denning
- Dr. Anthony Parker

**Recognition of Inductees - Class of 2017**
- Johnston County High School Athletic Directors

**Recognition of Inductees - Class of 2017**
- Johnston County High School Athletic Directors

**Closing Remarks**
- Dr. D. Ross Renfrow
- Johnston County Schools

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**History of the Johnston County Athletic Hall of Fame**

Tonight we celebrate another chapter in the rich history of Johnston County Athletics. In the fall of 2005, the high school athletic directors and principals met with Johnston County Schools administrators and recommended the need to preserve the accomplishments and memories of the men and women who established athletic history in Johnston County. A Hall of Fame committee consisting of Johnston County School personnel was encouraged to pursue the possibility of establishing our own Hall of Fame. After a year of researching other models with colleges, high schools, and athletic organizations, the committee established their own by-laws and continued their efforts. In the fall of 2006, each high school was challenged to find individuals from their communities who were deserving of Hall of Fame recognition as an athlete, coach or support person. The Hall of Fame Committee has met many times during the 2016-17 school year planning tonight’s event. We hope that you will enjoy the program as we recognize our own athletic heroes. Tonight we are celebrating the 11th class in this annual event. The committee would like to thank all of those that have supported the idea that Johnston County needed to preserve our athletic history. The Johnston County Athletic Hall of Fame exhibit is located in the West Campus Building on 3rd Street in Smithfield.
During his three years as a Spartan. His talent on the field was evident as he was a four-time All-Conference Selection, 1981-1983. His sports activities included baseball, basketball, and track and field. Travis had the opportunity to be a part of some of the most prestigious football conferences in the nation. His offi ciating career culminated in 2005 when he was selected to offi ciate in the Super Bowl XL. He was also selected to offi ciate in the NFL in Europe.

Van Weeks was a successful athlete, he played basketball, baseball, and football. He was a member of Coach Smith’s fi nal national championship team that went 34-4, defeating Michigan in the Louisiana Superdome. Travis graduated as a 2-year basketball letterman with a BA in Political Science.

Instead of reporting to Colorado Springs as an Air Force Academy cadet, Travis decided to stay closer to home and attend UNC-Chapel Hill where he played on Mack Brown’s fi rst football recruiting class. In 1990, Travis’ senior year he transitioned to track & field and also walked on to UNC’s JV basketball team. Two years later he earned a spot playing for Dean Smith on the UNC varsity team. As a senior in 1993, Travis was a member of Coach Smith’s fi nal national championship team that went 34-4, defeating Michigan in the Louisiana Superdome. Travis graduated as a 2-year basketball letterman with a BA in Political Science.

In 2009 Travis moved to eastern NC and teamed up with his now business partner, Chad Smith. In 2011, Travis and Harry Smith’s team won one of the country’s most lucrative sport fi shing tournaments, the 53rd Big Rock out of Morehead City, NC. They now own and operate businesses based out of Greenville, NC. Travis was also recently appointed by the governor to serve on the NC Outdoor Heritage Advisory Council, tasked to promote and expand outdoor activities for North Carolina’s future generations.

Travis and Amy Hockaday Stephenson married in 1999. They have a 6 year old daughter, Lily Ann, and they live on the Pamlico River near Washington, NC. Amy, with his athletic success to his supportive parents, Gene and Helen, competing with his older brother, Sandy, when growing up and having several teams and coaches that shared common goals. When asked about being inducted into Johnston County’s Athlete of the Century, Travis said, “I have been extremely blessed over the years to be a part of some special teams and moments in sports.”

Van Duke Weeks, born on August 16, 1924, was raised in the Cleveland Community of Johnston County by Herbert E. and Lula Coats Weeks. Van attended Cleveland School until 1941. Van began playing baseball in Johnston County in the Cleveland Midget League and played throughout his high school years as “fond memories of games played were remembered at the 1942 Cleveland School Class Reunions.” Van played for whomever needed a player, whenever and wherever he could play baseball. On one occasion, he filled in on a team that needed a catcher. Not having a team jersey, he donned his Cleveland pinstripes and was mistaken for one of the professional players for the Cleveland Indians.

Van also played basketball for Cleveland School and was a part of the Cleveland School Basketball Championship team. Having only outside basketball courts to play on, Van would, on many occasions, clean the courts so the basketball games at Cleveland School could continue. As a junior, he was recruited in basketball by UNC-Chapel Hill, however he chose to continue to develop his love for football. To the amazement of Van, at the age of 17, dropped out of high school just shy of graduation in order to work. In 1942, after his father’s death, he returned to Smithfield in order to care for his mother and siblings.

Van was drafted into the U.S. Army on September 18, 1944. While in service, he played football, basketball, and baseball. He could strike up a game among his fellow servicemen. Van was discharged from service and returned to Johnston County on May 23, 1946.

Upon his return from service, Van played baseball, in the catcher position, in several Johnston County leagues, including the Johnston County American Legion Baseball League, the Cotton Blossom League, and the textile League. Memories from when Van played semi-professional baseball for the Smithfield Leagues in the late 1940s and the 1950s, are prevalent in the memory of his son, Steve Weeks. The Smithfield Leagues also known as “The Smallest County in America” was a Central Carolina League. During the 1951 season they topped the Central Carolina League standings boasting an