

## Dean Smith Recommends Beaufort Seadog Coach McQuaid to Hall of Fame

Shawn Thomas

The North Carolina High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame Committee has been flooded with local letters recommending Thomas McQuaid's induction.

McQuaid led the Beaufort Seadogs in a 91 game winning streak, revered in national high school basketball, and maintained a win-loss record of 368-75, a winning percentage of 83 percent.

That record included a State Class A Consolation

Championship in 1953-1954, a State Class A Championship in 1954-1955, State Class A Championships in 1958-1959, 1959-1960, and 1960-1961 game seasons, resulting in perfect 27-0, 24-0, 25-0 records, respectively.

McQuaid's Seadogs also won State Class AA 3rd Place in 1963-1964, and State Class AA District Runners-Up in 1964-1965.

McQuaid, a five-sport high school star from Youngstown, Ohio attended Newberry College in South Carolina, then later coached high school basketball in Beaufort. He also taught Algebra.

Most of the letters to recommend McQuaid come from former high school basketball players. The most impressive letter came from the former University of North Carolina Coach, Dean Smith.

During a phone interview on Wednesday, Smith spoke highly of McQuaid and his coaching ability.

"I remember going to a game where the Hassels were playing," Smith said, "I knew McQuaid was a good teacher. Each boy shot the ball the same way."

In his letter recommending McQuaid to the NCHSAA Hall of Fame, Smith said that he "appreciated" the opportunity to coach several of McQuaid's players on his own college basketball teams.

"I hope he gains all the awards possible," Smith said, "he is most deserving."

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## McQuaid

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Letters from some of McQuaid's former players included Jefferson Newton, Butch Hassel, and Alton Best.

Hassel said McQuaid taught his players more than just ball.

"He was an excellent math teacher and quite a disciplinarian. McQuaid wasn't someone you joked with. He expected you to play by the rules no matter who you were."

Hassel said he and other team members knew McQuaid's expectations did not end on the basketball court.

"If we were not representing the team in a right manner he would come to our house and talk to our parents. He made a point to find out if we were in trouble and seek us out for help."

McQuaid was more than just a coach to Hassel.

"He was so much more to us. He was a father figure. He kept a lot of kids in line and out of trouble."

Hassel said McQuaid held each team member accountable for his part.

"If you weren't giving 100 percent you'd be sent home."

McQuaid was not only caring but a good coach as well.

"He spent summers in the Northeast where professional coaches and ball players were."

Hassel said McQuaid was not only innovative but ahead of his time.

"He would bring in plays from Wake Forest, State and

Carolina. We were head and shoulders above the other teams. and it was all because of Coach McQuaid."

Hassel said the discipline he learned under McQuaid's basketball tutelage enabled him to become successful.

"The discipline I learned from McQuaid enabled me to play college basketball for Wake Forest [University]."

High school and college behind him Butch Hassel is a business manager for a chemical corporation in South Carolina.

Former Seadog Alton Best, now broker-in-charge with Century 21/Down East Realty, who played Beaufort High School basketball his senior year of 1969-1970 said he found McQuaid to be an honorable man with extraordinary leadership.

"I was pleased with him. He taught me algebra and basketball."

Best said McQuaid was well liked and respected and held a tremendous knowledge of basketball.

"He was a good teacher and leader."

Jefferson Newton said that Coach McQuaid was his mentor and friend.

"McQuaid was more than a coach. He was a builder of