

**#1A-1e Beaufort Scrapbook (Nancy Duffy Russell)**  
**- TOM MCQUAID - TEACHER AND COACH page 5 of 6**

---

Routine practice session included "figure-eight" running and passing, handling of the ball, exercises in defense, guarding offensively, shooting from the free-throw line and other areas of the court, important techniques and skills which led to the selection of ten individuals who would either be starters, second string, or just a steady "bench-warmer" waiting for a chance.

Recently a Beaufort Sea Dog "bench-warmer" from one of Mr. McQuaid's early teams called me after reading one of the articles about Mr. McQuaid I had written in *The Beaufort Gam*. He was quite supportive of Coach McQuaid's nomination to the Coaches High School Hall of Fame. As a "bench-warmer" he said he would be willing to write a letter in favor of Mr. McQuaid's nomination from a different perspective than a star's view - that of a former player with little playing time but one who respected and admired Mr. McQuaid's abilities and achievements as a coach.

The citizens of Beaufort, from the beginning of Mr. McQuaid's coaching and teaching days at Beaufort High School, were avid admirers of his abilities and records. Continuous winning streaks and championships in the 1950s and 1960s gave fans new ways to show appreciation.

At the end of the 1953-1954 season, Beaufort basketball fans presented Coach McQuaid with a 21-inch television set. A news article about the event stated that his was one of the shortest acceptance speeches on record. The newspaper account relates the following information: "He looked at the floor, swallowed a couple of times, looked at the ceiling and then managed to find the words, 'Great day in the morning!'" — a man of few words.

During the 1953-1954 season, Beaufort received four trophies to add to its galaxy of basketball awards in the display case in the entrance hall of the school: Carteret County Tournament Trophy, sportsmanship award, District 2 Trophy won at Kenansville, and the consolation trophy won in the state finals at Aberdeen.

The 1959 newspaper account of the State Class A Championship winner's return home includes the following information: "Coach T.H. McQuaid and his Beaufort Sea Dogs came home in triumph, escorted by a caravan of cars through Morehead City and Beaufort.

"Little did the coach dream of what awaited him at journey's end.

"A packed high school auditorium including the band, students and parents, welcomed the champs with cheers." The boys and their coach were accorded high tributes for their gentlemanly conduct, their sportsmanship, and their victory. Co-captains Sammy Merrill and Butch Hassell presented the glistening State Championship trophy to Principal Bruce Tarkington.

"Then Mayor W.H. Potter, Jr., asked McQuaid to step out on the stage. Potter gave the coach the keys and bill of sale to a new Ford automobile parked in front of the auditorium. The car was from appreciative citizens of Beaufort and Carteret County for the State Championship team, the boys he had coached in the past, and for those he would coach in the future." This was an exciting time for sports fans and a memorable event.

A letter written by Mayor Potter on March 18, 1961, after the 1961 State Championship and the 91-straight-win record, reveals the true qualities of Mr. McQuaid: "The excellence of your coaching abilities, as well as your dedication to make youth of the community of Beaufort better citizens, has not been overlooked. Your fellow citizens do recognize your contributions.

"Your gifts to the school children as well as to the community cannot be recognized by only material things. Future leaders of the area will trace their sources of inspiration to training in leadership, sportsmanship, and in self-discipline."

For the 1961 celebration a portrait sitting was authorized at Roy Eubanks Studio where a portrait was made and framed and later presented to Beaufort High School.

Mr. McQuaid left Carteret County after the consolidation of East Carteret High School and taught and coached at Union Pines, then Sanford Central. He returned to Carteret County and coached and taught at East Carteret High School until his retirement in 1977.

After his death on October 3, 1988, his daughter, Kathy, wrote that her father was a man who enjoyed every moment of life. "After retirement, even though his thoughts lingered with the coaching days, he spent his time wisely, playing golf and being a granddaddy.

"Since it was such a long span of time that he was coaching, there were literally thousands of people that were affected by him. He was such a positive influence,