

McQuaid: Hall of Fame bound

Legendary coach famous for record 91-game win streak, three state titles

BY DENNIS THOMASON
NEWS-TIMES

CHAPEL HILL — A Carteret County legend will be honored by the N.C. High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) during Saturday's football game between Maryland and North Carolina.

The late Tom McQuaid of Beaufort has been selected for induction into the NCHSAA Hall of Fame. McQuaid, who had an outstanding 42-year career as a coach and administrator, is probably best known for his unparalleled success in boys basketball at old Beaufort High School.

His teams posted an amazing 368-75 record over a 20-year period (1945 to 1965), highlighted by a 91-game winning streak and three straight Class A

state championships. The streak is still the state's longest and one of the nation's longest.

After consolidation occurred in Carteret County and East Carteret replaced Beaufort High, McQuaid became the football coach at Union Pines (1965-66) and then basketball coach at Sanford Central (1966-68). He returned here to coach and serve as athletic director at East Carteret and revived its basketball fortunes by winning almost 100 games.

McQuaid's wife, Pearl, who lives in Beaufort, will travel to Chapel Hill with a party of friends and family, including Jeff Newton, Sylvia Ward, Alton Hill, Jimmy Fodrie, Tom McQuaid Jr. who lives in Greenville and Pud Hassell who lives in Raleigh.

Pearl said it was a great honor

for her husband to be recognized by the NCHSAA and an equally great honor for her to be there to accept his selection into the Hall of Fame and receive a plaque.

"I just think he deserved it, and it's a long (time) coming," she said Thursday. "It is an honor. This is big. I'm going to bring it (the plaque) back home and put it on the wall."

At the close of last school year, the NCHSAA wrapped its 90th year of existence by recognizing the top 90 teams during that tenure, and the 1959-60 team of McQuaid's was honored as one of The Notable Ninety. That team was the first of the three state champions.

Two seasons later and a third straight state 1A title, Beaufort, then with a 76-game winning streak over three years, moved



TOM MCQUAID

up to the 2A level, but the streak continued to its present state mark of 91, now more than 44 years old. The next closest winning streaks statewide in boys basketball are by Stanley High School, with 88 from 1938 to 1942, and Durham High, with 73 from 1937-40. Members of The Notable Ninety team in 1959-60

were Butch Hassell, Pud Hassell, Ray Hassell, Calvin Jones, Chuck Lewis, Harry Gillikin, Alton Hill, Johnnie Hassell, Doug Swain, Jeff Salter, Cary Kirk and David Jones.

McQuaid was a five-sport star in Vienna, Ohio, and played football and basketball at Newberry College in South Carolina, where he graduated in 1935. He coached at Beaufort High from 1936 to 1942 and then served in the U.S. Army during World War II before returning to Beaufort to begin the legacy that earned him NCHSAA Hall of Fame status.

The charter class for the Hall of Fame was in 1987, one year before McQuaid died in 1988.

His induction into the Hall of Fame will become official during a banquet in Chapel Hill on April 22, 2006. That will mark the 20th anniversary of the NCHSAA Hall of Fame.