North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame Exhibit

The N.C. Sports Hall of Fame features more than 200 items representing 351 Tar Heel sports heroes. Exhibit items include champion driver Richard Petty’s stock car, Meadowlark Lemon’s Harlem Globetrotters basketball uniform, N.C. State University coach Kay Yow’s Olympic team basketball, Jim Beatty’s running shoes, Charlie “Choo Choo” Justice’s UNC-Chapel Hill football jersey and Mike Krzyzewski’s Duke University warm-up jacket.

The N.C. Sports Hall of Fame was founded in 1962, to honor those persons who by excellence of their activities in or connected with the world of sports have brought recognition and esteem to themselves and to the State of North Carolina.

Each spring, several new members are inducted into the hall of fame. The exhibit boasts famous faces from basketball, baseball, football, golf, stock car racing, billiards, bowling, hang gliding, horse racing, shooting, swimming, tennis, soccer, and track and field, as well as contributors to sports administration, journalism, promotion and medicine.

Below is additional information connecting the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame to educational resources. For the richest student experience, complete the educational packet:

- Read “Baseball Outlaws during the Depression” article from the Fall 2011 Tar Heel Junior Historian Magazine.
- What’s in a Name? Research how your favorite team got their name.
- Play a modified round of Duck on a Rock—the game that inspired Basketball.
- Read “College Basketball Pioneers in North Carolina” article from the Fall 2011 Tar Heel Junior Historian Magazine.
- Using our “Basketball and Cup” craft page, create your mini version of basketball.
- Test your Sports Hall of Fame knowledge with our trivia page!
By R. G. "Hank" Utley

フェイティProfessional baseball league was born in the 1920s in the mill towns of the North Carolina Piedmont. This new Carolina League developed from the semiprofessional baseball teams that textile mills fielded during the 1920s. The league attracted a flock of talented players by offering stability and steady paychecks during the tough times of the Great Depression. It also quickly worried the leaders of organized baseball.

The National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues (NAPBL) had formed in 1901 as an organization for minor leagues across the country. The NAPBL worked in agreement with Major League Baseball. It had a system of league classifications (or levels), salary limits, player drafts, and other rules. One of the rules, called the professional contract and reserve clause, bound a player to the team that owned his contract. The policy could not override the team in professional baseball unless it bought that contract. This treated a player basically as a piece of property. Top team officials could move franchises whenever and wherever they wanted. They could keep renewing his contract at whatever terms they pleased.

The Carolina League ignored this rule, as well as others within pro baseball. It gave players greater control of their careers. The league also offered salaries that a player would expect from small-town places like Shelby, Hickory, and Valdense. Carolina League players enjoyed community hero status and jobs in the textile mills during the baseball off-season. At a time when about 25 percent of Americans were unemployed, this proved an attractive setup.

The NAPBL declared the Carolina League and its players "outlaws" from "real" baseball. But the league did well from 1936 until 1938. Its success came partly because of strong community support and a stubborn, independent dislike of "outsiders." League and team officials kept rules flexible. They encouraged rivalries while trying to prevent teams from falling financially.

On the league's first day of play, May 18, 1936, Jay Wade, award-winning sports editor of the Charlotte Observer, wrote:

"Today is opening day, you know. It's a new baseball picture for this state and this section. Not organized professional baseball ... but something which may prove just as entertaining and desirable. Certainly, it's a noble experiment, and most engaging. Charlotte is in the Carolina League. The league abides by the rules and general plan of organized professional baseball. The ball is round and bears the league president's signature. The carefully chosen umpires are uniformed, drawn from the amateur salaries, and work under strict supervision. The only difference is the players are not strictly chained as in organized professional baseball. They can leave on a moment's notice.

Internal squabbling and opposition from organized baseball, however, ended the Carolina League after only three seasons of play.

# Roots in Textile Baseball

Enthusiastic spectators played a role in the Carolina League's brief success. For several years, millworkers across the Piedmont region had fielded baseball teams made up of their workers. Mill teams developed heated rivalries, and games turned into big social events. Several textile leagues became an important part of life in mill villages. Owners controlled almost every aspect of workers' lives in these villages—from their houses to their schools. Two or three baseball games a week offered bragging rights and entertainment. Baseball also provided a distraction from low wages and harsh conditions. Giving workers a way to relax and have fun benefited millworkers, as well as workers. Baseball teams that built community spirit and pride did, too.

Owners sometimes tried to gain an advantage over rival teams. They might hire men known as good baseball players as year-round mill employees. Some of the men only showed up payday, pretending to work in the mill now and then. For big games, owners might work them as "ringers" (often a pitcher) who did not work in the mill at all. These players might go by names and hide from professional baseball organizations that owned their contracts.

This early use of "outlaw" players reached new heights in September 1927. Two of the biggest textile firms—the Concord Weavers and Kannapolis Toweliers—planned to play a three-game series. The games would decide the "semipro title of North Carolina." The teams had already played 19 times that season, with Concord winning 10. Both teams raided the Class D professional Piedmont and South Atlantic Leagues, whose seasons had ended.

Most local businesses closed so that everyone could attend the first contest. Officials estimated crowds of at least 3,000 packed inside Cabarrus County's Webb Field. Another 4,000 people were right outside, in trees and on hills. Concessions sold out an hour before the first pitch. Despite wearing their everyday street clothes, many fans came armed with soda bottles filled with sand, knives, and guns. With Kannapolis leading 5–4 at the bottom of the fifth inning, a fight broke out in the crowd over an umpire's controversial call. A huge storm rolled in before things could settle. Umpiers. Called officials off the series.

Over the years, the textile teams allowed the more outlaws. Some were ex-major league players whose careers were nearly over. Some were college or junior players on the way up. Others had been kicked out of the majors for fighting, drinking too much alcohol, and other offenses.

Organized baseball already recognized that Carolina had plenty of homegrown talent, as well as an army of minor-league teams. It regularly scouted in the state for players. Textile millworkers and managers—along with lawyers, doctors, preachers, educators, and
Meet a Few Outlaws

other community leaders—started to think that they could run their own professional league. It could not be too different from what they had been doing, some thought. Driven by civic pride, love of baseball, rivalries with each other, and the desire to start something good during the dark days of the Depression, they formed the Carolina League.

Local leaders also wanted to prove that southerners were smart and capable. They wanted to show they could produce baseball as well as "big hitters”—mainly people from the North and from "big cities." Some textile millowners figured that outsiders had been influencing workers to become unsatisfied, even pushing some to go on strike in 1934. These leaders were happy about anything that made textile workers distrust people from outside the community. They wanted workers to be united and loyal.

The Outlaws

Everyone quickly found out that fully professional baseball cost more to run. Smaller mill communities in places such as Cooleemee, Landis, and Conover could not support pro teams playing six months a year. Although the Carolina League boasted eight squads—Charlotte Hornets, Concord Weavers, Forest City Wings, Gastonia Cyclones (later the Lexington Colonials), Hickory Rebels, Kannapolis Twpellers, Salisbury Grays (later the Mooresville Grays), Shelby Cobbys, and Valdese Textiles—the increasing quality of play quickly drew the attention of organized baseball. On June 16, 1936, a report appeared in The Concord Tribune, a weekly newspaper that workers were openly jumping contracts with organized pro teams to play in the Carolina League.

The minor-league organization NAPBL was watching what was going on. The Conover article carried a caution from Judge William Bramham that the Carolina League’s outlaw players would be blacklisted, or barred, from the major and minor leagues. Bramham had taken over as chairman of the league’s board of governors from New Bern, New York, to Durham, where he had a successful law practice. Bramham viewed the Carolina League as a threat to organized baseball, and to a suffering sport. Baseball had been the coun-
try’s, and North Carolina’s, favorite pastime for decades. The Great Depression hurt base-
ball. Teams and leagues shut down just like many other businesses. Twenty-five minor leagues finished the season. By 1933, 14 leagues were operating. Baseball was offering fewer jobs and lower salaries. After the Carolina League completed its first season, it became the subject of much formal and informal discussion. A December 7, 1936, update from the NAPBL’s annual winter meetings in Montreal, Canada, appeared in the new Class D Carolina State League gazette. Theorgas Simpson squads that had joined Bramham’s league made those changes happen. Finally, the Carolina League disbanded in January 1939.

The Carolina League had chances to organize professional baseball, above the level for which its towns would usually qualify based on size. Some people wanted to remain outlaws, but a few former textile teams joined the new Class D Carolina State League.
What’s in a Name?

From the Asheville Tourists to the East Carteret High School Mariners, North Carolina sports teams often have nicknames and mascots linked to history or geography. East Carolina University has called its teams the Pirates since 1934 because of the school’s location near the coast, which has a long tradition of piracy. (Before 1934, teams were known as the Teachers.)

The Pirate in his more modern form first appeared in 1983. A contest among Pitt County elementary school students led to him being named Pee Dee, for the great Pee Dee River flowing through North and South Carolina. In colonial days, pirates stayed along the rivers.

Choose a team in your county. Research the history of its nickname, mascot, or even colors. You may just learn something surprising!

Which team did you pick to research?

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What did you find out?

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Basketball is actually a pretty new sport. Games like chess have been around for thousands of years. Even team sports like baseball have been around for hundreds of years, but not basketball.

Basketball was invented by one person—Dr. James Naismith—and we know exactly the year it was invented—1891. Dr. Naismith lived in a very cold climate and was looking for a game to be played inside during the winter months. He was a Canadian physical education instructor, who moved to Springfield Massachusetts and worked at the YMCA Training School. The winter months in New England States were harsh and Naismith needed a game to keep his students physically fit during the winter. Naismith, mirrored his game a little after the Canadian children’s game, “Duck on a Rock.”

Now, try a modified version of duck on a rock! The original game combined tag and marksmanship but could also be dangerous.

**Original Game:**

A good size stone—the drake—was placed upon a very large one or a tree stump. One person stayed near it to guard it. The others threw fist-sized stones—ducks—at it in an attempt to knock it off. Once it was knocked off, the throwers all rushed to retrieve their ducks. If one of them was tagged before returning to the throwing line with their duck, they became the guard. The guard could not tag anyone until he/she had picked up the duck at their feet, nor could that person chase anyone till the guard, had replaced the drake upon the rock or stump.

**Modified Version:**

Play “Duck on the Rock” using a box in place of a tree stump, a plastic ball or funnel as the drake, soft balls instead of rocks as the ducks. In the modified version, there is no guard for the drake. You can just try to knock the funnel off the box.
College Basketball Pioneers in North Carolina

by Jim Sumner*

If you are like many North Carolinians, you have a favorite men's college basketball team. You can watch that team play on television, listen on the radio, or follow on the Internet. Many lucky fans even get to watch the games in person, sometimes in arenas that hold 20,000 people.

North Carolina teams are not just popular. They are very good. Between them, teams from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (five), Duke University (four), and North Carolina State University (two) have captured 11 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) championships. Nine of them have come since 1982.

Smaller schools such as Guilford College, North Carolina Central University, and Barton College have won national titles in their divisions, too. Some of the most famous coaches and players are associated with North Carolina schools.

It hasn't always been this way. College teams first played basketball in North Carolina in 1908. But football remained the most popular college sport for decades. Minor league baseball was just as popular. Local schools sometimes boasted good teams, but the best college basketball usually was played in northern cities like New York or Philadelphia or at schools such as the University of Kentucky or the University of Kansas, or Indiana University.

Things began to change in the 1940s, when two extraordinary coaches arrived in North Carolina. John McDowell and Everett Case were not Tar Heel natives. Neither had ever played a second of college basketball. But they made their marks on the sport.

McLendon was born in Kansas in 1915 and majored in physical education at the University of Kansas. As an African American with some Delaware Indian ancestry, McLendon was not allowed to play on the university's racially segregated team, which would not have its first African American member until 1951. But he did study basketball with one of his professors, James Naismith, the man who had invented the game in 1891.

In 1940 the young McLendon became head coach of the basketball team at North Carolina College (NCC, now North Carolina Central University) in Durham, arriving from the Kansas Vocational School near Topeka, Kansas.

Most aspects of southern life remained segregated, or separate, by race in the 1940s. NCC played in the CIAA, formed as the Colored Intercollegiate Athletic Association and later named the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association. This conference consisted of historically black colleges and universities; "colored" was a term used at the time for African Americans. These teams did not play against white schools and got little coverage from newspapers, magazines, or radio.

Yet, McLendon began to impress observers with his willingness to try new things and his ability to make them work. One of his early teams enjoyed little size. He created an offense—a team trying to score when the ball was forced closer to bigger, but slower, opponents to chase his players. He called it "four in a corner." Twenty years later, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill coach Dean Smith modified this system into his famous "four corners."

McLendon also was one of the first basketball coaches to use a fast-break offense. This means that the team with the ball rushes down the court before the other team has time to set up its defense. Games became faster, with more scoring. NCC's Rocky Roberson scored 58 points against Shaw University in 1943. He was the first college player to score more than 50 points in one game.

McLendon's greatest contribution may have come in 1946, when he helped start the CIAA Tournament. This championship tournament, held in March, gave the conference more exposure than ever before. Still very popular, the event now takes place in Charlotte and is the second-oldest conference tournament in the nation. Only the Southern Conference Tournament is older.

Following the 1952 season, McLendon left NCC with a record of 264 wins and 60 losses. He coached Tennessee Agricultural and Industrial University (now Tennessee State University) to the 1957, 1958, and 1959 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) titles. In 1969 McLendon became head coach of the Denver Rockets of the American Basketball Association, a professional league that would merge with the National Basketball Association in 1976. He was the first African American to serve as head coach of a major pro sports team in the United States.

A few years after McLendon arrived on the scene in Durham, another important basketball innovator came from the Midwest to nearby Raleigh. Everett Case had been born in Indiana in 1903. He was a great high school coach in that state and coached in the U.S. Navy during World War II. In summer 1946 Case took over a North Carolina State College (now N.C. State University) team that had finished 6-12 the previous season.

Case brought some top Indiana high school players with him. They became known as "Hoosier Hotshots." State became so popular that officials had to cancel a contest against rival North Carolina on February 25, 1947.

The game was supposed to have been played at State's Thompson Hall (now Thompson Theatre). So many fans tried to crowd into the facility that the city fire marshal decided conditions were unsafe. Some fans had even tried to climb in through restroom windows.

N.C. State teams coached by Case won games and championships, capturing the Southern Conference Tournament each year from 1947 through 1952. State joined the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) when it formed in 1953. Case's squad won the first three ACC Tournaments. Like McLendon, he favored fast-break basketball. Fans loved the style and so did high school players. Case was able to attract top athletes from across the country.

Case became a promoter of his sport, as much as a coach. When Reynolds Coliseum opened on the college's campus in 1949, Case had a decibel meter installed. This device measured how much noise the crowd made. He introduced to the South the tradition of the winning team cutting down the nets after a championship. Spotlights in a darkened arena helped introduce his Wolfpack players in an...
exciting way at the beginning of home games. Case often visited local civic clubs to bring attention to college basketball.

His greatest success may have been the very popular Dixie Classic, which started when Reynolds Coliseum opened. This eight-team tournament took place between Christmas and New Year’s Day. The state’s “Big Four” of State, North Carolina, Duke, and Wake Forest played every year, along with four teams from around the country. The event ended after 1960, when several Wolfpack and Tar Heel players were found to have taken money to influence the outcome of games, for the benefit of gamblers.

Case’s success forced rival schools to place more emphasis on the sport. After losing 15 straight times against State, North Carolina hired charismatic coach Frank McGuire away from St. John’s, where he had built a successful program. The New York City native was able to recruit some of the best high school players from that area.

North Carolina did catch up with Case and State. In 1957 the Tar Heels finished undefeated and won the NCAA championship. The Tar Heels defeated the University of Kansas—and its imposing seven-foot-one-inch-tall superstar Wilt Chamberlain—54–53 in the triple-over-time championship game. That game was telecast over three North Carolina television stations. The next year, the ACC secured the nation’s first college television contract.

Other area schools also hired new basketball coaches, opened new arenas, and spent more money on recruiting, all in an effort to catch up with Case. By the late 1960s, traditionally white schools, including North Carolina and Duke, had begun recruiting African American players. By the 1980s, women’s college basketball began to grow in quality and popularity, as well.

All of the pieces were in place for the current popularity of college hoops in North Carolina. The next time you cheer for your favorite team, remember John McLendon, Everett Case, and the other basketball pioneers who helped make that possible.

1940s

1940s: For the first half of the decade, World War II shuts down a lot of sports except for those played by military installation teams.

1940: Duke Indoor Stadium, later Cameron Indoor Stadium, opens as the largest such facility in the Carolinas.

Pioneering coach John McLendon arrives at North Carolina College (now North Carolina Central), where he coaches through 1952.

1941: Duke’s football team goes 9–0 to earn another Rose Bowl trip. Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, however, officials feel it’s not safe to hold the game on the West Coast. It is played January 1, 1942, in Durham. Duke loses 20–6 to Oregon State. Coach Wallace Wade is soon commissioned a major in the U.S. Army. Hoops coach Eddie Cameron takes over.

Goldboro native Prince Nufner Dixon sets an AAU world record in the 50-meter backstroke. She is one of the pioneering women athletes of this era, dominating many swimming events in the 1930s and 1940s. World War II canceled the 1940 and 1944 Olympics, at the peak of her career. Sports Illustrated later calls Dixon one of “The 50 Greatest N.C. Sports Figures.”

1943: Top amateur swimmer Peggy Pete Chappell, of Goldsboro, wins the Teague Award as outstanding female athlete in the Carolinas in 1943 and 1944. As a student at Penn Hall College in Pennsylvania and another trailblazer for women, she set a national college record in the 50-meter breaststroke.

1945: Catawba finishes as NAIA runner-up in men’s basketball.

1946: Enos “Country” Slaughter, of Roxboro, scores the winning run for St. Louis, dashing from first base on a double in game seven of the 1946 World Series versus Boston. Slaughter is one of the best North Carolina players, playing outfielder in the major leagues 1938–1959. For his career, he bats .300 in 2,380 games, with 2,383 hits, 169 home runs, and 1,304 RBI.

1947: The N.C. State men’s basketball team captures the Southern Conference title under new coach Everett Case, an Indiana high school coaching legend. Case wins nine league titles in his first 10 years at State.

The Philadelphia Warriors beat the Chicago Stags for the first National Basketball Association (NBA) title.

1948 and 1949: Charlie “Choo Choo” Justice finishes as runner-up for the Heisman Trophy. He stars for Edwards High in Asheville, a naval team during World War II, and then UNC-Chapel Hill. A speedy, elusive single-wing tailback, Justice is a great kicker and passer who leads UNC to a 32–9–1 record and its first three bowl games. In college, he rushes for 3,774 yards, passes for 2,932, and scores 39 touchdowns.

1949: Jim Reper, of Kansas, wins the first NCAA “strictly stock cars” race, held at a three-quarter-mile dirt track in Charlotte. Stock car racing has been growing for a few years, drawing bigger crowds. Bill France Sr. creates the organization to oversee rules, schedules, and a championship points system.

The N.C. Coaches Association hosts, in Greensboro, its first East-West All-Star Games for high school football and boys’ basketball. Girls’ basketball will be added in 1975, and soccer, in 1992.

Late 1940s: Some call this the golden age of minor-league baseball. There are 59 minor leagues in the U.S. and 49 minor-league teams in North Carolina playing in seven leagues (in varying sizes of towns). The rise of TV and basketball, along with greater interest in the major leagues as they integrate starting in 1947, contribute to many Tar Heel teams disappearing in the 1950s.
Basketball and Cup

The game of basketball is much more than a popular sport in North Carolina. From the sport’s first appearance in the late 1890s, basketball has been a vibrant and influential strand in our state’s cultural fabric.

Supplies
this craft sheet
scissors, tape, ruler
12-inch piece of string
large bead

1 Cut on the solid black line (DO NOT cut off flap).

2 Curl the cup like a cone, so the flap lies evenly under its opposite edge. Tape this seam.

3 Use the ruler to measure a 12-inch piece of string; cut. Tie one end of the string to a large bead, and tape the other to the rim of the cup.

To play
Swing the cup to make the ball flip up and plop into and through the basket. How many points can you make in a row?

1. What NCSU women’s coach also coached an Olympic team?
2. Who is the UNC basketball arena named for?
3. Who had more teams for women players before the 1970s? a. businesses b. colleges c. churches
4. Name one NC member of the Harlem Globetrotters basketball team.

Answers

The game of basketball is much more than a popular sport in North Carolina. From the sport’s first appearance in the late 1890s, basketball has been a vibrant and influential strand in our state’s cultural fabric.

from NCpedia
Name that Hall of Famer!

More than 400 people have been inducted into the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame as athletes, coaches, administrators, and more. Can you match some of these standouts (Column A) with highlights of their accomplishments (Column B)? You may need to do some research! Answers on the next page.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Column A</th>
<th>Column B</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. _____Johnny Allen</td>
<td>A. Seventh NBA player to score 20K career points</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. _____Maxine Allen</td>
<td>B. Team handball player at 1984, 1988, and 1992 Olympics</td>
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<td>3. _____Bobby Bell</td>
<td>C. Knuckleball specialist with 227 major-league saves</td>
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<td>4. _____Peggy Kirk Bell</td>
<td>D. Influential women’s basketball coach at N.C. State; inspiration in fight against breast cancer</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. _____Walt Bellamy</td>
<td>E. NASCAR driver, mechanic, and team owner credited with the discovery of superspeedway “drafting”</td>
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<td>7. _____Mary Garber</td>
<td>G. Winner of national bowling titles, 1940s-1950s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. _____Robert “Junior” Johnson</td>
<td>I. Outland Trophy winner as nation’s top college lineman, 1962, and third in voting for Heisman Trophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. _____Leora “Sam” Jones</td>
<td>J. First full-time executive director of N.C. High School Athletic Association; Reidsville High coach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. _____Sam Jones</td>
<td>K. Defensive line starter in four Super Bowls for Vikings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. _____Charlie “Choo Choo” Justice</td>
<td>L. Set U.S. girls’ long jump record as student at Hoke County High; won Olympic silver medal in 1976</td>
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</table>
13. _____ Kathy McMillian  M. Feisty pitcher; 1937 American League Player of the Year

14. _____ L.J. “Hap” Perry  N. Helped Boston Celtics win 10 NBA titles in 12 years

15. _____ Harvey Reid Jr.  O. UNC-Chapel Hill men’s basketball coach 1962 through 1997; last 27 teams won 20 or more games

16. _____ Julie Shea  P. N.C. State long-distance runner who captured three national titles in 24 hours in 1980

17. _____ Dean Smith  Q. Founder of Pine Needles golf course, which hosted the 1996, 2001, and 2007 U.S. Women’s Opens

18. _____ Hoyt Wilhelm  R. The state’s winningest high school basketball coach of all time (818 victories in Elm City and Wilson)

19. _____ Kay Yow  S. One of the first female sportswriters