



North Carolina High School Athletic Association
Physical Address | 222 Finley Golf Course Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27517
Mailing Address | P.O. Box 3216, Chapel Hill, NC 27515
Phone 919-240-7401 Fax 919-240-7399

NCHSAA HALL OF FAME NOMINATION FORM

(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE ALL INFORMATION)

I. NOMINEE INFORMATION

NAME Hunter Jerry Wade
LAST FIRST MIDDLE NICKNAME
ADDRESS 607 Hallsville Road, Beulaville, North Carolina 28518
STREET CITY STATE ZIP CODE
AGE 60 DATE OF BIRTH 02/23/1951 PLACE OF BIRTH Duplin County, North Carolina
TELEPHONE WORK () HOME () DECEASED* Yes (07/01/2011)
YES/NO
NAME OF HIGH SCHOOL East Duplin High School YEAR GRADUATED 1969
NAME OF COLLEGE East Carolina University YEAR GRADUATED 1973
ADDITIONAL DEGREES (MASTERS, DOCTORATE, ETC.)
IF NOMINEE IS DECEASED, GIVE DATE OF DEATH AND FILL IN SECTION II

II. NEAREST RELATIVE

NAME Hunter Judy Smith wife
LAST FIRST MIDDLE RELATIONSHIP
ADDRESS 607 Hallsville Road, Beulaville, North Carolina 28518
STREET CITY STATE ZIP CODE
TELEPHONE: WORK () 910-296-9838 HOME () 910-290-0473

III. SPONSOR INFORMATION (PERSON MAKING NOMINATION)

NAME Holley Battle
LAST FIRST MIDDLE
ADDRESS 394 N. NC 111 Hwy, Beulaville, NC 28518
STREET CITY STATE ZIP CODE
TELEPHONE WORK () 910-298-4439 HOME () 910-289-1424
TITLE/POSITION Athletic Director; Head Football Coach
SCHOOL SYSTEM Duplin County Schools
SIGNATURE Battle/Holley DATE 08 / 07 / 2023

IV. PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

IN CHART BELOW, PLEASE LIST CHRONOLOGICALLY THE NOMINEE'S POSITION
(COACH, PRINCIPAL, ETC.) AND OTHER APPROPRIATE DATA

POSITION	DATES	SCHOOL OR SYSTEM	HONORS	COACHING RECORDS
Head JV Girls Basketball Coach	1975-1980	East Duplin High School		37-11
Head Varsity Softball Coach	1975-1997	East Duplin High School	***See attached for detailed list of honors***	249-171
Head JV Football Coach	1984-1990	East Duplin High School		36-18-1
Head Varsity Girls Basketball Coach	1981-2008	East Duplin High School	***See attached for detailed list of honors***	509-192
Director of Athletics	1991-2008	East Duplin High School		
Head Boys Golf Coach	1997-2010	East Duplin High School		
Head Girls Golf Coach		East Duplin High School		

CIVIC/CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (INCLUDE CHURCH, CIVIC OR CHARITABLE INVOLVEMENT)

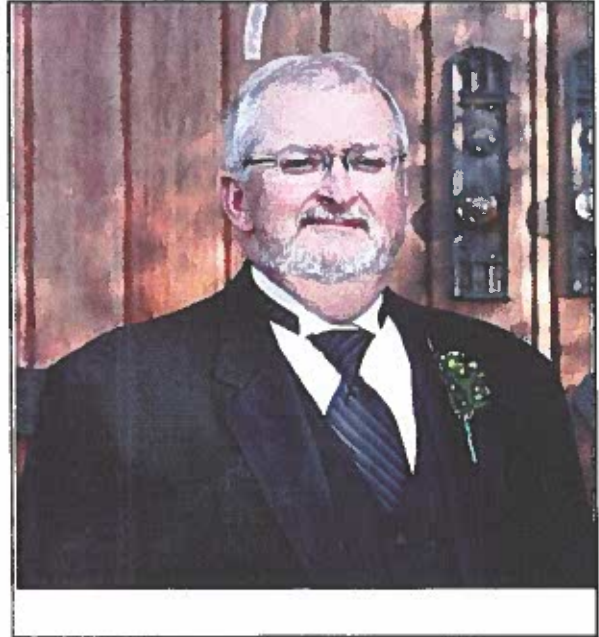
1. Member, Deacon, Sunday School Teacher, Member of Adult Choir - Beulaville Baptist Church (1951-2011)
2. Recreation Director - Town of Beulaville (1975-1991)
3. Sponsor, East Duplin High School Fellowship of Christian Athletes (1975-2011)
4. Past President, Vice President, Chairman - Beulaville Jaycees
5. Beulaville Volunteer Fire Department (1973-1980)
6. Eastern Baptist Association, Hurricane Disaster Relief Volunteer
7. _____
8. _____

HONORS

(PLEASE LIST HONORS EARNED IN COLLEGE, POST GRADUATE WORK, AWARDS FROM CIVIC CLUBS, ETC.)
(EXAMPLE: PHI BETA KAPPA, MAGNA CUM LAUDE, JAYCEE PERSON OF THE YEAR, ETC.)

1. North Carolina Athletic Directors Association Hall of Fame (2013)
 2. East Duplin High School athletic facilities named the "Jerry W. Hunter Athletic Complex" (2004)
 3. Basketball court at East Duplin High School named "Jerry Hunter Court" (2004)
 4. Inaugural member, East Duplin High School Athletic Hall of Fame (2011)
 5. Member, NCHSAA "Wall of Champions"
 6. Certified Athletic Administrator (****)
 7. Head Girls Basketball Coach, North Carolina State Games (****)
 8. Girls Basketball Coach, 1992 East/West All-Star Game
 9. Girls Basketball Coach, 1999 North Carolina/South Carolina All-Star Game
 10. Past President & Board Member, North Carolina Coaches Association
- V. PHOTOGRAPH

ATTACH A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE NOMINEE
(preferably head and shoulder shot, wallet size)



VI. SUPPORT OF CANDIDACY

Using whatever supportive data you may wish, please describe the activities and accomplishments of this candidate which make him/her a viable candidate for the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame. Please remember that only thorough and complete documentation will be considered. Two letters of recommendation (minimum) will be necessary, and newspaper articles, etc., in support may also be submitted.

The committee shall seek to honor those who have directly influenced the history and evolution of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association. Attachments are considered appropriate.

FOR OFFICE USE: DATE RECEIVED _____

Career Coaching Record (1980s)

<u>SEASON</u>	<u>RECORD</u>	<u>WIN %</u>	<u>CONFERENCE REGULAR SEASON</u>	<u>CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT RESULT</u>	<u>PLAYOFF NOTES</u>	<u>AWARDS</u>	<u>SEASON NOTES</u>
1981-82	20-5	0.800	2nd	Runner-up	-	-	1st game as head coach 12/1/81
1982-83	4-14	0.222	9th	-	-	-	
1983-84	8-13	0.381	7th	-	-	-	
1984-85	17-6	0.739	2nd	Champions	Sectional runner-up	ECC Coach of the year	
1985-86	22-3	0.880	2nd	Champions	Sectional runner-up	-	
1986-87	18-6	0.750	3rd	-	Sectional champions	Wilmington Star Coach of the year	2/6 losses to Clinton who was State runner-up
1987-88	24-4	0.857	1st	Runner-up	Sectional champions; Regional runner-up	ECC Coach of the year	3/4 losses to Clinton who was State runner-up
1988-89	20-6	0.769	2nd	Runner-up	Sectional runner-up	-	3/6 losses to Clinton who was State champion
1989-90	25-5	0.833	2nd	Runner-up	Sectional champions; Regional runner-up	-	4/5 losses to Clinton who was State champion
1980s TOTAL	158-62	0.718	Champions (1); Second (5)	Champions (2); Runner-up (4)	Sectional appearances (5/9 seasons); Sectional Runner-up (3x); Sectional Champions (3x); East Regional Finals appearances (2x)	Coach of the year (3/9 seasons)	

Career Coaching Record (1990s)

<u>SEASON</u>	<u>RECORD</u>	<u>WIN %</u>	<u>CONFERENCE REGULAR SEASON</u>	<u>CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT RESULT</u>	<u>PLAYOFF NOTES</u>	<u>AWARDS</u>	<u>SEASON NOTES</u>
1990-91	27-3	0.900	1st	Champions	Sectional champions; Regional champions; State Championship runner-up	ECC Coach of the year	Beat Clinton to advance to 1st State championship
1991-92	23-6	0.793	1st	Champions	Sectional champions; Regional runner-up	-	Lost in Eastern Finals to Farmville who was state runner-up
1992-93	22-7	0.759	2nd	Champions	Sectional runner-up	-	
1993-94	24-4	0.857	1st	Runner-up	Sectional champions	ECC Coach of the year	
1994-95	24-3	0.889	1st	Champions	Sectional champions	ECC Coach of the year	Lost in Eastern Regionals to SW Guilford who was State runner up
1995-96	26-1	0.963	1st	Champions	Sectional champions	-	
1996-97	25-2	0.926	1st	Champions	Sectional runner-up	ECC Coach of the year	
1997-98	29-0	1.000	1st	Champions	Sectional champions; Regional champions; STATE CHAMPIONS	ECC & Daily News Coach of the year	1st State Championship in ED history
1998-99	4-19	0.174	7th	-	-	-	
1999-00	19-6	0.760	1st	-	Sectional semi-finals	-	
1990s TOTAL	223-51	0.814	Champions (8); Second (1)	Champions (7); Runner-up (1)	Sectional appearances (9/10 seasons); Sectional Runner-up (2x); Sectional Champions (6/10 seasons); East Regional Finals appearances (3x); State Championship Games (2x); State Champions (1)	Coach of the year (5/10 seasons)	

Career Coaching Record (2000s)

<u>SEASON</u>	<u>RECORD</u>	<u>WIN %</u>	<u>CONFERENCE REGULAR SEASON</u>	<u>CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT RESULT</u>	<u>PLAYOFF NOTES</u>	<u>AWARDS</u>	<u>SEASON NOTES</u>
2000-01	23-6	0.793	1st	Runner-up	Sectional champions; Regional runner-up	-	Lost in Eastern Finals to E. Alamance who was State runner-up
2001-02	18-5	0.783	1st	Runner-up	Sectional semi-finals	-	
2002-03	21-6	0.840	2nd	-	Sectional semi-finals	-	
2003-04	11-15	0.423	6th	-	-	-	
2004-05	8-15	0.348	4th	-	-	-	
2005-06	9-14	0.391	5th	-	-	-	
2006-07	17-9	0.654	4th	-	Sectional semi-finals	-	
2007-08	15-9	0.625	2nd	-	Sectional semi-finals	Final season	
2000s TOTAL	141-85	0.624	Champions (2); Second (2)	Runner-up (2)	Sectional appearances (5/10 seasons); Sectional Champions (1); East Regional Finals appearances (1)	-	

Career Coaching Record

<u>DECADE</u>	<u>RECORD</u>	<u>WIN %</u>	<u>CONFERENCE REGULAR SEASON PLACE</u>	<u>CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT RESULT</u>	<u>PLAYOFF NOTES</u>	<u>AWARDS</u>
1980s	158-62	0.718	Champions (1); Second (5)	Champions (2); Runner-up (4)	Sectional appearances (5/9 seasons); Sectional Runner-up (3); Sectional Champions (3); East Regional Finals appearances (2)	Coach of the Year (3)
1990s	223-51	0.814	Champions (8); Second (1)	Champions (7); Runner-up (1)	Sectional appearances (9/10 seasons); Sectional Runners-up (2); Sectional Champions (6/10 seasons); East Regional Finals appearances (3); State Championship game appearances (2); State Champions (1)	Coach of the Year (5)
2000s	141-85	0.624	Champions (2); Second (2)	Runner-up (2)	Sectional appearances (5/10 seasons); Sectional Champions (1); East Regional Finals appearances (1)	-
CAREER TOTALS	554-205	0.730	Regular Season Champions (11) Second Place (8) 3rd Place or better 20 of 27 seasons	Tournament Champions (9) Runner-up (7)	SECTIONALS: Appearances (19/27); Runner-up (5); Champions (10) REGIONALS: Appearances (10); Runner-up (4); Champions (2) STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS: Appearances (2); Champions (1)	8 Time Coach of the Year

SEASON	RECORD	WIN %	CONFERENCE REGULAR SEASON PLACE	CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT RESULT	PLAYOFF NOTES	AWARDS	SEASON NOTES
1975-80	37-11	0.771	-	-	-	Junior Varsity Head Coach	
1981-82	20-5	0.800	2nd	Runner-up	-	1st season as Varsity Head Coach	
1982-83	4-14	0.222	9th	-	-	-	
1983-84	8-13	0.381	7th	-	-	-	
1984-85	17-6	0.739	2nd	Champions	Sectional runner-up	ECC Coach of the year	
1985-86	22-3	0.880	2nd	Champions	Sectional runner-up	-	
1986-87	18-6	0.750	3rd	-	Sectional champions	Wilmington Star coach of the year	2/6 losses to Clinton who was State runner-up
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1988-89	20-6	0.769	2nd	Runner-up	Sectional runner-up	-	3/6 losses to Clinton who was State champion
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1980s TOTAL	158-62	0.718	Champions (1); Second (5)	Champions (2); Runner-up (4)	Sectional appearances (5/9 seasons); Sectional Runner-up (3x); Sectional Champions (3x); East Regional Finals appearances (2x)	Coach of the year (3/9 seasons)	
1990-91	27-3	0.900	1st	Champions	Sectional champions; Regional champions; State Championship runner-up	ECC Coach of the year	Beat Clinton to advance to 1st State championship
1991-92	23-6	0.793	1st	Champions	Sectional champions; Regional runner-up	-	Lost in Eastern Finals to Farmville who was state runner-up
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1998-99	4-19	0.174	7th	-	-	-	
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1990s TOTAL	223-51	0.814	Champions (8); Second (1)	Champions (7); Runner-up (1)	Sectional appearances (9/10 seasons); Sectional Runner-up (2x); Sectional Champions (6/10 seasons); East Regional Finals appearances (3x); State Championship Games (2x); State Champions (1)	Coach of the year (5/10 seasons)	
2000-01	23-6	0.793	1st	Runner-up	Sectional champions; Regional runner-up	-	Lost in Eastern Finals to E Alamance who was State runner-up
2001-02	18-5	0.783	1st	Runner-up	Sectional semi-finals	-	
2002-03	21-6	0.840	2nd	-	Sectional semi-finals	-	
2003-04	11-15	0.423	6th	-	-	-	
2004-05	8-15	0.348	4th	-	-	-	
2005-06	9-14	0.391	5th	-	-	-	
2006-07	17-9	0.654	4th	-	Sectional semi-finals	-	
2007-08	15-9	0.625	2nd	-	Sectional semi-finals	Final season	
2000s TOTAL	141-85	0.624	Champions (2); Second (2)	Runner-up (2)	Sectional appearances (5/10 seasons); Sectional Champions (1); East Regional Finals appearances (1)	-	
CAREER RECORD:	554-205		*11 Time Conference Regular Season Champions	*9 Conference Tournament Championships	*Sectional appearances: 19/27 seasons; 5 time runners-up ('85, '86, '89, '93, '97); 10 time champions ('87, '88, '90, '91, '92, '94, '95, '96, '98, '01)	8 Time Coach of the Year ('85, '87, '88, '91, '94, '95, '97, '98)	
CAREER WIN %:	0.730%		**8 second place finishes	**7 time Conference Tournament Runner-up	**Regional appearances: 10/27 seasons; 4 time East Regional Final runner-up ('88, '90, '92, '01); 2 time East Regional champions ('91, '98)		
All-Star Game Coaching Record:			***Finished third place or better 20/27 seasons		***1 State Championship runner-up ('91)		
East/West (1-0); NC/SC (1-0) State Games (6-2)					****1 State Championship ('98)		
					*****Lost in playoffs to team that played for state champ. 6x		

Southern Coaching Records (22 Seasons)

SEASON	WINS	LOSSES	CONFERENCE	SEASON NOTES	AWARDS
			REGULAR SEASON PLACE		
1975-76	10	4	2		
1976-77	12	5	2		
1977-78	15	4	1		
1978-79	11	3	2		East Central Conference Coach of the Year
1979-80	7	11	7		
1980-81	5	11	8		
1981-82	6	12	8		
1982-83	10	8	2		
1983-84	10	8	3		
1984-85	19	3	2	Conference Tournament Champions	
1985-86	20	3	2	Eastern Finals Runner-up	
1986-87	15	5	2	1st Round State Playoffs	East Central Conference Coach of the Year
1987-88	7	6	4		
1988-89	14	3	1	1st Round State Playoffs	East Central Conference Coach of the Year
1989-90	13	3	2	1st Round State Playoffs	
1990-91	7	10	3	2nd Round State Playoffs	
1991-92	9	8	4		
1992-93	11	10	3	Conference Tournament Runner-up; 1st Round State Playoffs	
1993-94	11	7	2	1st Round State Playoffs	
1994-95	11	12	4		
1995-96	15	6	3	2nd Round State Playoffs	
1996-97	11	11	3	1st Round State Playoffs	
TOTAL	249	153	2-Time Conference Champion	9 Playoff Appearances	3-Time East Central Conference Coach of the Year

July 30, 2023

Pamela T. Edwards
323 Willard Edwards Road
Beulaville, NC 28518

Ms. Que Tucker
North Carolina High School Athletic Association
PO Box 3216
Chapel Hill, NC 27515

Dear Ms. Tucker:

It gives me great pleasure to recommend a dedicated member of the Duplin County Community and more particularly to the East Duplin High School Community as a nominee to the North Carolina High School Athletic Association as a candidate for the athletic association Hall of Fame. Jerry Hunter became a legend to the community because of all the extra effort and heart that he brought to the community.

I am quite sure that others can tell you about his efforts as a coach. In girls' basketball he had an overall win lose record of 554-205 and he won a state championship in 1998, won conference championships 11 times, 9 conference tournament championships, 19 sectional games, 10 regional championships and one state champion runner up. That does not even refer to the outstanding record in girls' softball. He basically built the girls softball program. He also started the girls' golf program to offer a variety to the girls in the district.

He was a wonderful coach who taught his girls integrity and honor. Mr. Hunter dedicated his entire life to making a difference in the life of his players. Perhaps I knew him better as an athletic director than as a coach. We worked closely together for over 25 years. As the city county athletic director, I called on Jerry many times to assist us in doing the right thing for athletes and coaches. He was always the first to the table when we discussed realignment, coaching salaries, academic requirements, and expansion programs. You could always count on him to do what was best for the entire county not just the East Duplin family. He served on many realignment committees for the association and served on many other committees for the association. He was instrumental in bringing our county up to date on the sports medicine front. You could never go over to the high school during the summer without seeing him on a sports field grooming and mowing fields that he had basically built. I counted him among my most valuable colleagues and friends.

The North Carolina High School Athletic Association would be honoring one of the most valuable coaches and athletic directors in North Carolina to recognize the accomplishments of

Mr. Jerry Hunter. I sincerely hope that you will consider all the accomplishments Mr. Hunter has made to athletics but most of all the dedication and strength he instilled in his athletes and students during his life. His achievements have been unmatched in this community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pam Edwards".

Pamela T Edwards

District 2

Duplin County Board of Education Member

Dear NCHSAA Hall of Fame Selection Committee,

I have the honor and pleasure to write on behalf of Jerry Hunter. Mr. Hunter's coaching record speaks for itself as he won over 600 girls' basketball games as well as the State Championship in 1998, not to mention the many victories he coached in softball, golf, and football. Instead of talking about his game victories, I would like to offer my perspective from watching Mr. Hunter from 1986-89 as a student and from being his colleague and friend from 1995-2011.

Mr. Hunter to me was the epitome of what the perfect coach should be. He was ultra-competitive and always did things the right way. He pushed his players to do the right things on and off the court and always held them accountable for their actions. Even though he was tough on his players, he never let them forget how much he loved them and always worked tirelessly studying other teams to give his teams the advantage.

Mr. Hunter believed that championships were won with players that had integrity. He would rather have a player with integrity over one with amazing talent and no integrity. He would say players with integrity will not break when put into a pressure situation. I took this advice to heart during my coaching years. Whenever it came down to which player to cut, I always kept the one that would do the right thing. I would always think, "What would Mr. Hunter tell me to do." Even though he passed away more than 10 years ago, I still ask myself what would Mr. Hunter do because I always want to make him proud.

Mr. Hunter believed in helping others and he always wanted the best for East Duplin High School. I was able to witness the countless hours that he devoted not only to coaching but also to being the school's athletic director. During his tenure as AD, he helped finish the football fieldhouse, build a new home side bleacher for the football, build a baseball

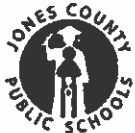
field (previously, the football and baseball teams shared the same field), install irrigation to all sport fields (softball, football, baseball), and numerous other projects. Mr. Hunter worked to instill pride into every aspect of athletics at East Duplin High School. He made sure that every program, from girl's golf to football were treated equally and fairly, no matter if they were a money sport or not. Mr. Hunter pushed his coaches to do the right things and to hold their players to a higher standard. He insisted that drug testing of student athletes be implemented in Duplin County. As AD, Mr. Hunter would always be the first one to meet coaches after a game and tell them how proud of them he was, win or lose. Mr. Hunter just did things the right way and if anyone has ever bled East Duplin blue, it was him!

As good of a coach, teacher, and athletic director as Mr. Hunter was, he was an even better person, mentor, and friend. He was one of those people that always did the little things to make those around him feel important, special, and loved. I can remember him buying valentines filled with chocolate candies for his players and teachers. Not to mention, buying meals for colleagues, just because and always providing encouraging words and listening as if you were the most important person in the world. He would always be the first to volunteer to help and he always treated everyone the way he would want to be treated.

Mr. Hunter was very special to me as he was to countless players, coaches, and teachers. He impacted my life in so many ways and has done so many things for East Duplin High School. I am sure there are many accolades and accomplishments that Mr. Hunter has gotten through the years that I am not aware of. However, his kindness, fairness, genuine love, hard work, willingness to listen and to help, are still having an impact not only on sports but also on the lives of coaches and players even today. I believe Mr. Hunter is an excellent nominee for the Hall of Fame as he is already a Hall of Famer in life.

Respectfully,

Kirk Kennedy
East Duplin Coach 1995 - 2019



Jones County Public Schools
"Be The One"

December 2, 2022

Que Tucker, Commissioner
North Carolina High School Athletic Association
P.O. Box 3216
Chapel Hill, NC 27515

Dear Commissioner Tucker:

This letter recommends Mr. Jerry Hunter as a candidate for the NCHSAA Hall of Fame. Mr. Hunter was committed to athletics, the success of East Duplin High School's athletic programs, and mentoring young coaches and young student-athletes. Mr. Hunter made great strides in improving the athletic facilities at East Duplin High School and ran a top-notch girls' basketball program.

The East Duplin community is very proud of Mr. Hunter and his work to improve East Duplin and its student-athletes. He was a great organizer and thinker and sought to bring community partners to the effort to enhance East Duplin's athletic programs. The significant improvements he is recognized for are the improvement to the high school athletic facilities. However, his most important contribution were his efforts with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, developing the character within his student-athletes, and expectations for each of the school's athletic program's coaches to lead and coach with integrity.

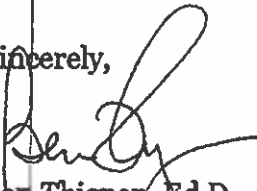
As a young football and baseball coach, I appreciated his guidance and mentorship. Mr. Hunter always gave young coaches the time and attention needed to keep them headed down the right path and ensure their success. I was one of many young coaches Coach Hunter took under his wing and supported, guided, and made better. It is an aspect of leadership we need to make more time for as our world gets busier and busier. Mr. Hunter knew these moments with young coaches were essential to building a culture and a program a community could be proud of.

Mr. Hunter also knew that rural eastern North Carolina athletic programs must rely on a collaborative, supportive community to ensure a quality athletic program. That is what he built as an athletic director. He always emphasized to coaches the need to support the community and the parents by modeling the way. He understood that a coach's actions said more than our words. He expected us to operate in that fashion because Coach Hunter knew our character was as important as our won-loss percentage in our community.

Many of the girls who played for him note the same thing. They often reference Coach Hunter, reflect on the memories and the lessons learned, and see the value of the experience of being part of his program. It was also what he expected from every one of his coaches.

Please consider Mr. Jerry Hunter, a candidate for the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame. Duplin County athletics and the East Duplin community are better because of the dedication of Mr. Jerry Hunter. I am pleased to support him as a candidate for the North Carolina Athletic Association Hall of Fame. He was an exemplary athletic director who improved people, programs, athletics, and our community.

Sincerely,



Ben Thigpen, Ed.D.
Superintendent

November 18, 2022

RE: Coach Jerry W. Hunter

It is my highest honor to provide a letter of support for Coach Hunter's nomination to the NCHSAA Hall of Fame. I can think of no one who exemplifies what it means to be a coach who influenced so many young people's lives on and off the field or court. His dedication to the success of his student athletes throughout his entire career is a testament to the character he displayed day in and day out. He showed a genuine enthusiasm and interest in every aspect of his athlete's lives with the sole purpose of making us successful, respectful and caring human beings.

From a personal standpoint, without any doubt, if it were not for Coach Hunter's persistent devotion to my success as a scholar athlete, I would not be the person I am today. He saw the potential in me and pushed me in ways that I know prepared me for more than just sports. We tend to understand life in hindsight and as I've aged, I see more and more just how impactful his involvement in my life has been. The lessons learned and the work ethic he instilled in me as an athlete and a student, has guided me throughout the years. With great confidence, I can attest that his involvement in my life has been a gateway to the success and opportunities I've been blessed to experience. He opened my eyes to opportunities that me, as a young, black country girl simply, did not know existed for me. He has motivated me to share these opportunities with other young people. He did it the right way and so many young women and men have benefited from the mere fact this sweet, gentle, amazing man took the time to care about us outside of "just sports". Sports can be a means to a good life but without the proper guidance from that special person, some people miss that opportunity. I along with many more East Duplin High School athletes were blessed to have had that special individual. Mr. Jerry W. Hunter is more than deserving of this honor. I wish he were here to receive it. He is surely missed but his legacy will live on forever by the student athletes he guided throughout his entire career.

Irish J. Hamilton

East Duplin High School

Class of 1986

November 22, 2022

Chris Whaley

229 Roland Batchelor Road

Beulaville, Nc 28519

NCHSAA Hall of Fame Committee

Dear Committee,

I am writing this letter in support of Jerry Hunter being nominated to the NCHSAA Hall of Fame.

I would assume this honor is given to coaches in North Carolina who have been successful, winning more than losing, on the field or on the court. I know Coach Hunter and one of his girls' basketball teams won a State Championship at East Duplin Highschool. To my knowledge this is the only team sport State Championship East Duplin Highschool has achieved to date. As a past high school athlete and current spectator, supporter and just a fan of High School sports, I now understand what an accomplishment a State Championship is in any high school sport. Especially, given the number of talented coaches and players in North Carolina. It takes the best coaching and the most talented athletes to have a chance at winning a State Championship. East Duplin High Schools State Championship in Girls Basketball, in my mind, should be enough for Coach Hunter to be inducted into the NCHSAA Hall of Fame.

I know Coach Hunter coached several sports in his career at East Duplin High School. I am not sure about his lifetime win/loss record while coaching East Duplin athletics, however, I can elaborate on my personal experience as a player for him. I had Jerry Hunter as a JV football coach in the late 80's. I wish I could remember our record wins/loses; we were not bad, but I know we did not come close to winning any kind of State Championship. As I have grown older and would like to think wiser, I can look back and see that Coach Hunter coached/taught me so much more than X's and O's in football. He taught me some life lessons that have stuck with me through life so far.

Hard work will make you better

If you lose be gracious

If you win be humble

Never quit

Push to get the most out of people

Give everyone a chance to succeed

You can count on other people

You need to have fun at whatever you are doing

I could continue this list, but I will get to what feel is the most important.

As I reflect as a player for Coach Hunter, I realize he was coaching/teaching me, as well as all the other male and female athletes to be good Godly people more than he was to make us good high school athletes and teammates. What I can tell this committee is that without any consideration of wins and losses, Jerry Hunter had a positive lifelong impact on hundreds of young men and women athletes that came through East Duplin High School.

It is an honor to write this letter of support for Jerry Hunter to be inducted into the NCHSAA Hall of Fame. He was and will always be a Hall of Famer for coaches and players who were blessed enough to know him.

Sincerely,

Chris Whaley

Mr. Hunter – NCHSS Hall of Fame

One of my first memories of Mr. Hunter was sitting on the bleachers watching my sister, who is 8 years older than me, play basketball for him. She had done something wrong, and he yelled at her on the court. I decided right then I would never play basketball in high school because I didn't like the way he spoke to my sister. Years later I played basketball and softball for him as well as work on the yearbook committee with him. Each summer we went to basketball camp at ECU which was always one of the most fun weeks of the summer with our team! One year for the camp talent show we chose to have him sit in the center of us while we stood in a semi-circle and sang and danced to "My Guy" by Mary Wells. Afterwards we had other teams tell us that they could tell how much we loved him, and they wish they felt that way about their coach. We were so proud to be coached by him and to be his girls. Not only was he wonderful to play for, but I also fell in love with his family! Off the court I would spend time with him and his family at their home. I always felt welcomed, loved, and cherished. Many hours were spent hanging out at their pool and playing games with their son Justin. When it came time for my husband and I to marry, my Daddy was waiting for a heart transplant at the UNC Hospital and could not come to our wedding. At our reception I asked Mr. Hunter to stand in for my Daddy and do the father/daughter dance with me. The picture of us dancing is in my wedding album and is still so special to me. After my husband and I got back from our honeymoon we had a second wedding in the chapel at UNC Hospital so Daddy could walk me down the aisle. Mr. Hunter and his family made the drive from Beulaville to come to our second wedding as well to be there for us. It's ironic to think I went from not wanting to play for him as a small girl, to loving him as a coach, then loving him for so many other reasons. I still cherish him and his memories to this day!

I am so glad Mr. Hunter is being considered for the NCHSAA Hall of Fame as I do not think there is anyone more deserving!

Sincerely,

Dia Bostic Mercer

Laura R. Maready

301 East Bostic Street
Beulaville, NC 28518

November 18, 2022

North Carolina High School Athletic Association
PO Box 3216
Finley Golf Course Road
Chapel Hill, NC 27515-3216

Dear NCHSAA Hall of Fame Selection Committee:

I am pleased to be writing a letter in support of the nomination of Coach Jerry Hunter for the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame. I strongly support his nomination because of the admiration and respect I have for my high school basketball, softball and life coach, Jerry Hunter.

Mr. Hunter was a leader, motivator, teacher, counselor and disciplinarian who always put his players first. He invested many hours in planning, practicing, building and coaching for any sport he was involved in - and he inspired his players to work and play right alongside of him. He was a firm believer that you had to put in the work to be the best. For example, my teammates and I always knew we would never touch a basketball for the first two weeks of practice because Mr. Hunter said if you were not in shape, you could not be the best. It did not take us long to realize he knew what he was talking about and had our best interests at heart.

Mr. Hunter experienced much success in the high school sports arena, but I know he was most proud of the relationships he formed and life lessons he was able to share with the students he coached. I wholeheartedly support and recommend that Mr. Hunter be recognized by the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame for his contributions to East Duplin High School, the students he coached and the community that greatly admired him for his efforts.

Sincerely,



Laura R. Maready

EAST DUPLIN

**KENNETH KENNEDY
PRINCIPAL
LINDER ERVIN
ASST. PRINCIPAL**



HIGH SCHOOL

**PO. BOX 188
BEULAVILLE, N. C.
TEL. (910) 298-4535
FAX. (910) 298-2021**

May 4, 1998

Mr. Jerry Hunter, C.A.A.
East Duplin High School
P.O. Box 188
Beulaville, N.C. 28518

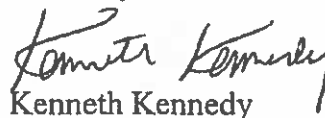
Dear Jerry,

I take this opportunity to tell you how proud we are of you for completing your "Certified Athletic Administration" Certification. This puts you in an elite group of fewer than 1,300 so Certified Athletic Directors in the nation.

This voluntary process, including a rigorous written exam, that you participated in shows your commitment for self improvement. It also shows your commitment to East Duplin and it's student athletic program.

As principal I thank you for your desire to attain your C.A.A. Certification. I also commend you on behalf of our staff and students.

Sincerely,


Kenneth Kennedy

East Duplin High School Girls

Basketball Coach Joins "Wall of Champions"

by **Stephanie Cole**
Staff Writer

The ball fell in one area coach's court recently.

Jerry Hunter, Athletic Director for East Duplin High School, was named to the North Carolina High School Athletic Association's (NCHSAA) "Wall of Champions".

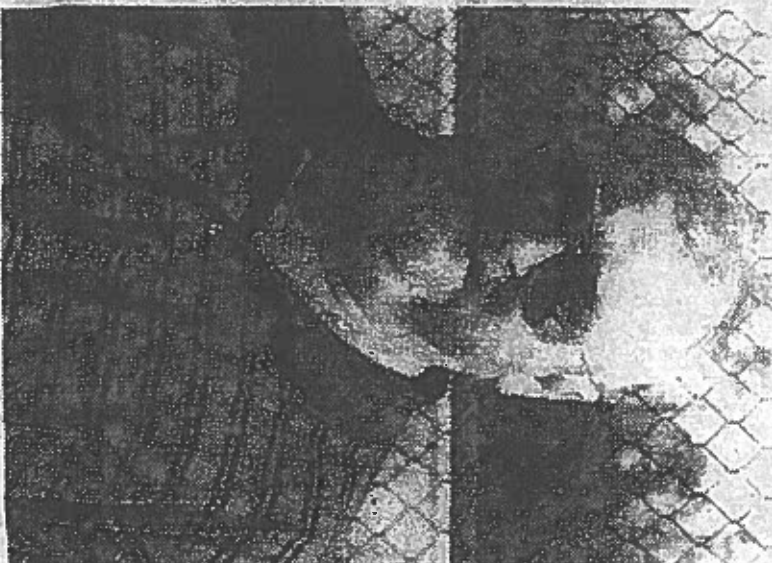
According to the NCHSAA, the award is to honor the most outstanding and successful coaches in North Carolina for success in coaching and contributions to the overall athletic programs in North Carolina.

"I was surprised and honored that I was chosen for this award," Hunter said.

"I have been coaching here since 1975 and I have been head girls basketball coach since 1982."

Hunter's list of achievements and positions includes:

- 1998 girls basketball State Championship



Jerry Hunter

- East-West All Star Game--East team coach
- Coached the NC team in the first NC-SC All Star Game
- Coached in the State Games
- State Board of Directors for the

North Carolina Athletic Association

- Named Coach of the Year in the conference 8 times

- Named Jacksonville Daily News Coach of the Year

- Named Wilmington Star News Area Coach of the Year

"Coach Hunter's picture and some memorabilia will be placed on the "Wall of Champions" at the NCHSAA office in Chapel Hill.

According to Hunter, high school athletics are very important.

"Basically, high school athletics teach students about life and how to deal with the good and the bad, as well as how to get along with people. Not just sport, but all extra-curricular activities are an invaluable asset to schools.

"I am supposed to get some memorabilia together to send to Chapel Hill. What I should dis

Continued on page 2

The Dean Retires

The Dean of Duplin County's basketball coaches has decided to hang up his whistle and retire from the sidelines of East Duplin High School.

Coach Jerry Hunter, who has led the East Duplin girls' basketball program for the last 27 years, retired at the end of the Panthers' state playoff run this year. Coach Hunter will remain as the school's athletic director, and will hand over the head coaching duties to Eddie Knudsen.

Coach Hunter has compiled an incredible record at the little 2A school in Duplin County. He began his career at East Duplin in 1975 as a junior varsity coach and became the varsity girls coach in 1981. During the next 27 years, his teams finished in the top three in the conference 20 times, 11 of those were first place finishes and eight were second place finishes.

Hunter's overall record of 554-205 gives him a .780 winning percentage and from 1987 to 1998, Hunter's teams won 269 games, averaging 24 wins per year and finishing first or second for 11 consecutive years while winning eight conference championships.

During his career, Hunter's teams have won 11 conference championships, 10 sectional championships, two regional championships and a state championship in 1998. His teams were sectional runner-ups five times, regional runner-ups five times and state runner-up once. He has won the conference Coach of the Year on eight different occasions and was named the Jacksonville Daily News Coach of the Year in 1998.

Hunter has coached in the East-West All Star game and the NC-SC All Star game, winning both those games. He was also 4-0 in the state games as head coach. Coach Hunter served as President of the North Carolina Coaches Association and served on the Board of Directors for several years. He was also placed on the Wall of Fame by the North Carolina High School Athletic Association.

Among all of his awards and accomplishments as a head coach, Hunter has been a tireless worker for East Duplin High School for 33 years. He has dedicated himself and his time to making East Duplin athletics the very best they could be. Without a doubt, he has accomplished this, as the Panthers are a formidable opponent for any school in any sport. The Panther facilities are as good as any around and give both players and parents something to be proud of. This writer extends gratitude to Coach Hunter for his tireless effort and his dedication to East Duplin High School. Congratulations, Coach, on an incredible career and we wish you the very best in your retirement.

A power nobody knows

Jerry Hunter has put together the best girls' high school basketball program you may never have heard of.

Success in North Carolina often is measured in state championships, and in that category the East Duplin Panthers have failed.

East Duplin has reached the final only once, losing to Madison in 1991.



**TIM
STEVENS**

But in most other categories, Hunter's girls are among the state's best. They have won 20 or more games in each of the past 10

seasons while going 234-40.

"I think winning a state championship takes a lot of things, including some luck," Hunter said.

The Panthers may have had their best team last year. The 26-1 club featured Melanie Gilliam, now at ECU, and current standouts Tina McKiver and Eboriy Green.

"We didn't have a starter miss a game all of last year until we got to the regionals," Hunter said. "But we had some girls get sick the day before the regionals. It's not an excuse, but it was bad luck."

Hunter, an East Duplin graduate, has built a program that is the pride of Beulaville.

Community support has been a constant since he took the reins in 1981.

"Our parents are really interested in girls' basketball, and it has reached the point that by the time the girls are in the seventh and eighth grade they are looking forward to playing at the high school," he said.

Hunter's summer basketball day camp annually draws 80 to 110 boys and girls. The older girls, at least 30 every year, load up for a week-long camp at East Carolina, Hunter's alma mater.

The camp allows the four age-group teams to gather as units and get individual instruction.

"The biggest thing we accomplish is bonding," Hunter said. "It is not so much Xs and Os as it is learning about each other."

The unity is one reason Hunter enjoys coaching girls. He had a chance to take the boys coaching position a few years ago but stayed with the girls.

"They listen better," he said of the girls. "Of course, sometimes I look out on the floor and wonder what they heard."

Hunter decided years ago that his club was going to play man-to-man and concentrate on stopping people rather than on scoring.

"If I call out for a zone, our girls basically guard a zone about the width of their shoulders," Hunter said, laughing.

Hunter said that in videotape of his team's Eastern Regional loss to St. Pauls last year, the opposing players are blurs, while his defenders are sharp images.

"I thought we were capable of winning the state last year," Hunter said. "We played well, but

lost in the playoffs.

"That's behind us now. We're just going keep working at it, and maybe one day we'll get there."

SHRINE COACH: Garner coach Hal Stewart has been named as head coach for the North Carolina team in the annual Shrine Bowl Games of the Carolinas. The Shrine Bowl matches a high school all-star team from North Carolina against a squad from South Carolina.

Stewart has a 179-62-2 record in 21 years as a head coach. His Richmond County team won the state 4-A title in 1978, and Garner won in 1987.

His teams have reached the playoffs in 15 of his 21 seasons.

"It is certainly a big honor to be the head coach and represent North Carolina in the game," Stewart said. "I attribute my selection to all of the coaches and players that have been at Garner during my 14 years here."

The Shrine Bowl squads will be expanded this year to 40 players, up from 35 in previous years.

The game is scheduled for Dec. 20 in Charlotte.

SPAULDING APOLOGIZES: Alex Spaulding, a Burlington Williams basketball star, took full responsibility for his suspension from school after he was charged with possession of marijuana.

Spaulding took out an ad in the Burlington Times-News — he paid for it — to apologize to his family, school, community and teammates.

The 6-foot-3 guard has made an oral commitment to Oklahoma.

ED Hall of Famers Hunter, Aldridge touched lives, set victory records

Fred Lanier

Times correspondent

BEULAVILLE — It is only fitting that as we begin to profile the six members of the inaugural class of the East Duplin Sports Hall of Fame that we begin the series with two legendary coaches: Jerry Hunter and Brian Aldridge.

Each has won more games in his sport than any of their Panther peers.

Profiles for the equally revered inaugural class of inductees will appear in the coming weeks. They are Jerry Thigpen, Teana McKiver, Emerson Pickett and Jerry Simpson.

Induction ceremonies will be on September 17. See ticket information on this page.

Jerry Hunter

The late Jerry Hunter graduated from East Duplin High School in 1969 and furthered his education at East Carolina University, receiving his undergraduate degree in 1973.

With his teaching credentials in hand, Hunter came back to Duplin County to begin his career, taking a position at Chinquapin Elementary.

Hunter actually began coaching at East Duplin in 1975 while still on staff at Chinquapin, taking the reins of the junior varsity girls' basketball program for the 1975-76 season.

He compiled a 37-11 record in five seasons and during that time became coach John Graham's assistant for the girls' varsity team. In 1982, Hunter became the head coach following Graham's departure.

Hunter was the first girl's

softball coach at ED in 1978. He was an assistant for the junior varsity football team in 1984, 1985, and 1986 and head coach in 1987.

He became the school's athletic director after the retirement of his friend and mentor Jerry Thigpen, serving in that capacity until his retirement in 2008.

Hunter had a love for the game of golf as well, and he jokingly told the story that the first thing he did when he became athletic director was to hire himself as the boys and girls' golf coach.

Hunter wore many hats throughout his years, but he was a basketball coach above all else.

There are many stories of his tough practices and the tough love he dealt out to his players. There are also many about him being a father to many of his players and often spending his own money to provide for some of his girls to go to camp or buy equipment.

He was a player's coach. As was mentioned during his memorial service this summer, when his team won, he gave his players the credit; when the team lost, he took the blame. He was a selfless

individual who put others ahead of himself.

Early in his coaching career, Hunter set the bar very high for his teams. His first varsity team went 20-5, finishing second in the East Central Conference. From



Jerry Hunter

1984 to 1988, Hunter was conference coach of the year three times, winning his first regular-season title in 1988.

Hunter's Lady Panthers went on an incredible run beginning with the 1990 season. Through '98, Hunter's teams won an astounding 201 games while losing only 26, compiling a .885 winning percentage during that span. The Lady Panthers won seven conference titles, seven ECC tournament championships, six sectional championships, two East regional championships; they were state runner-up in 1991 and a state champs in 1998.

Hunter won five conference coach of the year awards during the run and was the Jacksonville Daily News coach of the year in 1998. To date, Hunter is the only ED coach to win a state title and to record an undefeated season; the Lady Panthers were 29-0 in 1998.

During his 27 seasons at the helm, counting the 1990-98 run, the Lady Panthers finished first or second in the ECC 19 times, winning 11 conference titles, nine conference tournament titles, 10 sectional titles, two regional

championships, one state runner up and one state championship. Hunter compiled 507 varsity wins at ED and was also the winning coach in an East-West All Star game, a separate North Carolina vs. South Carolina All-Star game and was 4-0 as a coach in the state games.

Upon his retirement, the court in Pruitt Gymnasium was dedicated in his honor and is now called "Jerry Hunter Court."

What a record and what a legacy coach Hunter leaves. How fitting it is for Jerry Hunter to be a member of the first class inducted in to the East Duplin Sports Hall of Fame.

Brian Aldridge
Brian Aldridge arrived at East Duplin in 1985 to become the school's ninth head football coach in its 23 years.

Prior to Aldridge's arrival, the football program produced just two winning seasons, in 1973 and 1981. The Panthers totaled just 62 wins from 1962 to 1984, with 12 of those wins coming in '73 and '81 combined.

During that span, the Panthers suffered 163 losses on the gridiron and generated very little excitement or revenue during the period.

Aldridge inherited a pro-

gram that was extremely low in numbers of athletes. But he went right to work with his players and won their respect and love with his work ethic and winning attitude.

The Panthers won his very first game, 27-13 over

Swansboro—and the Aldridge ship had sailed.

ED won just once more in 1985 to finish at

2-8. That would be the last and only losing season East Duplin has had since then.

Aldridge was a tireless worker. Often he coached both sides of the ball and called the plays for both junior varsity and varsity games. Yet

he found time to take an interest in his player's lives off the field as well as on the field. He was a father to many who didn't have that figure in their home and he made an indelible mark on the lives of many young men who have walked the halls of East Duplin.

The community surrounding East Duplin would also become a part of Aldridge's era at ED. The stands began to fill up on Friday nights in

Beulaville to see a brand of football that Aldridge and his Panthers would make famous throughout eastern North Carolina and the state. A pride would swell through out the feeder schools as well, and the younger kids longed to be a Panther and to wear the blue and white on Friday night.

In the process, the school and the athletic program at East Duplin became solidified and respected.

In 26 years of coaching, Coach Aldridge amassed 234 wins, 195 of those at East Duplin in 22 seasons. The Panthers won seven conference titles and played in two east regional finals.

There are several Panther football players who hold records in the N.C. High School Athletic Association record books. Many of his players have played in college and one in the NFL.

But if we throw the records and the wins out the window, there is no way to measure the affect Brian Aldridge has had on East Duplin High School and the community. He has made us all proud to be Panthers and his legacy will live forever.

Banquet tickets
The East Duplin Boosters invite you to come out on September 17 to honor the entire class at the inaugural Hall of Fame induction dinner to be held at the Beulaville Pentecostal Free Will Baptist Church at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15, which includes the meal.

Please call Fred Lanier at 910-340-1348 to reserve your tickets. Seating is limited.

K-Tribe takes second half title to secure Carolina League playoff berth

WOODBIDGE, Va. — The Kinston Indians secured a berth in the 2011 postseason

a double to right-center and was advanced to third on Bo Greenwell's bunt. Jeremie

tickets call the Indians front office at 252-527-9111. Follow the Indians on facebook and at www.kinstonindians.

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vs.
EAST DUPLIN PANTHERS

SEPTEMBER 9 @ 7:30pm

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LISTEN TO THE GAMES LIVE!!!

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Wallace Post 156 has
Legion baseball team
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SPORTS

MAY 22, 2008
13
DUPLIN
TIMES
PROGRESS INTIME

This Hunter's seasons were tough on ED girls hoops foes *Retires as N.C.'s #3 active coach in victories*

Bill Rollins
Staff writer
BEULAVILLE—Jerry Hunter knew something had to be done.

It was the spring of 1993, he'd just finished his second season as girls basketball head coach at East Duplin High, his alma mater, and it hadn't gone so well.

His rousing 20-5 first year had been followed by key predictions, and his second year ended 5-14. So Hunter packed up his eager charges for a week at East Carolina University's basketball camp, run by then-ECU coach Cathy Andruzzi.

It was something new for the Lady Panthers program—and it would lead to a career-altering revelation for Hunter.

"Cathy and I talked a lot, and during our second year there [following Hunter's 8-13 third season] she said, 'Jerry, do you like coaching girls basketball?' I said, 'Yeah.' And she said, 'Do you plan to stay in it?' I said, 'Yeah, I think so.'"

Then it was, "OK, I'm going to tell you what you can do to be successful coaching girls basketball. If you'll start playing man-to-man defense—and nothing but man-to-man defense—you'll be so far ahead of everybody else ..."

Hunter made the switch, and East Duplin girls hoops—accustomed to success under previous coaches Thomas Kennedy and John Graham—turned in an 18-6 season and a runner-up finish in the NCHSAA sectional tournament.

It was as if Hunter had unleashed a beast. The Lady Panthers, indeed, developed a clinging, disruptive, man-to-man—or girl-to-girl—defense.

And when Hunter stepped down this spring after 27 seasons with 507 girls varsity victories, he was third in wins among active high school girls coaches in the state, just outside the top 10 all-time, and his teams made the NCHSAA East Regional 11 times—more than any other school in



Duplin Times photo by Bill Rollins
Jerry Hunter's wall of fame outside his office includes team photos and group prom shots of each of his 27 Lady Panther teams.

any classification.

His glory years of 1994-95 to 1997, 99 produced 11 straight seasons with at least 21 victories—and his teams were no poster-boys for winning percentages.

Eddie Koutson, Hunter's assistant coach the past two years, follows the legend, "I feel real good leaving it in Eddie's hands," said Hunter.

The run of 21-win seasons was capped by a 39-0 record in 1998, when Hunter's Panthers captured the State NCHSAA regional or sectional tour-

main reason we were so successful for so many years," Hunter said last week in his grassy office of voluminous accumulation—including the scorebooks for every game in every season, and notes of many.

"We played a lot of people that had better athletes than we did. But I had the philosophy that even though we might not be able to score a lot of points against teams like that, we could sure keep them from scoring much on us."

And they did. How? There's no guarantee that going to camp and installing a man-to-man defense will equal success.

As he answered, Hunter gestured at the wall across the narrow hallway outside the big windows of his office. The wall is covered with photos of his teams, some traditional shots with the players in their uniforms, some taken on prom night with the girls in evening gowns and Hunter in a tux.

"Every one of those girls will tell you I ran them to death," he said. "I never coached girls like that. I coached them like boys, and we were always in real good shape."

"We've had, I don't know how many games, that we were behind at the end of the third quarter but won because we were in better shape."

"In the playoffs, for a long time, we saw a lot of teams that only played zone, so they only played zone, so they only played zone, and most of them couldn't do anything offensively."

Edmon Hotten was the prime example. They were a zone team, and East Duplin played them four or five times in an NCHSAA regional or sectional tour-



Duplin Times photo by Bill Rollins
East Duplin High named the basketball court for its legendary coach at the last home game of the 2003-04 season, and the logo appeared on the resurfaced playing floor at the beginning of the next season.

and we might have five or six losses, but they never came close to beating us. [Their longtime coach, Fred Hotten, is still on the active coaches' list.]

"Believe me," said Hunter, "I have coached Cathy many a time. Andruzzi [now at Fordham University] left ECU the next year, but the camp ran more or less on her model until the school dropped it in 2000. And Hunter took every girl who wanted to go—varsity, JV and middle school."

"I took them [to his alma mater] because every July, from 6:00 a.m. on, because every girl had on their dorm clothes. They were about the only

Continued on page 35.

Jerry Hunter Honored



EAST DUPLIN GIRLS BASKETBALL COACH JERRY HUNTER was honored at last week's basketball game by having the gymnasium floor named for him. Hunter's girls are shown above holding the sign designating the court as "Jerry Hunter Court". At right, Hunter (L) is shown receiving a plaque from Terry Futrell with the East Duplin Booster Club. (Staff Photo-Linda Dutton)





August 19, 1991

Coach:

Congratulations on being selected as a 1992 Ali-Star Coach. A coach's handbook containing information such as game regulations, calendar, salaries, and copies of correspondence from this office will follow within the month.

In choosing your team please do your best to:

1. choose players from all classifications -- 1A, 2A, 3A, 4A.
2. choose players from all sections of your region.
3. include players from State Championship teams.

Enclosed please find a list of your fellow coaches. You may release your selection to your local press, but please allow us to release the complete list.

Below is the date of the selection meeting for your team.

Football	10:00 a.m.	February 15, 1992
Basketball	10:00 a.m.	April 11, 1992

These meetings will be at the NCCA building in Greensboro.

Please call me anytime you have questions.

Home	919-288-0459
School	919-370-8184

Sincerely,

Phil Weaver

PJW:LL

The McDonald's. EAST WEST All-Star Games

%. The North Carolina Coaches Association
1101 Westover Terrace
Greensboro, North Carolina 27408

919-379-9095

East Duplin High School

Jerry Hunter Leads North Carolina All-Stars to Victory

by Julie R. Hatcher
Staff Writer

East Duplin Girls Basketball Coach Jerry Hunter led the North Carolina Girls All-Star Basketball Team to a 69-65 victory over the South Carolina squad on April 11 in the Carolinas All-Star Basketball Classic in Rock Hill, South Carolina. Selected to this honorable position by the North Carolina Coaches Association Board of Directors, Hunter captured his 400th career basketball win.

"It was a great experience," remarked Hunter. The North Carolina team consisted of 10 outstanding players from across the state and were selected by Hunter and Assistant Coach Cindi Simmons of Smokey Mountain High School. "Even though they came from a wide variety of programs and playing styles, they all adapted quickly to the game," states Hunter. With only three practice sessions, Hunter pointed out that they all worked extremely hard to prepare for the game and none expected special treatment. Area players included Nicole Murray of Wallace-Rose Hill, Shanecia Head of Dixon and Lasonya Potter of White Oak.



JERRY HUNTER, EAST DUPLIN HIGH ATHLETICS DIRECTOR AND COACH, was recently selected as the North Carolina Coach for the Carolinas All-Star Basketball Classic. Hunter's team defeated the South Carolina team, 69-65, making it his 400th career victory.

About Jerry Hunter

Carolina All-Stars was an accomplishment in itself, Hunter is no stranger to the rewards of coaching. Just last school year he led an unforgettable girls basketball team to the Women's 2-A State Championship. His girls teams have boasted the title of East Central Conference Champs for eight of the past twelve seasons. In 1992, Hunter served as a coach in the East-West All-Stars Game. As a 1969 graduate of East Duplin High School and 1973 graduate of East Carolina University, Hunter has always wanted to coach. Over the past 24 years he has coached basketball, softball, football and golf.

Although he admits that it is difficult to single out just one top player that he has coached, he does agree that the 1997-99 State Championship team stands out among the others. When asked what he thinks makes a good player, Hunter responds, "One that gives 110%, no matter what the score is." As for what makes a good coach, he points out,

"Good players. A good coach has to know the type of players he has and coach accordingly."

Hunter has acquired the admiration of players, coaches and parents throughout his career. Tiffany Harrington has played basketball on Hunter's high school team for the past four years, including the 1997-98 State Champs. Harrington complemented Hunter on his coaching abilities, "He's definitely devoted. He always puts in a lot of hard work and he's patient."

The respect between player and coach is reciprocal. Hunter comments, "The most rewarding aspect of being a coach is seeing kids do the best they can do and that's not necessarily winning."

Hunter has served as East Duplin Athletics Director since 1991. He credits his desire to become a teacher to his aunt and has taught numerous subjects including math, science, health, PE and the yearbook computer class.



Outstanding Young Men of America®



This is to certify that

JERRY WADE HUNTER



*has been selected as an Outstanding Young Man of America
for 1982 in recognition of outstanding professional achievement,
superior leadership ability and exceptional service to the
community.*

Doug Blankenship

Doug Blankenship
Chairman, Board of Advisors

Region 2 Takes Basketball Gold Medal In State Games

In basketball, height is associated with victory. The Region 2 high school team lacked height, but Coach Jerry Hunter said their speed earned them the gold and an undefeated record in the State Games last month.

Hunter, girls' basketball and softball coach at East Duplin, was selected by the North Carolina Amateur Sports Association to coach the first round of girls basketball competition included in the State Games. The games were held June 16-18, with the championship, East versus West, on June 19th at Northern High School in Durham.



Coach Jerry Hunter

Hunter's assistant coaches were Jean Mobley of New Bern High School and Luke Vail of Charles B. Aycock High, both from Region 2. Mobley is a former East Duplin High graduate. The state is divided into 8 regions for the competition. Region 2 is made-up of 13 counties.

"A coach always wonders what he could do if he had a bunch of all-

lot easier because I knew what he expected out of me." Newberne attends Louisburg College in the fall on a full basketball scholarship. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Newberne of Pink Hill.

"I was expecting them all to be better than me," Newberne said, "but, I don't think that was so." Playing with girls Newberne had played against during the past season was also an advantage because past competition gave her insight into their ability.

Also, from the 2-A East Central Conference were Clinton players Danyell Parker and Tonya Sampson, and from the Carolinas 1-A Conference, Lisa Williams of Hobbton.

The starting team included Newberne at small forward, Parker at guard, Sampson at forward, Williams at point guard, and Hycynthia Spells of Goldsboro High School at center.

Warren, a rising junior, "was my sixth player" Hunter said. She played in both the forward and center position.

The Region 2 team consisted of 12 players and one alternate, each nominated by their high school basketball coach. Final team selection was made by Hunter and his assistant coaches.

During the entire competition, Hunter said the Region 2 team had the opportunity to practice together only six times!

By the yardstick, two members of the Region 2 team were 6 ft. tall. In the gold medal game, they faced the

champions from the West which had three players over 6 ft. tall.

"We simply out-ran them," Hunter smiled. "We were the quickest team there. All the games were close, but the team was never behind during the whole tournament." The Region 2 team led in all the games they played and won by a margin of 1 to 10 points. During the championship game, Hunter said his team lead by as much as 18 points.

"I had coached against five of these girls (Region 2 team members)



Valerie Newberne

this season," Hunter said. "And, it was hard for these girls (all team members), at first, to participate in a game and not be the superstar. They had been used to playing most of the game at their high school and being

Whirlpool **TEN**

For 2 Big Days Only - This Friday

Boys and Girls Basketball

East Central 2A All Conference Teams

The 1987-88 ADVERTISER-NEWS boys and girls all conference teams in the East Central 2A Conference was a tough task to select. We have many to thank for the information and guidance given us in order to select the all conference players.

Boys Team

League champion Pender furnished the Coach of the Year for the boys team in Joe Clay Jones. Pender also had Anthony Powell and Sharmin Marshall on the first team.

Fox Moore and Thomas Bist, the heart and soul of the East Duplin Panthers, earned a place on the select five as well.

The fifth spot went to White Oak's Mike Towner, who led a gallant Viking bid in the Conference Tourney that carried them into the final before bowing to mighty Pender.

The second team is led by East Duplin's Travis Wallace and Clinton's Ester Parker. These two, along with Darius Fennell of Wallace-Rose Hill and Sherwood Philyaw and Reggie Blackmore of James Kenan, could give the first line a battle on any given night.

Girls Team

Miss Everything, Valerie Newberne of the Lady Panthers of East Duplin, tops the selections to the girls all conference first team.

Complimenting Valerie on the dream squad are the dynamic duo from Clinton, Danyel Parker and Tonya Sampson. Jennifer Faison of Clinton and Wallace-Rose Hill's Kim Carney round out the first five.

The girls second team, like the boys' number two team is a com-

petitive squad that on a given night could flat put it to the first five.

Chandra Branch and Tara Brown of the Lady Panthers add an awesome punch to this talented five. Completing the unit are Olivia Henry of James Kenan, Cassandra Wright of Wallace-Rose Hill and Pender's Francine Corbett.

And, what about a coach worthy of this outstanding team? Overwhelmingly, it is Jerry Hunter of East Duplin. Hunter did a marvelous job leading the Lady Panthers to the Conference Championship and his coaching is without a peer. To go with the talent, Hunter has another characteristic that's hard to beat. He's a nice guy and a gentleman rolled into one. Sure great for high school sports when a coach cannot only be a winner but a class act to go with it.



JERRY HUNTER - Girls East Central Conference 2A Coach of the Year.

Now or never

Led by Coach Jerry Hunter and 6-foot-9 East Carolina recruit Clifteana McKiver, East Duplin has its sights set on a state 2-A title.

East Duplin seniors have unfinished business: winning title

BY TIM STEVENS
STAFF WRITER

East Duplin, which seems on the threshold of the state 2-A girls basketball championship every year, hopes it has found the key to unlocking that door.

The Panthers have won 20 or more games and reached the sectional playoff finals for the past 10 years.

Coach Jerry Hunter has built a 210-41 record during the period and has earned statewide respect, but a state crown has proven as elusive in the Beaufort community as a native Carolina panther.

Two years ago, the club finished 26-1, losing in the sectional final to St. Paul's.

Last season, the team dashed to a 25-1 record before being ousted in the sectional final by North Johnston.

This season, a state championship remains the goal, and the Panthers have plenty of experience and talent to start them on the way.

"These seniors have talked about going to the state finals since they were sophomores," Hunter said. "I think they've got a good shot at it this year."

Four starters return, including 6-foot-8



If East Duplin is to reach its goal of a state championship, Coach Jerry Hunter says the Panthers must be ready to play fullcourt defense.

Clifteana McKiver, an East Carolina recruit, and 5-9 senior Ebony Green. McKiver averaged 25 points and 14 rebounds, and Green averaged 18 points and eight rebounds.

They are joined in the starting lineup by point guard Brooks Brant and 5-8 guard Carolee Jones.

Susan Kennedy, 5-10, or Blair Turner, 5-7, probably will round out the lineup for the East Central 2-A Conference team.

"McKiver is one of the top two or three big girls in the state, and this club has some experience. They know just what a job it is to get to the state finals. No one can do it by herself, so no one is selfish. I think we're all

looking forward to the season."

Hunter said one more ingredient must be added for the Panthers to achieve their goal: improved defense. He said he wasn't quite pleased with last year's defensive execution.

Hunter, who built the program on man-to-man defensive principles, wants this year's club to control games with defensive pressure.

"The weakest part of our game last year was defense," Hunter said. "We couldn't use as much fullcourt defense as we had in the past. This year, we want to go out and play fullcourt defense rather than halfcourt. We are a little quicker this season."

East Duplin wins state 2A championship

Girls defeat Ledford, 59-45

BY DAVID B. EARP
DAILY NEWS STAFF

CHAPEL HILL — The signs were posted on the Highway 54 turnoff from Interstate 40, reading 'Go EDHS, Win Panthers'.

That's just what the Panthers did, and the East Duplin girls' basketball team is the North Carolina 2-A State Champions after a stellar victory on Saturday, defeating Ledford, 59-45.

Ledford, from Thomasville, has been to the state finals three times in the last four years. Ledford, also called the Panthers, won the championship in 1995 and 1997 and came into the game with a 29-1 overall record.

East Duplin boasted an unblemished record of 28-0. The five senior starters for East Duplin — Brooks Brant, Karolee Jones, Clifeteana (Teana) McKiver,

first quarter alone.

"This has been the best week of practice we've ever had, we were focused all week," said East Duplin coach Jerry Hunter. "We felt they could not stop Teana and that's been our game plan for 28 games before this one so we just stuck to our game plan tonight."

Ledford got as close as six points in the second quarter but were not able to catch East Duplin.

East Duplin would never trail in the game with Green scoring 16 points and Brant adding nine.

Jones finished with seven and Kennedy topped out at six.

East Duplin controlled the tempo by not letting Ledford get to them with its full court press or its give-and-go, back door offensive style. That allowed East Duplin to relax and make the shots that needed to be made. Ledford, on the other hand, just could not settle into

Ebony Green and Susan Kennedy — came into the championship game with a career record of 103-6 and now they can add a state title to their resume.

The game started fast and exciting for East Duplin with McKiver, who won MVP honors after the game, scoring the first basket of the game in 18 seconds.

Ledford could not score until its fourth possession. The drought was forced because McKiver blocked the first two shots Ledford had then Green grabbed a loose ball to take yet another opportunity away from them.

The Panthers from Ledford did finally get on the board with 5:30 remaining in the first quarter making the score 8-2.

McKiver had a tremendous game with 20 points, 15 rebounds and five blocked

SEE EAST DUPLIN/7C

take bad shots and throw the ball away often.

"The subs did a great job coming in tonight," said Hunter. "We played good defense all night, this group of five seniors has been with me for seven years, going to camp with me when they were in middle school. They just believed in what we've done and it just paid off."

East Duplin	14	13	9	20	59
Jacksonville	18	15	21	9	45

EAST DUPLIN (59)

Green 5-17 6-8 16, Kennedy 3-5 1-2 7, McKiver 8-13 4-7 20, Jones 2-3 0-0 6, Brant 2-4 4-5 9, Bowen 0-1 0-0 0, Asmus 0-0 0-0 0, Honeguy 0-0 0-0 0, Thigpen 0-0 0-0 0, Harrington 0-0 0-0 0, Larier 0-0 0-0 0, Sanderson 0-0 0-0 0, Spangler 0-0 1-2 1. TOTALS 20-43 15-24 59.

LEDFORD (45)

Sharp 2-5 0-1 4, Embler 3-8 2-2 8, W. Patterson 2-10 1-2 5, Sharp 0-4 1-2 1, Hinkle 4-20 6-8 14, Mendenhall 0-0 0-0 0, East 0-0 0-0 0, A. Patterson 1-1 0-0 2, Besaw 0-0 0-0 0, Bernier 0-0 1-2 1, Hinson 0-0 0-0 0, Smith 2-5 2-5 6, Reece 1-3 2-4 4. TOTALS 15-38 15-24 45.

Halftime — E. Duplin 28, Ledford 22. 3-Point goals — E. Duplin 3-5 (Green 0-1, Jones 2-2, Brant 1-2), Ledford 0-10 (Embler 0-1, W. Patterson 0-1, Hinkle 0-8). Fouled out — None. Rebounds — E. Duplin 45 (McKiver 15), Ledford 34 (Embler, Hinkle 6). Assists — E. Duplin 13 (Brant 7), Ledford 8 (Hinkle 4). Total fouls — E. Duplin 20, Ledford 19.

JACKSONVILLE
DAILY NEWS
3/24/98

East Duplin foils Ledford's bid for title repeat

By ERIC KEPLEY
Sports Writer

CHAPEL HILL — Too many bricks, too much Clifeteana McKiver and too many bad signs.

Suffering through a woeful 26% shooting performance and running into a center that dominated the paint on both ends of the court, Ledford's Lady Panthers failed in their bid to repeat as 2-A state champions Saturday night at Carmichael Auditorium.

Ledford tossed up 58 field-goal tries but only 15 found the mark and McKiver, East Duplin's 6-3 center, scored 20 points, grabbed 15 rebounds and blocked five shots to lead her club to a convincing 59-45 win to cap a perfect 29-0 season.

Forward Ebony Green, the other half of East Duplin's dynamic duo, logged all 32 minutes and contributed 16 points, nine boards and five assists. East Duplin's role players did their thing, too: Guard Karolee Jones drained a pair of treys, including a bomb from the right corner early in the fourth quarter that helped deflate Ledford, and point guard Brooks Brant dished out a game-high seven assists and tallied nine points. Forward Susan Kennedy added seven points.

Coach Jerry Hunter had won 394 games with a .799 winning percentage over 17 seasons at East Duplin heading into Saturday's showdown, but never the top prize.

"I'm speechless ... this is a long time coming," sighed Hunter, who's starting lineup consisted of five seniors. "This is the first time for this group that we've been healthy through all the playoff rounds. We had our best week of practice ever and followed the game plan — which was the same as the 28 games before.

"We didn't feel Ledford could stop her (McKiver). Ledford plays great defense, but we got her the ball.

"The St. Pauls' game (sectional final) was the key for us. When we came from down 12 in the first half and eventually won by two in overtime, it gave us the confidence we needed. We've played with so much confidence since then."

St. Pauls is the school Ledford edged 59-57 in last year's title clash.

McKiver set the tone of the game from the very outset. After winning the opening tap, she set up down low, promptly took a lob pass from Green and scored. Except for four free throws she made, the rest of McKiver's points all came within a yardstick's length from the hoop on layups and putbacks. Immediately making her presence felt on the defensive end, McKiver swatted back forward Whitney Patterson's shot and quickly planted a seed of intimidation. McKiver had four of her blocks in the opening 4:10.

"She was able to clog up the middle down low and that made it

difficult to dribble penetrate and get to the basket," noted Ledford coach John Ralls after being denied his third state championship in the last four seasons. "She's the best pure inside player we faced this year."

Patterson, who stepped to score a game-high 17 points in Ledford's 60-43 victory over Forest Hills in the Western Regional, was never really a factor. In 20 minutes, she went 2-10 from the floor and managed just five points and three rebounds.

McKiver stuck back a Kennedy miss and Green drove for two on the fast break before Ledford got on the board at the 5:30 mark on Stacey Hinkle's jumper. Forced to shoulder a huge offensive burden,

Hinkle couldn't consistently produce in her swan song as she had in copping MVP honors in Ledford's state championships of '95 and '97. Hinkle netted 14 points, but missed 16 of 20 shots and all eight from 3-point range.

With McKiver patrolling the area around the hoop, East Duplin was able to play Hinkle straight up defensively with Green.

"The main thing is we wanted to keep Hinkle from penetrating," Hunter commented. "We wanted to keep her 12-15 feet from the basket."

Frustration was Ledford's only friend on this night — it was never really in the game, but never really out of it, either, until midway

See Ledford, PAGE 9A

Thomasville Times
3/24/98

Ledford,

From PAGE 8A

through the final stanza.

The Lady Panthers-West, who never got closer than six after Brant converted an old-fashioned three-point play off a driving layup that made it 9-2 with 4:54 left in the first period, flirted with several serious comebacks, but also teetered on the brink of being blown out in each of the first three quarters.

East Duplin led by as many as 13 (22-9) midway into the second quarter, but Ledford clawed back to within 28-22 by intermission. A bad omen visited Ledford just before the break as Hinkle got confused, misread the clock above the far basket after taking an inbound pass near the bench and launched a desperation heave from behind midcourt with seven ticks still showing.

Another strange thing happened late that created negative vibes for the locals — adding insult to injury as the game was slipping away, a whopping 18 seconds somehow elapsed on the clock as East Duplin's Kennedy was at the foul line shooting two. The time was restored, but one had to conclude that this just wasn't Ledford's night.

The Lady Panthers-East responded to the third-quarter bell by going on an 8-0 run, triggered by two McKiver buckets in the first 1:19 off Brant feeds. Down 36-22, Ledford fought back behind Hinkle and reserve center Lindsay Smith, who combined for nine points during a 13-5 spurt to close the quarter. When Smith curled around McKiver under the basket seeking to draw the fourth foul on the big East Duplin pivot before canning a reverse layup, the locals trailed by six, 41-35.

A fourth quarter charge was not forthcoming, however, as Ledford went 7:09 without a bucket until center Brooke Embler hit a jumper.

"It wasn't real pretty in the

fourth quarter," lamented Ralls, whose team shot 2-15 over the last eight minutes. "We would like to have shot the ball better and gave us a chance. "We were hoping to contain 'em and stay within striking distance.

"We just never could get enough defensive stops ... they did have 24 turnovers so we did a good job defensively ... but at the other end we just shot so poorly.

"Green and McKiver are tough. We did what we do best and they were able to beat us. They passed the ball better than I thought; Green did a nice job penetrating and McKiver has great hands around the basket."

A slashing driver able to dribble and shoot equally well with either hand, Green effectively was a point forward on the floor. When McKiver sat out the final 5:55 on the second quarter after picking up two quick fouls, Green, who led East Duplin with 11 points in the first half, helped take up the slack. She got to the free throw line six times in the last 2:02, and made five points.

McKiver got her third foul midway through the third quarter, but never picked up another.

"I just had to keep my arms up to play defense ... I knew if I brought them down around my body, I'd be called for a foul."

McKiver exited the action for good in pain rather than pleasure, at least temporarily, after taking an inadvertent shot to the mouth near the Ledford basket with 33.8 ticks left that produced some temporary bleeding.

"I wanted to come out of the game then," joked McKiver dur-

ing the postgame press conference. When she had walked to midcourt a few minutes earlier to be honored as the championship game MVP, she had cotton protruding from her nose, a la boxing.

Quickly putting Saturday's setback in perspective, Ralls reflected on the big picture and heaped praise on his team.

"I couldn't be prouder. From Day One, we've enjoyed the ride — we wanted the trip to be as much fun as the destination. Our season as a whole makes up for it."

"I told them 'Thank you' for a great season. It's been the best team as far as togetherness and being a great bunch of kids ... I love 'em too death."

Hinkle, who said she enjoyed this team the best of any during her outstanding career, said any pressure to repeat was self-induced.

"Mostly, no, there wasn't any pressure. Most of the pressure was what we put on ourselves. We'd been here and knew what it felt like to win, so we all wanted to do it again."

2-A state championship

East Duplin	14	14	13	18	- 59
Ledford	6	16	13	10	- 45

EAST DUPLIN (59) - McKiver 20, Green 16, Brant 9, Kennedy 7, Jones 6, Spangler 1.

LEDFORD (45) - Hinkle 14, Embler 8, Smith 6, Patterson 5, M. Sharp 4, Reece 4, A. Patterson 2, Berrier 1, Sharp 1.

East Duplin spoils Ledford's chance at third title in 4 years

■ McKiver scores 20, lead Panther girls to 29th win, in 2-A final

By John Dell
JOURNAL REPORTER

CHAPEL HILL

Ledford's dream of a third 2-A state girls championship in the past four years came to an end last night as East Duplin completed a perfect season in posting a 59-45 victory.

Cliffeteana McKiver, a 6-3 senior center, scored 20 points and had six blocked shots to pace East Duplin (29-0). Ledford, which trailed the entire game, ends its season with a 29-2 record.

Backing McKiver was forward Ebony Green, who scored 16 points and did an outstanding job controlling Ledford's fullcourt press. Green and point guard Brooks Brant had little trouble against Ledford's pressure.

Ledford, behind by six points entering the final quarter, was outscored 8-2 in the first four minutes of the fourth quarter to open a 49-37 lead. Brant hit one of two free throws to end the run.

Despite picking up three fouls in the first half, and her fourth foul midway through the third quarter, McKiver was able to do damage on the inside almost every time she touched the ball. With 2:14 left, McKiver took a pass on the inside

from Green to score a layup to push East Duplin's lead to 52-40. When McKiver made two free throws with 1:45 to go, Ledford trailed 66-40.

Ledford struggled from outside. Guard Stacey Hinkle, a two-time state MVP during Ledford's title runs, finished with 12 points.

McKiver, saddled with foul trouble in the first half, helped East Duplin to a 36-22 lead with 5:12 to go in the third quarter. But Ledford, which had only lost to High Point Central in the Central Carolina Conference championship game, came roaring back to cut East Duplin's lead to 41-35 by the end of the third quarter.

But Ledford tired and East Duplin went ahead by 12 points early in the fourth. Ledford was able to cut the lead to just 10 points.

In the first half, Ledford fell behind by 13 points. When Korolee Jones hit a 3-pointer for East Duplin with 6:22 to go in the half, Ledford trailed 22-9.

McKiver helped East Duplin get off on the right foot by blocking four shots in the first quarter and it led 14-6 after the first eight minutes.

Ledford mounted a comeback after falling behind by 13. A 7-0 run by Ledford midway through the second quarter cut the margin to 22-16. Misty Sharp grabbed an offensive rebound off a missed free throw, and scored on a layup to pull Ledford to six.

McKiver picked up her third foul with 5:55 to go in the half, then sat out the final portion of the half. By halftime Ledford trailed by a 28-22 score.

During the first two minutes of the game, McKiver made an immediate impact by blocking three shots and scoring East Duplin's first four points. But when she went to the bench with her third foul, Ledford was able to work the ball on the inside and was more effective.

Ledford ends its season with a 28-2 record and a four-year record of 113-10. Ledford had won a state title last season and in 1995.

NOTES: Hinkle, who has signed to play at Campbell next season, is the daughter of Ledford Athletics Director Gary Hinkle. Stacey Hinkle headed into last night's game averaging 17.8 points a game and 4.3 rebounds. She was also shooting 51 percent from the field. . . . Whitney Patterson, a junior at Ledford, entered last night's game shooting 47.3 percent and 6.2 rebounds a game. . . . McKiver, East Duplin's 6-3 center, is already signed to play at East Carolina. Before last night's game, she was shooting 69.4 percent from the field.

East Duplin	14	14	13	10	—	59
Ledford	8	14	13	18	—	45

Records — East Duplin 29-0, Ledford 29-2

East Duplin girls win state

CHAPEL HILL (AP) — East Duplin's Clifeteana McKiver scored 15 of her game-high 20 points in the second half and grabbed 15 rebounds as the Panthers won the Class 1A women's state high school basketball championship 59-45 Saturday over defending champion Ledford.

Ebony Green added 16 points and nine rebounds in the victory that gave senior-laden East Duplin (29-0) its first state championship in any sport.

Coach Jerry Hunter emptied his bench in the final minute but East Duplin's five senior starters produced all their team's points, rebounds, assists and steals.

Stacey Hinkle topped the scoring for Ledford (29-2) with 14 points.

East Duplin led from start to finish but never could shake

Ledford until the final minutes. Beaten on the boards 45-34 and limited most of the night to one shot per possession, Ledford went 8:17 without a basket in the second half and missed 16 of its last 18 shots.

"We fought and we fought but we never could come all the way back," Ledford coach John Ralls said. "They beat us at what we do best. And we shot ourselves in the foot some in the fourth quarter."

Kinston Free Press

3/24/98

East Duplin derails Panthers

By Zack Albert
STAFF SPORTS WRITER



When the trophy table was carried to half-court Saturday night, it was the first time in three title game appearances the championship hardware was not reserved for Ledford. The Panthers were forced to watch the winners' ceremony they had enjoyed twice in the previous three seasons.

That perk was reserved for East Duplin. East denied Ledford its third state 2A title in four seasons, posting a wire-to-wire 59-45 victory in a battle of Panthers and securing its first state crown in any sport at UNC-Chapel Hill's Carmichael Auditorium.

Ledford, which wound up 29-2, finished its four-year playoff reign of terror with the 1995 and '97 championships and this season's runner-up finish.

"From day one, we enjoyed the ride the whole way," Ledford coach John Ralls said. "You want the trip to be just as fun as the final destination. This time, our trip was great. The final destination wasn't exactly what we wanted."

Although Ledford had bloodied East Duplin star Clifeteana McKiver by game's end, the 6-foot-3 senior center - nicknamed "The Big Dog" - still had Ledford on her own leash.

McKiver, stunned by an elbow to the nose in the final minute, struck for 20 points on 8-of-13 shooting inside and 15 rebounds on the way to the game's Most Valuable Player award, despite an early bout with foul trouble.

"We felt like they couldn't stop 'Teana," East Duplin coach Jerry Hunter said. "That's been our game plan for 28 games before this one, and we saw no need to change it at this

"From day one, we enjoyed the ride the whole way."
— John Ralls, Ledford coach

time. They played great defense on us, but we just did a great job of getting her the basketball."

Despite a feisty Ledford trap, McKiver caught several passes off of lobbs, exploiting her foes' height disadvantage.

"She was every bit of what we heard," Ralls said. "She has great hands, real good around the basket. She was tough."

The only tougher night belonged to Ledford senior Stacey Hinkle. The 5-9 guard, who had twice before basked in the stadium's glare as the championship game MVP, finished with a 4-of-20 shooting performance that included misses on all eight of her 3-point attempts.

Hinkle, bound for Campbell in the fall, finished her high school career with a team-high 14 points and six rebounds in a frustrating 31 minutes.

"It just wasn't going in," Hinkle said.

East, which finished its perfect season at 29-0, benefitted from superb starts in each half. McKiver boasted East Duplin out to an early lead, scoring twice in the first minute as Ledford fell behind 6-0.

East extended the lead to 9-2 and held a 14-6 edge at the first quarter's end. By then, McKiver had five points, four rebounds and four blocked shots.

East Duplin led by as much as 19-6 in the second quarter, but Ledford surged back into contention after McKiver garnered her second foul in rapid succession with 5:55 left until

"We felt like they couldn't stop 'Teana (Clifeteana McKiver)."
— Jerry Hunter,
East Duplin coach

halftime. Ledford orchestrated a 7-0 scoring run and crept within 28-22 at the break.

After the intermission, East Duplin roared away with four straight layups - two from McKiver - that set the quarter in motion and gave East a 14-point advantage. Ledford held tight with five points in the quarter from freshman reserve forward Lindsay Smith and four from Hinkle. East led 41-35 at the end of the third quarter.

Then Ledford's shooting went far colder than the 29.5 percent it had made up to the final period. Ledford went without a field goal in the first seven minutes of the fourth quarter, misfiring on nine tries in that span.

A 10-foot jumper by Brooke Embler (eight points) and Ashley Patterson's only layup cushioned the blow in the last minute. By then, East Duplin possessed a double-digit lead on the shoulders of 7-of-10 free-throw shooting.

Ledford shot 15-of-58 (25.9 percent) for the game, including 2-of-14 in the final quarter. The team's five starters were a combined 11-of-49.

"I don't think it was real pretty," Ralls said, before receiving a statistics sheet for proof. "We had a couple of chances, but we could never get back. ... We were hoping that we could contain them and stay within striking distance."

Ebony Green, East Duplin's press-breaking guard, finished with 16 points and nine rebounds. Teammate Brooks Brant added nine points.

Highpoint
Interview
3/22/98

Ledford's final game goes higgledy-piggledy

For all the things that went higgledy-piggledy with Ledford's trip to the state championship, the game itself was the coup de grace.

Chapel Hill

The Panthers fell in their quest for a third 2A crown in four years, which was spoiled by East Duplin and Clifeteana McKiver. The East Carolina signee, a true physical specimen at 6-foot-3, bagged 20 points and 15 rebounds in the 59-45 victory.

Yet Ledford's star-crossed weekend began long before Saturday night's late tipoff at Carmichael Auditorium.

The Panthers' Friday consisted of dodging the heavy thunderstorms that pounded the Triangle area and brought tornados to the west.

A fire ignited in their Durham hotel. Although it was quickly snuffed, the sprinkler system received a timely test.

Then came the kicker.

Zack Albert



SPORTS

Open Saturday's championship program to page 21. You will find the names that piloted Ledford's postseason drive this year, but the faces don't match up.

Sure, Stacey Hinkle is in the team photo, as is Misty Sharp - both departing seniors this season. But included are faces from the past - Ginger Cox, Courtney Patterson, Marcy Newton among them - in older black uniforms.

A computer error placed Ledford's 1995 championship team in this year's magazine. Sure, it might have been nice to reminisce, but the caption may as well have read "not pictured" for the dozen players that comprise the current roster.

This was the prelude? Ouch.

The omens didn't stop after the tip.

After misreading the game clock, Hinkle heaved a desperation halfcourt shot with a good seven seconds left before halftime. One referee dropped his whistle more than once, one time requiring a stoppage of play. In the fourth quarter, the game's heralded electronic timing system malfunctioned, allowing 18 seconds to elapse during a dead-ball situation.

It proved once again that the only thing worse than human error is computer error.

In the end, Ledford couldn't shake the omens or



AP photo

Ledford's Lindsay Smith reacts to loss Panthers fell to East Duplin Saturday

the brutish McKiver, who scored 15 points in the second half as Ledford's shooting wilted below 30 percent.

It was almost painful to watch Hinkle, after nailing so many big shots in her career, struggle with her shot in the same arena where she had

been touched by gold in two previous title runs. She finished 4-of-20, 0-for-8 on 3-pointers and exasperated.

Hinkle watched this one end from the bench, just as she had done in '95. As a lanky freshman, she fouled out with 1:40 left and bawled on the sidelines as she walked off the court. Her tears were later wiped away in a 65-60 victory over Southwest Guilford and the first of her two MVP awards.

Saturday, she smacked the floor in frustration and was heckled mercilessly by East Duplin fans. It was not an easy way to go out, a point that coach John Ralls reiterated in postgame comments.

Still, with all the oddball events that surrounded Ledford, it appeared to be the looser team before the game. East's players, under the championship microscope for the first time, were like wide-eyed does staring at a Peterbilt truck.

After 32 minutes of basketball, the feelings had changed.

"I think the only pressure we felt was the pressure we put on ourselves," Hinkle said.

Too tall an opponent. Too many omens. Too sad an ending.

Zack Albert covers press for the Enterprise

High Point Enterprise
3/24/98

Hunter won with 'girl-to-girl' defense

Continued from page 33

During five seasons (1986-90), East Duplin won 110 games. Almost unimaginably, 17 of their 24 losses were to Clinton. Twice, the teams played in the East Regional final, the Lady Panthers losing in 1989 and winning in 1991.

"In 1988, and again in 1990, I think we probably had the second-best 2A team in the state," said Hunter. "But we happened to be in the same conference with the best team in the state."

Clinton went to four straight girls State 2A championship games and split single-digit decisions, losing to Bandys in 1987 and '88 and winning in 1989 and '90 over Bunker Hill and Newton-Conover.

East Duplin answered back in 1990-91, when they beat the Lady Dark Horses four times, including the East final, won 27-3 and were State 2A runners-up. In the finale, Madison High trumped East's man-to-man defense by employing full-court pressure to win 66-48.

"That year," said Hunter, "Hannah Grady (6-foot-1) was my center, and she was outstanding. So the two times we got to the state final, we had good size in the low post."

The other time, of course, was in 1998, the state championship year, when 6-2 Teana McKiver dominated inside. She had 20 points and 15 rebounds in the final as East Duplin beat Thomasville Ledford 59-45.

"Teana blocked four of their first seven shots," said Hunter, "we scored our first three or four times down the floor—and it was over."

"Our girls had told me we'd win ever since we watched the Ledford tape early in the week."

"The only time I saw them a little scared was before the sectional final that year on our home court against St. Pauls, because they'd beaten us in the sectional final the year before."

"That was probably my toughest loss, because I'd thought all that year we were going all the way."

In that 58-56 victory over the St. Pauls girls in 1997, East forward Susan Kennedy, an inconsistent free-throw shooter, hit two in the final seconds. Then, St. Pauls' three-quarter-court desperation defense bounced straight up off the rim, hit the iron a second time and fell off.

Hunter still said, 10 years later, "If that shot had gone, I probably would've committed suicide!"

In the regional, they beat Rockledge Rapids 65-37 and routed unbeaten Edenton Holmes—again—61-41 in the final.

In the state title tilt against Ledford, the Lady Panthers' other star, forward Ebony Green, scored 16 points and took Ledford's best player out of the game with suffocating defense. Kennedy scored seven, point guard Brooks Brant scored nine and sank a clutch

three-pointer—and wing Carol Lee Jones nailed two threes—to halt a Ledford comeback.

Special players

Hunter never had many truly great scorers, two exceptions being McKiver (22 points per game) and Nikki Bowen (26.5 in 2000-01). McKiver started at Tulane University and is playing in the WNBA for the defending champion Phoenix Mercury.

"Teana's the best player we've ever had," said Hunter, "but pound for pound, Nikki was probably the best. She wasn't big, but she pretty much did what she wanted inside."

Special players require special rules, even under special coaches.

"I never said we've got to go to a certain person every time, because we've been very team oriented," Hunter said. "But with Teana, in particular, we had a rule that when we set up in our half-court offense, she had to touch the ball at least once before we took a shot."

It worked both ways: He said he also never told anybody not to shoot when they were open.

"But I have told them," he said with a twinkle in his eye. "Sometimes there's a reason you're open." You know, "At crunch time, always make sure you do what you do best."

Another among many leading players for Hunter was playmaker Megan McMahon, daughter of East Duplin boys coach Tom McMahon. Megan played with Bowen and finished in 2002.

"She could have scored 25 points a game (and did sometimes)," said her former coach, "but for four solid years, I had to absolutely beg Megan McMahon to shoot the basketball. I mean, beg. She was so unselfish, and she was afraid her teammates would think she was hogging the ball." He smiled and shook his head.

"But really, that sums up how a lot of my teams were. They were totally unselfish and just tickled to death to win."

Hunter was always a defense-first kind of coach.

"I've had kids that played a lot just because they played good, hard defense. That's always been a philosophy here. If you don't play defense, you're not going to play at all."

"And, of course, we had girls who were great at both ends of the floor. Teana was also a great shot-blocker and rebounder. And people talked about Megan as an offensive player with her passing and scoring, but for two years, she led us in steals. She was kinda sneaky quick."

No 'know-it-alls'

Hunter said he didn't start out to coach girls, but naturally moved into it—he also coached softball for 25 years, and coached girls and boys golf for 10. It's just that girls basketball was what was available at East Duplin in the 1973 ECU grad when he came in 1975 from

two years at Richlands.

"A lot of people might not think girls compete very hard, but they really do," he said. "They're fierce competitors."

The main difference in coaching girls and boys? Hunter thought a few moments.

"Girls don't think they know it all. They'll basically do anything on that court you ask them to do. It's fun to teach them, because the game is so much more fundamental, whereas sheer athleticism takes over so much with the boys."

Hunter also said he owes a great debt to his three longest-tenured JV coaches, who ran "all my stuff for all those years"—Denna Kennedy Miller, Wynelle Weston and Valerie Newbern.

It's just changed

As Hunter came down the stretch of his coaching career, his annual records have slipped. One thing is that a lot more teams play man-to-man defense. Camp is another. Now, he said, they're mostly glorified, week-long summer leagues, with little or no instruction.

He says he took 16 girls to camp last June, but only two who were starters. "I never said you have to come," he said with a touch of melancholy, "but for a long time, they just came."

It's also the age of the Internet and satellite dishes—and an easier, in some ways less accountable, lifestyle.

"There's so much more going on for the kids," said Hunter. "There's travel ball in softball and soccer... I don't know but what the kids aren't closer to their travel team than they are to their school teams."

"And it's not all sports. We've got smart kids who go to leadership camps in the summer, and some have gone on missionary trips to South America. I would never try to deny that for a kid, because they're great opportunities. It's just that they weren't there 10-20 years ago."

It's just changed

Still, the Lady Panthers are coming off solid seasons of 17-9 and 15-9, and Hunter is happy the makings are there for promoted assistant Ed Knudsen for a winning season in 2008-09.

"John Graham left me some

good players in 1975," Hunter said, "and I hope this will be a good experience for Eddie. He's passionate about the girls game, and he's a student of it. I feel real good leaving it with him."

Knudsen, a New Yorker, was Hunter's varsity assistant and girls JV coach the past two seasons. For two years before that, he was McMahon's assistant on the boys varsity.

Beulaville born and bred

Hunter said he's always been humbled by the opportunity to teach and coach at his alma mater on the outskirts of his hometown. As the old Beulaville High fight song went, he's "Beulaville born and Beulaville bred, and when he dies he'll be Beulaville dead."

East Duplin has been more than just his working life, but he began scaling down in 2003, when he retired from teaching science, math, health and physical education, and gave up coaching softball and boys and girls golf.

At the top of his list of people who have supported him is his wife, Judy, also an educator. "She's just phenomenal," he said. Their son Justin practices law in Jacksonville. "I don't know how many miles they've traveled just to be there for me," he said.

What has being a hometown coach and teacher meant to him? "I don't know how to say it... It's been great," he said.

"It's tough when you have to coach a friend's child, and I'd like to think they're all still my friends. I was not a great basketball player. I sat on the bench a lot, so I can relate to the kids I've had sit on the bench, and they're as important as the ones who scored a lot of points."

"A lot of them were tremendous 'practice players.' They worked their butts off in practice and made those other kids a whole lot better."

He paused another moment and said, "You know, I may not have coached the right way all the time, but I coached the best way I thought we could be competitive."

"And the toughest thing to say is, 'I'm through.'"

Bill Rollins can be reached at

bill.rollins@timesprogress.com

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January 23, 1992

Ms. Anne Flannery, Director
WBCA Summer Camps
1687 Tullie Circle, Suite 127
Atlanta, GA 30329-2316

Dear Anne:

Jerry Hunter, Head Girls' Basketball Coach at East Duplin High School in Beulaville, NC, has expressed an interest in a staff position at the 1992 WBCA Summer Camps and I would like to recommend him without reservation.

Coach Hunter is a tremendously successful high school coach. His teams have been State Runners-Up and Regional Champs numerous times, and he has received many regional and state coaching awards. He is definitely one of the most successful girls' high school coaches in the state of North Carolina and possibly on the entire East Coast.

Jerry has worked East Carolina University's Team and Individual summer basketball camps for the past five years and is an excellent instructor in the teaching of basketball fundamentals. My campers' evaluations consistently rate Coach Hunter's skill station as one of the stations they enjoyed and one where they learned the most during their week of camp. His knowledge of the game is thorough and he conveys that knowledge effectively through on-court instruction.

One of the characteristics that make Coach Hunter especially successful is his tremendous rapport with the young people with whom he works. His warm, friendly, caring nature makes him an instant hit with all the campers. He also has a tremendous sense of humor, which everyone needs during the rigors of camp. Coach Hunter is even a good sport when he's the brunt of the joke at the camp skit night!HA!

Jerry is energetic and enthusiastic about his profession as well as being a dedicated, hard-working coach. Jerry and his lovely wife Judy are both committed to educating young people and are also active in church and civic activities. They have a wonderful young son, Justin. Jerry is deeply admired in his community not only as a coach but also as an individual.

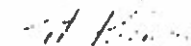
PirateTM

East Carolina University is a constituent institution of The University of North Carolina. An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Coach Hunter feels that this WBCA staff position offers him an opportunity to gain further experience in his chosen profession and I am confident that you could not search the nation and find a more competent, capable, and qualified coach.

If you desire additional information, please do not hesitate to call me. Thank you for any consideration which you might give Coach Hunter for the position.

Sincerely,



Pat Pierson
Head Coach
East Carolina University

PP/es

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS



January 28, 1992

Anne Flannery, Director, WBCA Summer Camps
1687 Tullie Circle, Suite 127
Atlanta, Georgia 30329-2316

Dear Anne:

I would like to recommend Jerry Hunter, Athletic Director and Girls Basketball Coach at East Dublin High School in Beulaville, N.C., as a coach for your WBCA Camp to be held in Chattanooga, Tn. Jerry has coached girls basketball for ten years and has a strong commitment to promoting girls basketball. Jerry has coached teams in the North Carolina State games, always takes his players to team camp and is consistently one of the best teams in the State-Play-Offs. He is a very knowledgeable coach with a strong team every year.

Jerry is also a very down to earth person. He is fun to have on staff and is very easy to work with. He would be a tremendous addition to your staff. If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Sylvia R. Hatchell

Sylvia R. Hatchell
Head Women's Basketball Coach
University of North Carolina

UNC
Wilmington

January 27, 1992

Anne Flannery
WBCA Camp Director
1687 Tullie Circle
Suite 127
Atlanta, GA 30329-2316

Dear Anne:

I am writing to you on behalf of Coach Jerry Hunter, girls basketball coach at East Duplin High School, Beulaville, NC. I feel he would be an asset to the WBCA Summer Camp Staff.

As women's basketball coach at UNC Wilmington, I've had the opportunity to see Coach Hunter's team play for the past several years. My observations are that he communicates very well with his players and has the ability to get the most out of his players. At the present time a member of my team is a former student/athlete of Coach Hunter's. I feel that her work ethic, outstanding attitude, and basic fundamentals are a direct result of the quality guidance she received in high school.

Coach Hunter has expressed his interest in becoming involved with the WBCA Camp programs, therefore I believe he would do a quality job with the young people he would come in contact with.

Please feel free to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Sherri Tynes
Head Basketball Coach

wmc

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



WBCA Summer Camps

Anne Flannery
Assistant Executive Director
Camps and Special Events

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May 8, 1992

Jerry Hunter
East Duplin High School
P.O. Box 188
Beaulaville, NC 28518

Dear Jerry:

The Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) is pleased to extend an invitation to you to become one of the members of our camp coaching staff at the Mideast Region of the WBCA Summer Camps, July 20-23 at The Baylor School in Chattanooga, Tenn. As you know, the WBCA is embarking on the Summer Camp project with the intent of running a model evaluation camp for our nation's finest athletes. As such, we have selected 180 of the elite 8th, 9th, and 10th grade basketball players throughout the Mideast region to attend the camp.

These model camps are designed to provide an area for student-athletes to improve their basketball skills and to be educated in such areas as recruiting, NCAA rules, drug/alcohol awareness, and nutrition. In addition, the camp will allow these student-athletes the opportunity to showcase their talents in a professional and positive environment.

You come highly recommended, not only for your basketball knowledge and coaching abilities, but also because of your interaction with, and development of, the student-athlete. The emphasis of our summer camps is on education, evaluation by top college coaches, and instruction by well-respected high school coaches. We know that you will help establish and maintain the high standards we are asking of our athletes and staff. The camp will require your energy, enthusiasm, and dedication. In addition, we really want you to have fun!

The following is a summary of information you will need to know regarding the camps:

1. All staff members receive the same salary of \$150.
2. You will be provided with room and board for the duration of camp.
3. You need to be at the dorm for staff registration/orientation by 8:00 a.m. on the morning of July 20. We'll let you know where in a follow-up letter in early June. We are also in



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Hunter
May 8, 1992
Page 2

the process of securing housing for those of you who may arrive the night before the camp session begins. Please let us know how and when you will arrive.

4. Please do not plan on leaving before 2:00 p.m. on the last day of camp.
5. You must currently be employed as a high school head coach.
6. Staff are required to wear camp attire provided by the WBCA. We will provide you with staff shirts from Converse, which you will wear each day and which we will launder for you. Please bring blue, black or red shorts to wear as well (no college logos, please!).
7. You will need to provide your own transportation to and from the camp site. If you are flying, we can provide you with the name of a transportation company who will get you to the camp for a small fee.

Enclosed please find three forms, which I will need for you to fill out:

- (1) Application Form. (I know some have already filled one out, but we need some additional information).
- (2) Consent Form.
- (3) Medical Assistance/Insurance Form.

Please complete these and return to the WBCA as soon as possible.

In addition, I have enclosed a camp outline and a tentative daily schedule/program for your information. We will be sending you further information in a follow-up letter in early June. This letter will contain a campus map, directions to the camp site, camp rules, and further specifics on the camp.

Again, we are excited about having you on board as a staff member at the Mideast Region of the WBCA Summer Camps.

We look forward to hearing from you. The deadline for a response is 5:00 p.m., Friday, May 15, 1992. We are asking that all responses be made over the phone. The WBCA's phone number is (404) 279-8027, and you can ask for Anne Flannery, Nan Elrod, or Karen Weisman. Please call at your earliest convenience, as we would like to finalize our staff list as soon as possible.

Hunter
May 8, 1992
Page 3

Please give our offer careful consideration. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call us at the aforementioned number.

I'm looking forward to working with you!

Sincerely,



Anne Flannery
Assistant Executive Director
Camps/Special Events

Enclosures

cc: Betty Jaynes

May 27, 1999

Dear Coach Hunter,

Hello! I am writing this letter in hopes that the rest of your year went well. I really enjoyed playing for you during the North/South game in April and have enclosed some copies of a few of the team pictures.

I hope that you have a great summer vacation and that next year your team has a successful season... Good luck in all your future endeavors whether it is as a coach on the court or a teacher in the classroom!

Love,

Courtney Plambeck

*PS. Have you checked out your interview
in that tape of the game? It was great -
especially that part when you started laughing
for no reason!! Good luck next year!*

May 13, 1998

Jerry Hunter
East Duplin High School
P. O. Box 188
Beulaville, North Carolina 28518

Dear Jerry,

Congratulations on an outstanding season! The feats you have accomplished are truly outstanding and place you among the elite in North Carolina. The state championship, the undefeated season and certification as an athletic director each would stand alone as worthy of recognition and you accomplished all three in one season. It took hard work, leadership and desire to make the achievements possible.

I would like to personally thank you for the time and expertise you dedicated to making Susan a better basketball player. I also appreciate the lessons you taught Susan and the rest of the team about life, hustle, goal setting and how to win graciously. There is no doubt about it, we won with class because of the standards you set and modeled for the team. When I retired from coaching, I always hoped that someone would be there for my children when they participated in sports. No one could have put more time, energy and effort in making a program for girls as competitive and fun as you did. Thank you for being there.

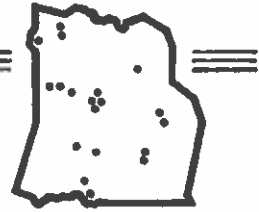
March 21, 1998. Carmichael Auditorium, the championship plaque, and the celebration at the Governor's Inn make wonderful memories that the entire East Duplin community will always cherish. Thank you for making it happen. You have truly made a difference in the lives of our children.

Sincerely,

Thomasine Kennedy

OFFICE OF
SUPERINTENDENT
Area (919) 298-1521

BOARD OF EDUCATION



DUPLIN COUNTY

P.O. Box 128
Kenansville, North Carolina 28349-0128

March 2, 1988

Mr. Jerry Hunter
Basketball Coach
East Duplin High School
P. O. Box 188
Beulaville, N. C. 28518

Dear Jerry:

On behalf of the Duplin County Board of Education and all supporters of athletics in Duplin County, I commend you and the fine 1987-88 East Duplin Lady Panthers Basketball Team for your tremendous success during the 1987-88 season and the subsequent winning of the East Central Conference Title. Certainly, it is not a success story without much dedication and hard work and conversations that I have heard from coaches and principals throughout the conference is the complete disciplined team that the East Duplin Lady Panthers exemplify. Certainly, we wish you great success as you move on into the conference tournament and eventually into the state playoffs. We will follow your progress very carefully.

Good luck!

Sincerely,

L. S. Guy, Jr.
Superintendent

LSG:smm

EAST DUPLIN HIGH SCHOOL
P.O. BOX 188, HWY 111 N.
BEULAVILLE, NC 28518

March 22, 1988

Mr. Jerry Hunter
Girls Varsity Basketball Coach
East Duplin High School
P. O. Box 188
Beulaville, North Carolina 28518

Dear Jerry,

I commend you for the outstanding manner in which you managed your basketball team in the '87-88 season.

Your leadership on and off the court has set a milestone and a standard for others to follow at East Duplin.

Your final standing as runner-up in the East can only be attributed to you and your team's ability to produce and the quality person that you are.

A cake has a lot of pieces and we got them all but two, and we got a bite of one of those.

Again, I commend you for a job well done.

Sincerely,



Ken

KK/eg

P.O. Box 188
Beulaville, NC 28518
March 16, 1996

Dear Mr. Hunter,

Words can never describe the feelings that a coach experiences through wins and losses during a season. The exhilarating feeling of winning is one you felt many times over this basketball season. This you deserved as your basketball team finished with a superb record. Your work and dedication have established a winning tradition for EDHS that will probably never be equalled for the girls' athletic program. I know you are very proud as I am for you and East Duplin. Congratulations!

Your work as athletic director has been tremendous, also. The programs you have put into place have made East Duplin a school that is admired and envied by many others. I was so proud during the Christmas Tournament at WRH when as I sat among the crowd, as one of the crowd, to hear people from Wallace and Pender comment on what a fine coaching staff EDHS has. I heard several say that EDHS is well-coached. What a tribute to you as you have developed a program for ED that has enabled this to happen.

Many long hours of work and personal sacrifice you have given to East Duplin for which you will never be paid monetarily. I thank you for this. However, I know you really do not need a thank you. You love East Duplin as I do, if not more.

Continue to develop your professional growth by attending workshops and clinics as your time allows.

Sincerely,



Dora Jernigan, Assistant Principal
East Duplin High School



North Carolina General Assembly

Legislative Office Building

Room 524

Raleigh 27603-5925

SENATOR WENDELL H. MURPHY
5TH DISTRICT
DUPLIN, JONES, LENOIR AND PENDER COUNTIES

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HOME: POST OFFICE BOX 280
ROSE HILL, N. C. 28458
919-289-2970

April 3, 1991

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EDUCATION
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HIGHER EDUCATION
PUBLIC UTILITIES

Mr. Jerry Hunter
Head Women's Basketball Coach
East Duplin High School
Post Office Box 492
Beulaville, North Carolina 28518

Dear Jerry

Congratulations on your fine championship basketball team this year at East Duplin High School. Obviously you did an excellent job in coaching this very talented team to an Eastern Championship and into the state championship game.

I am sure there is no greater satisfaction than to see young people excel as a team under your leadership. The Lady Panthers have long held an envious reputation for excellence, which I became very familiar with when Wendy played on your team, Jerry.

Thank you for your dedication to the development of our young people and, again, congratulations on your success.

Sincerely,

Wendell H. Murphy

cc: Mr. Ken Kennedy, East Duplin High Principal

WHM:efk
basketball/east duplin girls



Letter from a parent whose daughter became a coach upon college graduation.

Friday, May 20, 1983

Dear Jerry & Judy,

You probably think it a little strange getting a letter from me, but there are a few things I would like to say and I know they would only come out tears if I tried face to face. I'll try to put them into words, even though I know I won't be able to tell you how I truly feel.

I am certain that in a hundred years from now, when someone asks Berra who the one person in her life has meant the most to her, she will answer Jerry Hunter. Over the past four years I have watched her grow into a person I am very proud of, and I want to thank you for the many things you have done to help make her the kind of person

she has become. You have found things in her that she didn't even know was there. You drew them out and helped her develop them. You have shown her what determination can do. You have given her the desire and will to improve and develop her abilities. Abilities that most people wouldn't even have seen, much less, care what she did with them.

You were there when she needed guidance, encouragement, and when she needed support. You were there with praise when she did something good, and fussed her out (which she needed) when she did something stupid. She will always be able to draw upon the things you have taught her and anything she does.

Harold and I are very proud of our girls. when we see them doing things they enjoy and do well, it is almost like we are doing them ourselves. when you love your kids and care about what they are doing, you can't help being involved in what they do. Even if it is just yelling at the referee.

It is quite apparent that you, Judy & Justin, care a lot for Denna and Robin. This makes me very happy. The love your family has shown to them will stay with them always.

As this school year nears the end for Denna, mixed emotions are surfacing more & more. She is looking forward to next year, but knowing she won't be there with you is hurting her more than you will ever know. She can no longer hold back the tears when she thinks or talks about it.

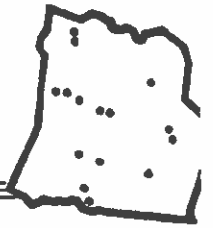
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She is really going to miss you. Even more
than she even knows. You have meant so
much to her. Her friendship with you & Judy
is something she will cherish forever. It
makes me very proud to know that you &
your family care for her so much.

Thank you for loving her and for
being her friend.

Diane Kennedy

OFFICE OF
SUPERINTENDENT
Tel (910) 296-1521

BOARD OF EDUCATION



DUPLIN COUNTY
P.O. Box 128
Kenansville, North Carolina 28349-0128

December 10, 1997

Mr. Jerry Hunter, Athletic Director
East Duplin High School
P. O. Box 188
Beulaville, NC 28518

Dear Jerry:

My sincere congratulations to you for organizing the details of game preparation and hosting a tremendously important contest at East Duplin last Friday night. It was obvious that much planning and detail preparation had been done for the game to have been played with the support mechanism in place. As Athletic Director you are to be commended for your many efforts to lift the East Duplin sports program to a new level and certainly if last Friday night is any indication, you are rising fast.

Continued good luck in these efforts.

Sincerely,

L. S. Guy, Jr.
Superintendent

LSG/smm

P.O. Box 175
Sneads Ferry, NC
May 21, 1990

Dear Coach Hunter:

I would like to thank you for the helpful advice you gave me after our game at East Duplin. Since then I have used the lighter Easton bat. My batting average has climbed ever since. I'm now batting .512. I used to think I couldn't hit with any other bat except my beloved 34" 32oz. I've found that my confidence has also risen with my batting average. My dad always told me I should hit with a lighter bat, but I didn't think I could. When you told me the same thing, I had to at least try. After having two coaches that I respect tell me the identical advice, I had to try it.

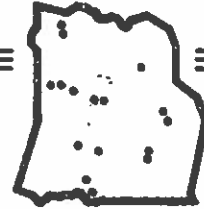
I want to wish you and the Lady Panthers lots of luck in the state playoffs and congratulations on a great 1990 season.

Thank you,
Edie Pine

OFFICE OF
SUPERINTENDENT
Area (919) 286-1521

BOARD OF EDUCATION

DUPLIN COUNTY
P.O. Box 128
Kenansville, North Carolina 28349-0128



March 21, 1990

Mr. Jerry Hunter, Coach
East Duplin High School
P. O. Box 188
Beulaville, N. C. 28518

Dear Jerry:

It is with much pride and admiration that I congratulate you and the fine East Duplin High School basketball team for a tremendous season. To move through the regular season, the conference tournament, the sectional and into the championship of the East was quite a remarkable accomplishment.

On behalf of the Duplin County Board of Education and all supporters of Duplin County athletics, I commend the team commitment and willingness to give the extra effort required to go that far in solid state competition. You are all winners in the truest sense of the word and all of us in the public schools are better because of your dedicated efforts.

Continued good luck as you savor the 1989-90 season and begin plans for "next" year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "L.S. Guy, Jr.".

L. S. Guy, Jr.
Superintendent

LSG/smm

EAST DUPLIN

KENNETH KENNEDY
PRINCIPAL
LINDER ERVIN
ASST. PRINCIPAL



HIGH SCHOOL

PO. BOX 188
BEULAVILLE, N. C.
TEL. (910) 298-4535
FAX. (910) 298-2021

December 16, 1997

Jerry Hunter, A.D.
East Duplin High School
P.O. Box 188
Beulaville, NC 28518

Dear Jerry,

Thanks! For all you do, and a special thanks for your recent efforts regarding the playoffs. Your hard work and attention to planning and follow through paid off for us.

No one will ever know the efforts and the attention to detail it took, except yourself, and probably your family. Your efforts were for an excellent cause, our school, our community and above all our kids. Time and young kids will be your measure. I'm sure when the final measurement is taken you will have some of the very highest marks.

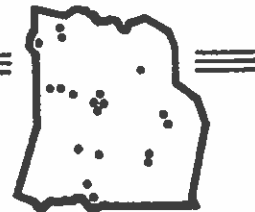
Again Jerry my warmest personal thanks.

Sincerely,

Kenneth D. Kennedy
Principal

OFFICE OF
SUPERINTENDENT
Area (919) 298-1521

BOARD OF EDUCATION



DUPLIN COUNTY
P.O. Box 128
Kenansville, North Carolina 28349-0128

March 31, 1992

Mr. Jerry Hunter
East Duplin High School
P. O. Box 188
Beulaville, NC 28518

Dear Mr. Hunter:

On behalf of the Duplin County Board of Education and all citizens of Duplin County, I congratulate you and the Lady Panthers for another tremendously successful basketball year. Your annual presence in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association playoff certainly brings credit to East Duplin but also to the remainder of Duplin County. Apparently you folks have found the niche to sustain a yearly winning effort and you must know that we are very proud of you and for you.

Mr. Hunter, please pass along to the "ladies" our wishes of congratulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "L. S. Guy, Jr.".

L. S. Guy, Jr.
Superintendent

LSG/smm

TERESA H. McLEMORE

Duplin County Board of Education
119 Patrick Henry Court
Wallace, North Carolina 28466
910 285-4757

March 23, 1998

Mr. Jerry Hunter
Lady Panthers Basketball Team
East Duplin High School
P. O. Box 188
Beulaville, NC 28518

Mr. Hunter and Lady Panthers,

Please accept my heartiest congratulations on a very successful season and the State 2-A Basketball Championship! You are true examples of hard work, dedication, commitment, and team spirit paying huge dividends. The experiences that you have known throughout this season will be fond memories in the years to come and you will always cherish the friendships, frustrations, tears, and smiles that you have known over the last few months.

Tim Stevens in his column in the sports section of *The News and Observer* on Sunday, March 22 said that all athletes deserve three main things: (1) a great coach-one who treats each player with respect; who coaches to help kids; who builds self-esteem; who tries to make participating fun; (2) great parents-who realize the benefits from participating in athletics; who offer encouragement for their child in academics as well as athletics; who appreciate their child's accomplishments; who attend the competitions because that means a lot to their child; (3) great administrators-who see athletics as an extension of the classroom; who provide support and equipment for students to compete safely; who judge the worth of coaches not by victories on the field (or court), but by victories with children. It is obvious that East Duplin has managed to combine these three things in an admirable way. I salute all of you on a job well done.

Best wishes in the future to each of you and again—CONGRATULATIONS!!!

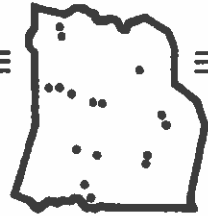
With warmest regards,


Teresa H. McLemore

Achieving the Best for our Children

BOARD OF EDUCATION

DUPLIN COUNTY
P.O. Box 128
Kenansville, North Carolina 28349-0128



March 14, 1991

Mr. Jerry Hunter
Girls Basketball Coach
East Duplin High School
P. O. Box 188
Beulaville, N. C. 28518

Dear Mr. Hunter:

Congratulations to you and the East Duplin Panther Girls Basketball Team for your great success during the regular season and for winning a berth in the regionals in Pitt County. That is a great achievement and for Duplin County, you are our representatives in the state playoffs this years. That is quite a load to carry but I feel confident that you will give it your very best and I want you to know everyone in Duplin County will be proud of your efforts.

Good luck and I hope to watch you play at Conley on Thursday night.

Sincerely,

L. S. Guy, Jr.
Superintendent

LSG/smm

*Congratulations on
the big Clayton win
Mr. I really enjoyed it
L*

OFFICE OF
SUPERINTENDENT
Area (919) 296-1521

BOARD OF EDUCATION

DUPLIN COUNTY
P.O. Box 128
Kenansville, North Carolina 28349-0128



March 22, 1994

Mr. Jerry Hunter
East Duplin High School Girls Basketball Coach
East Duplin High School
P. O. Box 188
Beulaville, North Carolina 28518

Dear Mr. Hunter:

In behalf of the Duplin County Board of Education, I express our congratulations to you and the fine Lady Panthers basketball team for a tremendous 1993-1994 season. You seem to have become our perennial post season play-off rep and your record will verify that. We all know the commitment, dedication and perseverance that goes into playing and coaching a successful team during a successful year. You folks continue to set the standard and I believe you do it with integrity and care.

Please know that you are our winners and always represent Duplin County in an admirable way. Good luck during the remainder of the 1993-94 school year.

Sincerely,

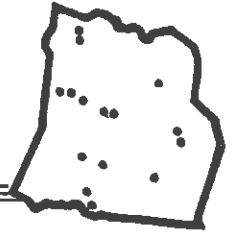
A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "L. S. Guy, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

L. S. Guy, Jr.
Superintendent

LSG/smm

OFFICE OF
SUPERINTENDENT
Tel (910) 296-1521

BOARD OF EDUCATION



DUPLIN COUNTY
P.O. Box 128
Kenansville, North Carolina 28349-0128

March 16, 1998

Mr. Jerry Hunter, Head Coach
East Duplin High School Girl's Basketball team
East Duplin High School
PO Box 188
Beulaville, NC 28518

Dear Mr. Hunter and the East Duplin High School Girl's Basketball Team:

In behalf of the board I congratulate all of you for your tenacious efforts in winning the Eastern 2-A Championship last Saturday. I know all of you must be so proud of this tremendous milestone in your quest for the State 2-A Championship next Saturday. Please know that the best wishes of all of Duplin County will be with you in the championship. You have worked hard, played well and remember just keep having fun while you play.

Sincerely,

L. S. Guy, Jr.
Superintendent

LSG/smm

c: Board of Education Members
Mr. Ken Kennedy, Principal