

KENNETH LAKEY

KENNETH LAKEY WAS BORN IN WALKER COUNTY ON AUGUST 19, 1946. HE GREW UP IN THE

Cedrum community near Townley on his grandfather's farm. He attended Townley Jr. High through the 9th grade, completing high school at Walker County High in 1964. Kenneth played basketball and baseball in his early years of school, lettering in basketball at WCHS.

Lakey had not always planned on being a basketball coach. His business administration plans changed after playing for Coach Glen Clem at Walker College. After completing his degree in education at Jacksonville State University, he returned home to accept the coaching position at Townley Jr. High where he remained for nearly 3 decades.

During his tenure at Townley, the Tigers compiled an amazing 518-126 record (80.4 percent) which includes 15 county championships. Townley was also a regular participant in the Jr. High State Basketball Tournament until it was discontinued in the mid-80's. During the last 2 years of his career he also had the privilege of coaching the 1st girls basketball team for the Tigers.

Opportunities presented themselves for Coach Lakey to step up in the ranks, but he was content staying at Townley teaching science and coaching. He refused to leave because he felt he could do more good teaching the fundamentals of basketball to that age group. The most rewarding part of his job was watching players develop good basic skills, which was important to their success as they moved to the next level. The parents, teachers, and community support at Townley helped create a "basketball atmosphere" that was unlike any other.

Upon retirement in 1998 Coach Lakey planned to hunt, fish, and play a lot of golf. Kenneth had a very competitive spirit in any activity he undertook, on or off the court. His love of the game brought another opportunity to coach again at Sumiton Christian School in 2000, working with B-team basketball for 2 seasons. Coach Lakey would not take credit for his teams success over the years. He always felt the credit should go to the hard work put forth by the players.

In October 2006 the Walker County Board of Education passed a resolution to rename the Townley gym as Kenneth Lakey Gymnasium.

He passed away in 2006. He was married to Paula Guthrie and had two sons, Keith (who passed away as an infant) and Greg.

