

WAYNE “SMITTY” SMITH

WAYNE “SMITTY” SMITH WAS BORN IN NOVEMBER, 1939, TO ARTHUR AND ALENE SMITH AND LIVED HIS

growing up years in Walker County. He was always interested in sports even to the point of playing after dark on his yard where his parents had put up an outside light, so that he could practice until bedtime. He graduated high school in 1957. He played all sports in high school. His basketball team went to state in '57, to play and were beat and ended with third place. He was selected Most Outstanding Athlete during his senior year and Captain of the '57 team. He played football and basketball under Coach Travis Hudson, and they became life-long friends.

Wayne went on to Walker College to play two years of scholarship basketball under Coach Ralph Tanner. He signed the first scholarship in Walker College basketball history and was elected captain both years.

Wayne signed a two-year scholarship with Florence State College (UNA) to play basketball under Coach Ed Billingham.

After graduation, Wayne moved to Gainesville, GA, to coach three years of high school football at East Hall High School.

He moved his family back to Walker County to work with State Farm Insurance. He remained extremely loyal to Curry High School sports. He was “the mouth of Curry football” for “color” on the P.A. system for about thirty years. He kept the clock for basketball for many years. He remained active in church baseball and Little League sports, coaching many of the teams on which his son played.

He seldom missed a game that Judson or his grandchildren played, even when Jud played intramural ball at Birmingham Southern College or independent ball later. He has two grandchildren, Lindsey Smith, at Birmingham Southern College and Parker Wayne Smith, at University of Alabama.

He married his childhood sweetheart, Mary Alice Bobo, who taught at Curry for thirty five years. He had one son, Judson Wayne Smith, who is a local family practice physician.

Wayne died in 2014, still watching sports games on television. He was a good, decent man who loved his Lord and his family and sports.

