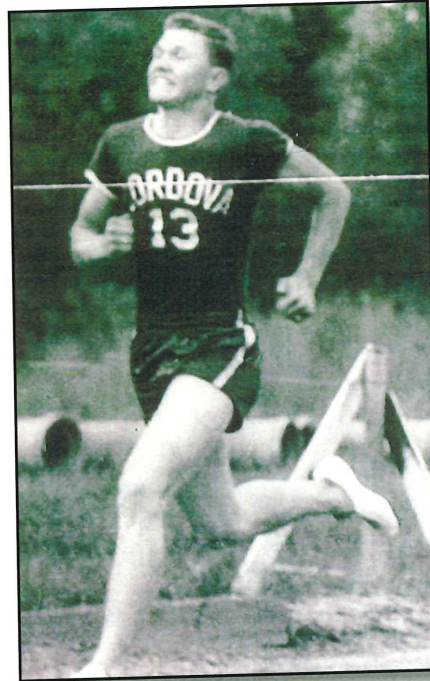


RALPH SANDLIN

RALPH WAS BORN IN CORDOVA ON OCTOBER 23, 1937 TO HOWARD SANDLIN AND MILDRED BARTON SANDLIN. RALPH WAS A FOUR SPORT



letterman at Cordova High School where he was a star on the football, track, basketball and baseball teams. Although he excelled in all sports, his favorite sport was baseball. In the summer of 1955, his Junior year, he played centerfield for the Cordova American Legion Baseball team where he was selected as Captain of the team. He had a .500 batting average, most home runs, and most stolen bases. Because of his athletic ability and leadership qualities, that team went undefeated for the entire season, but were defeated in the State Playoffs.

His senior year, the fleet footed halfback was selected All-County in Football despite receiving a broken ankle. Because of this injury, he was unable to play basketball his senior year, but the ankle healed in time for baseball and track seasons. In baseball, he had another great year, as they played for the Walker County Championship, but lost by one run to Dora.

In April of 1956, the Jasper Rotary Club held the first Walker County Track meet. Ralph won the 100 yard dash in 10 seconds flat (an amazing time in those days), as well as the 200, and ran a leg of the winning 440 relay team. He was selected the "Best All-Round" athlete in the county. He won second place in the District Meet and qualified for the State Track Meet at Auburn. He continued his track and baseball careers in the U.S. Army, where he continued to win first place, by running sub 10 second 100 yard dashes and also played baseball. Later, he played for Cordova in the Bankhead League of the Birmingham Amateur Baseball Federation, where he participated in many All-Star games. Longtime baseball great Jake Scott said of Ralph, "He is the best centerfielder I ever played with, you could not hit a ball he couldn't get to."

He helped start the first Q.B. Club in Cordova, was on the City Council for 8 years as the Mayor Pro-tem, and on the Water & Gas Board for 20 years. He is an involved member of the Long Memorial Methodist Church and for many years helped cook breakfast for the Men's Club. He is a retired coal miner with 33 years at Alabama By-Products and the Drummond Company. Presently, he is the unofficial sports historian of Cordova.

Ralph was married for 55 years to his late wife, Paulette Herron Sandlin and has two daughters: Sabra Brown and Wendy Courington and four grandchildren: twins Jason and Landon and granddaughters Chloe and Stori.