

LANDON DARTY

LANDON WAS BORN TO THE LATE CURTIS AND GRACE DARTY ON DECEMBER 13, 1935, JUST

outside the Dogtown community in Winston County. Landon was one of six boys and at an early age knew what it meant to be tough.

In 1951, as a sophomore at Carbon Hill High School, Landon played a vital role for the Bulldogs, as they won the county championship in basketball and baseball. Landon's junior season, the Bulldogs registered a 8-1-1 record in football and were named the Walker County Champions. In 1953, he started on the basketball team that swept through the 5AA District semi-finals before falling to Shades Valley by a single basket. He was also selected to the All-County baseball team that year because of his outstanding outfield play which allowed the Bulldogs to again win the county tournament. While his first two seasons were memorable, his senior year was his best while at Carbon Hill. The 1953 football team finished 10-0 while allowing only three touchdowns. Landon, along with 3 of his teammates, were recruited by major college teams. Carbon Hill assistant football coach Wallace Reid said, "He is as rough and tough as any football player I've ever seen." Howard Sudduth, longtime Mountain Eagle Sports Editor also said, "this kind of fellow does not show up every year." His senior year, they were also runner-up in the county basketball tournament, runner-up in the District 5 AA Tournament, and went to the State Basketball Tournament for the first time in 32 years where they again finished second to their arch nemesis, Shades Valley. Landon scored 15 points against the 6'7" Pisgah center and 16 points in the finals against Shades Valley. He finished his career at Carbon Hill with another baseball county championship and he was selected a second time to the All-County team.



Upon graduation, Landon received a scholarship to play football at the University of Tennessee, where he lettered for three years. He played on the Vols 1956 SEC Championship Team and was a two way starter on the 1957 team that won the Gator Bowl. In this game he intercepted 2 of the 6 passes attempted by Texas A&M and also recovered a fumble.

After graduation, Landon went on to coach high school and college as an assistant. He and his wife Peggy settled in Jasper and had 3 children Lan, Steve and Darla. He is now retired from a real estate and investment company and lives in Dothan where he enjoys spending time with his grandchildren.