

BRUCE ABBOTT

BRUCE WAS A GRADUATE OF CURRY HIGH SCHOOL AND A MEMBER OF THE 1956

basketball team that finished 3rd in the State Tournament. This was an era when all schools in the state played under the same classification. This means Curry High School was the 3rd best team in the entire state of Alabama. The team played in what was called the "Cracker Box" gym. It was so tight that you had to put your foot on the wall to throw the ball in and had to shoot line drive shots or you would hit the ceiling. This team is arguably the best basketball team in the history of Curry High School and Walker County. Bruce was a multiple sport athlete and played center on the football team.

After graduation, Abbott attended Howard College (now Samford) in Birmingham, where he played football. He received a math degree and began his teaching and coaching career at Demopolis High School. On his journey back home, he coached at Winston County and Haleyville High schools. At Haleyville, he was the defensive coordinator for Coach Bubba Scott, who later became the Executive Director of the Alabama High School Athletic Association. Together, they led the Lions to their first Football State Championship. It was during this time that Bruce would introduce his famed "Stack Defense." Coach Abbott returned to Curry to coach under his mentor and legenday Hall of Fame Coach, Travis Hudson.

Coach Abbott continued to be the head basketball and defensive coordinator in football for numerous years. His basketball teams set many records that are difficult to equal. Curry won numerous County Championships, Wal-Win Championships, Area Championships, and twice played in the Alabama State Tournament. At Curry, every squad that Abbott coached won at least 20 games each year. Four of his former players are in the Walker County Sports Hall of Fame: Wayne Wilson, Roger Wilson, Dwight Bennett and Ray Tidwell.

Outside of coaching, Bruce Abbott also received these honors: one of Alabama's Best Math Teachers, Principal of Meek High School, Assistant Superintendent of Walker County School System, and he helped organize the first ever football team at Cold Springs High School. Remarkably in the first year of the program, they won 6 games and lost only 2. Coach Abbott is now deceased but his memory lives on at Curry and other schools where he made such a lasting impression.

