

North Carolina Coaches Association

N.C. COACH

VOLUME 20, NUMBER 3, FALL 2015

From the Clinic Desk

by Mac Morris

o you ever get the feeling that the whole world is going crazy around you and you just can't believe it? The recent events in a Texas high school football game in which two players tackled and then speared an official are unbelievable to me. I think most people who have been in coaching for a while have become so angry with officials that they lost control and made some poor decisions. But I can't remember many instances in North Carolina where similar events have taken place. No matter how much I read about the Texas incident and how many times I watch the video, I can't believe there's a program anywhere in North Carolina that would allow this to happen. Even more unbelievable is the accompanying idea that one of the assistant coaches directed the players to take down the official for his racial slurs and bad calls. Te make mistakes in North

Carolina, but most of them are bad decisions or are a result of not knowing the rules. We have

seen a fairly large number of these cases. I don't know whether they are cases of just not taking the time to learn the rules; or even worse, of ignoring the rules. (In other words, even though the rules are there, they don't apply to us.) This brings forth the question, "What are we teaching our players?" Granted, most players don't know the rules in detail, but they have a way of knowing right from wrong. Is winning that important?

Te had another good Clinic in July with some especially good clinicians. I think the Coliseum arena was a big hit for the larger sessions with on-court demonstrations in basketball for the first time in a long time. We had over 8,500 registrants, and the only complaints we got were about not having enough room in the rules sessions. It is tough when the maximum number of people attending a single clinic session of volleyball or track would be 200, and then over 400 coaches show up for the rules session. Also, it makes it a little embarrassing

for the clinician when they start their session after the rules session, then see their audience dwindle to less than half.

nother negative about the Clinic is the continuing large numbers of individuals who come on Monday, stand in line for hours to get their membership card, then leave without ever attending a clinic session. I wonder how Athletic Directors would feel if they knew how many of their coaches never attend a single session even though the Athletic Department paid their clinic fees. Even worse, with the NCHSAA-mandated dead period during the Clinic, they know that coaching is not allowed at their school during that week.

here are times when we would like to record some of the phone conversations we have both before and after the Clinic. Before the Clinic, most of the cases are due to not reading of some of the information that is sent to the membership. After the Clinic, we send a list to the Superintendent of each unit asking them to verify

the individuals who signed up from their unit during the Clinic. The Superintendents then mark people off the list who are not eligible to hold membership in the Association. (This is the first year that I can remember where we have had such a poor response from the Superintendents.) After we receive the list, we will send a letter to those ineligible individuals stating that the Superintendent marked them off. At the bottom of the letter is a statement in all-caps saying that if a mistake was made, they can rectify the situation by sending a letter from the school principal verifying their position at that school. So then we get calls saying, "we got this letter but don't know what we should do." Then the next call will come in saying, "I will be glad to send back my membership card, but I want a refund." That would be like ordering a big meal at a swanky restaurant, eating it all, and then asking for your money back. The clinic fee is how we pay the clinicians who speak,

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From the Games Desk

'n August, Greensboro becomes consumed by the Wyndham golf tournament. This year was notable for the first Greensboro appearance of Tiger Woods. I'm not a Tiger fan because of his on-course language and for what he did to his family, but I've always admired him for his athletic skills and dominance of a very difficult sport. His decision to play in the Wyndham gave me an even greater appreciation for his competitive attitude. If he plays and wins, he keeps playing in the FedEx "playoffs"; if he stays away, he's done for the season. Not only did he come, but for three days it looked like he would work his old magic and win. Though he didn't win, he did make a courageous effort to grind through. It is amazing how well he can still perform with all the hoopla surrounding even his slightest movement. Every young athlete could have learned a lot about perseverance and playing to

win from Tiger.

This attitude is one I expected from my athletes. Our team might have been overwhelming underdogs, but I expected the coaches and players to do all they could to somehow win. I agonize when I see a team fall behind early in a game they "shouldn't" win and then appear to play it safe so they don't get beat by a much larger margin. To me: "to heck with the point spread, go for the win". Press the better basketball team or go for a questionable fourth down or try some risky plays in football. Once you're behind several goals in soccer, is there any good reason to pack all eleven players in the defensive box just so you don't lose by more? Let the kids know you're doing everything you can to try to win; even if the outcome seems inevitable given the score and time. I think such an approach helped two of my basketball

teams to rebound from twenty-seven and thirty-eight point losses to teams, and then beating those same teams the next game despite us playing against a future men's Final Four MVP and a women's future All-ACC and WNBA player.

here is a point in some games where your team is being blownout and the time and score dictate that a win is impossible. Then a coach must weigh the value of what starters gain by continuing to compete against a better team versus the value of getting playing time for reserves who will be counted on sometime in the future. This need to consider playing time for those who sit the end of the bench but work hard each day, making the team and its other players better, is also important. They may deserve playing time also.

ome of you are coaching in situations where the school hasn't been successful in your sport for a long

by Phil Weaver

time; perhaps never. Turning around such a program is difficult because the kids tend to get close in some games only to revert to negative thinking and defeat themselves. There are times when teams are beaten before the game even starts because the kids and/or coaches believe they know they can't win. If you find you think this way as a coach, you need to seriously rethink coaching as a career. The kids deserve better and such an attitude cannot be good for your mental health either. I often think these coaches become the ones who blame the players for everything that goes wrong, and then may even resort to belittling their players.

ure, there were games where I had no idea how we could win; no play seemed sufficient. Our attitude as coaches was, I hope, that we'd devise

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Clinic

from page 1

along with their travel and expenses. If you attended the Clinic (whether you attended any sessions or not), the fee is non-refundable. Most of the cases we can resolve are for people who just signed up in the wrong category; then are asked to return the membership card in order to get an Associate Card.

depositing checks that has saved us a great deal of time this summer. We run them through a machine in office that sends them directly to the bank. When we send each check through the machine, it is deposited directly and goes to the front of the line of all checks you have written. Our Directory of members should be out shortly. Some of you use it a great deal, while others seem to lose their

copy immediately. It costs a great deal of money and effort to get it done but we will continue to do it for the good that it does.

t doesn't appear as if the NCAA will change its policy about Division ▲ I football coaches being at clinics where all-star games are involved. We have been fortunate to have the FCA and the AFCA to help us get some great football speakers. I still think it is so ridiculous that D1 staffs can't come when they could do more recruiting in one day at our Clinic without driving one extra mile. When we talk about clinicians, I have had some helpful tips from some of our members to recommend a certain coach. We can always use suggestions for any sport but football, so please let us know which coaches you would like to hear.

ope you are off to a good start at school and have a great year.





N.C. COACH



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Games

From Page 1

the best plan possible to give us the best chance possible. Maybe every break would go our way and we could catch the opponent flat emotionally. The latter certainly happened in the two games I referenced earlier.

played freshman basketball in college and my coach certainly wasn't a positive guy. I was second team to a scholarship player who was not a great passer. One game, instead of coaching the player positively, our coach told the player that he'd come out of the game after his first turnover. Needless to say I knew I'd see a lot of playing time that game. I did and entered the game quite early as I remember. That coach ruined the player before the game started; he was too scared to play confidently. That player, Ray Kuhlmeier, became the school hero his senior year as he led Duke in beating the heavily favored Tar Heels. The varsity coach was Bucky Waters; a most positive role model who obviously got the most from Ray that afternoon. We coaches must develop our athletes' physical skills necessary to become good players, but we're also responsible for developing their mental skills and confidence to allow them to compete at their best.

I'm going to extend my column so I can address the terrible situation in Texas in which two players assaulted

a referee. Now that it is thought a coach was at least appearing to suggest the official needed punishment, I think another observation needs to be made. Though it will run counter to the blind obedience we coaches require from players when game situations are tough, there is a need for us to teach bucking authority in order to do the right thing. I hope none of our coaches would ever even consider suggesting players confront a referee; but if it were to happen, we must have educated our charges to refuse to participate AND to report that coach to a superior. I know that sounds like heresy to some, but that is something I think coaches are morally responsible for doing. I know my players were instructed to come to me if an assistant asked them to do something they thought simply incorrect or wrong. **T**e need only remember the

Nuremberg Trials where almost every accused Nazi tried to use the defense that they "were only following orders". If everyone refused to follow immoral orders, think of how much needless suffering would be prevented and how many people with criminal intent would have their plans thwarted. We owe it to our kids to help them develop accurate moral compasses and the courage to follow them. I realize asking a player to do that is asking a lot, particularly with us preaching near total respect for the coach's position; but we must try.

In Memoriam

Phil Legnetti
Page High School

Preston McLain
Enloe High School

Robert Moore Atkins High School

Mike Olivo Reidsville High School

Gina Talbert
East Rowan High School

N.C. Coach

Scholarship Applications

If you have been a member of the NCCA for 15 years and you have a son or daughter who will graduate from high school or who will be in graduate school for the 2016-2017 school year, your child is eligible to apply for a one-time NCCA Scholarship.

Applications are not mailed until after January 1st because we need a first semester transcript to complete the application. If you will send an application request now, Phil will file it and send you the application in January.

Either email Phil at pweaver@nccoach.org or mail to his attention at NCCA, 1101 Westover Terrace, Greensboro, NC 27408.

NCHSAA Update...

by Joe Franks

I hope that you are off to a great fall season in the classroom and in your sport. You have heard me refer to the positive working relationships between the NCCA, NCHSAA and the NCADA as we continue to make North Carolina a national model for other states. This is demonstrated each fall at the eight NCHSAA Regional Meetings, where we get to interact with AD's, Principals and some Superintendents to update everyone on our respective associations. Let me tell you about a few items discussed that may be of interest.

- 1) We all know that realignment is right around the corner, and it seems that we are in a constant dialogue about it. I've been very impressed with how the NCHSAA staff has set things in motion to provide a clear line of communication and opportunities for folks to voice opinions and give input. While it is obvious that no plan will please everyone, I believe the committee will work hard, be thorough and fair in addressing concerns.
- 2) The NCHSAA has hired Ken Brown to be a Sports Medicine consultant. Ken is a retired Licensed Athletic Trainer who was at Northern Durham for many years. Ken will be a great resource, especially on issues that arise with compliance related to medical / first responder issues. Ken's athletic training background gives him a great perspective to help give our

member schools ideas on ways to implement procedures that will help protect our athletes.

- 3) At the meetings, it was announced that the NCCA will once again provide the risk management newsletter, "From the Gym to the Jury" to all AD's and ask them to forward to our member coaches. Folks, this is a great resource to help you protect your athletes and yourselves. Ask your AD to forward it to you. This publication being made available to you along with having Ken Brown with the NCHSAA is a win-win for our state.
- 4) We all know that, as coaches, we have to take the Fundamentals of Coaching and the Concussion courses. Did you know that with only two more courses, you can become an Accredited Interscholastic Coach (AIC)? Our state is third in the nation in the number of AIC's and with a few more classes, coaches can become a Certified Interscholastic Coach (CIC). By the way, North Carolina currently leads the nation in CIC's. Why consider this? As our founder, Coach Bob Jamieson used to ask young coaches who fussed about attending Clinic sessions, "Don't you want to be a better coach?"

Thanks for all you do for our young people. Let's continue to make the title "Coach" one that is respected and admired. As your representative on the NCHSAA Board, I welcome your input. My email is jfranks@nccoach.org

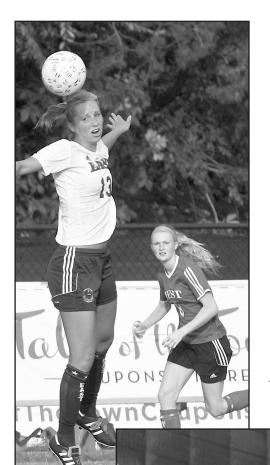


19th Annual March 25-26, 2016 @ Myrtle Beach HS Myrtle Beach, SC

North Carolina Coaching Staff

Amber Fox - Women's Head Coach Brent Barker - Women's Asst. Coach

Mike Gurley - Men's Head Coach David Dewey - Men's Asst. Coach

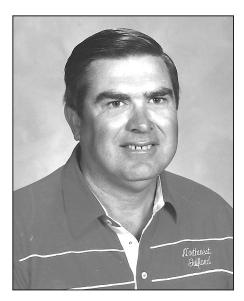




Action from the 2015 East-West All-Star Games.

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They Still Call Me "Coach"



"I have always believed that the game is created for the kids. People come to watch the young men and women play, not to watch me coach, so the focus is on the players."

NC Coach (NCC): What sport(s) did you coach?

SG: Baseball - 32 years. Basketball - 18 years. Football - 8. Cross Country - 5

NCC: Where (at which schools) did you coach?

SG: Northwest Guilford Sr. High School for 32 years.

NCC: Are you still involved in coaching and/or athletics?

SG: Yes. As a Spectator: My oldest son, Sonny Gann, is the head baseball coach at Northwest Guilford and I try to attend as many of his games as possible. My youngest son, John Gann, is the JV Basketball Coach and Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach at Southwest Guilford and I try to catch as many of his games when possible as well. I still follow Northwest in Football and Basketball, attending some of these games also. My grandson, Eli Gann, is playing Little League football and baseball and of course, I am at the games. My daughter-in-law, Emily Gann, is the head Volleyball Coach at Guilford College so I attend some games there as well.

NCC: What is your most memorable coaching experience?

SG: I announced my retirement early in the season of my final year as head baseball coach. I knew I had a good

Sandy Gann

Sandy Gann was born in Stokes County in 1944 but his family moved to the Glenn High community of Forsyth County when he was three years old. Gann attended Glenn High School from 1958-1962 where he played varsity basketball and baseball all four years. He enjoyed a very successful high school career as the shortstop where he played every inning of every baseball game for all four years. The highlight of Gann's career came In 1962, his senior year. His batting average was .550, which was the highest in the State of North Carolina. At Glenn, he was All-Conference for three years and was voted to play in the East-West All-Star Game in 1962.

After graduation, Gann continued his baseball prowess at Guilford College. He played second base for the Quakers all four years and during his sophomore year, led the team in hitting, a 385 mark, hitting the long-ball as well as singles. He also led the team in runs batted in. Gann earned all-conference honors in '65 and '66 in the old Carolina's Conference. During his senior year he helped lead his team to a fourth-place finish in the NAIA National Baseball Tournament. He was named to the All-Tournament team and set a tournament record with seven straight hits, a national record he held for almost thirty years. He earned his bachelors degree from Guilford College and later a Master's degree from North Carolina A&T State University.

Gann was the baseball coach at Northwest Guilford for 32 years with a winning record of 422 wins and 248 losses. He had six Conference Championships, went to state play-offs twelve times, and his team won the State 4-A Championship in 1998. During his tenure, he was six-times Conference Coach of the Year, Guilford County Coach of the Year and State Coach of the Year. At the time of his retirement, he was the fourth winningest coach (active) in North Carolina. The Northwest Guilford Baseball field was named for him upon his retirement. In addition to his baseball coaching accomplishments, Coach Gann served as the Athletic Director at Northwest for 22 years. During this time, the school won ten straight Wachovia Cups and four Greensboro News and Record Cups.

As the head Basketball coach at Northwest from 1969 to 1894, he won 212 games with 4 conference championships and 5 conference tournament titles. He was named Coach of the Year four times within the conference and Guilford County Coach of the Year twice.

For performance as a baseball player, coach and contributions to the community, Sandy Gann has been inducted into the Guilford College Hall of Fame (1990), Forsyth County Hall of Fame (1994), the North Carolina High School Baseball Association Hall of Fame (2014), and the Guilford County Sports Hall of Fame (2014).

Sandy and his wife, Jeanette, have been married for 46 years and they have two sons, Sandy Jr. (Sonny) and John. Both sons are currently high school coaches. Sonny Gann is the head baseball coach at Northwest Guilford High School and John Gann is the JV basketball coach and assistant baseball coach at Southwest Guilford High School. The Ganns have four grandchildren, Eli (6), Ethan (2), Madison (4) and Peyton (3 months) who occupy a lot of their time. Sandy is an avid gardener. For several years after his retirement (1998), Sandy traveled with his wife, an education consultant, to several states up and down the east coast. While she was conducting professional development, he enjoyed viewing athletic facilities and chatting with coaches, administrators or custodians, whoever was available. Sandy figures he has visited over 500 schools in the eastern states. Each summer, the Gann family tries to visit a city with a Major League baseball team. So far, they have attended games in 16 stadiums and some stadiums have had multiple visits from the Ganns.

team but we struggled during the first part of the season and had to win the conference tournament to make the playoffs. We won the conference tournament and then won five straight playoff games to advance to the state championship games in 4A Baseball. We won the state championship by beating Athens Drive High School two of three games. Athens Drive had a junior named Josh Hamilton as their star. My oldest boy, Sonny, was the pitching coach and my youngest son, John was the senior short stop on the team. That tournament was my most memorable coaching experience.

NCC: What part of coaching was the most rewarding for you?

SG: ? I wanted to take each individual player from where he was when he entered our program and assist him in developing to his full potential as a player. When that occurred, it was my most rewarding experience.

NCC: Why did you go into coaching? SG: I loved playing baseball and basketball. And I was influenced greatly by my high school coach, Jack Musten, and college baseball coach, Stuart Maynard. Both were excellent role models and taught you about life as well as a lot about the sport. They made a tremendous impact on my life and I wanted to impact others like they did me.

NCC: What is your funniest coaching memory?

SG: During my first year as a high school baseball coach, I had to play all my home games at Summerfield Recreational Park. I was playing my high school coach's team in an afternoon non-conference game. I had to get the field ready quickly and I tied the bases down at pony league distance. The first batter hit a routine ball to right field and slid into second base with little trouble. The second batter hit a routine ball to center field and got a triple. I realized what had happened but I did not want to tell my former high school coach. We won the game 22 - 21 and after the game I told the coach what happened. He had realized it but did not want to embarrass me as a first year coach, so we just played the entire game that way.

NCC: What was your most embarrassing coaching moment?

SG: I was a head basketball coach and was playing Eastern Guilford at their place. In those days, coaches and teams sat at the end of the court. During the second half, our goal was at the other end. Eastern was leading by one point and we played for the final shot with 10 seconds to go. My player shot a high arching ball with a second left in the game and I thought the shot fell short so I went over and congratulated the other coach for winning. One of my players was walking behind me and he said, "Coach, that ball went in." I had to turn back to the coach and apologized to explain

N.C. Coach

"Coach"

I was not being a smart-aleck but thought it was a missed shot.

NCC: What was your favorite play or strategy?

SG: When I coached basketball, we had a play that was a variation of the Auburn shuffle. Because of numerous cutters, it was difficult to defend against if the other team was playing man to man. In baseball, my strategy was really to keep it simple. I would bunt when the situation called for it but I wanted to prepare hitters one through nine to be tough outs. All my hitters were expected to be prepared to hit early in the count, be ready for the first pitch, but at the same time be disciplined and not give away at bats. That ultimately puts pressure on the defense.

NCC: Who had the toughest teams you coached against?

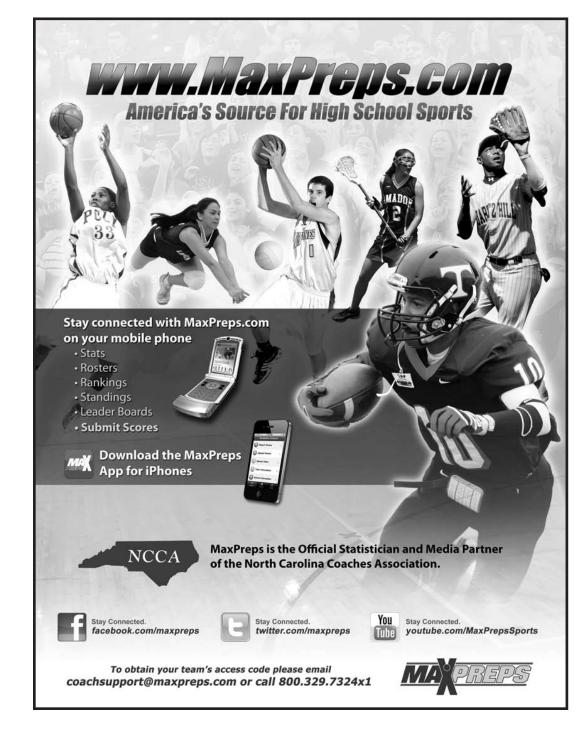
SG: in basketball, the teams of Hoy Isaac at Reidsville, Mac Morris at Page, Grady Stafford at Rockingham County, Leroy Myers at Madison / Mayodan and South Stokes, Mac Bowman at Graham and John Harder at Morehead were tough competitors. In baseball, C K Siler at Southern Guilford, Bill Slayton at Southeast, Bobby Chappell at Northeast, Charlie Gamble Sr. at Southern Guilford, Joe Brady at Eastern Guilford, Sam Jones at Rockingham County, Dale James at Glenn had teams that always played hard and were well-coached.

NCC: What change(s) would you make to the current rules in your sport?

SG: In basketball, I would like to see it become more of a finesse game and less contact with the hands. Also, I think the three point line is too short and needs to be moved back, even in high school. In baseball, they need to find ways to prevent slowing the game down...speed the game up to draw more spectators and entice more kids to play.

NCC: What one piece of advice would you give a beginning coach?

SG: I would try to get hired on the staff of a proven coach and learn the ins and outs of building and maintaining a quality, successful program. Also, seek out mentors among former successful coaches for their wisdom and expertise. Never stop learning the game. In addition, be yourself and



don't try to be someone you are not.

NCC: What are the most important things for young coaches to do in dealing with:

SG:

a. Athletes — be honest with the kid and let him know where he stands, what he needs to work on and his role on the team.

b. Parents - be professional no matter the provocation, be patient, establish a line of communication and help them understand their role.

c. Administrators — Build a relationship, create an open communication and be proactive in sharing pertinent information.

d. Athletic Directors — Like administrators, build a positive relationship, keep them informed about the program and pertinent information. **e. Other Coaches** — Be a team player

as part of the overall program at your school and be supportive of other programs at the school.

f. The press/media - Have information about your team readily available for the press (rosters, statistics, etc.), be prompt in reporting scores and game details, be patient even after a loss or with a provoking question, always think before you speak - never put anything in writing that you don't want everyone to read or that you might regret later.

NCC: What did/does the NCCA mean to you?

SG: I have been a member of the NCCA for fifty years and have not missed a clinic because the information you receive is so valuable to professional growth and learning the sport. I went to hear speakers for sports I did not coach to pick up ideas of what made them successful. It is one of the most well organized, meaningful professional events I have ever attended. In addition, the clinic provides opportunities to develop contacts as well as lasting friendships

with other coaches through social events such as the all-star games and the picnic. The NCCA provides opportunities to showcase outstanding players in all-star games, view college and high school games free, keep informed about state athletics through the newsletter, and so on. To me, it is an outstanding professional organization.

NCC: Other comments would you like to share with our members:

SG: I have always believed that the game is created for the kids. People come to watch the young men and women play, not to watch me coach, so the focus is on the players. I tell my players to go out there and have fun. If you don't enjoy playing, then you should not be out there.

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Announcing the 2016 East-West All-Star Coaches

2016 EAST FOOTBALL Head Coach

Tom Nelson (Fike)

Asst. Coaches

Don Andrews (Corinth Holders)

Paul Cornwell (Ayden-Grifton)

David Perry III (Croatan)

Bill Sochovka (Pine Forest)

Beau Williams (Jacksonville)

2016 WEST FOOTBALL

Head Coach
Clay Lewis (Hibriten)
Asst. Coaches
Curtis Cagle (North Buncombe)
Tim Carson (Weddington)
Bill Hall (Northwood)
Dave Hunt (Davie County)
Marty Scotten (Jordan-Matthews)

2016 EAST-WEST MEN'S BASKETBALL

East Head Coach - Ike Walker (Jack Britt)
East Asst. Coach - Douglas Erny (Jacksonville)

West Head Coach - Jimmy Cleaveland (Smoky Mtn)
West Asst. Coach - Ed Wills (Alexander Central)

2016 EAST-WEST WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

East Head Coach - Rick Grantham (Rosewood)
East Asst. Coach - Lula Ratley (South Robeson)

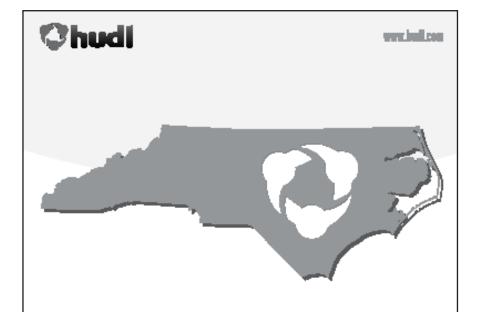
West Head Coach - Barbara Nelson (Myers Park)
West Asst. Coach - Terry Gossett (Erwin)

2016 EAST-WEST MEN'S SOCCER

East Coach - Brad Spell (Clinton)
West Coach - Lynn Massey (Bartlett Yancey)

2016 EAST-WEST WOMEN'S SOCCER

East Coach - Chris Hadlock (East Montgomery)
West Coach - Kenan James (Forbush)



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1965 East-West Basketball All-Stars reunite at the 2015 Games.





N.C. Coach





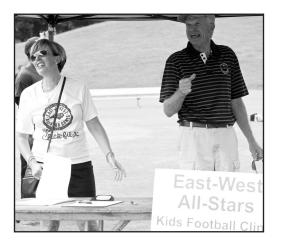
East-West All-Star Kids Clinics Mark Another Successful Year













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2016



Coaching Clinic

Greensboro July 18-21

East-West All-Star Games

BASKETBALL - Monday, July 18

SOCCER - Tuesday, July 19

FOOTBALL - Wednesday, July 20