

# Jamerson To Be Honored At Reunion In Memphis

Charles D. Jamerson of 526 Maple Avenue in Mocksville and his wife, Mayme, will make a sentimental journey "back home" to Memphis, Tenn. in May, when they will see many men and women for the first time in about 25 years.

They are returning to the city where Jamerson was the best of all high school athletic coaches and where he and his wife were teachers at Tech High School. On Friday night, May 15, they will be honored guests at a "Charley Jamerson Appreciation Dinner and Reunion" at Holiday Inn-Southeast. Indications are that 200 or more will attend any pay tribute to a man who truly strived to develop men of the future, more than simply star athletes, as he did so successfully.

Tech Yellowjackets during Jamerson's era—1930 to 1942—were the scourge of the Memphis Prep League and other parts of the Mid-South. He won so many championships in football, basketball and baseball that no one seems to recall just how many he did glean. Even Coach Jamerson says, "I don't remember the wins and losses," which is no surprise because he probably would need a computer to keep track of them all.

Jamerson's football teams produced some tremendous athletes, among them Curtis Person, four-time No. 1 senior golfer in the United States and in those days a pass-catching genius at end; Dooley Matthews, who went on to fame at the University of Georgia and

pitching hero of the 1948 World Series, and numerous others played in the minor leagues right up to Triple A. His major leaguers were Gene Bearden, whose mound work won the American League playoff for the Cleveland Indians then led them to the World Series title in 1948; Aubrey Epps, Pittsburgh Pirates catcher and outfielder;

Gene Lambert, Philadelphia Phillies pitcher; and Bobby Bragan, who not only played with several major league clubs but managed some of them, too.

Bragan now is president of the Texas Baseball League and will serve as master of ceremonies at the dinner for Jamerson and his wife.

The list of topnotch athletes is too long to enumerate, but some of Jamerson's era included

Robert Walker, president of Bob Walker & Associates, and Hugh Barton, president of Barton Scaffolding & Service, Inc., both in Memphis; William Evans, Memphis manager of Fruehauf Corporation, and Glenn E. McFarling, Memphis division manager for the General Electric Company appliances division.

May 15 may be "Charley Jamerson Day" in Memphis, Tenn. by official proclamation of Mayor Henry Loeb, but, Mrs. Mayme Jamerson, his wife, will rank as a "VIP", as well.

The Jamersons, who live at 526 Maple Avenue in Mocksville, will be honored by a

group of athletes who played under Jamerson during 1930-42 at Tech High School in Memphis.

When a member of the planning committee for the dinner and reunion contacted Mayor Loeb about the proclamation, he said:

"If I am not mistaken, Miss Mayme Barnes taught me in the fifth grade at Idlewild School in Memphis, and lived across the street from me at 1780 Peabody, before she married Coach Jamerson."

Mrs. Jamerson, from Mocksville, said, "I certainly do remember teaching Henry Loeb."

And His Honor admitted that as a fifth grader, "I had a crush on her."

Mention of Mrs. Jamerson will be included in the proclamation of Charley Jamerson Day, which will be read during the dinner at Holiday Inn-Southeast in Memphis. And she will be on hand with Jamerson as the mayor presents them a key to the city.

Jamerson was considered the No. 1 high school coach of football, basketball and baseball in Memphis. Later he was head football coach at Memphis State University, and head football and baseball coach at Davidson College. Then he served many years as a Burlington Industries, Inc. executive before retiring seven years ago.

## David Bloom

In Days Of Yore  
There Was Charlie Jamerson  
The Old Techs Will Gather

Once in the salty athletic days of Crockett Technical High School in Memphis the accusation was made that the coach was proselyting strong and agile young men by paying their 7-cent street car fare to and from their homes.



Charlie Jamerson

"Never," said the thin, far-off voice of Charlie Jamerson, "I'll swear to you I never gave a single boy anything . . . But I will say that Ernest Ball (then superintendent of schools) used to threaten to fire me for persuading some junior high kids."

On May 15 some of those young men he cajoled, now slightly bald and paunchy, will get together and cut up a few touches with Charles, retired and living in Mocksville, N.C. "Oh, boy, lister, I can hardly wait. I haven't seen some of the old boys since 1945 and they're part of my life's

blood."

Tech High was an absolute sports power in those Jamerson days, aided and abetted by the principal, J. L. Highsaw. The hot rivalry was with Central High, and every November when the teams met in football combat Highsaw would have a dream, naming the score. Naturally Tech won each time and once in a while the dream came true. It's a crack at nostalgia to mention that Tech and Central have fallen on sad athletic days.

You think there won't be some tales told? Jim Macdonald, the former police chief, is chairman, and he's put out the "you-all come sign" whether you were a star, a sub, or just an underprivileged girl cheerer, who couldn't be a cheerleader because it was a man's world. Remember?

### Originated In Arkansas

Jamerson was an Arkansas boy from Clarendon and he participated in all kinds of sports at the University of Arkansas. In 1946 he was named an end on the all-time Pork team and he played baseball and basketball as well, and well.

Like most athletes who hadn't heard of pro football benefits back in 1921, he went into coaching, first at Eufala, Okla. then moving to Memphis Central as an assistant in 1923 and 1924. He'd been pitching semipro ball and the Boston Red Sox picked him up and he moved from one farm team to another — Pittsfield, Mass., Hartford, Des Moines, Waterbury, Conn. When he didn't get a shot in the big show he tossed it up, took over for Gordon Clark as all-sports coach at Tech.

The boys practiced football on a rock-hard field back of the Poplar Ave. school and you had to be fairly tough just to survive the preliminaries. The athletes had durability and what is now loosely termed as dedication. Jamerson was a soft-voiced, but he could be a screamer and disciplinarian when the occasion demanded.

### Aubrey And Curtis And Lewie

From Mocksville he was ducking an issue, as all old coaches do, for sentimental reasons.

"I don't know . . . all of them were great . . . Jim Macdonald, he could excel in every sport, football, basketball, baseball. Aubrey Epps, he might have been the best all-around athlete. Curtis Person (presently best of all senior golfers) was a great end, and so was Billy Hildebrand . . . Lewis Young played fullback and he was a little ball of fire and Marvin Curland could really run the ball."

"Oh, gosh, now there was George Carter, a fine end and James Mabry, a wingback . . . I couldn't name all of them. You know, the greatest competitive athlete I ever saw was Harry Tipton."

There was a note of tragedy there, for Tipton, who later played at Southwestern, was killed when an automobile fell on him while working at a summer job in a filling station.

### One Year To Forget

Maybe you didn't know that Jamerson was a head coach at Memphis State back in 1943, succeeding Dr. C. C. Humphreys, now president of the university. "Don't talk about it," he said. "We were pitiful and I'd prefer to forget the record."

In 1954 the great Carl Snavelly asked Jamerson to come with him to North Carolina as an aide. Then he moved over to Davidson as head coach and lasted four years. "I left," he said, "With the aid of the alumni and because I was getting smarter. I took a job with Burlington Industries and stayed there until I retired."

The years creep up and Charlie's 70 now, but the memories of Tech and Memphis are still fresh. He was counsel in his own defense on the recruiting charge. "I'll tell you now I got good boys. Tech could take them from any part of the city without any boundary restrictions. And I managed to schedule some teams from out of town. Kids like to make trips and we played strong schools. I remember we played Soldan High of St. Louis and beat them 55 to 6 or something like that. Big day . . ."

The comeback of Charlie Jamerson will be another one.

## Davie Golfers Take Second

Davie High golfers finished in second place in the North Piedmont Conference Tournament held Monday at

Mooresville.

The winner was South Iredell with 319 strokes. Davie High had 327 strokes; North Stanly, 328; Mooresville, 334; East Rowan, 338; North Rowan, 342; North Davidson, 352; West Rowan, 372; and Central Davidson, 374.

Sam Spear of North Rowan was medalist with a 72. Robin Benson of Davie was third with a 77, and Bobbi Lynn Benson of Davie was 11th with an 82. Joe Harris of Davie was 16th with an 84, and Darrell Jones also had an 84.

All four of Davie golfers will compete in the Association Tournament to be held Monday at the Westport Club near Lake Norman.

## Reb Baseballers To End Season

Davie County's baseball team will end its 1970 season at Central Davidson on Friday afternoon at 4 o'clock.

The Rebels will probably be pinning their hopes on new pitching star Paul Ijames when they face the Spartans in the North Piedmont Conference contest.

Ijames fired a three hitter at Mooresville in his last start and paced Davie to a 3-1 victory over the Devils.

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