

# Kathy Little: Star Athlete At PSU Adds Another Accolade

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PEMBROKE -- As a 12-year-old, Kathy Little was the only girl in her neighborhood in Raeford who played pickup basketball with the boys. "And my team usually won," she smiled.

Even then she seemed to have trampolines in her shoes. She could catapult into the air and just hang there, defying the law of gravity. "I was always outside playing," she said.

When the basketball goal was taken down at the vacant house beside hers, Kathy started going to her high school gymnasium and spending countless hours perfecting her skills.

A superb athlete, this junior, who last year was Pembroke State University's "Most Valuable Player" on three women's teams -- the volleyball, basketball and softball teams -- recently added another accolade. She was voted on the Carolinas Conference all-tournament volleyball team last weekend at Elon College.

Last year she was also chosen all-conference in basketball and all-tournament in softball at the state women's tournament.

A 5-foot-7, 120-pounder who plays much taller, Kathy was a year ahead of Olympian Kathy McMillan at Hoke County High School in Raeford, but they played on the same basketball team and ran track together. To differentiate between the two, the coaches gave Kathy Little the nickname of "Turkey."

Whereas Kathy McMillan was a superlative long jumper in high school, Kathy Little's specialty was the 440-yard dash. "I won all of my races except two," said Little. Both she and McMillan were on the same 440-relay and 880-relay teams which each won state championships.

In basketball, Little proved the better all-around player because, although McMillan was a fine rebounder, she had difficulty shooting the ball. "Kathy didn't know how to shoot," said Little, in retrospect in defense of her illustrious teammate. Meanwhile, Little won both all-conference honors and the coach's award in basketball.

She also gained other athletic skills which would reach fruition at Pembroke State. She played intramural volleyball (there was no high school varsity team) and each Sunday afternoon gathered with some of the boys and girls to play recreational softball.

Coach Ellen Bryan of the PSU volleyball team quickly saw the possibilities in Little when she enrolled. "Miss Bryan taught me how to spike a ball better by using the two-step approach," said Little. As a result, Little has more "aces" than anyone on the team, batting the ball like a blur over the nets.

Comments Bryan: "Kathy is outstanding and has really im-



TRIPLE THREAT -- Kathy Little of Raeford is Pembroke State University's "Most Valuable Player" in Women's volleyball, basketball and softball. This month she was voted on the Carolinas Conference all-tournament volleyball team.

proved. She's only 5-7, but can jump much taller. It's so important in spiking to be able to hit down on top of the ball. She is unreal the way she can do this. Her jumping ability also helps her in blocking."

In basketball Kathy was the No. 2 scorer on the team with an 11.7 scoring average and was No. 2 in rebounding with an 8.5 mark. She was high scorer in three games and tied for high in another. Her highest single game point total was 27 points against Campbell.

Because of her kangaroo jumping ability, she jumped center last year although there were other girls on the team 5-10 in height. "I played the high and low posts, but the coach is talking about moving me outside this season," she observes. The PSU girl cagers find out how good they are Nov. 22 when they scrimmage Carolina here.

In softball Kathy started last season as a third baseman, but was soon moved to pitcher. She batted

No. 3 in the batting lineup.

When she first enrolled at Pembroke, her big interest was basketball, but she has now taken a tremendous liking to volleyball. "It seems the crowd gets into it better," she said.

With her as the leader, the PSU volleyball team has a 14-3 record. It's big target now is the North Carolina Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (NCAIAW) tournament Nov. 11-12 at Duke University.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest W. Little of Raeford, Kathy wants to be a physical education teacher and coach when she graduates next year.

She then added shyly because she wonders if it is out of range: "What I would really like to do is be on the U.S. Olympic women's basketball or volleyball team."

For a girl who used to outplay the boy on the basketball lot next door, this may not be out of the realm of possibility.



HALLOWEEN SCARES -- These fun-loving Jaycees are all set to put on Raeford's first official Haunted House next weekend. Starting from the left, the one baying at the moon is Samuel Crowder, then Charles Crowder, Tommy Connell, Ricky Sandy, Ken Koonce, Chuck Davis, Ken Smith, Bruce Dillon, Tony Graham and Mike Crowder.

## Goblins And Ghouls, Dr. Jekyll And Hyde All Set For Halloween

Goblins and ghouls will howl when the Raeford Jaycees hold the grand opening of their haunted house Saturday night at 7 p.m.

Young and old alike are invited to enjoy a spine-tingling trip into the Devil's Lair. Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde will be on hand for the event. After visiting the Haunted Room, Frankenstein's Lab, and the Chamber of Horrors, attending the Funeral for a Vampire will round out the terrifying evening. Treats for the trick or treaters attending the haunted house will be given.

Tickets for the Halloween spectacular will be \$1 per person. Children under six will be admitted free when accompanied by their parents. For a sneak preview, watch for the Jaycee monsters this Saturday. They will be selling advance tickets for the Haunted House on the streets of Raeford.

The house will be located next to the Masonic Lodge off Red Springs highway on the new 211 by-pass. It will be open from 7 p.m. until 11 p.m. Oct. 29, 30, and 31.

Project Chairman Robert Pecora said. "The Raeford Jaycees have put some long hours and a heap of

money to try to provide entertainment for this Halloween." Pecora also thanks merchants who provided supplies and equipment needed. He warns that those of faint heart must enter at their own risk.

The Jaycees have attempted to make the Haunted House as safe as possible, therefore they request that there be no smoking

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WHAT'S UP DOC? -- One of two friendly llamas who came to town with the Circus Kirk got a lot of wide-eyed looks from younger children who went through the petting zoo before the entertainment started. [Photo by Marty Vega]

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