

Dedicated To John Pecora

Banquet Honors Hoke's Top Athletes Leaders

Hoke County High School's athletes of the past year who were judged best in the sports were honored the night of May 20 at the school's annual Athletic Banquet in MacDonald Gymnasium.

Sharon McMillan was the top winner, receiving three Most Valuable (player) awards. These were in track, volleyball and

basketball. Among the men, Jeremy Simmons won two; the Jeff Upchurch Award in wrestling and a Coaches Award in football.

Center Harold Thompson received the Most Valuable award in boys' basketball, and his coach, Ron Parsons announced Thompson also had been named to the Converse National High School

Basketball All America team. Parsons presented Thompson with the school's Most Valuable trophy and the plaque of his All America selection.

Thompson will start at North Carolina State University in the 1980 fall term but before then, after graduating from Hoke this spring, he will play in the North

Carolina East - West All Star basketball game for the East this summer.

At the banquet also Thompson was among the athletes recognized as outstanding runners on the cross country team.

John Pecora, retired Hoke High athletic director and former head football coach, received a special honor in appreciation of his service to the school, and the banquet was dedicated to him.

Pecora retired last year after undergoing heart - bypass surgery. He had served as director of athletics for six years and as head football coach from 1965 till he was named to the post.

Pecora was presented a plaque by Hoke County Schools Supt. Raz Autry and, as a special gift, a wind - breaker type jacket. Pecora's successor, Billy Colston, also a teacher and a former coach of the girls' track team, also participated in the banquet program.

Special honors also were awarded to Drs. Riley Jordan and Robert Townsend, for their services to the athletes; Noah Hendrix, 1978 - 80 president of The Hoke County Booster Club; and Charlie Hottel, for his long, consistent loyal support of Hoke athletics.

The awards were presented by Dr. Lenwood Simpson, Hoke High Principal. Mrs. Townsend received the award for her husband, who was unable to attend the banquet.

The winners of the awards for the athletes, in addition to Miss McMillan, Simmons and Thompson are:

Football: Sam's Award -- Darryl Crouch. Most Valuable -- Elvis Purcell. Coaches Award (two given) -- James McMillan.

Boys' track: Coaches Award -- Paul Locklear.

Basketball: Most Valuable -- Harold Thompson. Coaches Award -- James Galberth.

Girls' volleyball: Coaches Award -- Janice Blackshear.

Girls' track: Coaches Award -- Michelle Leggett.

Wrestling: Coaches Award (but termed by Coach Phil Summa "Most Valuable") -- Darrell Cromartie. Charles Miller.

Most Valuable -- David Earl Blue. Coaches Award -- Anthony Brown.

Girls' tennis: Most Valuable -- Cathy Sappenfield.

Girls' softball: Most Improved -- Karen Deaton. Coaches Award -- Angela Thomas.

Boys' golf: Most Valuable -- Chris McDuffie (he also placed second in the 1980 Sectional Tournament).

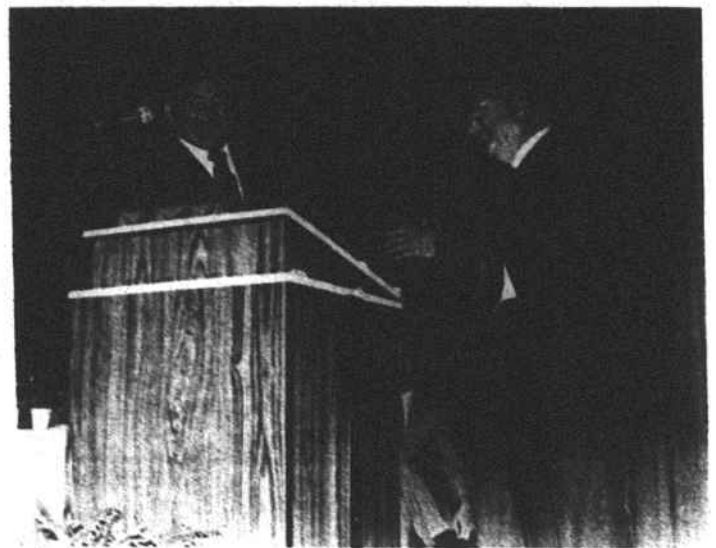
Girls' golf: Most Valuable -- Allison Poole.

Cross-country: Most Valuable -- Paul Locklear.

Varsity cheerleaders: Most Outstanding -- Ronda Atkinson.

Special awards also established for athletes who have earned varsity letters in three sports were presented to Mack Lewis, among the boys; and Miss McMillan, Shelia McRae, and Marian Monroe. The awards were presented by Colston.

Lewis won his varsity letters in cross - country, basketball, and



HONORED -- John Pecora [right], retired Hoke County High School director of athletics and former head football coach, receives from County Schools Supt. Raz Autry a plaque as an expression of appreciation for his 14 years of service to the school and its students. The annual Hoke High Athletic Banquet of May 20, at which the presentation was made, was dedicated to Pecora. [Staff photo by Bill Lindau].



COACHES, WIVES -- Shown at the Athletic Banquet are, clockwise, starting in the foreground: Melissa McGougan, Ron Parsons, Mrs. Clyde [Soupy] Campbell, her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bradshaw, and Cheryl Farmer. At the table later was Parson's wife. At the table also but off camera are Ivory Farmer, husband of Mrs. Farmer; and Hoke High Assistant Principal M.H. Williams. Melissa McGougan is assistant Hoke High girls' track and volleyball coach. Parsons is head coach of the Hoke boys' basketball squad and is an assistant football coach. Campbell, Hoke's head football coach till this spring, is head football coach of Lees-McRae College. Bradshaw is Campbell's successor at Hoke High. Mrs. Farmer is Hoke girls' volleyball and tennis coach. [Staff photo by Bill Lindau].

baseball. Misses Monroe and McRae won theirs in basketball, volleyball, and softball.

The banquet honored the high school's 350 athletes who participated this past school year in the school's 15 sports. The athletes ranged from freshman through varsity.

Among the people in the banquet audience were Hoke High's incoming head football coach, Charles Bradshaw; and besides Pecora, former head football coaches Clyde (Soupy) Campbell, new head coach at Lees-McRae College whom Bradshaw is succeeding; John Harris, who joined the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill grid staff as an assistant three days before the banquet, after a season as an assistant at Marshall College; and Bill Cameron, ex - Hoke High and University of Tennessee player now farming in Hoke County and

serving on the Hoke County Board of Education. Campbell succeeded Harris in the spring of 1979.

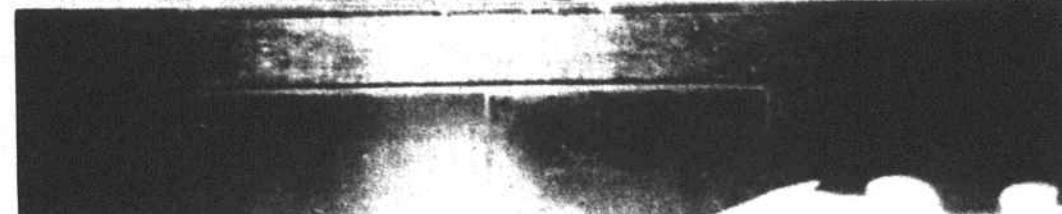
Other members of the county school board at the banquet were Dr. Jordan, the board chairman; and Mrs. Townsend, the board vice chairman.

Campbell presented the football trophies and certificates. The boys' track awards were presented by Jack Southern, assistant coach. Campbell was head coach of the track squad also.

The awards in the other sports and in varsity cheerleading were presented by their coaches: Audrey Long, girls' track, basketball and volleyball; Ron Parsons; boys' basketball; Summa, wrestling and boys' tennis; Mike Lassiter, baseball; Cheryl Farmer, girls' tennis and softball; David Locklear, boys' and girls' golf; Robert Taylor, cross country; and Faye Davis, varsity cheerleaders.



AT HEAD TABLE -- At the head table at the annual Hoke County High School Athletic Banquet are, L-R, the Rev. and Mrs. Tex Deaton, Hoke High Principal Dr. Lenwood Simpson, County Schools Supt. Raz Autry, Henry David Smith, 1980-81 president of the Hoke County Booster Club, Mrs. Noah Hendrix, wife of the 1979-80 Booster Club president, Mrs. Simpson, the wife of the principal, Irene Autry, wife of the superintendent and Maxine Colston, wife of Billy Colston, Hoke High's director of athletics. Colston and Hendrix also had seats at the head table but were elsewhere in the McDonald Gymnasium when this picture was taken. [Staff photo by Bill Lindau].



HONOR ATHLETES -- These Hoke County High School students are among those who received the top awards at the annual Athletic Banquet the night of May 20. The picture was taken shortly after the banquet, held in MacDonald Gymnasium at the school, ended. The students are on the gymnasium stage. Rear, L-R -- Jeremy Simmons, Darrell Cromartie, Harold Thompson, Charles Miller, Paul Locklear, Tony Gore, Jay Headen, James McMillan, Chris McDuffie, and Anthony Brown. Front, L-R -- Mack Lewis, David Blue, Cathy Sappenfield, Karen Deaton, Angela Thomas, Allison Poole, Sharon McMillan, Janice Blackshear, Rhonda Atkinson, and Michelle Leggett. The others, not in the picture, are Darryl Crouch, Elvis Purcell, James Galberth, and Deborah Love. [Staff photo by Bill Lindau].



WAITING FOR BANQUET -- This picture was taken shortly before the Hoke High Athletic Banquet started. L-R, Mrs. John Pecora, Hoke head basketball coach Ron Parsons, John Harris, Jr., and his father, a former Hoke High football coach, and Noah Hendrix, 1979-80 president of the Hoke County Booster Club. Mrs. Pecora's husband, who retired last year as the school's director of athletics, was honored at the banquet.



Some of the diners during the annual Athletic Banquet at Hoke High.