

# Van Dyke, Lineberger two of top baseball coaches in state

By DWIGHT FRADY  
Staff Writer

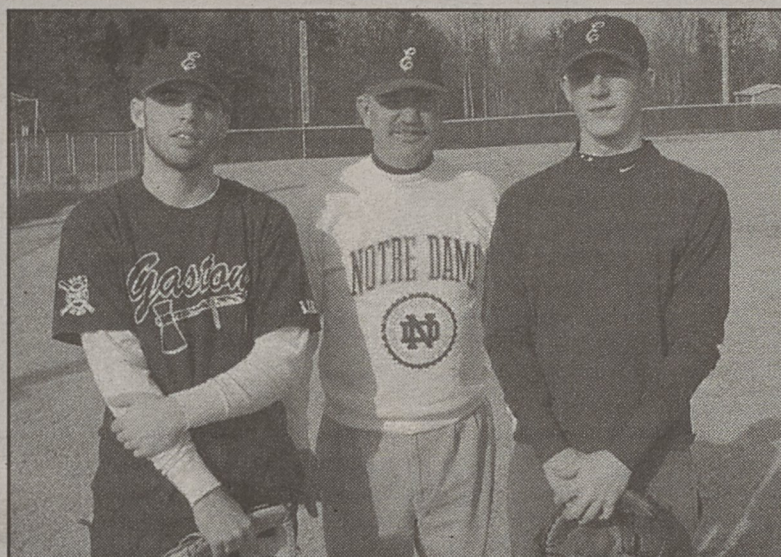
Two of the most successful prep baseball coaches in the state are right here in our own back yard.

East Gaston's Darrell Van Dyke, heading into his 26th season, has amassed a won-lost record of 334-248-2. After serving as an assistant to Jerry Adams for the 1978-79 season after graduating from Gardner-Webb, he has been the only Warrior coach since the 1979-80 year.

South Point's Mickey Lineberger, a South Point and Carson-Newman grad, is starting his 22nd year as Red Raider coach. His record is 347-190 for 21 years. The Red Raiders have had just two coaches, Lineberger and Phil Tate.

Last year's Naval Academy recruit Mitch Harris was the 69th player who either received a college scholarship or were drafted to play pro ball.

Drafted by the major league teams from South Point were Mickey Henson, high school, fourth round by the Texas Rangers; Shane Laye, Lewisburg, Oakland Athletics; Corey Broome, UNC-Wilmington, Detroit Tigers; Steve Mullis, Brevard; Stephen Cowie, Duke University,



East Gaston head baseball coach Darrell Van Dyke is flanked by two of his senior players who have won college scholarships. They are infielder Justin Moore (left) and pitcher-outfielder Matt Dameron.

Cleveland Indians; Devon Lowery, high school, Kansas City Royals, 23rd round; B.J. Richmond, Spartanburg Methodist, Los Angeles Dodgers.

Lineberger believes that current Belmont Abbey senior Ian Gibson and N.C. State University junior Matt Camp will be drafted this summer.

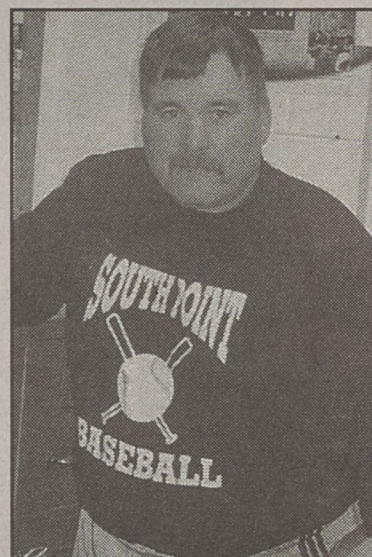
Lineberger has coached in the State Games four years, three years as an assistant and one year as head coach. The team won two gold medals in four years.

He has served as West coach in the East-West games.

This summer Lineberger will be the head coach for the North-South Classic in Myrtle Beach, S.C., being in charge of 14 North Carolina players. They will practice at the beach for five days and play South Carolina in Pelican Stadium June 11 in a nine-inning game.

Van Dyke-coached teams have won four regular season titles and three tournament crowns. The Warriors have played in four different conferences over the years, the Southwestern 3A, Tri-County 4A, MEGA 7 4A, and Big South 3A.

Last year the Warriors set an



Mickey Lineberger is starting his 22nd season as head baseball coach at South Point

all-time high for wins in a single season (19), and had their first prep All-American (catcher Jay McConnell).

Sixty of the Warriors under Van Dyke's tutelage have played college baseball. One of the Warrior pitchers, Scott Stewart, is currently in the major leagues, now with the New York Mets.

Warriors who have signed major league contracts are Tracey Black, 1979, Minnesota Twins; Wayne Kinley, 1981, Seattle Mariners; Mike Featherstone, 1982, Atlanta Braves; Stewart, 1994, Texas Rangers; Kenny Conroy, 1997,

Chicago Cubs.

Both Van Dyke and Lineberger are devoted to the sport of baseball and to the youngsters in their respective communities. Each summer they hold baseball camps at their school for young players.

## EAST GASTON SCHEDULE FEBRUARY

28 - Kings Mountain (End.), 4:30

## MARCH

3 - North Meck, 4:30  
7 - at North Meck, 4:30  
8 - Providence Day, 4:30  
11 - at Bessemer City, 7 p.m.  
15 - South Point, 7 p.m.  
17 - Fort Mill, 7 p.m.  
18 - Berry, 7 p.m.  
22 - at Huss, 7 p.m.  
24 - Ashbrook, 7 p.m.  
28-April 2 - Gaston Observer Tour., TBA

## APRIL

5 - at North Gaston, 7 p.m.  
8 - East Lincoln, 7 p.m.  
12 - at Forestview, 7 p.m.  
14 - Charlotte Christian, 7 p.m.  
15 - at South Point, 7 p.m.  
19 - at Berry, 7 p.m.  
22 - Huss, 7 p.m.  
26 - at Ashbrook, 7 p.m.  
28 - North Gaston, 7 p.m.

## MAY

3 - at East Lincoln, 7 p.m.  
5 - Forestview, 7 p.m.

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