

SPORTS/EDUCATION

# East Gaston baseball complex named for Van Dyke

TODD HAGANS

Special to The Herald

James and Margie Van Dyke of Kings Mountain made a special trip to Mount Holly Tuesday night, not necessarily to watch a baseball game, but to see their son receive one of the most significant honors of his career.

East Gaston High School named its baseball field the Coach Darrell Van Dyke Baseball Complex to pay tribute to the Kings Mountain native for his 28 years of coaching. Van Dyke's family, friends and current and former players joined him on the field for brief remarks and the unveiling of a sign that will hang at the stadium.

The pre-game dedication was a complete surprise to the nearly speechless and visibly emotional Van Dyke, who told those gathered around him, "I wondered what you were doing." Van Dyke thanked school officials for naming the field in his honor while shaking hands and posing for pictures. Attention then shifted to East Gaston's conference contest against Ashbrook.

Van Dyke's parents took pride in the moment, reminiscing about their son's lifelong love of the sport. Mr. Van Dyke recalled Darrell's excitement when they went to Atlanta for a Braves game and Mrs. Van Dyke told of how Darrell spent much of his childhood playing baseball.

"Our front yard looked like an outfield. There were paths from bush to bush,"

she said.

Van Dyke is a 1974 graduate of Kings Mountain High School. After completing college at Gardner-Webb in 1978, he became a math teacher and assistant baseball coach at East Gaston. Several years later, he succeeded Jerry Adams as head baseball coach.

His coaching accomplishments are impressive. He's fielded competitive teams year after year and won more than 350 games, making him one of the winningest high school coaches in the state. Called a great role model by his colleagues, Van Dyke also spent time coaching legion baseball.

Mr. Van Dyke says his son knows it takes discipline to be successful. It's a quality he believes he instilled in his son at a young age.

"I am a disciplinarian myself," said Mr. Van Dyke. "I pushed him pretty hard. I told him if he started anything, he couldn't quit. I guess he listened because he's been here for 28 years."

Obviously a proud father, Mr. Van Dyke said he never had the chance to play baseball. So he's glad to see his son enjoying the game.

"He acts like a kid himself," said Mr. Van Dyke. "You wouldn't know he was the coach because he acts like one of them. He is a dedicated ole boy and he does a good job."

Whether in math class or on the baseball field, Mr. Van Dyke says his son has high expectations.

"He expects his students and his players to do their best," said Mr. Van Dyke.

"He expects them to give nothing less than 100 percent."

That philosophy was evident when the Warriors played in last week's Gaston County baseball tournament. Entering the event with a 5-11 record, East Gaston upset state-ranked and tournament favorite North Gaston and knocked off baseball power Cherryville to reach the finals. It was the tenth championship appearance for a Van Dyke-coached team in the tournament's 20-year history, a feat that proves he has built one of the best high school baseball programs in the region and state.

"He's put in a lot of hours on this field working after school and on the weekend," said Mrs. Van Dyke. "To do this for so long and to work with so many kids, you have to have a heart for it. It's great that they are honoring him. He deserves it."

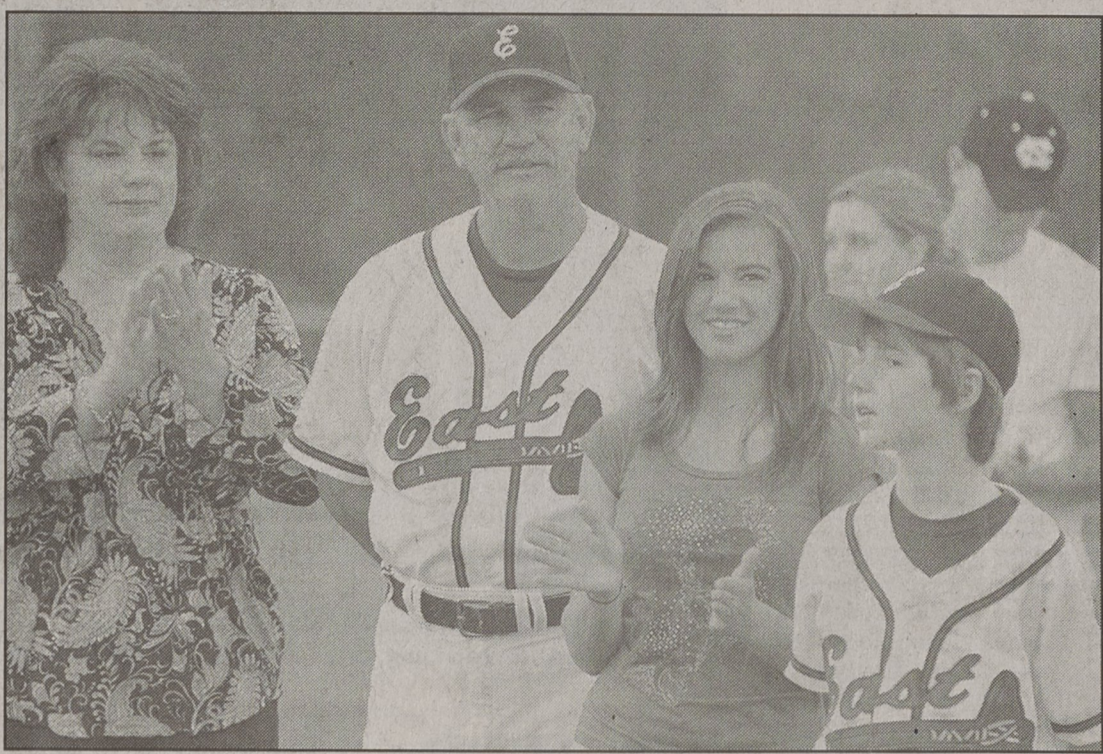


Photo by Todd Hagans  
Darrell Van Dyke is pictured with his wife Kim, daughter Victoria and son Tyler during Tuesday night's field dedication ceremony at East Gaston High School. Van Dyke, a native of Kings Mountain and former athlete at Kings Mountain High School and Gardner-Webb University, has won 357 ballgames in 28 years with the Warriors.

## National Honor Society induction held at KM High

Twenty-eight Kings Mountain High School students were recently inducted into the National Technical Honor Society. Students and their parents were recognized at the induction ceremony, which was held in the student activities center of Cleveland Community College. Senior members of the organization were also recognized during the ceremony and were presented honor cords to be worn at the June graduation exercises.

The 2006 initiates were: Ebonee Roseboro, Tiffany Shockley, Krista Anderson, and Katie Howell -Business Technologies; Matt Byrd, Alan Heinbach, Kendrick McDowell, and Cleveland Brown -Construction Technologies; Tasha Calhoun, Bryan Chapman, and Terry Childers -Engineering Technologies; Katie Bell, Danielle Champion, Cynthia Detter, Janie Dowda, Natara Fowler, LaShay Scruggs, Cecilia Smith, Nikkie Summitt, Gauri Patel, and Brittany White -Health Sciences; Wendell Bunch, Kyle Byars, Stacy Crawford, and Christian Lail -Industrial Technologies; and Ashley Lockhart, Sandra Obando-Ramirez, Brittany McClain, and Angel Watson -Public Service Technologies.

Senior members (inducted in 2004-05) who were also recognized were: Travis Volz, Chris Starr, Krystal

Proctor, and Tracy Robbins, -Business Technologies; Miles Galloway and Eric Hellstrand -Drafting/Construction Technologies; Jerry Canipe-Construction Technologies; Victoria Chryst, Spencer Erwin, Andrew Haskett, Craig Huffstetler, and David Hughes -Engineering Technologies; and Becky Sisk -Health Sciences.

The NTHS is a student organization that promotes honesty, service and leadership in the school and the workplace. In addition, it promotes and rewards scholastic achievement in vocational and technical education. The KMHS vocational and technical education teachers are: Craig Mayes-Agriculture and Natural Resource Technologies, Liza Dellinger, Deb Elmore, Annette Burton, Jenifer McCachren, Gail McDougal, and Robin Spicer -Business Technologies; Wayne Thompson-Construction Technologies; Dan Owens-Drafting; Alfred Ash-Engineering Technologies; Becki Anthony and Cynthia Dover-Health Sciences; Ed Herndon and Eric Price-Industrial Technologies; and Janet Flemming and Kay Stowe-Public Service Technologies. Nancye Hager, Career Development Coordinator, and Margaret Rhodes, VOCATS Coordinator, serve as advisors of the organization.

## Buckshot, Lucky Ducks win in Thursday night loop

Buckshot Bowlers swept PJS 8-0 and Lucky Ducks defeated KM Warriors 6-2 in mixed duckpin bowling league action Thursday night at Dilling Heating.

Jack Barrett led Buckshot Bowlers with a 126 line and

336 set. Judy Abernathy led PJs with a 100-286.

Tommy Barrett's 133 line and 369 set led Lucky Ducks over the Warriors. Allen Myers rolled a 119-345 and Robert Titus ha a 121-335 for the Warriors.

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