

Coach Jim Biggerstaff



Appreciation Banquet,

**October 30, 1993
Cramer Mtn. Country Club**

PROGRAM

Invocation

Rev. Joe Lawing

Dinner

Welcome

Jim Stowe

Roast

Bobby Brown
Mike McWhirter
Phil Tate
Mickey Lineberger

Feature Remarks

Bill Hannon
Don Saine
Dwight Frady
Bill Eutsler

Presentation of Gift

Remarks from "The Coach"

Jim Biggerstaff

Closing Remarks

Joe Messer, Master of Ceremonies



COACH BIGGERSTAFF
...Pointing way to victory



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
RALEIGH 27603-8001

JAMES B. HUNT, JR.
GOVERNOR

October 30, 1993

Mr. Jim Biggerstaff
200 Stowe Road
Belmont, North Carollilna 28012

Dear Jim:

Although my schedule prevents me from being with you, I am writing to congratulate you on a great career. Your success record is enviable.

As I examine your accomplishments, I am impressed by your winning percentage and your longevity. But more important, I appreciate the hundreds of lives that you have touched. Those young men are better people -- not just better athletes--because of your leadership.

I commend you for a job well done and wish you a successful and enjoyable banquet.

My warmest personal regards.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "JB Hunt".

James B. Hunt, Jr.





NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 3216 • Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27515 • 919 962-2345 • FAX 919 962-1686

CHARLES H. ADAMS, *Executive Director*

RICHARD L. KNOX
Deputy Executive Director

RAYMOND M. STRUNK, JR.
Associate Executive Director

CAROLYN C. SHANNONHOUSE
Assistant Executive Director

MARILYN Q. TUCKER
Assistant Executive Director

ROBERT A. MELOTT
Association Counsel

August 3, 1993

Mr. Jim Biggerstaff
200 Stowe Road
Belmont, NC 28012

Dear Jim:

You and I go back a long, long time. In fact, I can hardly remember a time in high school athletics that you were not a strong advocate and supporter of the program.

There are many things that I will remember about you, but I would like to focus on some of the more recognizable. One, is your friendliness; secondly, your loyalty and devotion to the schools and student athletes and finally your total support.

You have been a good role model and all of us here at the NCHSAA office appreciate all you have done. You have truly given a lifetime of service and the good work you have done will be remembered and appreciated by all of us in the years to come.

You have left an indelible impression on all of us who have been fortunate enough to have been touched by your smile, your firm handshake and your leadership abilities.

We will never forget you and hope that you will stay in touch. You are a good person, a good colleague, and most important, you are a good longtime friend.

In closing, we wish for you the best and hope you will be happy in your retirement years. Thanks again for your friendship and thanks for a job well done.

Sincerely,

Charles H. Adams
Executive Director

CHA:cph

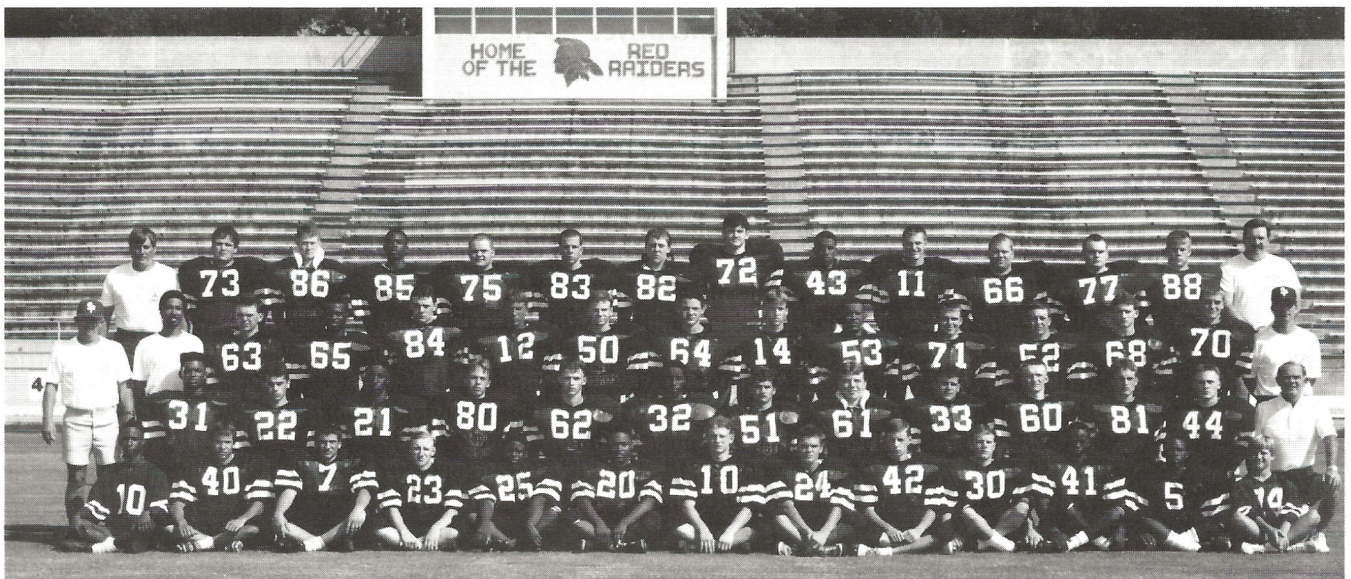
Through The Years



1969...Coach Biggerstaff's First Red Raider Team



1979...State champions (14-0 Record)



1989...Coach Bigg's Last Raider Squad



Gaston County Schools
shaping our future

July 21, 1993

Edwin L. West, Jr.
Superintendent

Mr. Jim Biggerstaff
200 Stowe Road
Belmont, NC 28012

Dear Jim:

Central Administrative Office

943 Osceola Street
P.O. Box 1397
Gastonia, NC 2805
(704) 866-6100
FAX (704) 866-6175

Department of
Exceptional Children

730 W. Garrison Boulevard
Gastonia, NC 28052
(704) 866-6160
FAX (704) 866-6191

Division of
Resource Management

1608 Hoffman Road
Gastonia, NC 28054
(704) 866-6129
FAX (704) 866-6193

School Nutrition Programs

500 Reid Street
Lowell, NC 28098
(704) 824-8423
FAX (704) 824-8442

Teacher Resource Center

366 W. Garrison Boulevard
Gastonia, NC 28052
(704) 866-6174
FAX (704) 866-6194

Congratulations on a very successful coaching career. I know it is especially gratifying to you to be honored by "your people", the Belmont community. During your coaching tenure, you certainly established yourself as one of the premier coaches in the state. It was always a pleasure to watch your Red Raiders perform on Friday nights.

I am sure this recognition is not only for your outstanding work in athletics, but the example you set as a man. Your integrity and high standards were always respected by your fellow coaches and the North Carolina High School Athletic Association.

One of the rewards of the coaching profession and being involved in high school athletics is getting to know outstanding people like you. As a result of this professional and personal association, I will always covet our friendship. We have shared the same philosophy and beliefs about young people and athletics.

As a former coach and Gaston County Athletic Director, I salute you for your dedication, commitment, and your tremendous contribution to the young men and women who were fortunate to call you "coach".

Good luck to you and Joyce as you enjoy the "Paw-Paw" and "Maw-Maw" years.

Sincerely,

Don Saine
Gaston County
Athletic Director

DS:bwh



"East End Kid"



Mom And Dad, Aline and Lewis Biggerstaff

Best wishes from The Irish

**University of Notre Dame,
Football Office,
Notre Dame, Indiana**

Dear Coach:

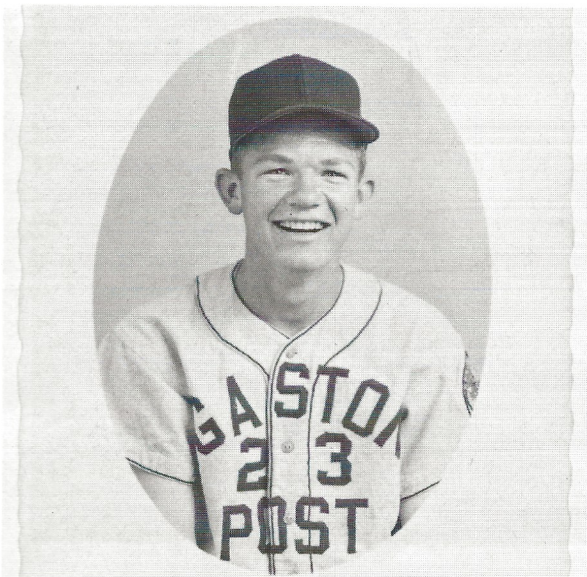
On behalf of the Notre Dame family, we wish to join your your family and friends in extending heartiest congratulations and best wishes upon your retirement as football coach and athletic director from South Point High School.

I'm certain your many years of dedication and service will be long remembered by all.

We don't know what plans you have in store for the future, but we certainly hope you will never retire your enthusiasm for the Fighting Irish. It is the loyal support of people like you, Jim, that enables us to carry on the tradition that exemplify the glory of Notre Dame.

Best of luck, and enjoy.

***Sincerely,
Lou Holtz***



Gaston Post 23 Baseball Star



Mom and Dad, Brothers And Sisters

Leaving a legacy

Mr. James L. Biggerstaff
200 Stowe Road
Belmont NC 28012

Dear Jim:

How could anyone have ever known when we both came to South Point High School in 1969 what the future held for the football program. Recalling conversations with Mr. (Gerald) Cortner about the hiring process for the football coach that had just taken place, I doubt that you ever realized that this was your first major win.

Our competition for the position had been keen and involved community members who insisted that the very best candidate be selected. Who would have believed that your ten years working with the Bill Eutsler football program in Rockingham was destined to not only be duplicated but surpassed during your tenure as head coach. I also have many memories of practice on the rough student parking lot where making or breaking a player was not taken too lightly.

Recollections of the fans sitting on the red banks in lounge chairs, the lack of facilities for concession stands, restrooms, dressing rooms and a place to practice - all the hardships in those years could have been used as an excuse not to win.

You brokered these conditions and hardships into positiveness by fielding teams with earned toughness and perseverance. As a former football coach, I was most impressed with your organizational skills, development of your assistant coaches and motivation of the players.

Your teams were always prepared mentally while performing with precision, but the overriding team characteristic was their overpowering physical condition that the opponents respected and feared.

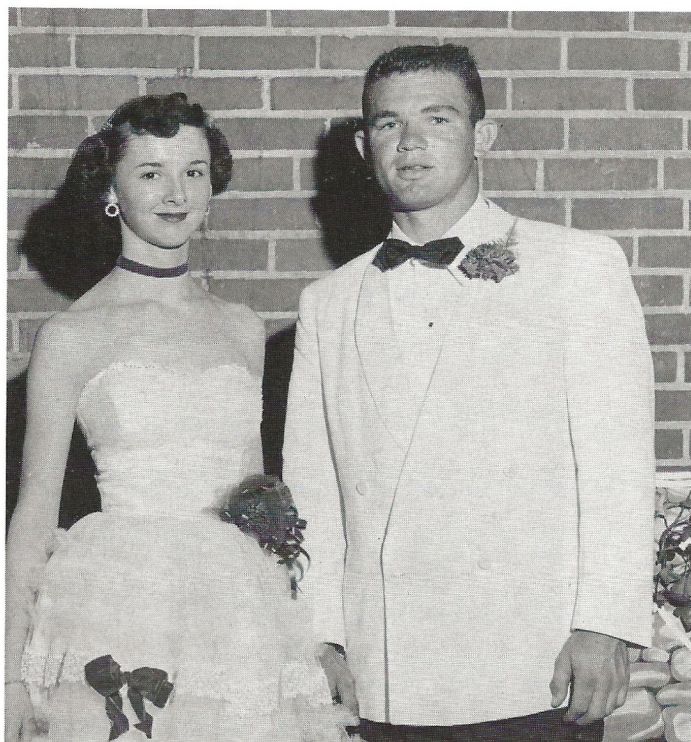
Personally, I always looked forward to being near the visiting team buses when they arrived at Lineberger Stadium. Players and coaches more often than not showed outward signs of fear and intimidation before any contact was ever made. I have heard visiting coaches verbally express desperation, hopelessness and defeat as their players filed out of the buses.

Many of these teams were superior in size, strength and experience, but they were overwhelmed at meeting your team that was always more totally prepared.

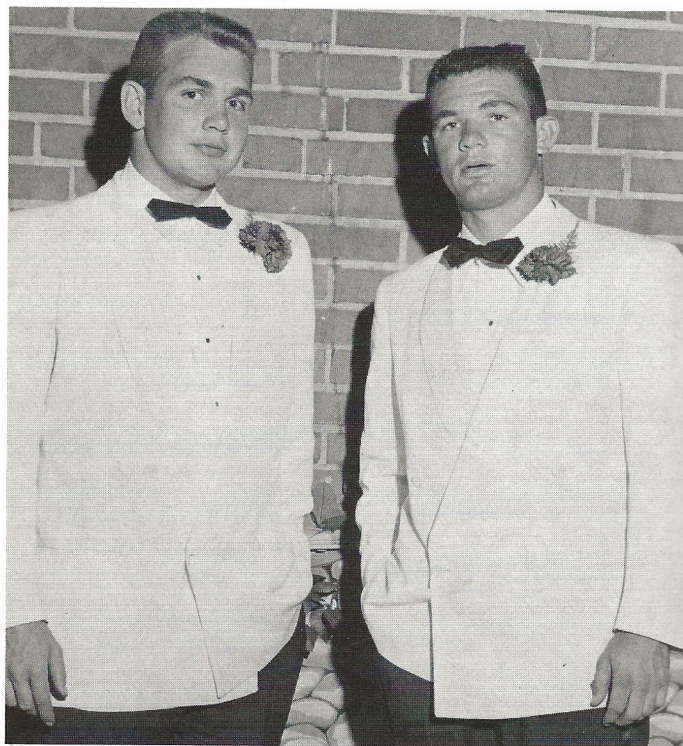
The resulting effect of regular repeated winning quickly became an expectation. These Friday night events soon became a part of the community culture that is not surpassed in any place I know.

Experience for students and players that have resulted from "Red Raider" participation have affected and will continue to influence thousands of lives. "Big Red" history will live on, and your legacy as "Coach Big" may describe all that needs to be said!

Sincerely
Don Ratchford



JIM AND JOYCE ... Headed To The Prom



WITH JACK LINEBERGER ... Jim And Best Friend Get Ready For Junior-Senior Prom

Coach, you're more than 'scintillating'

Dear Jim:

Somehow they thought it might be fitting for me to write something about you for this program, and for "your night."

Since I've written about you since we were classmates at Belmont High School, it's a joy for me to do so now that we are growing old together. Older, but better.

John Selden has written, "Old Friends are best. King James used to call for his old shoes; they were the easiest for the feet."

We go back to boyhood days and sharing a couple of the same classrooms at Belmont High. We shared Friday nights, too. I was in the stands with a notebook in my hand and you were a tailback and wingback for the Red Raiders out on the field of fray.

Writing about you and those great Belmont High teams for my hometown paper helped prepare me in my journalism career. Little did we know then that I would become editor of your hometown paper, and that you would come back to lead South Point High School to records unmatched in football, not to mention being one of the best teachers and athletic directors any school could ever have.

But I remember the high school days, like when we played Lincolnton during your junior year. We had the ball at our 19. Somehow, I just knew you were going to get the call from your tailback post.

You did get the call, and I can still see you sweeping wide right, getting a couple of nice blocks, your "juking" a couple of would-be tacklers, then hitting the far sidelines. You could run like the wind. I knew nobody would touch you. You went 81 yards for a score.

I wrote up the games for The Banner that year as a senior journalism student, just like I'm still writing up the games as the editor. In my story in the following Wednesday's edition of The Banner, my lead went something like this: "James Biggerstaff, the swivel-hipped star of the Belmont backfield, went 81 yards on a scintillating run Friday to lead the Red Raiders to a big 26-12 victory over Lincolnton at Davis Park."

When your hometown newspaper was delivered to the library (the library was located next to study hall), you evidently read my account of the game.

We shared a biology class downstairs. You came into the classroom with that customary smile on your face and said to me, "Dwight, that was a nice story you had in the paper today. But you lost me on the word 'scintillating.' Just what does it mean?"

I said, "Jim, it means 'spectacular,' or 'breathtaking.'"

Your smile became even bigger and you said, "In that case, you described it PERFECTLY!"

I tell people the longer I tell that story, the longer the touchdown run becomes. Ten years from now, it will have stretched out to a 99-yard run.

I'll always be grateful for your support over the years. You helped make my job so much easier. I always got "the scoop" on any sports story from South Point.

I sometimes look at my old senior yearbook, The Clarion. You wrote on one of the pages, "Dwight, you stole the show in the Junior/Senior play as 'Homer.' Thanks for your kindness to me and to our football team this year. I admire you as a basketball player. You will always be a special friend."

I not only love you, Jim, but I love your children and your grandchildren.

Football has taught us a lot about the game of life. It has taught us things like:

Intensity is to do something with a purpose. You practice and play with intensity because you have a purpose. Treat others as you would like to be treated. I have never seen a team, or family, or a business that can't become better by emphasizing love and understanding.

History has taught us time and again that accomplishments are achieved in areas that losers thought were not important and winners did. You are a winner.

All the biggest successes I have known had a burning desire to be number one. In being number one, you must pay complete attention to detail. There are so many little things in the world that have to be attended to, details can be tedious and boring. Most people can do the big things, but it is the individual (like you) and the teams (like the ones you coached) who paid strict attention to detail who won.

You helped teach us that life's really a "team sport." If you have the right attitude, you have togetherness. If you have togetherness, you have a commitment to excellence. When you have a commitment to excellence, success is inevitable.

Jim, thanks for all the memories. If you ever need me, you know where I'll be; probably here at the office sitting hump-shouldered over a computer. Just as I am while I'm writing this.

**With much appreciation,
Dwight Frady,
Editor,
The Belmont Banner**

'Honest James, my friend'

Shelby, N.C.

Aug. 8, 1993

Dear Jim:

I am honored to be asked to write about the football rivalry between the Shelby Golden Lions and the South Point Red Raiders. Our very first game as rival coaches in 1969 was a "thriller" and set the stage for those that followed.

The South Point game was usually the high point of the season for our coaches, players and fans.

One of the things I missed most when I retired from coaching was our annual battle with South Point. As you well know, we both "played for keeps," and when our teams met on the playing field, no quarter was asked...or given.

However, when the game ended, the players and coaches usually walked off the field with a new respect for each other.

Over the years as the South Point-Shelby rivalry increased, my admiration and respect for you as a coach and as a man increased proportionally.

Your teams were well prepared and played with great pride and determination. They also played within the rules. These factors made South Point a football team which was always on or near the top of the conference standings.

Now that retirement has claimed both of us and the Shelby-South Point rivalry has passed into other hands, I'll always remember it as special.....because of "Honest James"....my friend.

Sincerely

Gerald "Pearly" Allen

Shelby High School

A Christian influence

Dear Coach Biggerstaff:

When I was in high school I heard about South Point. When I was in college, you won a state title, and I continued to hear about Coach Biggerstaff and South Point.

When I went on athletic directors trips with you, I felt like I was with the "Who's Who of High School Coaches." And when you hired me I could hardly believe I actually worked for you!

Two things come to my mind when I think of you, and that's compliments. The second greatest compliment you can pay a man is that he had a major positive influence on your life. You may not even know how much positive influence you've had on me.

As you walk down this short road of life, you encounter people whom you look at and say, "He helped make me a better man."

The greatest compliment you can pay a man is to call him a Christian. You are truly a Christian man who has influenced my life.

**Thank you,
Chip Herring**

'Thanks for being our best friend'

Oct. 5, 1993

Dear Jim:

When you first asked us to assume an office in the Big Red Booster Club, how were we to know we had started a job that would continue for many years.

Thank you for getting us involved in an organization that has helped so many young people.

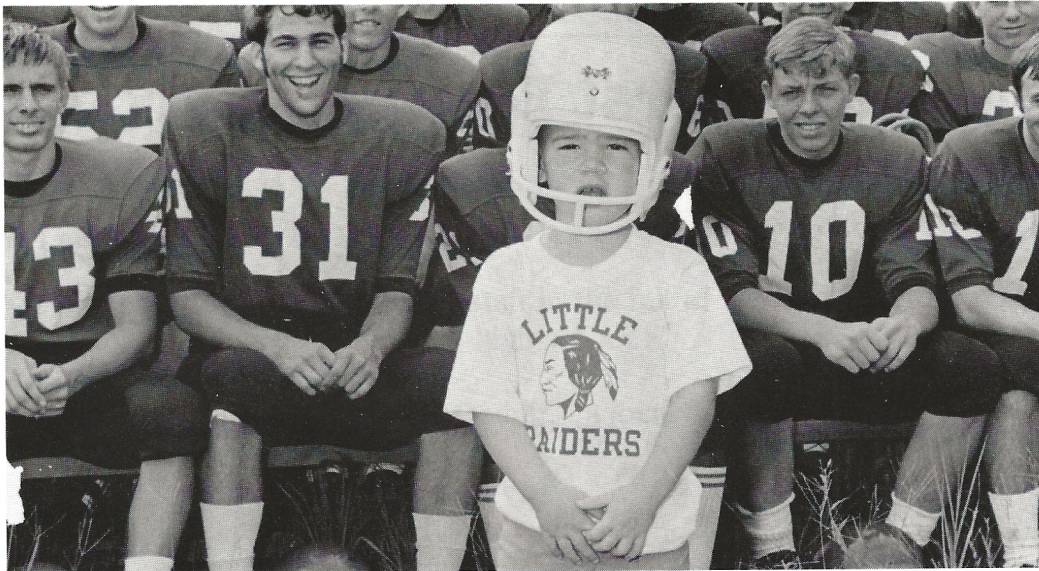
As parents of a former Red Raider, we want to thank you for guiding our son for three years and making him proud to be a Red Raider.

Thanks for being our best friend. Thanks for many years of memories.

Accept this honor - you have earned it.

We Love You,

Johnny and Jeanette Faulkenberry



COACH NEEDED A LITTLE HELP FROM SON JEFF IN HIS FIRST SEASON (1969)

The proper state of mind

Dear Coach Biggerstaff

You are truly the founder of the South Point Red Raider Tradition. A tradition that is known and respected throughout the state. A lot of opposing coaches would look over their schedules and say, "uh-huh, uh-huh, uh-huh," but when they came to South Point, they would say, "huh-OHH!"

When you and your staff began working together in 1969 at South Point High School, 6-4 and 5-5 were considered good years. You had to turn around a program that hadn't won a championship since you played in high school.

You had to change attitudes and work habits, develop pride, confidence, and desire. It was remarkable at how quickly those changes came about. After a 5-5 season came a 9-1 and then a 12-0-1 conference championship and state co-championship. The South Point Red Raider tradition was born and after that nothing but a championship was acceptable.

Coach Big, under your leadership the Red Raiders went on to win countless conference championships, an undefeated 14-0 State Championship, and a string of more than 17 consecutive winning seasons.

During those years, the finest stadium in the state was built. The strongest booster club in the state was established. Friday night football became the talk of the two towns of Belmont and Cramerton.

You instilled a lot of pride in every citizen of these two communities. They were proud to go to their workplace and boast of the weekly Red Raider accomplishments. Red Raider fans would always outnumber the home team crowd on road trips.

South Point students knew they were special people because of the school they attended. On behalf of all the students and citizens of Belmont and Cramerton, I'd like to say "thank you!"

But Coach, not only did you touch the lives of students and citizens, the most important impact was on the lives of your players. Players don't really appreciate or understand the impact you had on their lives until they get older and look back at the lessons they learned and the habits they developed under your leadership.

One of the first lessons we learned during the '69 season was the art of surviving. The body was a lot stronger than the mind. We could take a lot more than we thought we could. You learned that anything worth having was worth working for.

We learned to pay the price. You developed in us a winning attitude. When we played games, we would play by the rules and play as hard as we could on every snap. We learned not to be satisfied with less than our best.

Coach Big, you gave us confidence through your talks and listening to the Ray Elliot record, The Proper State of Mind. And that the man who wins is not the bigger, faster man, but the one who thinks he can! We learned that when the going gets tough, the tough get going! We learned to get along with each other and to respect each other.

I guess a big tribute to you would be all the former players who have chosen coaching as a profession. We have a desire to help others receive a little of what you have given us.

I hope we can keep the rich Red Raider tradition alive and make half as much difference in as many lives as you have. Thanks Coach Big, from the bottom of my heart.

*Sincerely,
Mickey Lineberger*



Drexel First Baptist Church

200 South Main Street
Post Office Box 308
Drexel, North Carolina 28619
Phone (704) 437-3351

July 16, 1993

Mr. Don Hyde
15 Myrtle St.
Belmont, NC 28012-0920

Dear Friends of South Point High School,

I would like to congratulate Coach Jim Biggerstaff on his retirement following many years of faithful and loyal service to the South Point Community.

During my fifteen years of ministry in Belmont, some of my fondest memories relate to South Point High School, Coach Jim, and the football teams. Jim is indeed a "second miler", who always gave his best, whether we won or lost. How fortunate we have been to have a man of his character, commitment, and determination. I am sure he has touched many young men's lives.

One of the special days that we always looked forward to at South Point Baptist Church was Red Raider Day. On this day we were honored to have Jim, coaches, football players, cheerleaders, and parents as our guests.

It gives me great joy to know that he is being honored on this special occasion.

I want Jim to know that I will always treasure our relationship, and celebrate with him all that God has in store for him today and in the future.

With Warmest Regards,

Bill Abrams

When I first met Jim Biggerstaff in the fall of 1981, he was more than just the football coach at the local high school.

Jim was South Point's "Big Daddy"-- a focal point of the school and the town of Belmont.

Students, and not exclusively football players, regarded Coach Biggerstaff with awe and admiration. Yet, he seemed a friend to all-- until it was 4th and goal of the big game.

I've seen him win games by imposing his sheer force of will. Without saying a word, his players knew what was expected and were drilled and skilled enough to do the right things at the right time.


Rarely do men walk the earth with such a balance of fierce dedication and gentile nature. Jim does.

No wonder he is the all-time winningest football coach at South Point during his 21 year career.

But the litmus test of Coach Biggerstaff is his legacy of players he's molded into winners for life.

We need more Jim Biggerstaff's in this world. Thankfully, we still have one to learn from.

Sincerely,



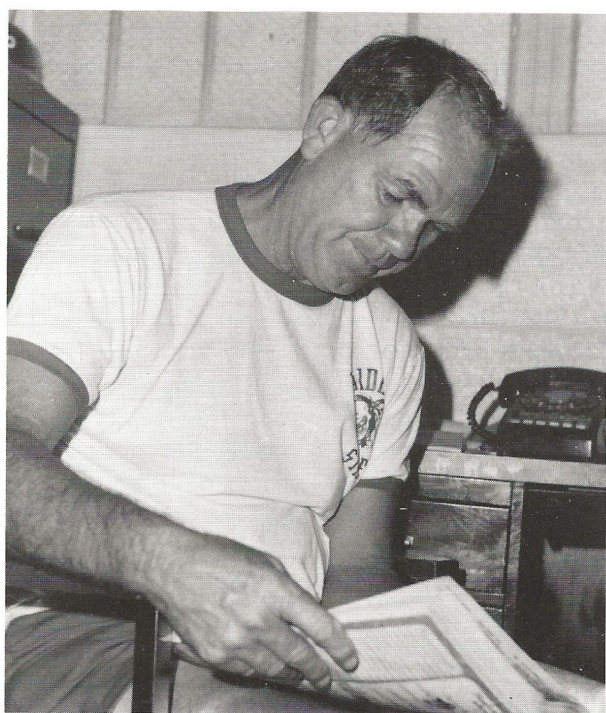
Paul Cameron
WBTV Sports Director
One Julian Price Place
Charlotte, NC 28208



CHAMPIONS FROM 1953

Personnel Manager Buddy Burch of Piedmont Processing came up with this old picture of the midget baseball team from the summer of '53 in Belmont. Some of the players you will recognize. Seated, left to right, are Harold Williams, Richard Glover, Clean Mason, Pete Dean, Don Messer, and James Biggerstaff. Standing, left to right,

Buddy Burch, Raymond Flowers, Jimmy Bentley, Lamar Drum, Jimmy Hall and Charles Glover. Hall went on to play major league ball for New York, Los Angeles, Cleveland and Minnesota. Biggerstaff is now football coach of the South Point Red Raiders. Richard Glover and Burch are employed at Piedmont Processing.



'BACK HOME' WITH THE RAIDERS



'NEW RECRUIT' FOR BILL EUTSLER,
'SCHOOL OF COACHES'

Coach, you're the best

Hartsville High School,
Football Office,
Hartsville, S.C.
Sept. 17, 1993

Dear Coach:

It is with great pleasure that I write this long overdue letter. I sincerely appreciate the tremendous impact you had on my life in ways that you will never know.

You had a bigger influence on me, along with the assistant coaches who worked with you, than anyone except my family. You taught me not only about the game of football, but about life. Your hard work, along with the genuine concern you showed for people, influenced my choice of careers.

I have patterned a lot of things I do in coaching and teaching after what I observed you doing so many times. You were always very demanding but also very fair. Your enthusiasm for football and life is contagious. You have influenced my life and many others in numerous ways.

I can remember playing youth football and junior high football and being told that it would probably be my last level of football. I came to South Point and you gave me a chance to earn a position even though I weighed 135 pounds. I might have been - and probably was - the worst football player in America at that time.

I was small, slow, and weak, but you saw something in me. I am not sure if you remember, but you said I would try to hit people. It was not hard to figure out that I better hit after Danny Clawson hit me play after play at defensive end.

I really thought I was something after I was moved to offensive guard my junior year weighing 145 pounds. It was a tremendous thrill getting to play on that team and alternating at right guard with "Wildbird" Gibson.

Another big thrill that really made me feel good was when you put Mickey and me at defensive guard on goal line defense. Playing on the kickoff team was also exciting. I got down the field and made some tackles even though I was not very fast. If you had the confidence in me to give me those chances, I had to prove that you were right. I hope I did that because I tried to play with a lot of heart.

I worked the hardest I have ever worked my senior year to get in shape before the season. I weighed 165 pounds then but have gained a little now. We had only five seniors and only lost twice - to Shelby - that year.

We tied East Gaston that year in the first game in Lineberger Stadium. I tell people all the time that the stadium was named after me. The Monday after that game was the hardest practice I have ever been through. I learned that when you feel you cannot go anymore that you just have to reach back and give a little more. You can, even if you think you can't. It was a tremendous lesson. It was definitely great being a South Point Red Raider and playing for you.

I did not get to coach at South Point, but I learned very well. I got a job coaching the Hartsville Red Foxes, which is the closest thing to it. We work hard and try to be in the best condition of any team we play. We want to own the fourth quarter and your many pre-game and halftime talks have surely helped me.

We play tonight for win number 100 in my tenth year of being a head coach. You will get this letter after the game and I hope we are successful (editor's note: the Foxes were). I'm not bragging, but I write this to say that you have been the biggest influence and reason for my success, other than my family.

It certainly helps to have tremendous assistant coaches and I do. Trey McGarity is one and he, too, is a former Red Raider. I can tell you that you influenced him greatly and it has paid off for me. I still listen to "The Proper State of Mind" by Ray Elliot every Friday before we play. I am on my third record and second tape. There is a copy of the poem that was in our playbook on my wall in my office. I could go on and on but I'm sure you will get many letters.

Thanks for the tremendous influence, the many lessons, and all that you did for me and thousands more whom you have touched. One of the greatest compliments I have ever received was at a S.C.A.C.A. Board of Directors meeting. Changes in coaching football over the years were being discussed. The president asked each of us if we coached like our high school coach coached us. None of them said they did. I said, "I certainly try to - every day I go out on the field."

I would try to run through a brick wall if you told me to and wouldn't think twice. You will be, and have always been, Coach Biggerstaff to me and you're the best. If I can ever help you in any way, please let me know. Thanks again for what you have done and continue to do for me, players, coaches, and fans across the state, and mainly for the close family of all South Point Red Raiders. Once you are a Red Raider, you will always be a Red Raider.

Best wishes to you and your family. Thanks for all the sacrifices by each of you. You have made a difference in a lot of lives.

Sincerely,
Lewis Lineberger,
Class of 1973

Remembering winning 17 of 18

Dear Coach Big:

I remember the first time I walked into the coaches office at the South Point High School fieldhouse. It was the summer of my sophomore year and football practice was getting ready to start.

I was getting my physical and Dr. Sam Shaver and you were in the office. I was nervous and I remember how you made me feel at ease. You enthusiastically told Dr. Shaver I was a quarterback. I remember you consoling me after the first game of my junior year. We got beat, which was unusual for South Point football.

I didn't play well at all and took the loss very personal. I felt awful and doubted myself and my abilities. You told me the least one you were worried about on the team was me. I never had another bad game and we won 17 of our next 18.

I remember the first game of my senior year against Ashbrook. We were behind and I was coming off the field after an unsuccessful third down play. You got on me about the play and I barked back at you a little bit. You proceeded to bark back at me a lot and you told me to get off my high horse.

We came back to win the game and after it was over, I apologized to you. Your response was, "when you're competitive, we all get caught up in the heat of the battle sometimes."

Yes, I remember the exact words that were said during those times. Why do I remember so well? It was the respect I had for you and the respect your presence commanded. You made me feel at ease, you picked me up, you chewed me out, and you put things in perspective for me.

You did these things for a lot of players, even if it was the chewing out part which I realized later is the hardest thing to do as a coach, but it has to be done. My respect and admiration is even greater since I'm now in the coaching profession.

You've helped make me a better coach. I now understand that a good coach has to have respect and a presence about him. I realize how unselfish you were concerning all of your assistants, but especially your two long-time assistants, Earl Lingafeldt and Phil Tate.

You let them coach and you let them get closer to the players than you at times. However, make no mistake about it - your commitment and your desire to see your players succeed and learn how to be winners are the things that made South Point football what it was, and what made this community very proud.

Your basic philosophy is to put forth the utmost effort to be the best player you could be and do it with pride. You wanted us to do that and didn't want to accept anything less. Thanks, Coach Big, for helping me understand this, not only in regard to football, but in our personal endeavors in life as well.

This is what you have exemplified on the field and off as a decent, honest person and family man.

I want you to know that I've had certain tough situations in my coaching career and I've thought of you during those moments. These thoughts have helped me make decisions regarding tough situations that wound up making me and my team successful.

Hopefully, the things I say or do can help inspire somebody else - the way I was inspired by you.

**Sincerely
Joe Shepherd**

Patience and persistence

Dear Coach:

I was fortunate enough to play football for you during my three-year tenure at South Point. During that time I was a player on your worst team and also a player on one of your best teams. We went 0-10 in 1986, then 9-3 a year later and went to the second round of the state playoffs.

This example seems to depict the patience and persistence you had with your players. The 1986 season had to be the hardest of your coaching career, but you did not give up on your players. The dividends paid off the next season. We are very appreciative of the time, patience, pride, and competitiveness you provided and helped to instill in all of your players.

**Lance Foulk,
1985, '86, '87**

Sept. 9, 1993

Dear Jim:

I am extremely happy to see the people of Belmont recognizing one of their own for the things that you have done for this community, especially the young people you have coached.

If someone had told me back in the early days that the people of Belmont were going to honor one of us guys, I would have told them that they were crazy.

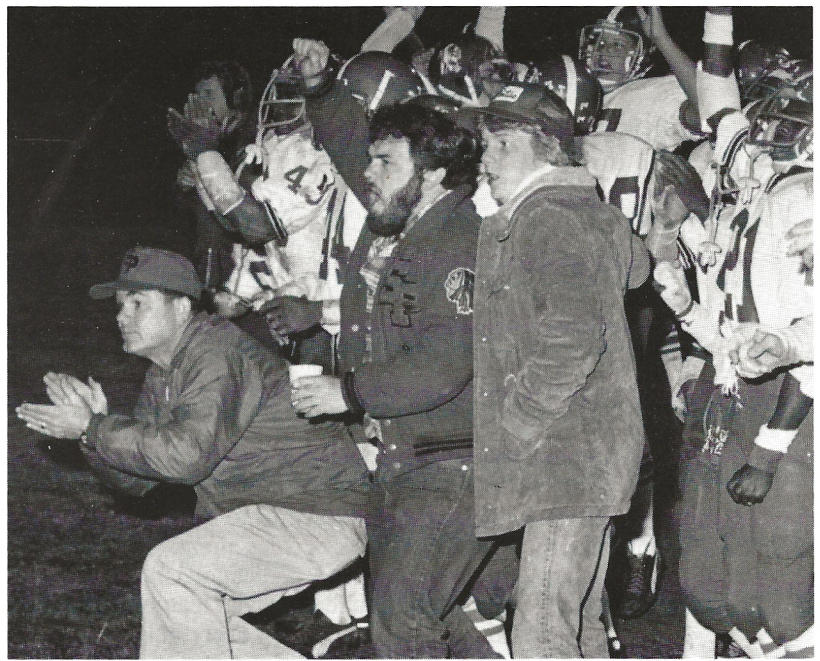
It has been a pleasure knowing you and playing football and baseball together. We really had some good fun days when we were young and I will never forget them.

Congratulations and God Bless.

**Your Friend,
Doug Mauldin**



SHRINE BOWL COACH (1974)



AT AHOSKIE...RED RAIDERS ARE ON VERGE OF STATE 3-A TITLE



RAIDER RACKSTERS...SOME TALENTED BACKS ON THE 1987 RAIDER PLAYOFF TEAM



WITH JOHNNY EVANS - COACH BIGGER-STAFF CHATS WITH FUTURE N.C. STATE WOLFPACK STAR JOHNNY EVANS AT EAST-WEST GAME

Writing you, instead of telling you

Dear Jim:

First of all, it is probably best that I was asked to write how I feel instead of trying to tell you. You know how well I speak at banquets.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity you gave me to coach at South Point High School. I guess neither of us thought that it would lead to a twenty-three year relationship that just continues to grow.

Thanks for the guidance and leadership in times that were tough, even though those times were few.

Thank you for teaching me to organize and plan and to be patient when the light at the end of the tunnel seemed awfully dim.

I never knew just how much you taught me until I became the head man. Now I understand a lot of things that maybe I didn't during those 23 years we were working together.

There will never be enough words to tell you how I feel, and "thanks" just doesn't seem adequate, but it will have to do until something else comes along.

Patience, organization, living, dedication, and the understanding that there is much more to coaching than winning games - these are just a few things I learned well from you.

Again, thanks, and may the best of everything continue to come to you.

**One of your first coaches,
And a friend always,
Earl Lingafeldt**

Confidence and motivation

Dear Coach Biggerstaff:

Do you remember the Tuscola game? I know you do. I will never forget you coming by during exercises and saying, "We are going to kick their hind ends!"

We did, too! I reckon we taught them to laugh at our small size. You came around and said this for two reasons: to build confidence in me, and to motivate us to play hard. Motivation of players was a key to your success as a coach.

When we saw what a motivated player could accomplish, it took less motivation, and this helped not only in football, but in other areas of life as well.

So many things that were taught in football helped me in life. In football we made goals and achieved them. We learned to work hard and believed the rewards would be worth the effort. They sure were. We learned to play as a team, and now we work as a team in our jobs.

I remember the song, "We Are Family," was out at the time and it did describe our 1979 state championship team. Remember R-S Central? While walking up the hill, someone said something about "getting the coach" and you replied, "Come on and you'll have 42 boys on you." They declined.

I wonder how it felt to have 42 young men to help mold and shape their lives. The motivation, setting goals, working hard and working as a team were great lessons. You did and taught these things with such class. You taught us to expect the best from and for ourselves and our teammates.

I just jotted down a few thoughts of the many ways you have helped me. Some of your teaching will out-live you, which is better than any trophy you could receive, but we still want to say "thank you" and tell you that we appreciate what you have given to us.

**Thanks,
Dr. Ed Lineberger**

Proud to have worn Red and White

Dear Coach Biggerstaff:

Congratulations on this recognition of your illustrious coaching career. I am very proud to have been a member of some of your most successful teams at South Point.

I will always be indebted to you for the patience, confidence and guidance you extended to me, especially during my senior year football season.

I shall not soon forget the day I made my decision to go to N.C. State University on a football scholarship. We paced the floor in the dressing room in the gymnasium while coaches from six or seven different universities waited.

We talked about the pros and cons of each school, you didn't steer me one way or the other. As I decided and changed my mind on three occasions, you finally said, "Jim, if you can't decide on the name of the school, just give me the colors you want to wear. You can't go wrong with any of the schools from which you choose."

I quietly said red and white. You asked, "Are you sure? If so, go ahead home, I'll tell them." I nodded yes and walked out.

Then, the day I signed my grant and aid with N.C. State, you were there and seemed as proud as if it were your son signing that paper.

I thank you for those memories and for all that you've done for me and countless others. I have nothing but my very best wishes for the good health of you, your wife and all your family.

God Speed,

Jim Stowe,

1971-1974

From a former manager

Dear Coach Big:

You were a very hard-working and dedicated coach. You took young men and taught them the game of football, and more importantly, the game of life after football.

You taught us about hard work, honesty, discipline and character. Before you retired, you developed a strong winning tradition in the athletic program at South Point High School. People across the state would always have good things to say about your teams.

Your teams were professional, both on and off the field. You instilled this philosophy in anyone you were around, and not just the star athlete. I wanted to be involved in the athletic program, but wasn't an athlete.

Coach Biggerstaff, you took me as a manager and helped get me involved in sports medicine. When my time at South Point was up, you helped me get into college.

If I ever had a problem regarding anything, I could always go to you. I know that I can still do that even now. You touched the lives of a lot of young men who played for you, and also young people who were around you in school or in the community.

You had a very positive influence on my life and showed me how to be a winner in life after school and football.

Sincerely yours,

Randy Smith

Positive leadership

Dear Jim:

I have fond memories of South Point and all the achievements we shared in athletics. We tried to have a first class program that was second to none in facilities and equipment.

This took much hard work and positive leadership. Your greatest asset was the ability to convey a confidence to the players and the community. The Big Red Booster Club did not grow to the strength it is without someone selling the program and the benefits of a winning program.

We never lost many games in football because we expected to win. We started each year with the optimism of trying to take what we had and make the most of it.

We always started with the idea of developing athletes so we would be a better team at the end of the year. This took hard work and a consistent commitment to the system that had developed over the years.

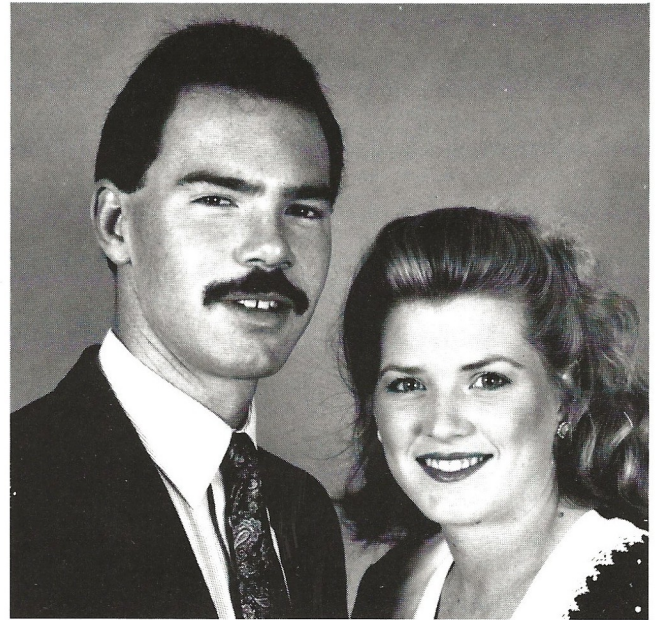
I congratulate you on all your accomplishments and all you have done for the South Point community.

Sincerely

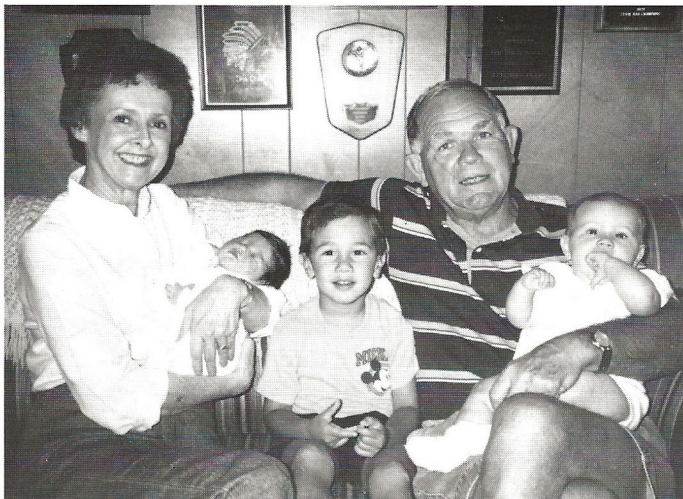
Butch Adams



**JIM AND HIS LOVELY
WIFE, JOYCE**



JEFF AND SUSAN HARDIE BIGGERSTAFF



**PROUD GRANDPARENTS...JIM AND JOYCE
WITH SARAH BIGGERSTAFF (HELD BY
JOYCE), DONNIE HILL III, AND RACHEL
HILL (HELD BY JIM)**



**DONNIE HILL III AND HIS WIFE, JAIMIE BIG-
GERSTAFF HILL**

'You wanted the best and the safest'

Dear Jim:

Congratulations on your retirement after many years of loyal and faithful service to South Point athletics and the entire community.

Through the years I have known you as coach, friend, and hard-working leader. We enjoyed many successes by working together in the Big Red Booster Club.

The greatest motivating factor in raising monies for South Point athletics was your desire to have the best and safest equipment for your players.

Coach, it gives me great joy to know you are being honored on this special occasion for a job well done. I will always treasure our relationship, and wish for you the very best that life has to offer in the future.

**Sincerely,
Don Hyde**

Role model for his players

Dear Jim:

Some years ago in Forsyth County I used what influence I had to have a high school football coach fired because he was abusive to his players, and he was a loser.

When, as a member of the Belmont school board, I had to cast my vote for a new coach at South Point High School, the thing that caught my attention was that your application included the fact that you were a steward in your church. I thought, how great to have an experienced and successful coach who would be a role model for his players.

Jim, as the chaplain of your team for eleven years, I can say you have always conducted yourself in such a way that never has a parent doubted your ability and integrity.

I agree with Lou Holtz, who offered you a position as assistant coach at North Carolina State University. In his letter he said in his opinion you were the finest high school coach in the state.

Isn't it great that your son Jeff and my granddaughter Susan are soon to make you a grandfather and me a great-grandfather. As you retire, it is my wish that you will enjoy many more years of good health and useful service.

***Your friend
Elvin Jones***

Cooperation, guidance instrumental

Dear Jim:

During the 1981-82 and 1982-83 school years, we were privileged to serve as co-presidents of the South Point Booster Club.

Since we were new to Belmont, your cooperation and guidance were most instrumental in attaining the success of the Booster Club.

Although words cannot fully express our thanks, we feel deepest appreciation for your support during our tenure.

We commend you for your commitment to the students at South Point High School and to the citizens of this community. The dedication you have shown in your career has been an inspiration to the young people of this community.

You are an excellent role model who deserved the respect and admiration you have earned throughout the years. We wish you the best in future endeavors.

Again, Jim, thanks for your help and sincere hospitality while serving as co-presidents at the South Point Booster Club.

***Sincerely,
Frank and Frank Parrish***

Coach Bigg

It's always pleasant to reminisce about - "the good ol' days." For many South Point Red Raider football fans, this will always bring back memories of "The Biggerstaff Era."

As a youngster, it was obvious to all who knew Jim that he was destined to be an outstanding athlete. All the ingredients were there - speed, desire, natural ability, work ethic, heart, and an ambition to be the best. By daily using these outstanding traits, he became one of the finest athletes Belmont has ever produced.

If proof is needed, one would only need to check the records. He and his teammates, more often than not, tasted the sweetness of victory in most of their athletic encounters.

After completing his college days at Western Carolina, Coach Bigg was hired by the legendary Rockingham Coach, Bill Eutsler, to be his assistant. This was a marvelous opportunity for Jim to train under one of the masters of the game.

During the ten seasons that he coached there, Rockingham was an annual state powerhouse. He and Coach Eutsler were an outstanding coaching due.

What timing it was when in 1969 Cramerton and Belmont High were to combine to form South Point High School. In his search for just the right coach, Gerald Cortner, who was to be the first SPHS principal and a man whom Coach Bigg much admired, had to look no further than Rockingham and summon Coach Bigg back home to Belmont. A better decision could not have been made.

While other consolidated schools in Gaston County endured many peaks and valleys over the years in football, the Red Raiders under the direction of Coach Bigg enjoyed great success.

He would be quick to give the credit to others - a host of talented athletes, loyal and hard working assistant coaches, the loyal Red Raider fans who have always supported his troops in every way and, yes, maybe even a little luck along the way.

But just ask any of those who he would rather see given credit for the tradition of football excellence in Belmont and their answer would be just as quickly given - Coach Bigg.

His list of outstanding qualities are endless - devoted family man, a strong love of his God, stern and dedicated classroom teacher, highly committed to any job that he undertakes, honesty beyond reproach, loyalty that is second to none, a sincere love for Belmont. On and on it could go for this fellow known by all of us as - Coach Bigg.

Indeed fortunate are those of us who have enjoyed his guidance, friendship and love for all these many years. Belmont, without question, is a much better place because this is the place Coach Bigg calls home. I join with his many other admirers in wishing him a well deserved happy, healthy and many enjoyable years of retirement.

**Your Friend,
Art Shoemaker**

From a man called Joe

Dear Jim:

I have enjoyed knowing you and following your career for more than 30 years as you played football, coached and taught in a way many could only hope for.

You had an outstanding high school experience as you played for the late coaches Gerald Cortner and Wrather Johnson. Who could have had a greater benefit than to have learned under these fine gentlemen. You had a great foundation laid for you as you played these years from 1950-54. Your year at the University of Tennessee helped you prepare for further successes at Western Carolina University from 1954-59.

Few people are given the opportunity to hone their skills as you were under the watchful eye and guidance of the great coach Bill Eutsler at Rockingham from 1959 until your return to Belmont in 1969. You brought home all the qualities a great athletic program must have and the records speak for themselves.

Belmont is a better place because of Jim Biggerstaff, and our efforts in forming the Big Red Booster Club have paid great dividends in the support of our athletic programs.

You and Joyce were married in 1956, and she has been your biggest fan. Your children, Jaime and Jeff, and now three grandchildren, are all added joys to your rich life, and just more for which you can be thankful and proud.

Now that you have retired from coaching, your influence continues to be felt in the life of Belmont, South Point High School, and the lives of hundreds of young people whom you have coached and encouraged through the years.

From a solid foundation carefully laid in the earlier years to a career successfully pursued and, even until the very present, I feel rewarded to have worked with you and have had you as a friend.

My sincere best wishes are with you in all that you undertake in the years ahead.

**Your friend,
Joe Steele**

Made life enjoyable

Dear Jim:

Over the last 20-something years, you have made my life enjoyable by letting be be involved with the sports program at South Point.

What fun to see state championship football at Awhiskey (Pastor Jim Weekly's pronunciation of Ahoskie).

What a joy to attend and worship in Sunday school and church services, car washers, suppers, or just plain fellowship and good conversation.

I count it a great blessing to count you as my friend. May God bless you in all things.

**Your Friend Forever,
Joe Messer**



THE THRILL OF VICTORY ... COACH BIGGERSTAFF HUGS SON JEFF, THEN WIFE JOYCE AFTER THE STATE 3-A TITLE WIN AT AHOSKIE

Sept. 19, 1993

'A major influence in my life'

Dear 'C.B.':

I believe it all started in June of 1969 when you became my neighbor. Since then, you have been a major influence in my life. You have been my friend, coach, and "second Dad."

Playing football under your direction was an extreme honor. You taught me discipline, responsibility, and sportsmanship. I will forever remember the dreaded phrase you would always use at the end of practice, "On the line, boys!"

Growing up with you as my neighbor, I became even closer to you. We have shared vacations, birthdays, weddings and many other special occasions. You have certainly been my "second father."

Thank you for sharing your time and talents with me and other young people of this community. You deserve to be honored.

**I Love You,
'G.B.'**



COLLEGE-BOUND - Scott Crawford (seated left) and Mike McWhirter (seated right), sign with the Lenoir Rhyne College Bears for the 1972 season as Coach Biggerstaff, Lenoir-Rhyne coach Walter Cornwell (left) and Raider assistant coach Earl Lingafeldt (right) look on. Scott and Mike had great careers at L-R.

Preparing for the fourth quarter

Dear Coach Biggerstaff:

I'm not one for letters, but I want to share with you just what you have meant to me and my family.

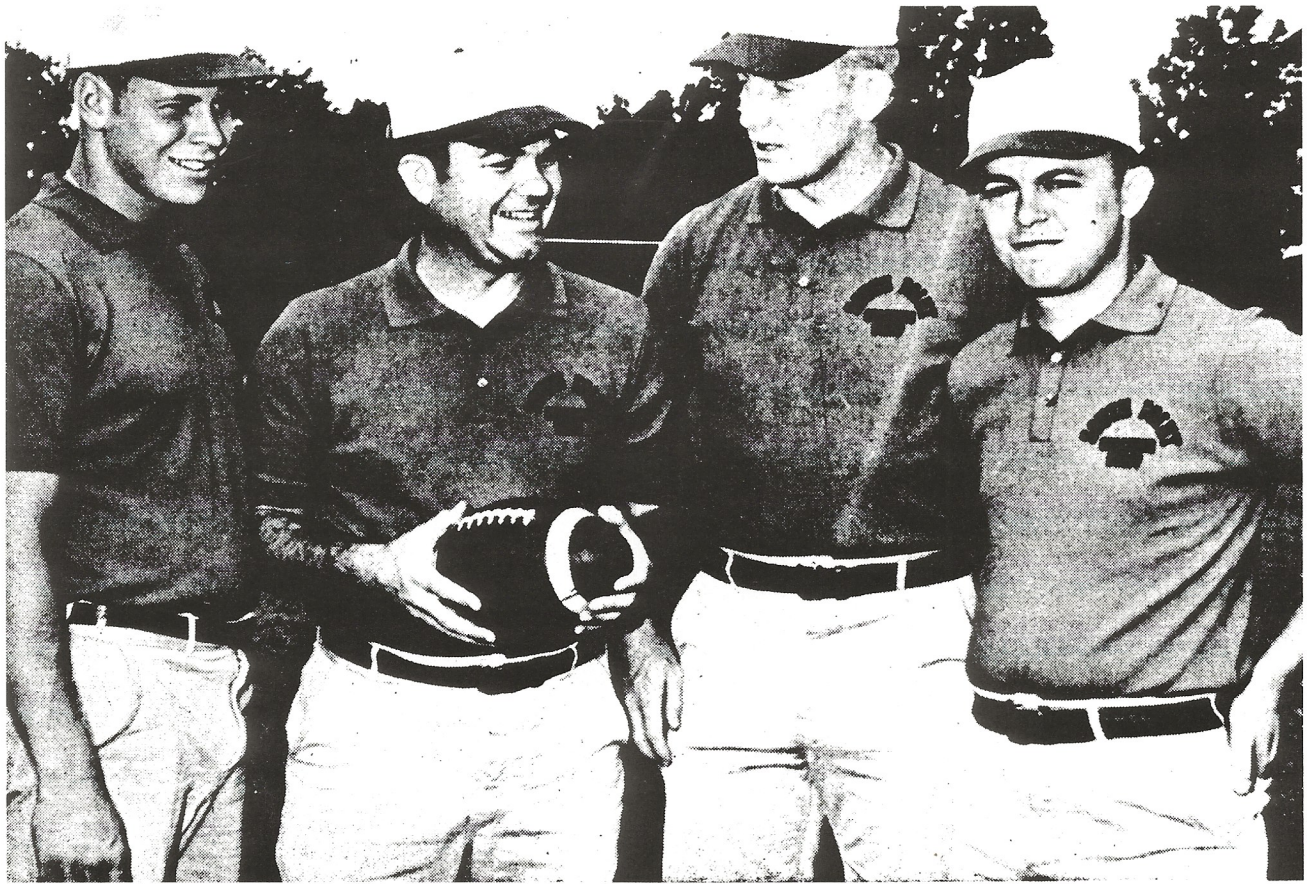
The thing that sticks out most in my mind looking back at my years of playing for you is your drive towards excellence. Not just on the field, but in the way you lived your life.

Most people don't understand that football is more than just a game. Football for me is a constant reminder of how I should conduct my life and my family....towards excellence.

It would be easy for me to dwell on what could have been, but I choose to dwell on what is, and what will be. That's the effect you had on me and for that I am forever grateful.

I thank God that life, just like football, has four quarters. And I thank you, coach, for preparing me for the fourth quarter.

**With deep and abiding appreciation,
Scott Crawford**



FIRST STAFF - The Red Raider coach is pictured with his first staff (1969) at South Point High School. From left are Mike Hudock, "The Chief," Earl Lingafeldt, and Phil Tate.



LAST STAFF - The Big Red mentor is shown with his last staff (1989) at South Point. From left are Charles Greene, Phil Tate, Bill Hannon, Coach Bigg, Chip Herring and Mickey Lineberger.

Hail to 'The Chief'

Dear Jim:

Thanks for the memories! We have had many, many wonderful times at South Point High School since 1969 in football and baseball. A large percentage of games were won with many first place finishes.

The tie game at Salisbury in '71 gave us a shared championship, and who could forget the Ahsoskie game in '79. In baseball, beating North Davidson in '73, Kannapolis in '74 and East Randolph in 1980 are all sweet remembrances. These are the "big" memories for me.

More importantly, however, the hundreds of "Bigg" memories as a boss, tutor, and friend are to me more meaningful. "Chief" was indeed the name for you.

From all the coaches who worked under you THANKS for the guidance and patience. We are forever in your debt.

This school and community owes you a great debt.

Sincerely,
Phil Tate



NUMBER 35 ... As a Belmont High School wingback who was a Breeland Award Winner as team's MVP

Your goals were of highest order

Dear Coach Bigg:

What a great evening Saturday, Oct. 30, is going to be.

On many occasions, I have sat down to write a letter to a man who is probably the second most influential person in my life (after my Father).

What great lessons I learned from you. What a motivator you were. You surrounded yourself with good people and then trusted them to do their part.

What an epitome of a Red Raider team - Coach Phil Tate, Coach Earl Lingafeldt, and Coach Mike Hudock - led by Head Coach Jim Biggerstaff. What a hard worker you guys were.

Many of the things you taught me I continued using while playing college ball at Lenoir-Rhyne. Most of the things you taught me could only be used later when I began raising my own family.

Your love for your family and your community were so obvious. How else could one explain the pattern of your life. I have no doubt that you could have been head coach at any college in the country had that been your goal.

Yet your goal was to make your family, school and community, the best that it could be and boy, did you.

It has been said that we learned everything we needed to know in kindergarten (love, honor and respect), yet I want to thank you for showing me how to apply that in my life.

Thanks, coach,
Mike McWhirter

October 30, 1993

I am a very lucky man

First, I want to thank all of the people who are responsible for this very special occasion tonight. When I spent my lifetime doing what I loved to do, and that was coaching young men in the great game of football, that was all the reward that I ever expected - so tonight is very special.

As a young boy living on the Crescent Mill Hill in East End (now called East Belmont), I worked in the mill during the summer. I decided at that time that was no life for me, and my only way out was to play sports.

I began to play football for Ebb Gantt on the Belmont Bantams. Ebb encouraged me to play high school football. It was here that I met Mr. Gerald Cortner, my high school coach. He developed my talent as an athlete and influenced my life more than anyone. I wanted to be a coach just like him. It is because of him that I am here tonight.

I went to college on a football scholarship, which is the only way I could have gone because my parents could not afford to send me. I played football in college, although I was not a headline grabber. My goal was to coach high school football.

I graduated from Western Carolina in 1959, and the best thing that could have happened for me in my coaching career occurred. I was hired to coach football and baseball at Rockingham High School in Rockingham. It was there that I met and became great friends with Bill Eutsler.

I am what I am today as a coach because of this man. My whole philosophy on the game of football, working with youngsters, relationship with the school and community was a carbon copy of Bill Eutsler's. I learned from the master and any success that I have enjoyed is because of him.

In 1969, the position of athletic director and head football coach at South Point came open. I applied for the job and was very fortunate to have been selected. So I came back to my hometown to coach. That was a dream of a lifetime.

The success that we enjoyed at South Point is shared by many people. First, I worked with many great coaches who supported me and the school's coaches such as Phil Tate, Earl Lingafeldt, Mike Hudock, Butch Adams, Mickey Lineberger, Bill Hannon and Chip Herring - just to name a few.

Thanks, also, to the school administrators whom I have worked for and who gave me great support. Men like Mr. Cortner, who gave me my first job as a head coach, Don Ratchford, Ed Sadler, and Toppy Hayes, but the people who deserve the most thanks and credit for the success of the football program at South Point are the hundreds of talented athletes who I had the privilege to coach.

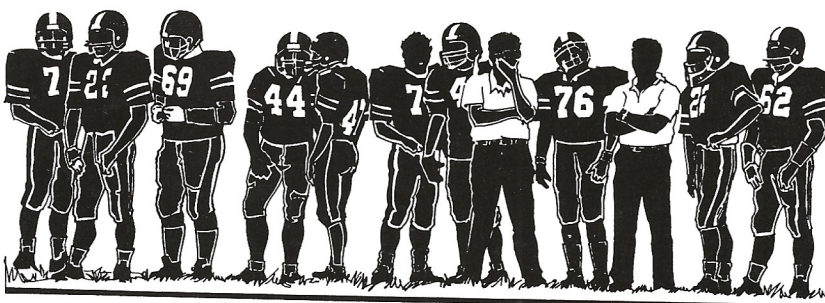
I can't name them all, so I won't name any, but they know who they are, and I love every one of them. They wore that Red and Black with lots of pride and they made me extremely proud.

I am a very fortunate man. I had great parents who taught me right from wrong. I have a loving wife and children who have always supported me. Now I have three grandchildren with whom I will spend much of my time with.

I have had many honors in my coaching career, like coaching in the Shrine Bowl, in the East-West game, winning a state championship, North Carolina Prep Coach of the Year three times, being selected to the Belmont Sports Hall of Fame - but tonight is a time that will also be at the top of this list.

I am a very lucky man. The good Lord has been good to me and I am very thankful. If I could do it all over again, I wouldn't change a thing. God Bless each and every one of you.

-Jim Biggerstaff





Chasing a dream and finding it in Ahoskie

They say a picture is worth a thousand words. That's the case here, when Coach Jim Biggerstaff rides the shoulders of his players and flashes the 'We're Number One' sign at far-off Ahoskie in December of 1979. The scoreboard (inset) tells the story. "The Chief" and his band of Indians rode to glory, finishing with a perfect 14-0 record.