

2011 Hall of Fame Inductees

Jessie “Dickie” Jones: Jessie volunteered to help maintain the area behind Southwood school and Jefferson Ave so that the young black girls would have a place to play softball for over 3 years. During this time, he also umpired the games. He was later hired by the Anderson Recreation Department where he served as head umpire for the black leagues for 15 years. Jessie did whatever it took to keep these games going from cutting the grass, lining the fields, and calling the games.

LeNell “Snookie” Starks - accepted by Barbara Mack: In the beginning, Snookie volunteered to help Barbara Mack with the children at the Jim Ed Rice Center’s afterschool program from 2:30 – 5pm each day after her regular job. Because of her dedication and the ability to introduce the children to valuable life skills, the Recreation Department hired her part time. Snookie taught the children cooking, sewing, crafts, and singing and helped with school work for over 10 years. She continued to work until her health would not allow it. After that, Barbara would walk the children the 3 blocks to her house for a weekly visit. Snookie was a good friend and spiritual leader to all the children she encountered.

Carroll Emery: Coach Emery was involved with the Recreation Department for over 4 decades. Among the many responsibilities he handled was maintaining the ballfields, working concessions at special events such as wrestling and concerts, maintaining the equipment and facilities at Wright Park, and supervising and officiating the various sports offered by the department. Coach Emery built the playground equipment at Embler Field and helped keep up Memorial Stadium.

Arnold Howell: Coach Howell began working summers at the Rec after being asked by Coach Emery to come work with him. He worked doing ballfields, working at the lake, and helping at special events until 1996. Coach Howell also worked with the athletic programs as a director of after school and summer programs, gym supervisor, field supervisor, and official. During his 10 years on the 10 and 12-under baseball fields, there was only one protest. Coach Howell also found time to coach girls softball: 9 years slow pitch and 6 years fast pitch. His All Star teams won the Babe Ruth state championship for 3 years, advancing on to the Regionals each time. They finished 3rd one time and second another, barely missing the title that year. He also served as assistant coach for 4 years in the baseball program. Coach Howell also worked full time with the Recreation Department from 1997 – 2011 after retiring from the school district. The work that he did on the fields earned the department recognition as having the best fields around.

Bobby Holden: Beginning in the mid 70’s, Bobby coached baseball, basketball, and football for over 10 years. He worked with all ages ranging from 5 – 14 years old. In basketball, he won the 12-under championship. In baseball, his teams advanced to the third round of the play-offs for 3 straight years.

Anna Wentzky: Anna played softball and basketball with the Rec Center in the late 90's with the Kardiac Kids and the Lady Lakers. In 1996, she was on both the softball and basketball All-Star teams that won state championships. Anna played high school ball at Westside from 1997 – 2002 where she was a 6 year starter. She is a member of the 1000 point club and made the most 3 pointers in a season with 44. Anna played at Maryville College in Tennessee. While there, the team won the conference championship all 4 years and made 4 straight NCAA appearances. Anna is currently teaching at Nevitt Forest while also serving as head girls basketball coach at McCants Middle School. She has also served as an assistant at Hanna.

Nicole Mattison Hood: Nicole participated in the Rec Center athletic programs from age 6 through the age of 14. She played basketball, baseball, and softball. Because of her size and playing ability, they had to send her birth certificate anytime she played out of town to prove that she was in the right age group. Nicole attended the Coach Roberts basketball camp each summer. When she was old enough, she helped with the instructional basketball program and kept score for baseball and softball. During her high school career at Westside, she made All-State and All-Region and scored over 1000 points. Nicole played college ball at UT-Chattanooga where she made the Dean's List and Athletic Honor Roll. They won the conference all 4 years and the conference tournament 3 of those years and made 3 NCAA appearances. Nicole begin coaching at the high school level as an assistant at Dorman in 2007, then led Dawkins Middle School to success from 2009 – 2011. She is currently the interim head coach at Dorman High School.