

Danville Community College's Sports Hall of Fame inductees, Patrick Daly of Daly Seven, Inc.; H. F. Haymore, Pittsylvania County Clerk of Court; and Harold Henry, retired DCC faculty member, were honored at ceremonies and following luncheon reception April 16, 2011, in Oliver Hall in Temple Building .

As the first honorees from the DCC Alumni Association's Sports Hall of Fame, each possesses extensive sports background or sports commitment to Danville Community College's sports programs which began at Danville Technical Institute and VPI-Danville. After state support was denied in 1966, sports programs disappeared for over 30 years from the community college campus.

How were the programs brought back to the college ten years ago when the General Assembly had specifically denied any sports funding to community colleges? Patrick Daly, DCC Foundation Board member, offhandedly asked a question that could have led nowhere.

"The beginning of Knights baseball at DCC was just a conversation with Dr. Ramsey and H. F. Haymore while eating lunch together previous to a board meeting. I had a son playing ball and attending a junior college in Florida. While in Florida watching their games, I realized, over time, that they were playing community colleges as well as junior colleges. I asked Dr. Ramsey over lunch if he thought a baseball team was a possibility for DCC. H. F. immediately added that he knew, because of umpiring, that several community colleges statewide had teams."

That day Daly and Haymore set in motion immediate phone calls and research from the president's office concerning how other community colleges were fielding sports teams when the General Assembly had declined sports funding support. Dr. Ramsey returned, after some research, with information that led to a meeting with the DCC Foundation Director, Daly and Haymore. A proposal was developed and then presented to the Foundation Board.

"At least 50 percent of the members were on board immediately," Daly explained. "Others added their support after listening to funding methods explanations. The Foundation Board members agreed that the DCC Foundation would underwrite deficits of the team's operations for three years after which the program had to be built, operating and self sufficient.

The second honoree, H. F. Haymore, present from the initial conversation over a baseball program, knew a possible coach who was hired to build and direct the program. Today John Bailey still coaches, recruits and oversees the team, which has won three state championships while also coming in second in two other state tournaments. Such continuous success led to DCC's baseball team moving, in

2010-11, to the National Junior Collegiate Athletic Association, playing community colleges in Virginia and North Carolina.

For Daly and Haymore, the past ten years of helping shepard the new sport have passed quickly. During that time, DCC initiated male and female basketball programs, tennis, soccer and golf. Some sports programs became successful; others did not meet the funding requirements, but the Foundation supported each attempt. Golf and baseball continue with Daly hoping for softball in the near future.

Both Daly and Haymore have spent lives devoted not only to sports but to public service, especially in relation to community youth. Daly explained his involvement, "As a parent, I began to look back; I realized that as a child, I took things for granted; but there were a lot of people who helped me be able to play. They coached, bought uniforms, paid for umpires. They gave to me; I wanted to get involved. With four boys and two girls, my wife Cathy and I saw how important sports, as well as other areas, were for keeping young people focused."

Beyond sports, Daly is one of the founders of the Danville Boys and Girls Club, has been a Big Brother to two children, worked with youth sports and coached Optimist ball teams, and served on numerous councils at Sacred Heart Church. Not only does he serve on the DCC Foundation Board, he is a past member of Ferrum College's Board of Trustees, a member of the Kiwanis Club of Danville and of the Optimist Club.

In recognition for his devotion to the young people and the local community Daly received the Kiwanis *Citizen of the Year Award* and the Sertoma *Service to Mankind Award* as well as the Sacred Heart School *Alumnus of the Year Award*.

For Daly and Haymore, sports including DCC baseball, are not just youth entertainment. Both Sports Hall of Fame recipients emphasize that DCC baseball lures young men who often mature, through the discipline and hard work, into academic athletes who go on to four-year colleges and enriched lives. Baseball becomes a life-changing experience. One mother told Haymore, "You saved my son's life. If he had not been able to play ball, he never would have entered college."

Haymore, Pittsylvania County native, has also served on the DCC Foundation Board long term. As a member of Piedmont Professional Baseball, Haymore helped return professional baseball to Danville, assisting in raising over \$250,000 to build and renovate Dan Daniel Park where the DCC Knights play their games. Professional baseball returned to Danville in 1992. Piedmont Professional Baseball continues to operate, yearly supporting the DCC Knights monetarily.

Haymore, who has a varied sports background, said, "I watched an American Legion tournament and heard through conversation that one of the teams was supported by well-known writer John

Grisham. I sat down, wrote him a letter and he sent the DCC knights \$5,000 to help them continue their award-winning tradition. I'll be corresponding again quite soon with Mr. Grisham. Support comes from many outside sources."

Haymore, in earlier years, helped establish Mt. Hermon Community T-ball when his son was young, then went on to help found youth football for ages 9 to eighth grade. "Our mission statement was 'Teach them how to put pads on correctly,' since coaches told us that it took two weeks out of instruction time to get them trained in this obvious need."

Today Haymore, as Commissioner of Danville Umpires Association, assigns umpires for nine high schools ranging from Danville to Patrick County during March through May. "Everything is fine until it rains. Then the games back up creating real problems securing enough officials." An official himself in both baseball and basketball for over 30 years, Haymore has lived the sports he loves, officiating thousands of games over his years of involvement.

A recipient of the Kiwanis Citizen of the Year Award, the Pittsylvania County Chamber of Commerce Citizenship Award and the Riverside Sertoma Service to Mankind Award, Haymore is a board member of the Danville Community Educational Foundation, an organization that awards over 150 scholarships annually. "Going through the narrowed down applications takes approximately 19 hours for those working on scholarships," Haymore explained. Beyond these activities, he is proud of the work done as a member of the Board of Directors for Roman Eagle Nursing Home where extensive changes have taken place to create user-friendly facilities and façade.

"I don't play golf; I don't have hobbies. My hobby is my community and my family. Any time I can make Danville and Pittsylvania County better places to live and raise families, I feel that is what I should be working on. With the exception of my church and the Mt. Hermon Volunteer Fire Department, working with DCC sports has been the most rewarding activity I've been involved in. The baseball program makes young people aware of the difference between winning and losing; discipline is the end result, which is the game life is made of."

Harold Henry, the third Sports Hall of Fame inductee, was present when sports programs began on the local college campus, long before DCC was established. As an instructor and administrator at Danville Technical Institute, he saw the need for students being drawn to loyalties beyond their curriculums. They were taught in self-contained blocks working together constantly instead of taking classes with students in other curriculums.

Sports begun by Henry and another colleague included intramural softball, which became a league with multiple DTI departments supplying students; and then, through Henry's efforts, a

basketball team from DTI entered the city league. Henry realized “we had good basketball players,” which led to him forming a traveling team, giving players experience in cities beyond Danville.

“I had never coached a college team—only little league—thus I felt naively comfortable, but we lost the first 13 games played before Christmas. Between Christmas and New Year’s we played in a tournament at Lynchburg College and won. I was promptly thrown in the shower by the players celebrating; my new blue blazer my wife had given me for Christmas never recovered.” We went on playing that first year, coming in second in the closing tournament. In the final game, we had every player foul out except four, but we had turned the season around.”

Since Henry was so new at coaching, he sought help, buying a book by Adolph Rupp, the legendary coach at the University of Kentucky. “I almost taught that entire book for the remainder of the year after Christmas. I’d read a chapter and go in and use the methods. We played in three tournaments and won two after Adolph Rupp became the assistant coach,” Henry quipped.

From that beginning, Henry helped form a junior college conference which included Ferrum College, Mt. Olive College, Lewisburg College, Chowan College and DTI. “We then had teams to compete with and an ending tournament. DTI players practiced at George Washington high School and the previous high school which had been renamed Robert E. Lee Junior High. Games were played at the City Armory. “Practice began every day around 4 p.m. Did I get paid? No, but I loved seeing the college and its students supporting each other. It became a labor of love.”

Henry coached for five years before administrative tasks and a return to college to pursue his doctorate interfered. Henry then became the athletic director; the college had basketball, tennis and golf. Females formed a cheerleading squad supported by female instructors, so college sports life had bloomed. Sports continued into the 1960s with VPI-Danville students as well as DTI students participating on teams. Henry was teaching at both institutions.

After the creation of the community college system in 1966, sports disappeared because of new rules against state support of such activities. Henry coached four city championship little league baseball teams, never being far away from a sport. When his daughter was born in 1968, Henry decided it was time to learn a different sport, golf.

Beyond his sports involvement, Henry was the president of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, state president of the JCs and a member of its national board, president of the Danville Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Luncheon Rotary which he served as president, served on the board of Hughes Home for children, served as president of Arts and Humanities and was hired as interim director of the Chamber of Commerce to help bring about the merger of the county and city chambers.

For his dedication, the Kiwanis Club of Danville honored him as the *Kiwanis Citizen of the Year* while the JCs named him *Young Man of the Year* earlier in his career. An instructor at all three DCC institutions, Henry taught accounting and data processing. He holds the distinction of being selected as a *Professor Emeritus* at DCC, a state honor accorded to outstanding instructors.