

February 20, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Carlyn Sautter, (336) 513.5510, csautter@cityofgraham.com

GRAHAM SPORTS HALL OF FAME/HALL OF HONOR INDUCTEES NAMED

The Graham Sports Hall of Fame Selection Committee is proud to announce the 2015 Hall of Fame and Hall of Honor Inductees. The induction ceremony will be held on April 11, 2015 at 6pm at the Graham Recreation Center. Tickets are currently available for purchase and are \$20 each, including dinner. Tickets may be purchased at Graham City Hall, 201 South Main Street in Graham, or online at GrahamRecreationAndParks.com.

The Hall of Fame Inductees are individuals, teams or coaches that have made a significant contribution to the rich sports history of Graham. The 2015 distinguished inductees for the Graham Sports Hall of Fame include: Mike Harden, Rod Cousin, Tim Jones, and Stuart Melvin and Jeremy Wyrick.

The Hall of Honor Inductees are individuals other than players or coaches that have made significant contributions to the athletic community in Graham. The 2015 distinguished inductees for the Sports Hall of Honor include: the late Harrison Jones and the late Wallace Steele.

Mike Harden (Hall of Fame)

Mike Harden is well-known in Graham sports history as “Mr. Baseball.” He was a complete student, coach, and mentor of the game. He played at Graham High School and Elon University, then coached middle school, high school, Babe Ruth, AAU, American Legion, and Elon University baseball teams. His coaching record includes 477 wins against 274 losses for a career winning percentage of 64 percent. He was named “Coach of the Year” at the high school and college level, and took our local 1987 American Legion team to a state title series earning the title of state runner-up.

Rod Cousin (Hall of Fame)

Rod Cousin is recognized as one of the hardest working, most dedicated, and team oriented basketball

players to ever wear a Graham Red Devil uniform. His career statistics include starting all four years of his high school career, "All Conference" in 1983 and 1984, earning Conference Player of the Year in 1984, named as All-East Player in 1984, and earned "All State" designation in 1984. He was named as a starter in the East-West all-star game in 1984. He set and holds many records at Graham High School that include: most steals in a game (12), most steals for a season (123), most steals for a career (306), most assists in a game (15), most assists for a season (180), most assists for a career (321), and is a member of the 1,000 point club with a total of 1,007 points for his career. He is known as one of the most accomplished basketball players in Graham sports history and his # 14 jersey is retired and permanently enshrined at Graham High School. Rod went on to play at Radford University where he set school steals and assist records, and then to Germany where he played professional basketball.

Tim Jones (Hall of Fame)

Tim Jones is well-recognized as one of the most accomplished "all-around" basketball players to adorn the Graham Red Devil uniform setting numerous records, most of which still stand today. Among those records are: most career points (1,366), most points in a season (663) with a game average of 22.1 points as a senior, most free throws made in a season (209), and highest free throw percentage at 81.6 Percent. He was named "All Conference" his junior and senior years, chosen to the "All Mid-State" and "All Tournament" teams as a senior, chosen to the district "All Tournament" team as a senior, earned MVP honors in both the District and Regional tournaments, was a member of the 1983 State Championship team, and earned MVP Honors in the State Championship game on March 26, 1983. Tim earned "All State" status his senior year and his #44 jersey is retired and permanently enshrined at Graham High School.

Stuart Melvin and Jeremy Wyrick (Hall of Fame)

Stuart Melvin and Jeremy Wyrick are well recognized as one of the most prolific tennis doubles combination in Graham sports history. Achieving an overall high school record of 55-5, they were the 1995 conference and regional state title holders, and won the 1995 State Doubles Championship. Their 1996 season contained a conference title and a regional title. During their 1997 season, they earned a

conference title, regional title, and were state runners-up. Stuart and Jeremy earned “All-State” designation all three years.

The Late Harrison Jones (Hall of Honor)

In appreciation for many years of loyalty, devotion, and vital support to Graham High School Athletics and Graham High School Baseball programs, Harrison Jones earned the distinction of being one of the city’s most avid sports supporters. His true love of sports included anything pertaining to Graham High School, American Legion Baseball, the Burlington Appalachian League team, the Carolina Tarheels, and the Carolina Panthers. At the beginning of most any sporting event, we would stand to honor our country and hear the bold voice of Harrison Jones very proudly sing our National Anthem. In his later years, Harrison’s voice became so renowned that he sang the National Anthem at Carolina Panthers games and the “Flight to Freedom” in Washington, DC to dedicate the World War II memorial. For his lifetime devotion to sports, we honor Harrison as a Graham Sports Hall of Honor recipient.

The Late Wallace Steele (Hall of Honor)

In appreciation for many years of loyalty, devotion, and vital support to the Graham area softball community, we honor Wallace Steele as a Graham Sports Hall of Honor recipient. Wallace was well-known for bringing big time softball tournaments to both Burlington and Graham. He sponsored multiple teams over a 40 year period, including the “Steele Concrete” team of the 1960s. His teams always fared in the top echelon of tournament brackets and would always finish in the top 10 in national events. Most of his former players acknowledge that he is the “Godfather” of Graham area softball. The Graham Sports Hall of Honor recognizes and acknowledges 40 years of dedicated service to the softball sports community in Graham.

Please contact Carlyn Sautter, (336) 513.5510, csautter@cityofgraham.com for more information.

###