

The Lee County Legend

K E E P I N G T H E M E M O R I E S A L I V E

Hail To The Champions!

3 STATE CHAMPIONS!!!

We just expected that first one to happen sooner or later, we were shocked with the second one, then totally delighted with the third. The Lee County Legend “salutes” the Dryden High Crusaders, the Jonesville High Bulldogs and the Lee High Generals. In all the 1900’s, these were the only Lee County Schools to produce teams that reached the pinnacle of high school sports—The State Championship!

1977 DRYDEN HIGH GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

Dryden’s girls team were strong traditionally. They got even better in the early 70’s and won big before the Virginia High Athletic Association started having state championships. In 1977, it all came together for Coach Jimmy Peters and the Dryden High School’s State Champion Girls Basketball Team. They not only won the Championship, but did it in overwhelming style by going undefeated at 24-0. WOW!

1988 JONESVILLE HIGH FOOTBALL TEAM

This football team shocked us, the state and just maybe themselves with the 1988 State Championship. Struggling through a bumpy, up and down, 5-5 season could not have inspired such a lofty goal. Coach John Cooke’s Bulldogs barely made it to the playoffs, then caught fire. Nobody could have predicted the rest of the story. Re-live the shock and awe here in The Lee County Legend. SUPER!

1990 LEE HIGH GENERALS BOYS GOLF TEAM

In just the 2nd year of consolidation, the Lee High General Golf Team won the State Championship in 1990. In a sport that certainly was relatively new to Lee County, Coach Nat Cridlin’s Generals proved a point and put the new high school on the map. With just one golf course in the county, who would have suspected that we were raising a generation of golfers of such caliber. With golf counting team scores by combining individually earned scores, it takes nerves of steel to win at this level. TERRIFIC!



Dave Audia

DRYDEN - 1ST to 1ST to 1ST

Ok, I am trying to get your attention. If you're not from Dryden, you're asking "Whaaaaat?" If you're from Dryden, you're saying, "Yeah, we are number one, but what does this guy think he knows?"

Dryden is that little town, nestled below the new road, between Pennington Gap and Big Stone Gap. By the rest of the county, Dryden has not been recognized as being first in any manner. I want to tell you a different story.

As I read the history of our county, Dryden did lead us as a commerce center in our early years. But in education and sports, Dryden stands out in ways that should make the entire Dryden community proud!

Individual athletes such as Rudy Parsons, touted by many as the "best pitcher to come out of Lee County" came from Dryden. He pitched all the way to the Double A San Francisco Seals in 1944 when the war cut his trek to the Majors short.

The community had good teams in the various coal field baseball leagues. Dryden High school baseball and basketball teams have distinguished themselves from the start. The Dryden High Baseball team of 1910 won the Lee County Championship. **And this is where my story starts.**

The very **First** public high school in Lee County was **Dryden High School (1904)**. In 1921, according to my sources, **the First Dryden High School Girls' Basketball Team** finished **First** by winning the **Lee County Championship**. Then to top it off, in 1977, **the Dryden H. S. Girls' Basketball Team** pulled off another **First** in a big way. They won the **First State Championship by a Lee County School!!**

In 1921, Irma Shufflebarger Odum, Cora Huff, Dona Freeman Shuler, Elizabeth Young Bayes, Sada Gilbert Bishop, Grace Parsons and Vinnie Asbury Bailey made up the team coached by the Principal Robert Ely.

In 1977, Jimmy Don Peters, along with assistant Terry Pope, coached Dryden to a **perfect 24-0 season!** The players were Janie Thacker, Dawn Peters, Emma Lawson, Jo Ferguson, Susan Quillen, Nancy Quillen, Katrina Tester, Marsha Ramsey, Angie Clark, Kim Bishop, and Elaine Hobbs.

In a recent interview, Coach Peters gave praise to Coach Pope for teaching, Jack Keith for mentoring and the community for supporting the girls. He knew he had a good team and believes a movie "We are the Champions" motivated them to greater heights. Coach Peters realizes that miracles have to happen to finish a season without a loss. To him, the miracles were that players stepped up when adversities hit. He stated "When the team got rolling, the girls just did not want to lose. Our players were able to focus on one opponent at a time until the job was done"

DRYDEN 1ST to 1ST to 1ST—The Lee County Legend Salutes You.

Dryden Girls Win Lee County First Ever State Championship

There will be others in the future but only one team will be able to claim that they were the first Lee County team to win a state championship in any sport. That team is the 1977 Dryden High School girls basketball team.

POWELL VALLEY NEWS NOVEMBER 30 1977

Dryden Wins State Championship

The Crusader girls won the Virginia Group A State Championship with a tough 43-41 decision over previously undefeated Poquoson Saturday afternoon at James Madison University in Harrisonburg. Dryden had rolled over Fort Defiance 66-47 in the semi-finals, Friday also. Poquoson beat Stonewall Jackson 41-36 in their first game.

Members of the team included Kim Bishop, Angie Clark, Jo Ferguson, Elaine Hobbs, Emma Lawson, Dawn Peters, Nancy Quillen, Susan Quillen, Marsha Ramsey, Katrina Tester, and Janie Thacker. Jim Peters was head coach and he was assisted by Terry Pope.

Poquoson had won 76 games in a row and were the defending state champions

CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

Dryden (43): Ramsey 4, Ferguson 11, Quillen 8, Peters 14, Hobbs 6, S. Quillen

Poquoson (41): Goodson 3, Keating 10, Hensley 6, Hallaway 5, Wallace 10.

The Road To The Title

POWELL VALLEY NEWS NOVEMBER 3, 1977

The Crusaders closed out their regular season at 17-0 (14-0 in district play) by whipping Flatwoods 62-38, Thursday. This was their first unbeaten season in history.

Dryden broke the game open in the second half, outscoring the Eagles to win easily. Marsha Ramsey led the charge with 16 points while Elaine Hobbs added 12 and Susan Quillen 11.

POWELL VALLEY NEWS NOVEMBER 10, 1977

Dryden beat Keokee 82-52 in the opening round of the Cumberland District girls basketball tournament. The favored Crusaders (18-0) built up a big lead at halftime (42-14) and coasted to victory.

Dryden (82) N. Quillen 8, Hobbs, 14, Ramsey 8, Ferguson 15, Peters 8, S. Quillen 13, Thacker 14, Tester 2.

Keokee (52): Ellis 14, Estep 6, Hansel 12, Palmer 18, Pennington 2

Dryden	20	22	20	20	82
Keokee	2	12	16	22	52

The Lee County Legend
317 Joslyn Avenue
Pennington Gap, VA 24277
LeeCoLegend.com

Dave Audia, Publisher
Dave.audia@gmail.com

Lowell Lawson, Editor
LowellLawson@windstream.net

Jonesville Wins First Lee County State Football Championship

POWELL VALLEY NEWS DECEMBER 7, 1988
JONESVILLE BULLDOGS—1988 STATE CHAMPS

WINNERS! That is the only word that can be used to describe the Jonesville Bulldogs. "We have overcome all odds that have come against us", said head coach John Cooke after his team won the VHSL Group A Division One state championship.

Jonesville claimed the championship Saturday afternoon with a dramatic 21-20 overtime win over the Strasburg Rams.

With just under 1:30 left in the game and the Bulldogs trailing 14-7, the 'Dogs went to their "Appalachia Special".

Tight end Mark Sweeney took the handoff from quarterback Brett Clark in what appeared to be an end around, pulled up and hit Robbie Newman with a 43-yard touchdown pass.

The touchdown along with Tim Spence's PAT, tied the game and sent Jonesville into their second straight overtime appearance.

On the second play in the overtime, senior fullback Tim Spence took the handoff and blasted eight yards into the endzone. His extra point gave Jonesville the lead and placed the game in the hands of the defense.

Strasburg scored on four plays and then set up to kick the game tying extra point. The kick missed but a Bulldog penalty gave the Rams a second chance. The Rams decided to try a two-point conversion to win the game.

Quarterback Mark Roller pitched to halfback Andre Martoncik who tried to go around the right side, but was met by a wall of blue jerseys. He was stopped in the backfield and the Bulldogs had won their first state title.

JONESVILLE'S SEASON...GAME BY GAME

For a team that would become state champions there was very little evidence by mid-season the Bulldogs would go far outside of Lee County. Not until their fifth game of the season did they have a winning record (3-2). After a three game winning streak to go to 5-2, the Bulldogs lost three games in a row to finish the regular season at 5-5.

The playoffs were The Second Season for the Bulldogs. The perfect 4-0 playoff run etched the team's name forever in the record books of Lee County sports and the hearts of all Bulldog fans.

JONESVILLE 7, APPALACHIA 20
JONESVILLE 55, THOMAS WALKER 6
JONESVILLE 0, POWELL VALLEY 20
JONESVILLE 14, NORTON 0
JONESVILLE 7, ERVINTON 6
JONESVILLE 20, J. J. KELLY 0
JONESVILLE 10, TWIN SPRINGS 7
JONESVILLE 6, ABINGDON 35
JONESVILLE 14, RYE COVE 15
JONESVILLE 0, PENNINGTON 14

FIRST ROUND, REGION D PLAYOFFS

JONESVILLE 7, APPALACHIA 6

REGION D PLAYOFFS CHAMPIONSHIP

JONESVILLE 7, RYE COVE 0

STATE SEMI-FINAL GAME

JONESVILLE 15, RURAL RETREAT 7

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

Lee High Generals—State Golf Champs

POWELL VALLEY NEWS

OCTOBER 24, 1990

A First For Lee High

Emotions were running high last Tuesday night as the Lee High golf team celebrated their Group AA state golf championship with a siren escort from Dot through Pennington on to Jonesville and back to the high school at Ben Hur.

The Generals had accomplished what some schools never achieve—a state championship. For Lee County it was only the third—Dryden girls basketball in 1977, Jonesville football in 1988 and now Lee High golf in 1990.

The Generals were in third place on Monday (322) trailing Harrisonburg by six strokes (316) and Lord Botetourt (317) by five, but they fired a 312 on Tuesday to give them a 634 two day total and the state title.

While the Generals were improving ten strokes on Tuesday, the other teams were succumbing to the pressure. First day leader Harrisonburg came back with a 339 to finish fourth, while Lord Beteourt recorded a 325 for second with Tabb finishing third with a 324-326-650 performance.

Fourth seed Jason Johnson carded one of Tuesday's 76 scores. Todd Watson, also a senior, added the other 76 which matched his Monday performance for a 152 tourney total and fifth place in the individual standings. Lee's other two seniors, Sean Vandergriff and Chris Stacy both scored 80s on Tuesday as they closed out their prep golf careers. All four General seniors finished among the top 20 in the individual standings.

After finishing third at the Carroll County Shootout and winning the Farmers and Miners Invitational, Coach Cridlin said, "This was a team effort. We knew we would have one of the top ten teams in the state." The Generals proved that they weren't one of the top ten, they were the top team.

POWELL VALLEY NEWS

OCTOBER 17, 1990

Generals Grab Region IV Golf Crown

Lee High's golf team claimed the first regional crown in the school's young history last Thursday as the Generals defeated Graham by six strokes at the Region IV golf tournament at Fincastle Country Club in Bluefield.

The Generals fired a 338 team score to earn the title with the homestanding G-men earning second place with a 344. Highlands champ Abingdon was third with a 350, followed by Radford (351), Tazewell (359) and Carroll County (389).

Generals coach Nat Cridlin was pleased but not surprised by the high scores. "I expected us to shoot around 324, not 338. But everybody shot high." Cridlin credited the high scores to wet, cold weather (the temperature was in the 40s and 50s) as well as strong winds and the pressure of a regional tournament.

The coach had hoped his team would post scores no higher than 85 but the Gens brought in a pair of 82s, an 86 plus an 88 for the 338 total. Lee's four seniors led the way as Chris Stacy and Sean Vandergriff carded the 82s for third and fourth place in the individual rankings.

Both Stacy and Vandergriff have played well the past two weeks for the Generals, while number one seed Todd Watson has struggled. Watson finished the front nine with a 38, but tightened up on the back nine for a 48 and an 86 total. Jason Johnson brought in Lee's fourth score with a 46-42 for an 88.

The state tourney will be played on Monday and Tuesday at the Holston Hills Country Club and Cridlin likes his team's chances. "We have a good chance of winning state. It's nobody's home course and we have four seniors."

"Realistically we can shoot 320-325. Marion's course is similar to ours. It's a course where you can score well, but you can also get into trouble. If we can play consistent and get a couple of scores in the 70's and two in the low 80s, we can win."



The Lee County Legend
317 Joslyn Avenue
Pennington Gap, VA 24277

TO:

KEEPING THE MEMORIES ALIVE