Rome/Floyd Sports Hall of Fame 1983 Inductee

RALPH TUGGLE

RALPH TUGGLE SPENT MOST OF HIS ADULT YEARS guiding and coaching the youth of Rome. In the early days of youth baseball, Ralph was instrumental in forming the colt Baseball Program behind the Levee.

WITH HALL OF FAMER, Otis Gilbreath of Pepperell, Ralph built the Colt Baseball Program for high school aged boys into a highly skilled program, respected and envied by the southeastern states.

AFTER SPENDING THE FALLS AND WINTERS coaching football and baseball at Model high School, he found time in the spring and summer to coach and develop some of the finest young baseball players in the state, within the Colt Program in high school coaching. He took the Model baseball team to State playoffs five times and won three consecutive State Baseball Championships. This man coached football, baseball and basketball during the school term and his teams won numerous sub-region and region honors.

TUGGLE'S SERVICE IN THE MARINE CORPS in his younger years brought a sense of discipline to the youngsters he coached and certainly aided these youngsters toward a sounder and wiser adult life. His knowledge of the game of life and the game on the field has had a great influence on our community and the area. Ralph served on one of the first recreation committees in Rome. Ralph was known as a "Stickerler" for being prepared to play the game and to play at 100% capability.

> Rome/Floyd Sports Hall of Fame 1983 Inductee

> MITCHELL SHELLNUT

DURING HIS FRESHMAN YEAR at Model High School, Mitchell Shellnut began his football career as a defensive end; but that was soon to change and the results can be found in the record books.

MITCHELL, THE SON OF MR. AND MRS. PARKS SHELLNUT, wasn't very big as a freshman, but was a good player and possibly could have made a great defensive end. However, the coaching staff was impressed with Mitchell's running ability and decided to give him a shot in the backfield, a change which was to later help produce two Class B State Titles for Model

TWICE DURING HIS HIGH SCHOOL YEARS he was selected Outstanding Fullback of the Year. He is credited with a grand total of 41 touchdowns his final two high school seasons. Shellnut was a "four sport athlete" at Model, excelling in football, basketball, baseball and track. He played outfield on the baseball team for four seasons including one season in which the Blue Devils were runners-up for the state championship. Because of his agility and speed, it surprised no one to find his name repeatedly in track meet results as

MITCHELL BECAME ONE of the most outstanding offensive backs in Georgia. His performance in the state finals as a junior caught the attention of a University of Georgia scout who watched the game between Model and Ocilla. During the game, Mitchell gained 300 yards on 30 rushes and guided the Blue Devils to the state crown. The scout returned to the University of Georgia and informed Coach Wally Butts that had just seen the "best back of the year". As it so happened, the scout was actually viewing the game for the purpose of watching an Ocilla player but was much more impressed with Shellnut.

Rome/Floyd Sports Hall of Fame 1992 Inductee ROBERT A. "PETE" O'DILLON

A NOTED ATHLETE, public education official, and friend to the community perhaps best described the life of Robert A. "Pete" O'Dillon.

AS AN ATHLETE, PETE STARRED on the Model High School's state championship football teams in 1953 and 1954, earning regional and All-State honors as a lineman. He was voted Most Outstanding Lineman by his teammates in 1953 and was elected team captain his senior year-a sign of the leadership ability that would soon become symbolic with his career. Following his high school career, Pete became an active participant in the City of Rome's softball program.

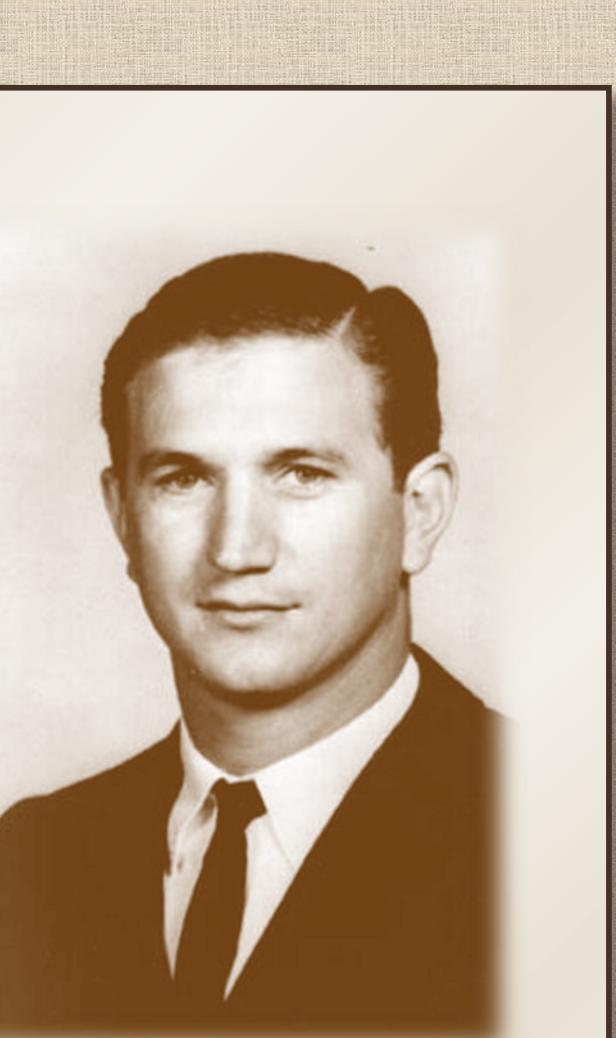
1966 PROVED TO BE one of his banner years as Pete served as president of the Rome-Floyd County Softball Association; he played on Elliott Sales' state championship softball team, and participated in the world Softball Tournament. Pete served five years on the Rome-Floyd County Recreation Board, and during his term, he placed much emphasis on the development of community recreation facilities to insure greater access for area citizens.

O'DILLION'S SERVICE ON THE FLOYD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION spanned 16 years... 14 of which he served as Board Chairman. He was instrumental in developing and implementing plans for adequate educational and athletic facilities for the county school system. His leadership helped secure revenue for various athletic facilities at Model, Armuchee, and Pepperell High Schools, which have enabled the Floyd County School System to better meet the needs of thousands of area youth.

AS A PRIVATE BUSINESS LEADER, Pete helped secure sponsorship teams and special events for the Rome-Floyd Parks and Recreation Authority and other leisure service providers. Pete's community service contributions are many-he served on the Board of Directors for the Rome Kiwanis Club from 1982-1988; he was president of PRIDE in 1983-84; he served on the Board of trustees for the United Way of Rome-Floyd County from 1986-1991 and currently serves on the Floyd College Foundation Board. His athletic accomplishments led to his induction into the Model High School Hall of Fame in 1989.

DEL'S INDUCTEES INTO THE ROME/FLOYD COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME -







J. M. CULBERSON

pounds and was lightning fast on any ball field. He was an outstanding hitter, outfielder and pitcher on the baseball diamond. He was also a member of the All-Star Basketball Tournament. J. M. became known as "Long Run" on the football field. He grew up in Shannon and attended Rome's Darlington Prep School.

IT WAS AT DARLINGTON where Culberson's illustrious sports career began. As a football player, Culbertson was a standout. He was known as the best kicker in the School's history and was an excellent passer. In 1941 he set a record that, as of this induction, still stands. Against the Duncan School, after having intercepted a pass in his own end-zone, J. M. ran 109 and half yards for a touchdown. Later that same year, he scored 72 points and gained a total of 192 yards... all in one game.

CULBERSON WAS ONE OF THE LEADING SCORERS in the Georgia Intercollegiate Athletic Association, and was named to the All Mid-south football team, where he quickly became known as Long Run Culberson. After football, it was on to the basketball court. J.M was a forward for the Darlington Tigers.

NAMED TO THE ALL STAR TOURNAMENT TEAM by the Chattanooga Times and listed among the Tournaments ten leading scorers, J. M. Culberson was "a Tiger that couldn't be tamed". He finished third among the top ten tournament players with 31 points.

THERE WERE THOSE WHO SAID that baseball was JM's best sport. He was named to the All Mid-south baseball team while at Darlington and later became the leading hitter for the Brighton mills orphans.



highlighted with his selection to the Georgia Class B Lineman of The Year award in 1954. ON THE TRACK, WAYNE SET RECORDS in the 180 yard low hurdles with a state record time of 21.065, to become the Georgia Class B State Champion. When the football and track season rested, Wayne did not.

AS HIS HIGH SCHOOL CAREER CAME TO A CLOSE, Wayne was awarded a football scholarship to the University of Georgia just one minute after midnight on signing day. He then went on to play with the Bull Dogs as a defensive lineman in 1955 and 1956 under Coach Wally Butts. Still not satisfied, Wayne went on to another of his dreams... the playing of professional baseball.

Rome/Floyd Sports Hall of Fame 1994 Inductee

LEON CULBERSON

IF YOUR NAME WAS CULBERSON, you just naturally played baseball and you played it well." Shannon, Georgia, simply meant, in the summertime that there was plenty of action on the baseball diamond and if you went up there to play, you had to go against the tough Culberson brothers. Leon and his brothers Maurice, Ken, J.M. and Bedo were great on the diamond as well as the football field and the basketball courts...but baseball was their love. As high school players they excelled in all sports. Leon was named Mid-South and All State at Darlington in football and baseball. When summer came, Leon turned to semi-pro base-

ball with Shannon and the Tubize. IN THE EARLY 40'S the Boston Red Sox's signed him and he went to the various farm systems, moving to Fenway Park with the Sox in 1943. He played outfield and third base, but the outfield most of the time. His hitting averages include: 1943-272; 1944-238; 1945-275; 1946-313; 1947-238 and with Washington in 1948-172 in 12 games.

HIS GREATEST THRILL had to be being a member of the 1946 American League Champion Red Sox where he

Rome/Floyd Sports Hall of Fame

1998 Inductee

GARY YORK

IN 1965, GARY WAS THE #12 PICK of the Philadelphia Phillies in

states of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.

South and has devoted his time to working with baseball teams from the area.

and basketball during his years at Model High School.

for 2 years and received GIAC honors.

and coaching at Model High School.

jor leagues.

him a spot in Boston's line up.

played right field and was named to the starting lineup by manager Joe Cronin. His next biggest had to the World Series home run he hit of St. Cardinal pitcher Al Brazle. Leon played in the starting lineup in Boston with such names as Johnny Pesky, Ted Williams, Rudy York, Bobby Dooerr, Don DiMaggio, Frank Higgins, and Hal Wagner. He was known in Beantown as the fastest Soxer on the squad and his timely late inning hitting clinched

IN THE STRETCH FOR THE AMERICAN LEAGUE PENNANT in 1946, Cronin said in the Boston Globe Newspaper that his previously little known trio from little known towns had made the Red Sox's go. He described this trio as Leon Culberson (Shannon, GA), Don Gutteridge (Pittsburg, KS), and Joe Dobson (Durant, OK). A proven Big Leaguer on the baseball diamond, Leon Culberson brought much prestige to his community as a member of the Boston Red Sox

the first ever professional baseball draft. During four year as a player and 2 years as a coach, York was on several

all-star teams. Upon leaving professional baseball in 1971, York returned to his hometown and began teaching

DURING 19 SUCCESSFUL YEARS AT MODEL, York received many honors and served as the assistant football

coach to the 1979 Championship team. He also led several baseball teams to regional titles. In 1983, he became

a part-time scout for the Chicago Cubs and was responsible for signing several Georgia players to the

team. From 1990-1993, York was a full-time scout for the Detroit Tigers and was responsible for the signing of

20 players from Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee. Four of these players went on to play in the ma-

YORK LEFT HIS POST WITH THE TIGERS IN 1993 for a teaching position at Pepperell High School. In 1996, he

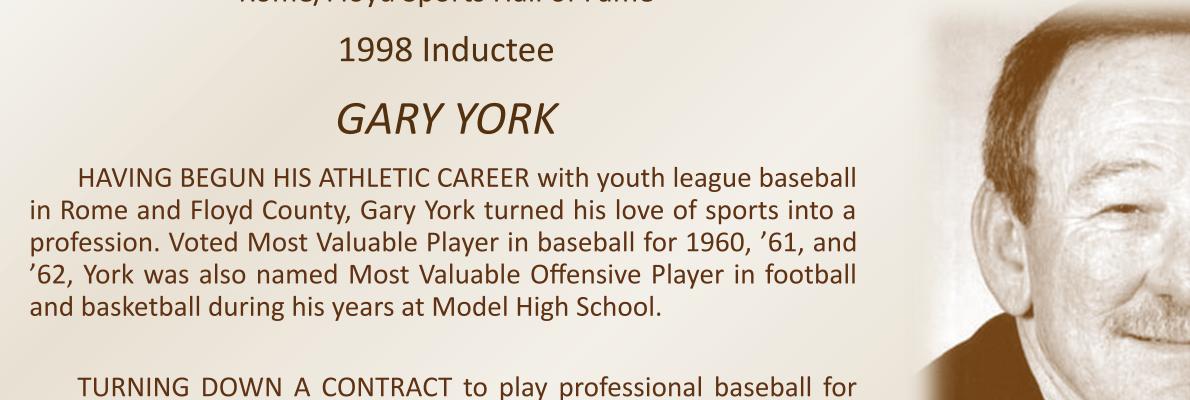
kees World Series Championship. In 1997, he returned to the Detroit Tigers organization, recruiting from the

TAKING TIME FROM HIS BUSY OCCUPATION to help others, York has conducted numerous youth baseball

clinics in Rome and Floyd County. He has been honored as the guest speaker to clinic groups throughout the

returned to professional baseball as a scout for the New York Yankees and recruited the #1 player for the Yan-





Man Aran the Boston red Sox, York entered Darlington School and participated in basketball and baseball. At Darlington, York was named the All Mid -South Player in both sports and most valuable player in baseball. York entered West Georgia College in 1964, where he played baseball

programs in 1961.

2011 Inductee WAYNE MINSHEW

out as a professional baseball player and then moving into journalism. Wayne began pursuing both baseball and journalism at the Unififth best in school history.

year of pro ball at Wytheville, Virginia where he had four hits in the event received national coverage.

Braves. Wayne edited the award-winning "Braves Illustrated".

Friends of the Library.



Rome/Floyd Sports Hall of Fame 2001 Inductee WAYNE SHELLNUT

BETWEEN THE YEARS OF 1951 AND 1955 Model High School was privileged to have had this multi-sport star athlete as a student. Wayne Shellnut wasn't satisfied with playing just one sport. So, while he attended Model High he participated in football, baseball, track and basketball, becoming a four-year Letterman in all

ONE OF WAYNE'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS included playing varsity football in the eighth grade, where he quickly earned the nickname "head hunter" because of his lethal attacking ability. Wayne went on to play on state championship football teams in 1953 and 1954. He was selected to the All Region and All State football teams in 1952, 1953 and 1954. His high school football career was

He took the mound for Model's baseball team where his outstanding play earned him and appearance as the starting picture for the North All-Stars in the 1954 North-South All-Star game.

Rome/Floyd Sports Hall of Fame 2001 Inductee JOAN DUNN JONES MERITORIOUS IS DEFINED as deserving reward of praise. Joan Dunn Jones has given twenty-four years of volunteer service to the youth of Rome and Floyd County - this deserves praise.

FROM 1944 TO 1948, JOAN DUNN JONES was a star basketball player at Etowah High School in Tennessee. She was named "Best All-Around Player" and participated in the state tournament in 1948. She led the Virginia Intermont Junior College basketball team as Captain form 1949 to 1950, and went on to major in physical education and general science at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville in 1950.

IN 1952 MRS. JONES BECAME A TEACHER AND COACH at Model High School, and led students in Junior High, Junior Varsity, and Varsity Basketball. In 1956, she moved to Model Junior High and coached basketball, track, and softball until the State of Georgia ruled out all junior high athletic

Needing to share her gift of coaching, Joan began her volunteer career with the Rome-Floyd Parks and Recrea-

tion Authority that lasted 24 years. Throughout her career, over 15 local basketball championships, five Georgia Recreation and Park Association District All-Star titles and 3 GRPA State All-Star titles for the 12 and 14 and under age group were won by Joan. Not being partial to one sport, Joan also coached track for ages 10-14 and led many girls to local meet victories and qualifying berths for District and State meets. IN SOFTBALL, FOUR LOCAL 12 AND UNDER CHAMPIONSHIPS were won under her direction. In 1992, she led her team to the local championship and finished runner-up with her District All-Stars. These players continued to play as a team from the Model area and went on to state competitions and one Final Four after entering high school competition. Coach Jones has already received numerous awards for her dedication to coaching, includ ing the Recreation Authority Youth Sport Coach of the Year in 1982, the 30 year award from the Scorebook Club in 1993-94, and the Etowah High School Sports Hall of Fame honor in 1983.



Rome/Floyd Sports Hall of Fam 2012 Inductee

MARY BROCK McMAHON

MARY BROCK MCMAHON who enjoyed a standout prep career at Model High School. She led her team to the Rome News-Tribune Christmas Tournament Championship and to a second-place finish in the state tournament while collecting all-state honors as a sophomore, junior and senior.

MCMAHON LED THE MODEL LADY BLUE DEVILS to the Sweet 16 of the Class AA state playoffs, was an all-state selection and set the school record in both rebounding and scoring. In her career at Model, she scored 2,195 points averaging 20.51 point per game. A versatile athlete, McMahon earned letters in four sports during her prep career, including softball, tennis and track.

TO ADD TO HER LIST OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS, McMahon graduated Valedictorian of her class at Model and she received a full athletic scholarship to Furman University.

IN 2002, MCMAHON BECAME ONLY THE THIRD LADY DEVIL in Model's basketball program's rich and storied history to have her jersey retired joining former Model standouts Lea-Anda Hutchins and Cheryl Autry. A fouryear letter winner at Furman, McMahon played in each of the Paladins' 116 games during her career, 64 of those as a starter. During her senior season she averaged 9.6 points and 4.9 rebounds per contest. She was named to the Southern conference all-Tournament team following the 2001-2002 seasons. Described Mary's friend and former classmate described her as "Exemplifying what a female athlete should and could be if she works hard enough."

Rome/Floyd Sports Hall of Fame 2014 Inductee

JEROME WEBB

UNDOUBTEDLY ONE OF THE BEST all-around athletes to ever play at Model High School, Jerome earned varsity letters in football, basketball, baseball and track each of his four years in high school. He played for two state champion football teams and was named first team all-state in football in 1954 and 55. In 1956 he received the WRGA Happy Quarles award for Rome and Floyd county athlete of the year. Jerome was inducted into the Model High School Sports Hall of Fame in 1991.

AFTER HIGH-SCHOOL, JEROME SIGNED A GRANT in aid with the University of Georgia to play football, once enrolled the grant changed to basketball. He was a member of the UGA freshman basketball team before leaving to sign a professional baseball contract with the Cleveland Indians.

WEBB PLAYED SIX SEASONS, 1957-1962, in the Indians minor league system – three being all-star seasons (1958, 1960, 1961). In 1958 with Cocoa, FL in the Florida State League he had 20 HR, 3 triples, 22 doubles and 84 RBI with a. 266 avg. while playing every inning of a 140 game schedule. In 1960 with Burlington, NC in the Carolina League he had 21 HR, 5 triples, 24 doubles and 89 RBI with a .276 avg. In 1961 with Reading, PA in the Eastern League he had 13 HR, 6 triples, 22 doubles and 104 RBI with a. 266

Webb, and scouting greater Atlanta and North Georgia for the Philadelphia Phillies

avg. while playing every inning of a 140 game schedule.

DURING SPRING TRAINING IN 1959 Jerome was listed as one of Cleveland's top 15 minor league prospects. Signing endorsement contracts with Topps Bubble Gum, Rawlings Sporting Goods, and Louisville Slugger. Today Jerome stays connected to the game by following the high school and travel ball career of grandson Alex

Rome/Floyd Sports Hall of Fame WAYNE MINSHEW HAS HAD A DIVERSE SPORTS CAREER starting

versity of Georgia. While at UGA, Wayne set the school record for lowest earned run average in a season (1.02 ERA) – a mark that still stands more than 50 years later. Wayne allowed only five earned runs in 44 innings pitched. His 2.50 career earned run average still ranks AFTER GRADUATING FROM UGA in 1958, Wayne played a

his first professional game, and batted a .455. In 1959, Wayne began to slowly transition off the field into sports journalism while still playing baseball on the side. He signed a contract with Sally League Jacksonville Jets and pitched five shutout innings against Los Angeles Dodgers farm club. Wayne wrote the game story and

IN 1965, WAYNE STARTED WORKING FOR THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION where he became the first Atlanta Braves "beat" writer. He scored numerous scoops with baseball writing, including Ted Turner's decision to purchase the Braves. Wayne served as the President of the Atlanta chapter of Baseball Writers Association of America; he was the Atlanta correspondent for The Sporting News, then known as "the baseball bible" and he covered three World Series. After 13 years with the Atlanta Constitution, Wayne transitioned once more into PR where he continued to serve the world of baseball as the Director of Public Relations for the Atlanta

WAYNE HAS USED HIS MANY TALENTS to support his community. He served on the Atlanta Paralympics Organizing Committee where he was the publisher and editor of the first-ever media guide for the Paralympics event. He volunteer for the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame where he wrote a research paper used by architects to design and construct the museum in Macon, Georgia. He has volunteered for many local organizations including Red Cross and



A GRADUATE OF MODEL HIGH SCHOOL, Jamane Spivey scored over 1,800 points in his career and was a three year starter.

A LEGEND DURING HIS TIME at Model, they honored him in 2009 by retiring his number 20 jersey.

After graduation, Spivey



played at Gordon College and Southern Union before transferring to the University of New Orleans in 1994.

SPIVEY GRADUATED FROM UNO and took his talents to the global stage, playing 15 seasons overseas. He played for teams in Bolivia, Israel, Hungary and Finland.



Rome/Floyd Sports Hall of Fai 2017 Inductee

ANDY AKIN

A LIFETIME NATIVE OF ROME our next inductee has influenced the lives of hundreds of young men and women in very positive ways. Andy Akin began his career as a graduate assistant for the University of Alabama's women's basketball team; this was just the beginning of an almost 35 year career.

FROM 1979 TO 1981 AKIN was the assistant coach at West Rome High School, and from there, he returned to his alma mater at East Rome as the head boys basketball coach from 1983-1987. During his time there, he had three Sweet Sixteen, 2 Elite Eights and one Final Four appearances. From there he continued his success at Model High School leading the girls basketball team to 5 Sweet Sixteens, 3 Elite Eights and 2 Final Four appearances as well as 1 State Runner up title.

AFTERWARDS, ANDY ENJOYED some of the most fun coaching his twin girls' teams in both soccer and basketball. He returned to high school coaching in 2008 as the Model High boy's basketball head coach and led his team to another State Tournament appearance.

ONE OF COACH AKIN'S FAVORITE TOURNAMENTS is the Rome News-Tribune Seven Hills Rotary Holiday Festival Basketball Tournament. He has attended the tournament as long as he can remember and won 5 Gold Ball Championships. Andy has also been named Northwest Georgia Tip-off Club's Coach of the Year four times.

Rome/Floyd Sports Hall of Fame 2019 Inductee SALLY RUSH ECHOLS

CURRENTLY HOLDING THE TITLE of the winningest coach at Model High School, Sally is in her 17th year of teaching and her 14th year as head coach of the Model Blue Devils basketball program.

WHILE ATTENDING MODEL High School from 1994-1998, Sally lettered in five sports while maintaining a 4.0 GPA and graduating Salutatorian of her class.

SALLY PLAYED BASKETBALL under Coach Andy Akin, and was team captain for three years. She holds the career assist record at Model at 440. She continued playing basketball at North Georgia College where she was an Academic All-American and team captain.

WHILE HER STATISTICS ARE IMPRESSIVE, her career as a teacher, coach, and mentor sums up the humble leader that Sally is to her students and athletes. Each year she and her team work with over 150 girls. from kindergarten to eighth grade, teaching them about basketball at their annual Big Blue Basketball Camp.

Rome/Floyd Sports Hall of Fame 2022 Inductee LEE-ANDA HUTCHENS

LEE-ANDA HUTCHENS DOMINATED COURTS in Northwest Georgia for more than a decade. While at Model High School, Hutchens led the Lady Blue Devils in scoring and rebounding from her freshman through senior campaigns. During her senior year, she averaged 26 points a game as well as 13 rebounds a game, earning All-State honors. She also was named the Rome News-Tribune player of the year in her junior and senior seasons, and was selected to play in the Georgia / Tennessee All-Star Game as a senior.



HUTCHENS ALSO STARRED FOR THE BLUE DEVILS' track and field team. In the 400 meters... the only two races Hutchens didn't win were in the state finals, where she placed sixth and fourth.

AFTER GRADUATING FROM MODEL, Hutchens didn't have to travel too far to play collegiately, continued to wear the No. 12 jersey, as she signed to play for the home town Berry Vikings. Hutchens proved just as deadly for the Vikings as she had for the Blue Devils, staring for Berry and racking up 2,111 career points as well as 987 career rebounds. She earned All-District honors all four years at Berry, was named the Georgia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Player of the Year in her junior season, the Atlanta Tip-off Club Player of the Year in 1991 and earned All-American honors during her senior year.

LEE-ANDA'S NO. 12 JERSEY WAS RETIRED by both Model High School and Berry College, and she was later enshrined in the Model High School Hall of Fame.

82.16"



ALL DELLA