

# 2020 FARRAGUT HALL OF FAME INDUCTION

FARRAGUTPRESS THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2020 • 1C



## FHS Athletic Hall of Fame Ceremony Information

**Farragut High School Sports Hall of Fame Ceremony, honoring 12 Class of 2020 inductees and a Service Award honoree plus special recognition to a legendary Admirals football team from the 1960s, begins at 5:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 1, in FHS Commons.**  
**Featured Speaker is Dr. Michael Baird, FHS Class of 1979, an anesthesiologist at Parkwest Medical Center and a U.S. Navy veteran.**

*Tickets are \$35 each, with a table costing \$250.  
They can be purchased at  
[www.knoxcountyschools/farraguths/](http://www.knoxcountyschools/farraguths/).*

*For more information, contact David Moore  
by e-mail at [david.moore@knoxschools.org](mailto:david.moore@knoxschools.org) or by  
calling 865-966-9775.*



## '63 Admirals honored

This 1963 Farragut High School football team remains the only Admirals varsity team to finish a season undefeated (8-0-3) and will be honored with Special Recognition during Farragut High School Sports Hall of Fame Ceremony, which begins at 5:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 1, in FHS Commons.

## Dr. Michael Baird, featured speaker (Class of 1979)

Saying it wasn't anything he did athletically in high school that earned him the honor of being featured speaker for 2020 Farragut High School Sports Hall of Fame Ceremony, Dr. Michael Baird may have been chosen for another important reason: serving his country.

A 1979 FHS graduate, Baird turned years of medical school training in Memphis into five years of service in the U.S. Navy, highlighted by being "the medical officer for a submarine squadron" with a high rank of lieutenant.

Playing football (receiver) and baseball (catcher and third baseman) for the Admirals before starting his college medical

training at the University of Tennessee, "FHS was such a great place to go to school," said Baird, who has been an anesthesiologist at Parkwest Medical Center for "about 24 years now."

"... I was very well-prepared out of Farragut to go on and compete at UT academically," he added. "It was just the quality and character of the people we were exposed to there with the teachers and the coaches."

"I was sure blessed to get to grow up in Farragut."

Living in West Knox County near Farragut, Baird and wife, Cindy Reavis Baird, have four children ages 33 to 23.

He has a son-in-law who both are FHS Hall of Fame inductees: Nick Reveiz (former wrestling state champ and football star at FHS, and a standout over-achieving linebacker at Tennessee) and Kelsey Benorden Baird (volleyball star).



**Baird**

## SERVICE AWARD WINNER

### Erik Gerhardt

Class of 1988

The 2020 FHS Hall of Fame Service Award goes to "The Voice of FHS Admirals Football and Basketball" — who also has become "The Voice of Induction."

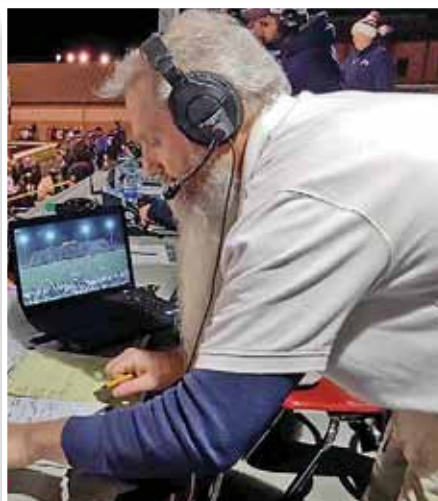
Erik Gerhardt, emcee of FHS Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony each year since its founding in 2013, is well-known in Farragut athletics circles for turning his passion for Admirals athletics into thorough research inside the three programs receiving air time on WFIV-FM 1105.3 from late August to late February each school year.

The result is detailed statistics, some with historical implications, and up-to-date team news for his listeners — not to mention many dramatic and memorable play-by-play calls when the Admirals and Lady Admirals win big games.

A 1988 FHS graduate who was a starting right fielder on Hall of Fame coach John Heatherly's 1988 Admirals baseball team, which finished as Class AAA state runner-up, Gerhardt is in his 12th season of calling FHS girls and boys varsity basketball after finishing his 15th season calling Admirals varsity football last fall.

Saying he developed a passion for Admirals athletics during his "impressionable years" as a child and young teenager, "The Voice" fondly recalled the 1981 FHS football season and the "All-Mike backfield" (Mike Bland, quarterback; Mike Moeller, fullback; and Mike Stone, tailback).

"They went to the state semif-



nal and lost in a quagmire at Rhea County," Gerhardt added. "That was an awesome team."

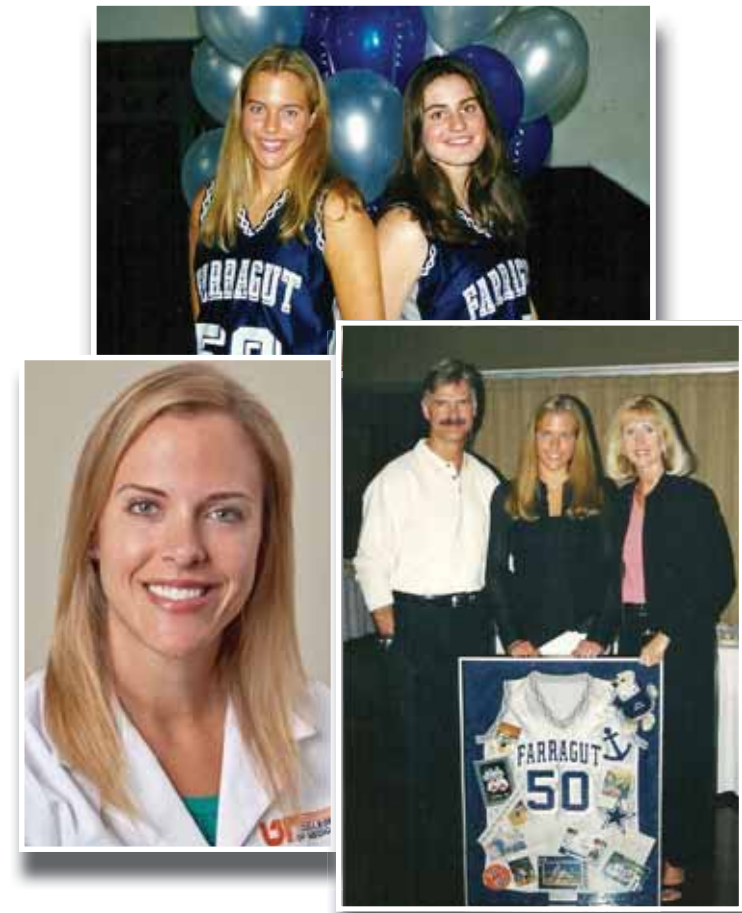
He also recalled Hall of Fame coach Lynn E. Sexton's memorable 1982-83 basketball team "went 36-0 before they lost in the state tournament. I can still remember the starting five: Jack Williams, Bo Creech, Dan Martin, Bill Clements and Mike Carpenter," he said. "A couple of those guys I've had the privilege to introducing at the Hall of Fame."











## Jessica Lange

### Class of 2003, Basketball

A surgeon/urologist at Erlanger Health Systems in Chattanooga, Jessica Lange said when she heard the Hall of Fame news, “I was very excited to be inducted alongside several of my teammates.”

That includes “one of my best friends, Alex Munday (Class of 2002),” an assistant coach for the Lady Admirals varsity hoops team.

Looking back, her fondest basketball memories include “setting the (school) record for number of wins in a season ... and setting a precedent of excellence for the girls basketball program,” at 26-8 during her junior year. “I feel like we were the foundation of that.”

During her four years, this FHS star post contributed in a big way to 84 wins (84-42).

Helping to mentor this 6-foot-1 standout was Mike Driver, a post play position coach for the FHS girls

varsity in Lange's early years who later became head coach.

“He spent a lot of extra time with all the post players,” said Lange, who signed with Furman University. “In pre-game shoot-arounds for every home game, he would come and work with us in the gym a couple of hours before the game would start.”

“So he put in a lot of extra time and effort to make us better,” she added.

Being a Lady Admiral also taught Lange “how to be a team player,” she said. “... I'm a surgeon now in my daily life, and I work with part of an OR, operating room, team.”

“I think playing basketball during those years probably helped me learn how to communicate ... for a common goal, and that's proved very

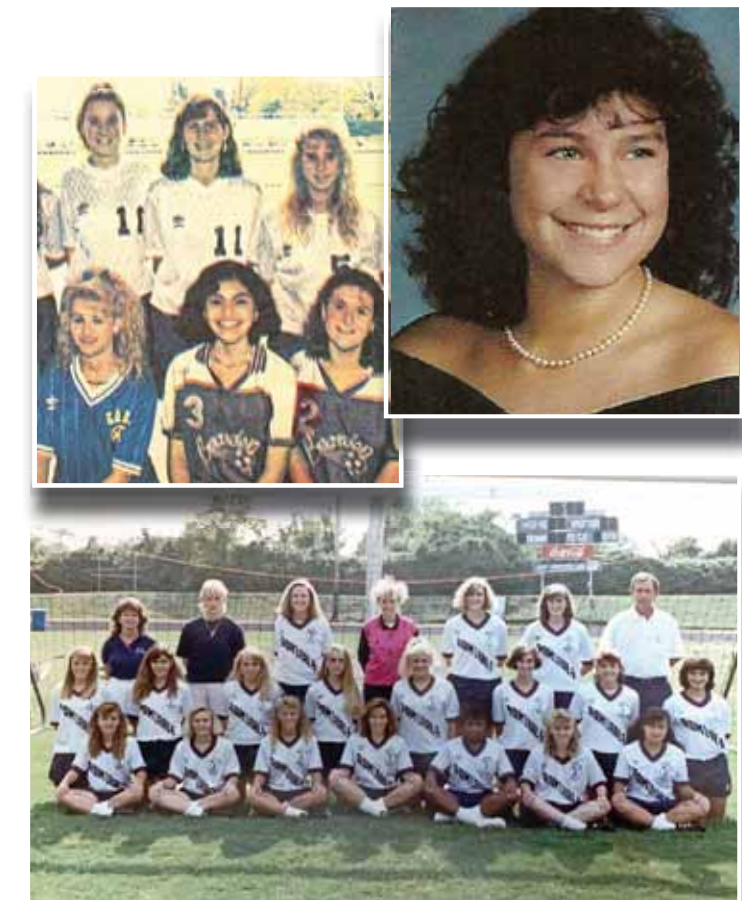


valuable throughout my entire life,” she added.

Of special note, “My dad (Dr. Randall Lange) actually arranged a holiday tournament every Christmas in honor of my uncle, Rick Lange,” she said. “We won the championship one of those two years.”

“That was very special just because it was in memory of my uncle,”

See LANGE on Page 6C



## Keely Miles

### Class of 1989, Soccer

Keely Miles was an FHS athletics pioneer, playing on the first Lady Admirals soccer team sanctioned to compete in TSSAA during the fall 1986 season.

More than a pioneer, however, Miles helped lead that groundbreaking 1986 team to an undefeated regular season all the way into the Class AAA state finals — before losing 2-1.

A three-time All-state honoree named an All-South player her senior year, the versatile Miles said she “played offense and defense” without remembering her exact position.

However, her goal of helping the 1988 Lady Admirals win a state championship was all but derailed when “I blew out a knee ... a month before we went to play in the state tournament,” she said. “I did get to play, briefly. I only had four weeks to recover from knee surgery.”

That '88 team, just like the 1987 team her junior year, was eliminated in the state semifinals.

But for all the success and pioneering, Miles' first thoughts about her FHS soccer days were “making the friends that I made,” she said. “Working together so well and doing so well, accomplishing as much as we did.”

Without one mention of Bearden, usually the No. 1 target when mentioning Farragut team rivalries, Miles said, “Anytime we beat (Kingsport) Dobyns-Bennett or Webb (School of Knoxville) was always a highlight for me.”

As for mentors, “Of course Natalie (Sisk, the program's first head coach when TSSAA-sanctioned) for supporting us and being there for



us,” Miles said about the FHS Hall of Famer.

Though she admitted to being “solely focused on soccer” to the exclusion of other sports or clubs at FHS, Miles said she “was pretty much a straight A student.”

“I played soccer when I was 4 years old through high school, and then one year in college,” she said

See MILES on Page 6C



## Kylann Scheidt Ward

### Class of 2010

#### Volleyball, Basketball

Now living in “Ben Ten Country,” Kylann Scheidt Ward (FHS Class of 2010) is associate director of Creative Services Video Production for Purdue University Athletics in West Lafayette, Indiana.

In other words, she helped promote Boilermaker Men's Basketball, to attract potential recruits and inspire fans “with creative video,” for four years before switching to Football last summer, Ward said.

“It's about marketing Purdue and making us look cool,” she added.

For example, “When recruits are in town, I'll meet with them and do a video shoot,” Ward said.

She should do a promotion video, perhaps, about her own volleyball career at Farragut High School: an Under Armour First Team All-American her senior season and twice All-

state as a setter who helped her Lady Admirals earn a state tourney berth in 2008, Ward also was a two-time Region Tournament MVP and two-time KIL Player of the Year.

About FHS, Ward said “it was a great place to grow, not only on the court, but all the help that I got from all the teachers that I had.”

“I still have some of them on Facebook that I'm friends with,” she added. “It's cool to see what they're doing.”

“You expect to succeed in everything you do at Farragut.”

Graduating a few months earlier than most, in December 2009, “so that I could start at Tennessee,” Ward helped lead the Lady Vols to




an SEC Volleyball championship and two NCAA Tournament appearances as a freshman and sophomore.

She then transferred to American University in Washington, D.C., for her final two college years, helping the 2013 Lady Patriots reach the NCAA Tournament “Sweet 16.”


She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in film and media studies

See WARD on Page 6C



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# Matt Ramsey

## Class of 2008, Baseball

Fulfilling his dream of pitching for a Major League Baseball team, Matt “Hammer” Ramsey “pitched a perfect inning” against the Bronx Bombers, no less, last April.

Setting down, in order, a New York Yankees team that went on to set an MLB record for home runs in a regular season, his relief success with the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim at home April 25 “is something I had looked forward to my whole life,” said Ramsey, a star at Farragut High School (Class of 2008) whose pitching helped the Admirals win Class AAA state titles in 2006 and 2008.

It was capped “by getting my first Big League strikeout” to finish off a decisive Angels win (the lead was too big entering the top of the ninth inning for Ramsey to earn a save).

As opposed to being nervous, or at least a little tight when taking the mound, “The first pitch of the

inning, it felt like any other game that I’ve pitched in, which I was pleasantly surprised about,” Ramsey said.

About how his Angels teammates reacted after the game, “everybody was super nice; they were awesome about it,” he said. “There were a few guys that didn’t realize it was my Major League debut.”

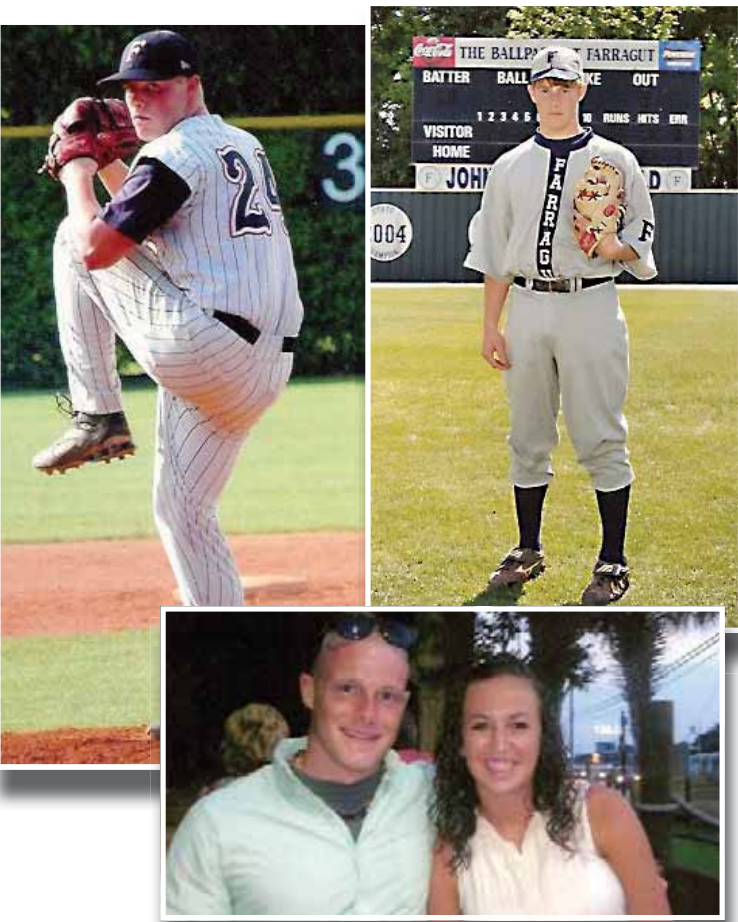
Though brought up from Class AAA for just this one game before being sent down, or optioned, roughly 24 hours later, “I got to fly with the team to Kansas City and then they optioned me,” Ramsey said.

Pitching three years in the Southeastern Conference for Tennessee, as a reliever (2009-2011), Ramsey’s Minor League professional pitching career began in 2012.



“I think college is a big stepping stone toward professional baseball, and there are people who are ready to go into professional baseball out of high school, but I feel like it’s pretty important to experience college first,” Ramsey said. “Because once you’re in professional baseball, it’s a different world — you’re on your own, truly.

See **RAMSEY** on Page 6C



# Ross Cox

## Class of 2003, Golf

Class AAA boys golf state champ in 2001, firing a pair of 69s during the 36-hole TSSAA event, highlighted the high school golf career of Hall of Fame inductee Ross Cox (Class of 2003).

Though he doesn’t remember the course, “It was just a solid two days of play,” the former Tennessee Vols golfer and U.S. Open Sectional Qualifier said.

Always thinking big with a championship mentality, Cox said he “was expecting to win (state) my senior year.” He finished ninth.

As a team, Cox helped the Admiral finish third in state in 2000, and fourth in state his final two seasons (2001 and 2002).

When speaking of a mentor who was most influential on his highly successful golfing career, and in the game of life, “It has to be my father,” Cox said about Robert Cox.

“Since childhood he’s always pushed me, in golf and life.”

Saying his golfing strength is “wedge play,” Cox added, “I try to do my best; and whatever I do I try to give 110 percent. “My dad has always been there. He could have been playing a lot more with his buddies, but he spent a lot of time with me, helping me out.”

As for a favorite course, not surprisingly it was in Farragut. “We always played at Willow Creek,” Cox said. “We liked everything about the golf course; it was a good practice facility. The owners are great out there.

“Very friendly people,” he added.

Cox also praised then FHS head coach Mike Driver for being “an awesome person to be around.”

About his favorite FHS golf mem-



ories, Cox also listed “driving to matches with teammates.”

Because of being together in a vehicle, “When you go to these tournaments you get to hang out with your teammates,” said Cox, who enjoyed a brief time playing on both the U.S. Pro Tour and NGA Hooters Tour. “You get to spend more time with them than an everyday 9-hole match,”

See **COX** on Page 6C



# Scott Dix

## Class of 2005, Wrestling

Winning 122 of his 152 high school wrestling matches, which included capturing the TSSAA state championship in the 140-pound class his junior season in 2004 (44-3 record), Scott Dix focused on one person as most responsible for his athletic success.

Ronald Dix, his father, filled a huge void when it came to Farragut youth wrestling.

“Hands down it would have to be my father. He introduced my brothers and I to wrestling when we were younger,” Dix, a 2005 FHS graduate, said. “He had wrestled when he was in high school, and was moderately successful up in Illinois.

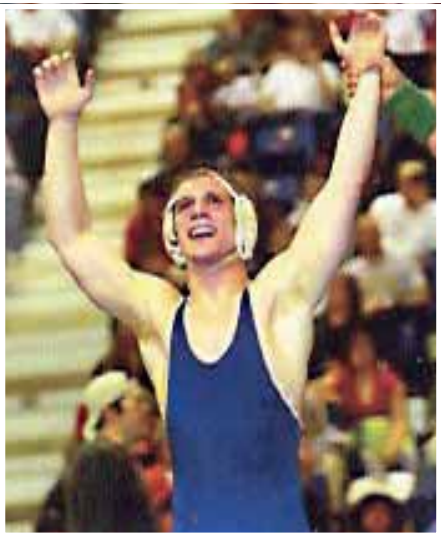
“He kind of saw us struggling in a lot of different sports — he knew we were athletically inclined, and just encouraged us to try (wrestling) out,” he added. “Because there was no Farragut AAU team for middle

school, he actually started it, took it over and became a coach. ... He turned it into a feeder program, so to speak, for the high school team that really contributed to our dominance of the area.”

While that “dominance” was kicking in, Dix was “watching my older brothers go through the team, and keeping up with them,” he said about oldest brother, Ryan (135-pound class state qualifier, Class of 2000) and Mark (heavyweight, Class of 2002).

When it was his turn at FHS, “We were able to kind of continue that legacy, so to speak, being able to clinch the region championships and KIL championships as a team,” the youngest Dix brother said.

The next school day after winning state, “Almost every teacher (he had

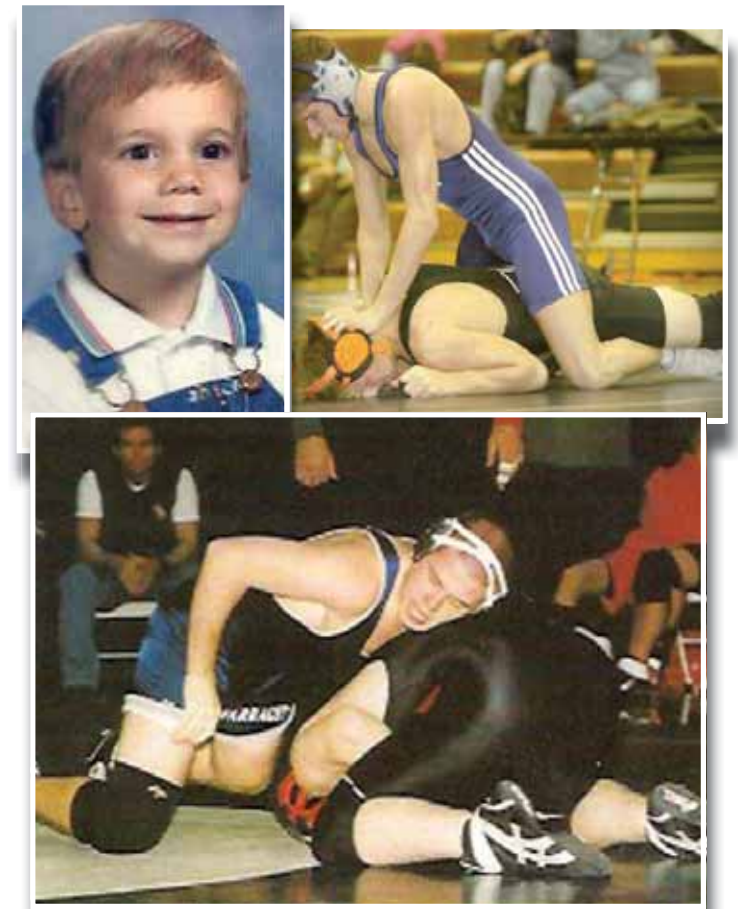


for a class) had some type of personal celebration or announcement to make about it. It was a great atmosphere,” he said.

As a result of all this success, Dix said his father “continued to be my No. 1 fan and coach throughout my entire career.”

The goal of winning another state championship as a senior, however,

See **DIX** on Page 6C


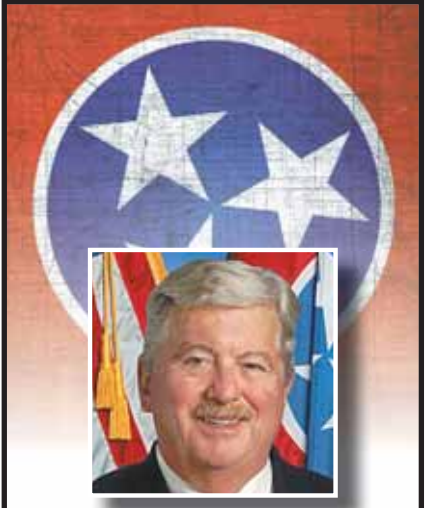




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# Stacey Siefert Michitti

## Class of 1994

Track and Basketball

Stacey Siefert Michitti was a two-time state champion relay sprinter, helping Farragut win the Class AAA team state title each of her four years wearing Lady Admirals Navy blue.

She also placed third in the state in the 300-meter hurdles, as a senior, after setting what was then a new Region 1-AAA record.

“The funny part about that, I didn’t even start running hurdles until the end of my sophomore year or beginning of my junior year,” Michitti said about picking up the hurdles quickly.

“That’s what I was recruited for in college,” she added, choosing to accept the offer from the University of Tennessee and compete in the SEC.

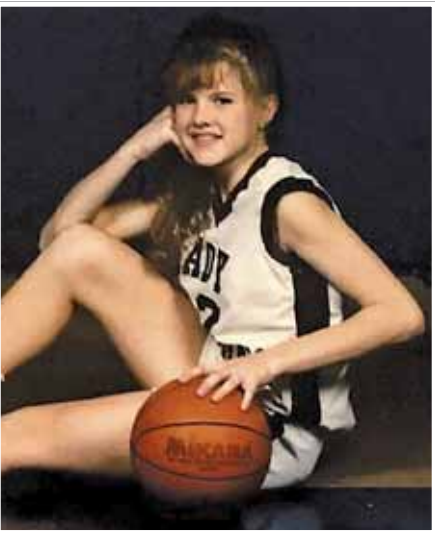
Also finishing fourth in pentath-

lon as a senior at state, Michitti qualified for the USATF Junior Olympic Team and earned AAU All-American honors as a hurdler and sprinter.

“Each year had its own different experience,” she said. “There were probably eight or nine of us who went our freshman year through our senior year” as state champs. Out of those, six or seven of us went to a Division I school to run.”

Because of a scheduling conflict between Knox County Schools and TSSAA, the Class of 1994 “had to miss graduation due to us having our state track meet,” she said. “We actually graduated at Baccalaureate, which was the week before.

“If you were tight-knit, you were



even tighter” as senior teammates, she added. “You’re going through all these experiences and things with them that a lot of people wouldn’t.

“And to experience four state titles was pretty cool,” she added. “It was a team effort, even though track is mostly an individualized sport.”

In addition, “We had great coaches, like (head) coach (Bill) Parker.

See MICHITTI on Page 6C



# Coach Richie Houston

## 1999-2002, Wrestling

A former state runner-up high school wrestler in Statesville, North Carolina (119-pound class) who went on to wrestle at Gardner-Webb University, Richie Houston expanded his love of the sport as a coach, going westward to Farragut High School at the turn of the century.

About his three successful years coaching at FHS (1999-2002) while serving as a physical education teacher, Houston said his favorite memories are “just a group of hard-working kids that loved wrestling, and they were competitive.”

As a team, “We had a lot of success, won districts and the region,” he added.

As for specific matches, “A couple of them come to mind,” he said. “Ryan Dix, the first year I was there, he was a senior. He had never placed

before (at state), but ended up third or fourth at state (135-pound class). Beat a kid from Red Bank, and I don’t think at that time anybody from Farragut had ever beat anybody from Red Bank — they were part of that Chattanooga area that dominated wrestling at that time.

“Eric Watkins (215-pound class), the year he won state (2001), there was a kid out of Cleveland High School that was a three-time state champion, and I felt Eric and this kid were probably the two best kids (statewide) that year,” Houston said about Watkins, a previous FHS Hall of Fame inductee.

Though this Cleveland star won during a regular season Admirals-versus-Blue Raiders dual match — “he might have even pinned us” — revenge would come in the state



individual finals.

“Eric ended up beating him in double overtime,” preventing the Blue Raider star from winning four consecutive state titles to end his stellar CHS career.

Another former Admiral star coming to the coach’s mind was Eric Faris.

“His senior year (2002) he ended

See HOUSTON on Page 6C



# Coach Tommy Pharr

## 1998-2009

Baseball

Growing up in Belmont, Mississippi, in the northeastern corner of the state, Tommy Pharr ended up transferring to Mississippi State University, where he graduated in 1983.

Despite having led two Knox County high school teams to nine state championships, including his first five at Farragut (2003, 2004, 2006, 2008 and 2009), “I was never good enough to play after high school,” said Pharr, never having any direct contact with an excellent MSU Bulldogs program.

But he was learning from a distance. From a little boy through high school and college, then into coaching — even now — Pharr had a hunger to learn more about baseball.

“I think I always wanted to teach and always wanted to coach ... so I ended up working a year or two and

saved up some money, then went back to school,” he added.

Earning his undergraduate degree in physical education at MSU, Pharr’s first head coaching job was at small Red Bay High School in Alabama “not real far from where I’m from.” Pharr said he “didn’t know much” when taking over during the 1985 season.

However, “We ended up having a pretty good little program,” he added. “We were state runner-up my third year there.”

Then moving to Cookeville “for the next eight years,” Pharr was head coach at Monterey High School for four years. Among his players was a young catcher named Matt



Buckner (Monterey Class of 1996), current FHS head coach.

Pharr also earned his master’s degree in education at Tennessee Tech, “and was a grad assistant there a couple of years at Tennessee Tech,” he said. “One year I was an assistant coach at White County High School in Sparta.”

Before beginning his 12 seasons

See PHARR on Page 6C



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**McCown**  
From page 2C

Having never attended a public school through the eighth-grade, “I begged and pleaded with my parents to go to Farragut. I wanted to play soccer, and that was the best team around,” McCown said. “And we were zoned for it.”

The transition as an FHS freshman “was an enlightening experi-

ence. I went from a school that had 20 kids in my class, maybe 300 in the total school ... to a very large environment,” she said. “But I enjoyed every minute of it. ... To meet so many different people from so many different backgrounds and to be able to grow and learn from everybody.”

A senior account executive with Bengage Learning who lives in Knoxville, McCown and husband, Tag McCown, have a daughter, Kate, 8.

**Miles**  
From page 3C

about a Farragut career leading into a brief career as a Tennessee Lady Vol — then only a club sport at UT.

But that only lasted one season “just because of the many injuries that I had,” Miles said. “I had hurt both knees and both ankles.”

Overall at FHS, “It was a great ex-

perience for me,” she said. “I got to know a lot of different people.”

With a master’s degree in early childhood education, Miles has been an elementary school teacher “for about 25 years” in Knox and Anderson counties. She currently teaches at West Haven Elementary School in Knoxville.

Miles has four children, ages 28 to 9, and two grandchildren.

**Michitti**  
From page 5C

They were awesome; they were with us all four years.”

An Honor Roll student all four years at FHS, Michitti went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree from UT in kinesiology.

Michitti’s athletic success was

immediate in the SEC, named 1995 Freshman of the Year. One Year Later, she was named an SEC Scholar Athlete of the Year.

A real estate agent in Brentwood, Michitti has 14-year-old twin girls and a son, 10, “who are very active in sports,” she said.

**Cox**  
From page 4C

which usually only requires a short drive to reach the given course.

Cox said he and his father both took pride in the golf game development of younger sister, Megan Cox,

also a standout golfer at FHS (Class of 2005) who went on to play collegiately at Tennessee Wesleyan University in Athens.

A general contractor by trade, Cox is married to Kelsey Cox. They live in the Cedar Bluff area.

**Ward**  
From page 3C

from American U.

Her three years at FHS “were probably the best years of my life,” Ward said. “Coach (David) Moore was just an awesome (volleyball) coach. ... I stay in touch with coach Moore a lot.”

She added how Moore, along with basketball coaches Mike Driver (sophomore year) and Weston Edmonds (junior year) “were great mentors for me.”

As for teammates, “Kara Gregg, she was one of my good friends (now an FHS volleyball assistant coach),

and Stephanie Torrence on the basketball side that I still talk to, to this day.”

A transfer from a high school in Lincoln, Nebraska, getting her first taste of the Southeast, Ward said her volleyball teammates “helped me, especially coming my sophomore year from Nebraska, to get adjusted and meet new people and everything.”

As a forward for the FHS girls basketball team, Ward twice earned All-District 4-AAA Tournament honors as a sophomore and junior before giving up hoops to concentrate on volleyball.

Ward is married to Sean Ward.

**Ramsey**  
From page 4C

“You don’t have your teammates and coaches there necessarily looking out for you,” he added. “You have more people holding you accountable in college (baseball).”

As for his highlight as an Admiral, “Getting to end my high school career on winning a championship,” he said.

Not knowing in mid-January that his FHS head coach, Tommy Pharr, also is being inducted into this same class, Ramsey said, “That’s

pretty special.”

In the Minor Leagues with the Biloxi Sugars, “I was a Southern League All-Star in 2017, and I led the Southern League in saves that year, I’m pretty sure,” he said.

At age 30 and currently not affiliated with any professional organization, Ramsey said he’s still hoping to sign with an MLB organization for 2020 — and attempt to work his way back to the Majors.

Having recently moved to Chattanooga, Ramsey and wife, Kirsten, have one daughter, 2.

**Dix**  
From page 4C

was ended when he broke his arm “pretty bad just before the season started,” abruptly halting a stellar FHS career.

A three-time state qualifier who was named KIL Prep Wrestler of the Year as a junior, Dix was AAU Wrestler of the Year three times while a two-time AAU state champion. His

six-year AAU record was 84-17.

Aside from sports and celebrations at FHS, “I had a lot of really good teachers,” Dix said. “... There was always extra help provided. (Teachers) were always so happy to be helpful.”

Owner of Western Valley Woodworking in North Knoxville as a carpenter/woodworker, Dix is married to Emily Allen.

**Lange**  
From page 3C

she added.

As a redshirt sophomore power forward at Furman during the 2005-06 season, she set a school record for blocked shots in a season with 54.

While leading the Lady Paladins in field goal percentage her final two college seasons, Lange also excelled in the classroom with regular

trips to the Honor Roll, including the Southern Conference Honor Roll.

She also earned the Elizabeth Blackwell Scholar Athlete Award for having the team’s best grade-point average her senior season.

To help pay her way through medical school at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis, “I was the recipient of one of the Southern Conference’s Graduate Scholarships,” Lange said.

**Houston**  
From page 5C

up winning state,” Houston said.

“Eric, his sophomore and junior seasons got to the (state) semifinals before he got beat by the same kid both years,” Houston said.

Other Admiral wrestlers coached by Houston who placed at state were Joe Knox (160) and Kerry Ferguson (125), Class of 2000, both of whom came back to FHS as coaches a few years later.

Among his former Admirals he keeps in touch with is Knox, “through Facebook,” he said.

Another former Admiral stand-

out wrestler he remembers is Jeff Periera (215 class). “He was a state-placer for us that last year I was there,” the coach said.

Houston has continued to mentor state champions and top finishers as head coach at two schools in Georgia since leaving FHS.

He’s in his 16th season at Madison County High School in Danielsville, a Class 4A program among seven classifications just outside of Athens.

Houston’s daughter, Sydney, is a University of Georgia graduate who “does social work and lives in New Jersey.”

**Pharr**  
From page 5C

coaching at FHS, Pharr hit the big time, in a manner of speaking, as a volunteer assistant at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, for two years.

In charge of the ground crew responsible for field maintenance, Pharr actually worked for the company “that took care of all their athletic facilities.”

Meeting his wife, Anne Pharr, at Baylor, and thinking of their long-term best options, the coach started looking for a coaching/teaching job.

“I had worked baseball camps at UT for several years and had become friends with (then Vols head) coach (Rod) Delmonico and coach (Larry) Simcox,” he said.

With Anne “having family outside of Nashville,” Pharr said he “mentioned” his quest for a job “to coach Delmonico, and he said, ‘this job at Farragut High School is coming open.’”

The rest is history.

Pharr’s first FHS team in 1998 “was a great team, we were something like 32-5,” but lost in the sectional round, one win from the state tournament, to eventual state champ Johnson City Science Hill.

One year later began a string of three Class AAA state runner-up finishes in four seasons (1999, 2001 and 2002) before his Admirals finally broke through, in Memphis, in 2003.

A complete game performance from senior standout pitcher Craig Cobb, a future UT Volunteer starter, ended up a 6-0 Admirals state title win against Munford.

“That group of seniors went 48-1” in 2003, Pharr said. “It was a pretty special group of guys. A couple of future Big Leaguers on that team. Michael McKenry caught; there was Kyle Waldrop (2004 first round draft choice, as a pitcher, of the Minnesota Twins).

“They were great baseball players, but they were such great guys. They enjoyed each other.”

Fighting back tears, “People at Farragut were a big blessing to our family,” Pharr said. “They were a blessing to me during that time.

“A part of me will always be Farragut.”

Pharr and Anne have two children: a freshman son at UT and a senior girl at CAK.



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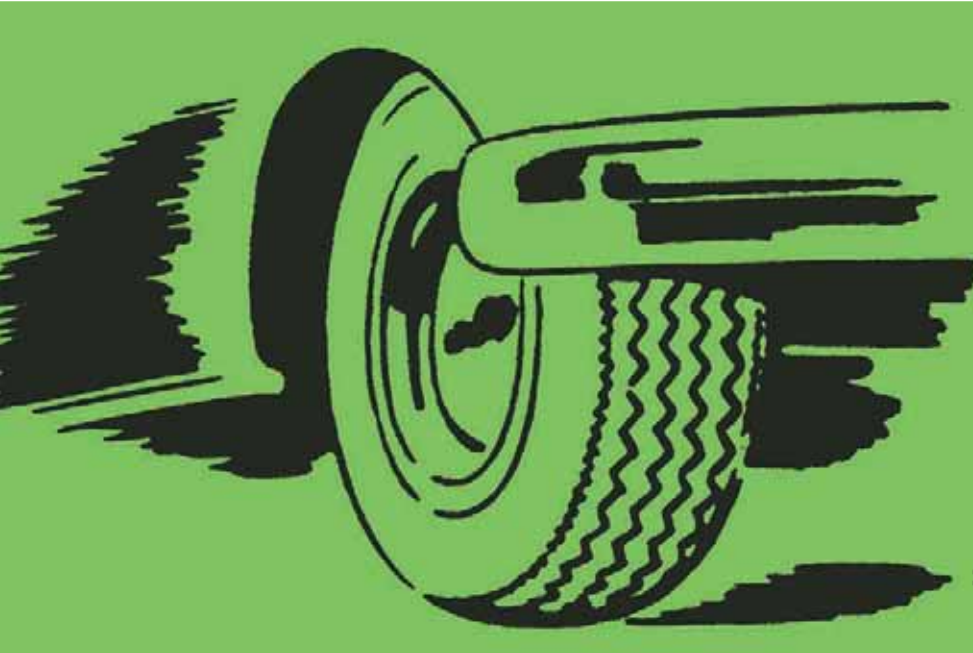
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