

Annual NCHS Football Banquet honors many

Coach Mike Florence remembered for his courage; many thanked for continuous support



The juniors received jackets. From left: John Hamilton, Paul Baker, Landon Hutchison, Nicholas Linville, Nathan Linville, Matt Stone, Brandon Hector, Eric Fryman and Aaron Strapp.

"Some days you have to just suck it up and go on!"

By Leigh Stone
Managing Editor
Nicholas County High School football players were asked at last Wednesday's annual awards banquet to remember the attitude of the late coach Mike Florence.

"Mike would say, 'Don't ever give up. Some days you have to just suck it up and go on,'" exclaimed Pam Florence through the applause as she announced Matt Stone as the winner of the First Coach Florence Award.

Provided by a team vote, it will be given annually to the player his peers deem having the most courage... just like Mike Florence had as he suffered from cancer.

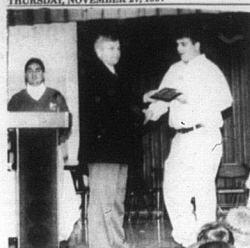
"It is like to thank you for letting Mike be a part of your life. He was true blue. You can tell how much influence Mike had on your life. He fought hard those two and a half years. Lots of times he was having a bad day. That's not what he wanted. He didn't feel good. That's what I want to remember about Mike. Even when you don't feel your best, you've gotta get up and go to school, go to work, even when you don't want to. In the end that's your justice," Pam stated as some in the crowd dabbed tears from their eyes.

Mrs. Florence asked that a collection of memories be taken up for the Florence's young daughter, Amanda. She asked that people, players, tell her or write down a memory about Mike or tell about some advice he gave. "I'd like to keep keep Mike's memory alive. Do this so I'll know her father was real proud of."

Pam praised the players and their parents. "You've been my strength. You've helped me get through. You're something to be real proud of."

Head Football Coach Greg Letcher thanked many people for making the banquet a success. He was joined in praise by coach Robert Hopkins, Harry Bretz and Travis Sims.

Letcher thanked the cooks of Nicholas County Elementary for the fine food.



Head Football Coach Greg Letcher, far left at podium, helped Athletic Director Ron Baker, center, announce the senior award which went to Dexter Sims, right.



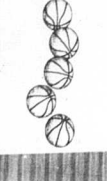
Cheerleaders Cara Wilson, Katie Hopkins and Heather Hill received their jackets at last Wednesday's banquet.



Nicholas County High School secretary Paula Hunter serves Meggie Hunter at the football banquet.



Coach Harry Bretz, Matthew Becker, Rodney Trussell, Kevin Livingood, Jacob Broderick, Ryan Hunter, Robbie Ring, Dustin Hill and Derek Fights.



Brian Wagener, Jeremy Harmon, Sky Ishamel, Daniel Eubanks, Weston Smoot, Josh Earlywine, Barkley Caswell, Timmy Crump.



Eric Fryman got a hug from his mom, Carolina Fryman, as she presented him with his football jacket.



Timmy Crump, Dexter Sims, Paul Baker, Nathan Linville, Weston Smoot and Matt Stone.



Heather Hill was one of many awarded at the banquet.



Nicholas County School Board Secretary Kathy Fryman, left, talked with NCHS student Cara Wilson following the banquet.



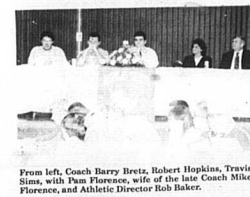
The food was fine, thanks to the talents of the Nicholas County Elementary cafeteria staff. Shown are Carolyn Hollar, Jeff Becker, Patsy Smoot and Sandye Eubanks.



From left, Coach Harry Bretz, Robert Hopkins, Travis Sims, with Pam Florence, wife of the late Coach Mike Florence, and Athletic Director Ron Baker.



Nicholas County High School cheerleaders, from left, Ursha Mitchell, Ashley VanMeter, Faith Adamson are shown with Coach Barbara Hopkins.



From left, Coach Harry Bretz, Robert Hopkins, Travis Sims, with Pam Florence, wife of the late Coach Mike Florence, and Athletic Director Ron Baker.



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