

WILLIAM "TANK" HARDIN



Supreme sluggers have been plentiful during the tradition-rich history of the Louisburg College baseball program. But nobody before or since has been able to duplicate the heroics of Lumberton native William 'Tank' Hardin.

Hardin, who played at LC under head coach Russ Frazier from 1983-85, holds the school career (39) and single-season (21) home run records. Hardin also holds LC's mark for RBI in a single game with 13 - a standard he set on March 18, 1984. During that contest his freshman year, Hardin blasted two grand slams, one three-run homer and a two-run single. The number could have been higher had the opposition - in what was probably a smart decision - not decided to intentionally walk Hardin in his final at-bat.

Fittingly, Hardin homered in his first and last career at-bats at LC. Between then, he garnered a long list of honors, including LC Team Most Valuable Player, Eastern Tar Heel Conference Player of the Year and two-time All-Region X selection. He led the nation in home runs as a freshman with 21, and followed that up with 18 longballs as a sophomore. For his 1984 effort, Hardin became one of only four Louisburg College baseball players who have earned notation in the National Junior College Athletic Association National Record Book.

Hardin continued his hard-hitting antics for two seasons at Elon University, where he was tabbed as the 1986 NAIA District 26 Player of the Year. He was also picked for the Carolinas All-Conference and NAIA Honorable Mention All-American Teams while at Elon. After earning a Bachelor of Science Degree from Elon, Hardin received a Master of Science Degree from North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro.

A teacher for 17 years in the Guilford County Schools System, Hardin is currently the head baseball coach at Greensboro Page High School. Two former Hurricanes — Doby Swepson and Nat Norris — serve as assistants at Page under Hardin. In 2004, Hardin was honored as the Area Coach of the Year by the Greensboro News-Record. Hardin has published over 25 stories about baseball in several major coaching /education magazines, such as Scholastic Coach and Athletic Director and Student Sports Magazine.

Hardin resides in Kernersville with his wife of 19 years, LC graduate Natalee Lilly Hardin. They have four children. Mr. Hardin still actively follows the Hurricanes' program, often times bringing students to Frazier Field for tryouts.