

Sports



Players experience old-fashion fun

Baseball history was brought back to life Saturday in Boone.

Memories flowed among former Boone High School baseball players as they gathered in the afternoon for an outdoor lunch, and then competed in an evening reunion game.

But before the first pitch, the ball-players who wore the Boone baseball uniforms from the late 1950's to the early 1970's paid tribute to their high school coach, Bill Sapp of Boone.

Sapp, presented a plaque by the players, was enjoyed the opportunity to coach along the third-base line once again and see his former players in action.

"This has been just a ball all the way, I told the players that the most fun I had in my life was when I was coaching. This reunion was just about equal to that fun," said Sapp, who even got to hit in the game — although he bounced out to the first baseman.

"I hit it square. They had to knock it down," said Sapp. His sons, Dick and Bob, also played on separate teams during the reunion game.

Rick Davis, Boone High School baseball coach, was a member of the 1965 Boone team which won the state summer baseball championship. He filled the role as catcher — still having the original uniform and hat that he wore as a high school player.

"This was a lot of fun. I can't imagine growing up anywhere else to play baseball, but in Boone. I think of all these guys as my brothers. We're

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—Bill Sapp
former Boone
baseball coach

just a big family," said Davis.

Jack Mustapha, labeled by Boone baseball players and coaches as one of the city's greatest pitchers when he played for the 1965 baseball team, said the reunion was the "most excitement I've had in three or four years."

Mustapha said he was fortunate to be playing the reunion game. About two years ago he suffered a heart attack and a stroke, back to back.

"But I wouldn't have missed this for anything, even if they had to push me in a wheelchair to be here," Mustapha said.

After high school, Mustapha said he played baseball for Iowa State and had signed a contract with the St. Louis Cardinals.

He served in Vietnam. While

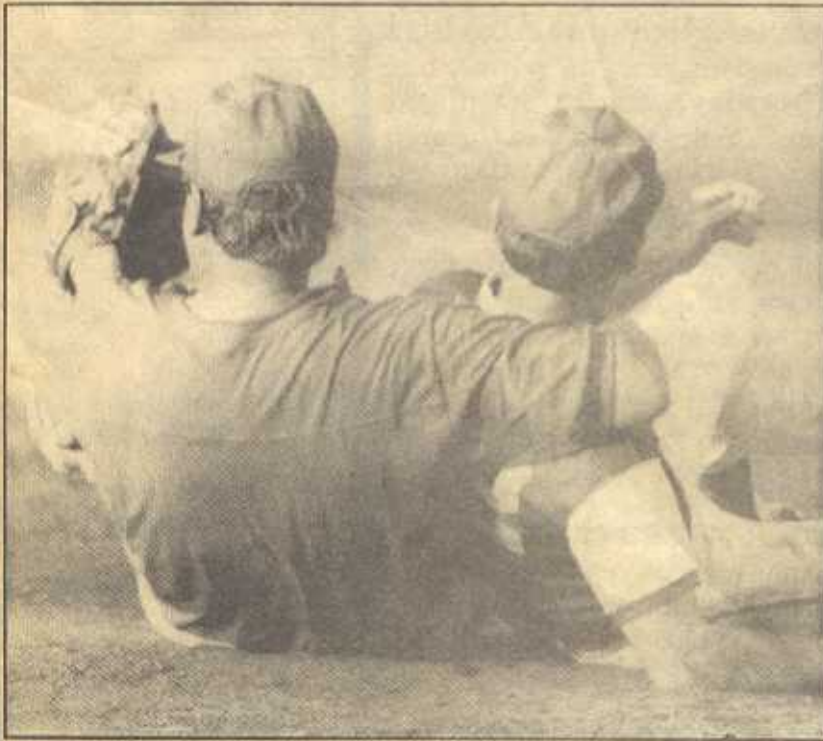
there, he suffered a severe back injury. "I tried to play ball after that, but it didn't work out," said Mustapha.

He is currently a veterans' representative for the Department of Employment Services.

Roger Dutton also played in the reunion game. The 1963 Boone graduate played baseball within the New York Yankees minor league system. He trained with the likes of Mickey Mantle and Roger Marris.

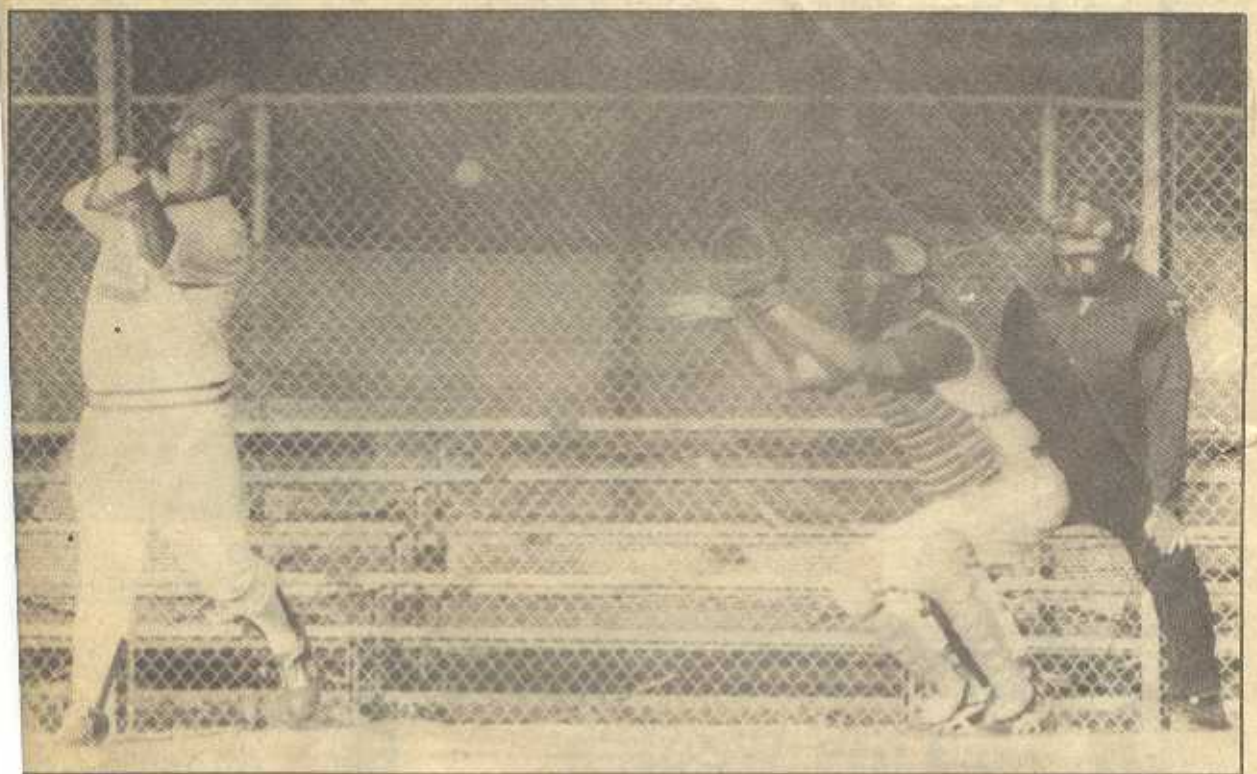
The score of the reunion game? It ended in a 12-12 tie. About 500 spectators attended the game and saw some solid hitting and fielding skills.

More apparent, however, were the smiles, the teasing and the jokes on the field. It was some good, old-fashion fun.



Far left photo, players in the reunion game gather on the third-base line after they are introduced by Mo Kelley, Boone, master of ceremonies for the game. Left photo, Steve Crandell, third baseman, left, and Kelly McMullan avoid injury during a play at third base. McMullan was called safe by umpire Bill Curell. Lower photo, Rick Neely takes a swing at a high pitch delivered by Jack Mustapha. Behind the plate are catcher Rick Davis and home plate umpire Dan Rodgers of Ogden.

(Photos by Chuck Hackenmiller)



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LOCAL GRAIN	
Winnebago	
Posted prices at 10:30 a.m.	
Corn	2.27
Soybeans	5.65
Oats	1.40
ASCS posted prices for Boone County June 16, 1992	
	2.22
	5.66

Chapel from 2 until 9 p.m. on Thursday and on Friday at the church from 7 until 9 a.m. until time of the service. The family will receive friends and neighbors at a chapel from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The service will be held at the church. Memorials may be given to the church.

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