

— 2019 —

Forsyth-Monroe County Sports Hall of Fame

Bobby Melton



While many of us can say we are fans, no one has been as active and significant a fan as Bobby has been for the last forty-five years. A 1965 Honor Graduate of Mary Persons, he came home to Forsyth in 1974 to establish a law practice after four years at Georgia Southern, three years at the Walter F. George School of Law at Mercer University and two years in the United States Army (in Europe with the Second Armored Cavalry Regiment). After returning home his love for Mary Persons football began to take on new dimensions. After reading a 1978 article in *The Atlanta Constitution* which listed Georgia's twenty high school football programs with the most wins, and seeing that Mary Persons was not included, Bobby thought MP should have been, so he began researching Georgia high school football. While he discovered that the Atlanta paper article was correct, Mary Persons was only two victories short of being included on the list. Having enjoyed the research, Bobby continued to track the history of Mary Persons football and decided to record that history in *The Black and Gold: A History of Mary Persons Football*. The 190-page book is a complete history from the beginning of Mary Persons football through the 1979 season which lists and discusses coaches, players, teams, memorable games, and rivalries. As a result of authoring this history, Bobby became an authority on Mary Persons football information and its unofficial historian. With statistical support from Nolen Howard and Bob Harris, Bobby has maintained an annual update to *The Black and Gold* for the last 39 years. While the update is unpublished, it has provided important information for the Bulldogs on many occasions. He continues his support for Mary Persons football by writing *The Bulldog Notebook*, which has appeared in the football programs for Mary Persons for the last 35 years. Begun at the request of Coach Pitts, the Notebook sets the stage for the night's game, discusses the history of the

coaches, the opposing school, previous games played by each school, previous games played between the schools, a roundup of high school football around the State and in Mary Persons classification and Region, and the "On this Date" section always provides an interesting look back. In 1995 he was presented with the Marion Dornier Twelfth Man Award by the MP coaching staff. A Bulldog in the 1940s, Marion was a close friend of Coach Pitts, and a resource for Bobby when writing *The Black and Gold*, was truly loved and appreciated by all Bulldog fans who had the privilege of knowing him. Bobby has served as a member of the Sports Hall of Fame Board since its inception. When the Smithsonian came to Forsyth to present a "Hometown Team" exhibition in Forsyth in 2017, Bobby was on the Committee for that exhibition. Bobby has been an ardent fan and season ticketholder for Georgia Tech for many years. He has supported his Alma Mater, Georgia Southern football as a season ticketholder and was a fan of Erk Russell. He is passing along his love of sports to his three grandsons. He has enjoyed a successful law practice in Monroe County and Middle Georgia since 1974, a lifetime resident of Monroe County, and community volunteer and active in business and civic organizations. He is married to Anne, and daughter Melanie has given three grandsons, Aiden, Ben, and Camden.

