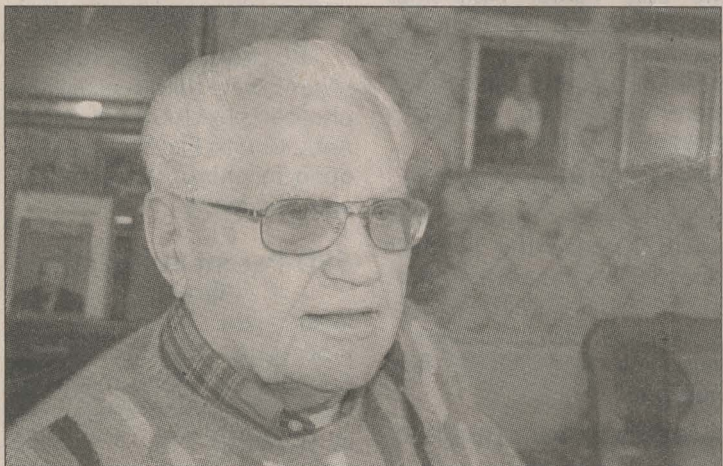


# THE MESSENGER



Got sports news

## Sports Hall of Fame



Tom Gillispie/The Messenger

John Hamilton won 182 games in his nine years as coach.

# Coach built little basketball dynasty at Beulah High

By Tom Gillispie  
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The first big highlight in John Hamilton's sports career happened in 1951.

The second, he says, will be his induction into the Surry County Sports Hall of Fame on Oct. 25.

"It means a great deal to me," Hamilton said. "After all, I'm almost 89."

His Beulah High School teams won county and state championships, but Hamilton says the championship of the 1951 *Winston-Salem Journal-Sentinel* Invitational was his career highlight.

Ironically, Dee Atkinson, one of Hamilton's players at Beulah High, went into the Surry County Sports Hall of Fame last year. Atkinson, an all-state player in 1951, scored 28 points as Beulah beat Jonesville, 66-47, in the championship game of the *Journal-Sentinel* tournament.

Hamilton went to Fairgrove High in Thomasville and later attended Appalachian State Teachers College on basketball and baseball scholarships. During his sophomore year, he joined the Marine Corps during World War II. When he was released, he transferred to High Point College to get his degree. While at High Point College, Hamilton coached at Ashmore Business College in Thomasville.

“

Beulah had the nicest gym in the county. It was the best move I ever made. I love Surry County and Mount Airy.

— John Hamilton

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He returned to Appalachian State to get his master's degree and was approached by several school systems about teaching and coaching jobs.

He'd never been to Mount Airy before, but the late Glen Robertson talked Hamilton into working at Beulah High School in 1950. He taught and coached at the school for nine years. His Beulah teams won county and state championships, plus the championship of the *Winston-Salem Journal-Sentinel* Invitational, and they posted a 182-39 record.

Hamilton was a coach for

See Coach on next page