

BILLY 'CHIEF' GERALD

Whenever you hear the name Billy "Chief" Gerald, there's usually an instant connection to North Davidson softball.

After all, he was the pitching coach for the Black Knights ever since joining the staff in 1996. And, interestingly enough, his arrival at North Davidson virtually coincided with the North Carolina High School Athletic Association's switch from slow pitch to fast pitch softball in 1994.

But here's a secret you may not know: Gerald may have been the pitching coach for North Davidson, but out of season, he was the pitching coach for anybody who sought his guidance. Young pitchers throughout Davidson County – and beyond – benefited from his expertise.

Gerald learned the nuances of the game during a 30-year career in the United States Air Force, where he participated in numerous military fast pitch softball leagues.

He came to North Davidson in 1996 as the ROTC instructor, but quickly became an integral part of head coach Mike Lambros' softball program.

Through the years, Gerald improved his skills as a teacher of the game, studying the mechanics of fast pitch by attending – and conducting – clinics and work sessions.

He is regarded as one of the premier pitching instructors in the country.

Gerald was inducted into the North Carolina Softball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2014.

