



2013 Inductee

BRUCE WEHRLE

Back in 1976, the original plan was to come from his native Pennsylvania to work as a sportswriter for The Dispatch in Lexington, stay perhaps three or four years, and then move on to a larger paper.

Well, so much for those plans. Bruce Wehrle ended up staying 30 years on the job, 17 of those years as the paper's sports editor.

He recognized that he was in a good place in Lexington, right in the middle of ACC country, NASCAR country, golf country, tennis country, and some of the best high school sports anywhere. He ended up finding a wife, a house and a wonderful life here. Consequently, his original three-year plan turned into five years, then 10 years, and then, ultimately, 30 years before retiring from full-time writing in 2006. Like his major league baseball hero Mike Schmidt, Wehrle stayed with the same team his entire career.



Along the way, Wehrle — a 1973 graduate of Kutztown State (Pa.) College — won 15 North Carolina Press Association awards, including five awards for first place.

He once estimated that he covered more than 20,000 athletes from all over Davidson County in a career that spanned four different decades. He considers himself lucky to have covered them all.

Wehrle and his wife, Kim, have been married 33 years, much of that time sitting in bleachers.