



2014 Inductee

JOHN THOMAS RALLS

If you ever want to win a state championship, who are you going to call? How about Ledford's John Ralls?



In a remarkable coaching career at Ledford, Ralls guided the Ledford girls' basketball team to four 2-A state titles, finishing with an eye-popping career record of 571-194 in 28 years at Ledford. That includes a 10-year stretch, from 1995 to 2004, when the team went 279-28 for an awesome winning percentage of 91 percent.

The Panthers, meanwhile, won state championships in 1995, 1997, 2000 and 2002, going 32-0 in 2002. In all, Ledford made the state playoffs in 26 of 28 years under Ralls.

In a 35-year career, Ralls has an overall coaching record of 700-305 in girls' basketball.

He was named North Carolina's Coach of the Year in 1995 and 2002 and was runner-up as the National Coach of the Year in 2001. He also served as the West head coach in the North Carolina East-West All-Star Game in 2002.

But the résumé doesn't end there.

As coach of the Ledford softball team, Ralls led the Panthers to state championships in 1991, 1995 and 1996. The team, in fact, made the playoffs in 11 of the 12 years Ralls coached them, making the final four in seven consecutive years from 1990 to 1996.

In boys' golf, Ralls guided the team to three state titles in 2005, 2006 and 2007, while finishing runner-up in 2003 and 2008.

Ralls also took the Ledford girls' golf team to state championships in 2011, 2012 and 2013, earning Coach of the Year honors in 2013.

Ralls was a four-sport athlete for Western Guilford from 1969 to 1972, playing basketball, football, baseball and track.

He attended Guilford College, where he played for the 1973 NAIA national championship team under fabled coach Jackie Jenson and with some esteemed teammates such as Lloyd World B. Free, Greg "Jacko" Jackson and M.L. Carr.

Ralls and his wife, Lynn, have two adult children: Brett, 33, and Katie, 29.

