



## 2013 Inductee

### MICHAEL (MIKE) EUGENE CROWELL

Mike Crowell may have been a native of Alabama, but he was clearly a citizen of Denton.



In a coaching career that spanned nearly 30 years at all levels, the 1978 Denton High School graduate returned to his alma mater in 1990 following a coaching stint in Rowan County. He quickly found his niche at South Davidson, coaching just about any sport that needed a mentor, including middle school and high school baseball; boys' and girls' track teams, the golf team, and middle school and high school football. He also served as South's athletic director.

But it was wrestling where he may have made his lasting mark. Creating a wrestling program at South Davidson where previously there had been none, Crowell turned the Wildcats into a 1-A powerhouse. By 1995-96, the team was the 1-A Central Tar Heel Conference co-champions and Crowell was named Coach of the Year, the first in what became a long string of awards and championships.

In 1999-2000, the Wildcats were 1A-2A Midwest Regional champions and finished 9<sup>th</sup> in the 1A-2A state tournament.

The following year, South posted a 30-3 record and set a national record with 396 pinfalls in a season.

Progress continued. The Wildcats were 1-A state dual team runners-up in 2001-02, and finally reached the pinnacle with a 1-A state dual team championship in 2003.

Crowell passed away suddenly Sept. 20, 2012. He was 52.

Crowell is survived by his wife, Kathie, daughter Emilie, 23; and son Brendan, 19.

