

JOE SEWELL MEMORIAL AWARD

Recognizing Elmore County's Outstanding Christian Athletes and Leaders

FOURTH ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET MAY 6, 2008

These Sponsors “Stepped up to the Plate”

This award and tonight's program were made possible by these sponsors who believe in the youth of Elmore County and the need to recognize and reward our young people who are excelling. Please remember them and thank them for hitting a home run for our kids.

Grand Slam



Billie Sewell, in memory of John Sewell

Home Run Wetumpka Lions Club

Triple Play

Al. State Employees Credit Union • Central Alabama Electric Cooperative
GKN Westland Aerospace, Inc. • Ingram Family • Neptune
In Memory of Sherrie Duncan Hall by Don Duncan Tire & Auto
Pinkston & Courtney • Weldon Family

MVP

Alabama River Woodlands, Inc • Alabama Power Company • Lee's Auto Repair, Inc.
Millbrook Men's Club • Millbrook Wal-Mart • Morris & McAnnally, LLC
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Base Hit

Christian Testing Laboratory • Collier Ford • Dr. Spencer Coleman
Mark's Service Center & Body Shop, Inc. • The Mark Shaw Agency • Tim Gothard
Barry & Jill Mask • Millbrook Kiwanis Club • Butch & Mikki Ruttan



Tonight's Speaker - **JOHN F. CROYLE**

“Here is a guy who found out early in life what he was put on earth to do.”

John was a former University of Alabama National Championship defensive end for the legendary Coach Paul “Bear” Bryant. At 19 John felt he had been given a gift to work with young people. His dream was to have the best children’s home in America. On the advice of Coach Bryant, John pursued that dream instead of a pro-football career. Over 1,700 children have called Big Oak Ranch their home since 1974.

John’s philosophy is, “A hundred years from now it will not matter what kind of house we lived in, the kind of car we drove or how much money we had in the bank, but the world may be different because you and I were important in the life of a child.”

While attending Gadsden High School, where he was named High School All American for Football and Basketball, Croyle signed a football scholarship to the University of Alabama. At the University of Alabama, John played in the Orange, Cotton and Sugar Bowls, and with his team achieved the SEC Crown for 1971-73 and the National Championship in 1973.

John graduated from the University of Alabama in 1974 and received an Honorary L.H.D. (Doctor of Humanities) from the University of Mobile in 1991.

Among the honors Croyle has received are UPI Second Team All-American, First Recipient of The Paul W. Bryant Alumni-Athlete Award, Jaycees Ten Outstanding Young Americans Award, 1996 Olympic Torch Bearer, and The Norman Vincent Peale America’s Awards.

Many national television programs have featured Croyle as guest such as The 700 Club, The Today Show, CNN News, Robert Schuller’s “Hour of Power”, Fox Sports South, ESPN, CSTV and Family Talk. Croyle also appeared as guest at the TNN Music Awards, the CBS-SEC Highlights and the CBS-Sun Bowl Half-Time Special. Croyle has also been featured in national publications including Readers Digest, Sports Illustrated, People, Focus on the Family Magazine, Time, In Touch, Southern Living and Cooking with Paula Deen.

In 1997 Croyle authored the book *Bringing Out the Winner in Your Child*.

Croyle and his wife, Teresa, have two children, daughter Reagan, and son Brodie, and two grandchildren.



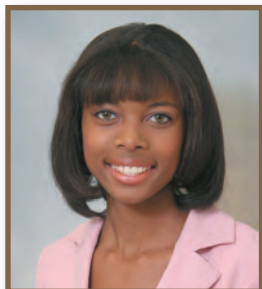
JOHN SEWELL SCHOLARSHIP

John Sewell was a cousin of Joe Sewell who was dedicated to the game of baseball and a positive influence on young people. After a successful business career, John spent almost all of his available time working with young people. He admitted his greatest weakness in life by saying, “I just can’t say no to a kid that wants to play ball. I’ll do anything to help him.”

In 2000, John went on a mission to find his cousin’s famous bat. When it was found in Birmingham, John had the opportunity to hold it and make the connection to his famous cousin from years past.

John continued to coach and be a part of youth baseball until his death in 2003. He was a resident of Coosada. His wife Billie serves on the Board.

SENIOR HIGH AWARD FINALISTS



Kanesha R. Belyeu, *Elmore County High School*

Cheerleading

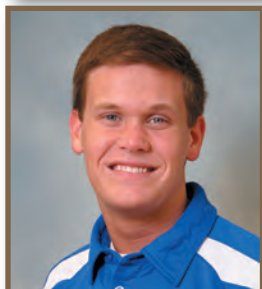
Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church, clerical volunteer, TGIF leader, Beta Club, Mu Alpha Theta, Spanish Honor Society, National Honor Roll, National Honor Society, National High School & Two Year College Math Honor Society, 2007 Lead America Youth Leadership Conference Nominee, Who's Who, Varsity Cheerleader Team Captain (11-12), 2007 UCA All-Star, FCCLA, Key Club, accepted into Auburn University. Daughter of George & Connie Belyeu.



Hunter Carson Bush, *Wetumpka High School*

Football, Soccer

Thelma Baptist Church, volunteer for Upward Soccer, FCA, TGIF, Scholar-Athlete Award, Captain's Award, All-County(Football), Most Valuable Forward(Soccer), has received Dean's Scholarship to University of Mobile, University of Alabama. Son of Eric Bush and Tina Arnold.



Corey Cantrell, *Prattville Christian Academy*

Basketball, Baseball, Football, Soccer

Hunter Hills Church of Christ, mission trips, drama outreach, PCA Bible Award '04,'07, A-B Honor Roll 9-12th, Praise Team leader, Basketball-Autauga County All-County team, Evangel Thanksgiving Tournament All-Tourney team, lettered in all four sports, PCA 1,000 point club(Basketball), accepted into Faulkner University. Son of Keith & Angela Cantrell.



Matthew A. Clayton, *Wetumpka High School*

Soccer

Maxwell Air Force Base Chapel, TGIF, FFA, Senior Class Treasurer, Treasurer-National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, Beta Club, Key Club, SADD, Band, National Society of High School Scholars, Captain-Varsity Soccer Team, Georgetown University Lead America Conference on Medicine and Healthcare, USAA National Math Award Winner, Faulkner University Youth Leadership Conference, Ranked 1st academically at WHS, U.S. Youth Soccer Regional Championships, Capitol City Streaks Division 1 State Champions Team, John Whatley Award, accepted Auburn Montgomery, University of Alabama and UAB. Son of Debra & Herbert Clayton.



Samaletta Brenae Collins, *Tallassee High School*

Basketball, Softball, Track

International Worship Center, Tallassee – tutor at Elementary School, Toys for Tots Volunteer, Youth program, Clothes drive. School - Beta Club, Treasurer National Honor Society, Honor Roll, Girls State Nominee, Senior Class Secretary, Spanish Club, Spanish Honor Society, Varsity Cheerleader(2 years) Teen Team, Girls State, made State in Track 4 x 1 race, accepted to Auburn University and University of Alabama. Daughter of Lisa Fraley.



Kelly Morgan Davis, *Edgewood Academy*

Softball, Cheerleading

Cain's Chapel United Methodist Church, numerous mission trips, Praise team, Choir, Music leader for Vacation Bible School, Youth Group, Frazer Youth Cheer Camp, Choir Tour group, Cain's Chapel Administrative Council, AISA All-Star Cheerleader, Cheer captain 9th & 12th grade, Beta Club, Spanish National Honor Society, Who's Who, Advanced Honors Diploma, FCA, Student Council Vice-President, Spanish Club Vice-president, Government Club Vice-president, Drama Club, 1st Priority, Girls State Delegate - elected Judge, YMCA Youth Judicial program, Senior Class Chaplain, Miss Edgewood 2007, accepted to Auburn University and Troy University. Daughter of Patti & Roy Davis.

SENIOR HIGH AWARD FINALISTS



James Brye French, *Stanhope Elmore High School*

Football, Basketball, Lacrosse

Mt. Hebron Baptist Church, youth drama participant, nursing home volunteer, Bayou La Batre mission trip, VBS counselor, A-B Honor Roll, Bryant-Jordan Award Finalist and Regional Winner, Jr. NHS, Scholar Athlete, Who's Who Among Student Athletes, Youth In Government President, FCA, Standard Club, Boy Scouts, Student Ambassador, YMCA Youth Judicial Program, YMCA Youth Legislature, Football team captain, First Team All Metro(11-12), First Team All County(Millbrook Independent & Wetumpka Herald) ASE Credit Union Defensive Player of the Year('07), team scholar athlete, Lacrosse, Alabama All-State, State leading Scorer(11-12), 2008 Team captain, USA U-19 Lacrosse team Nominee. Has received an appointment to the U. S. Naval Academy at Annapolis. Son of Lynn French.



Dixie Ashlynn Funderburk, *Tallassee High School*

Swimming

First Baptist Church of Eclectic, Youth Choir, Son Power Live Choir, Rock Water & Soul Ministry, Dancing for Him Ministry, tutor, Red Cross Safety Instructor, National Honor Society Historian, Secretary-Spanish Honor Society, National Honor Roll, National Who's Who, Vice President Student Council, Vice President Key Club, Dance Captain Show Choir, Concert Band & majorette, Junior Achievement leader, Scholars Bowl, TGIF, First Priority, FCA, Tallassee Sharks Swim team(7-12th), Alabama Sports festival – gold, silver & bronze medalist, State Swim meet, First Runner-up Elmore Co. Jr. Miss, Tried out and was selected as a majorette for Auburn University. Daughter of Danny & Donna Funderburk.



David Brown Gill, *Tallassee High School*

Swimming

East Tallassee Baptist Church, Sunday School teacher, Vacation Bible School instructor, Youth Choir Ensemble, Operation Christmas Child volunteer, Bible Drill Competitor, Relay For Life, Nursing Home volunteer, Don Bryant Service Award. School – Student Council President, All-A Honor Roll K-12, National Honor Society, Vice-President Spanish Honor Society, Drum Major in Marching Band, Vice-president Science Club, FCA Treasurer, Choir, TGIF, Key Club, Co-Captain Swim team, AP Calculus, AP Government, Scholars Bowl nominee, has received a Capstone Scholar Scholarship from University of Alabama, Academic Achievement Scholarship from Auburn University, accepted to Faulkner University. Son of David & Joann Gill.



April Danielle Glover, *Holtville High School*

Softball, Volleyball

Shoal Creek Baptist Church, Praise team, Youth Praise Band, Vacation Bible School leader. School – Presidential Academic Award, FCA, Senior Class President, Sr. Beta Club Vice-President, Spanish Club President, Alabama Girls State Delegate, Bryant-Jordan Achievement Award Finalist, National Honor Roll, Alabama Youth Leadership Program, Golden Glove Award(softball), Volleyball Captain 11-12th, First Priority, Girls State Scholarship and Excellence in Leadership scholarship to Troy University. Daughter of Robert Glover.



Lindsey Brooke Gothard, *Stanhope Elmore High School*

Cheerleading

Coosada Baptist Church, Youth Choir, Bible Studies leader, nursing home volunteer, Captain, Disciple Now weekends. numerous mission trips. School – Captain Varsity Cheerleading Team, Captain JV Team, Three-year letter in cheerleading, All-American NCA 2006-2008, Treasurer Mu Alpha Theta(Math honorary), Mustang Ambassador (Top 10% graduating class), National Honor Society, Treasurer Outdoor Club, Youth In Government, Spanish Club, Standard Club, FFA, Key Club, Beta Club. Will attend the University of Alabama. Daughter of April & Tim Gothard.



Abigail Glenn Greer, *Prattville Christian Academy*

Volleyball, Basketball, Track

Hunter Hills Church of Christ, mission trips, Beta Club, FCA, Key Club, Youth Leadership Autauga County, Captain Volleyball Team, Alabama Youth Leadership program, will attend Harding University. Daughter of Marilyn & Don Greer.

SENIOR HIGH AWARD FINALISTS



Kyle Hunter Lucas, *Holtville High School*

Football, Baseball, Basketball

Mt. Hebron Baptist Church, Youth Praise Band, school - Beta Club, TGIF, Honor Roll, Presidential Education Award, Foreign Language Club, Fellowship Christian Athletes (FCA), Captain Football Team Sr. year, Captain JV Football Freshman year, First Team All County Football – Wetumpka Herald, Prattville Progress. Currently enrolled at AUM – Dual enrollment program and accepted to AUM Honors program. Awarded a Chancellors scholarship to Troy University and accepted to Auburn University. Son of Eddie and Joanne Lucas.



Brittany Marie Moses, *Wetumpka High School*

Softball, Basketball

First Baptist Church of Wetumpka, Youth Group, First Priority, Youth Drama group, Relay for Life volunteer, volunteer Elmore County Pregnancy Center, Vice-President National Honor Society, Beta Club, Mu Alpha Theta, Spanish Club, Senior team captain softball and basketball team, Softball - Highest Batting Avg, Trophy (11th), All Tournament Player, All-City & All-County by Wetumpka Herald (11), All Metro Team by Montgomery Advertiser (11). Accepted into Auburn University. Daughter of Penny & Gary Moses.



Whitney Perrin, *Prattville Christian Academy*

Volleyball, Basketball, Softball

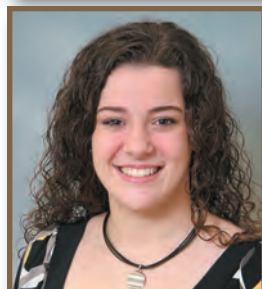
Hunter Hills Church of Christ, Beta Club, FCA, President & V.P. of SADD, Secretary of Student Council, Key Club President, accepted to Auburn Montgomery. Daughter of Karen & Sonny Perrin.



Christopher D. Phillips, *Prattville Christian Academy*

Basketball, Golf

Hunter Hills Church of Christ, Youth Choir, Praise Team, Houston Mission trip, Vice-President - National Honor Society, FCA, Math Team, Outstanding Science Student (11th), Outstanding English Student(11), Sociology Award, Outstanding Math Student(11), basketball - Defensive Player of the year(11), All-Tournament team(11-12), Golf - District Champions Golf team(10), ACT/SAT Scholarship to Abilene Christian University. Son of Chris & Carol Phillips.



Rachel Virginia Powell, *Tallassee High School*

Volleyball

Mountain View Baptist Church, Youth Group, Youth Choir, Instrumental Ensemble, Nursery worker, numerous mission trips, Operation Christmas Child volunteer, Adullam House volunteer, Nursing home volunteer, 4H Leadership Program. School – Vice President FCA, Secretary National Honor Society, Secretary Student Council, Spanish Honor Society, Science Club, Concert band, Show Choir, National Who's Who, National Honor Roll, National Young Leaders Conference, Joe Sewell 9th Grade Nominee, Advanced Diploma, Team Captain Volleyball (11-12), Montgomery Advertiser 5A-6A All-Metro Player of the Year, set school record for career kills, and single season kills. Selected for Elite Sports International team. Will attend Piedmont College(Georgia) on athletic/academic scholarship. Daughter of Tim & Sheree Powell.



Casey Ray, *Stanhope Elmore High School*

Softball

Millbrook Baptist Church, volunteer in church arsons recovery, volunteer to help elderly community members in storm recovery disaster. School - Mu Alpha Theta(math honorary) Spanish Honor Society, Science Honors Club, National Honor Society, Beta Club, Joe Sewell 9th Grade Nominee, All – County Team 2007, Three year letterman, Hustle Award, offensive Player of the Year as a freshman, Rookie of the Year as a sophomore, Clutch Hitter award, Golden Glove Award. Has received Trustee Scholarship to Brenau University and Auburn Montgomery. Daughter of Thomas Ray.

SENIOR HIGH AWARD FINALISTS



Elissa Claire Ritchey, *Wetumpka High School*

Tennis

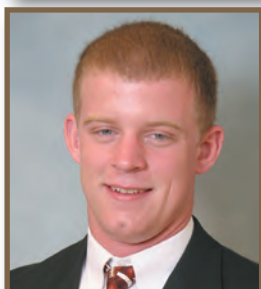
Trinity United Methodist (Weeks), Beta Club, National Honor Society, International Foreign Language Club, National Honor Roll, Who's Who, Treasurer - Key Club, Secretary Student Council, Yearbook Staff, FFA, SADD (Students Against Drunk Driving), Captain Tennis team, Horticulture team, Wetumpka Rotary Club Speech Contest, Red Cross Blood Drive volunteer. Auburn University Spirit of Auburn Presidential Scholarship, Dudley University Elite Scholarship. Daughter of Bob & Elissa Ritchey.



Hannah Rogers, *New Life Christian Academy*

Softball, Cheerleading

El Shaddai Outreach Ministries, Baptist Medical Center volunteer, toys & clothes drive volunteer, can food drive volunteer, NCSC State Tournament All -Conference, Defensive Player of the Year (11th), Joe Sewell 9th grade nominee, National Christian School Championship Team 2004, Athletic Cheerleading Award 2004-2008, Athletic Softball Award 2004-2008, Beta Club, Who's Who, Who's Who Sports edition, National Honor Roll, USAA National All-American Scholar Award, USAA National English Merit Award, recipient of the Valedictorian Scholarship to Auburn Montgomery. Daughter of Jerry & Debbie Rogers.



Thomas Luke Rowe, *Elmore County High School*

Football, Basketball, Track

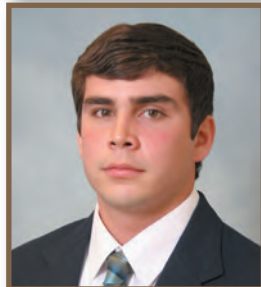
Good Hope Baptist Church, Youth Choir, volunteer VBS, numerous mission trips, TGIF mentoring program, organized food drive for needy families. School - Class President (9-12), President - Beta Club, 12th Grade worship leader for First Priority, Mu Alpha Theta, Foreign Language Club, 1st Team Elmore County Coaches team (football), 1st Team Montgomery Advertiser All-Metro Team, nominated to play in Alabama - Miss. All-Star game and AHSAA North South All-Star game, Football Team captain, 1st Place 2007 Elmore County Powerlifting Meet, All State Academic Team by Birmingham News, 2007. Spanish Honor Society, Top Ten in class academically (9-12), Academic Excellence Chemistry Award 2007. Troy University - Chancellors Scholarship, Huntingdon College - Jim Wilson Scholarship, Miss. State University - Academic Excellence Scholarship, Miss. College - Academic Excellence Scholarship, accepted University of Alabama. Son of Gloria and Grady Rowe.



Zachary C. Skinner, *Edgewood Academy*

Basketball

First Baptist Church of Wetumpka, Youth Choir, Youth Group, Puppet Ministry, Human Video performing group, numerous mission trips, Vacation Bible School volunteer. FCA, National Honor Society, Secretary - Beta Club, Lion's Club Leadership Program, Hugh Obrien Youth Leadership Award, Erskine College Fellow, Centre College Fellow, Elmore County Youth Leadership Program graduate, Harvard Book Club Award 2007, District Math Team Overall Winner 2008, Senior Class Vice-President, President-Spanish Club (12), Art National Honor Society. Recipient of the Spirit of Auburn Founders Scholarship to Auburn University, Academic Scholarship to Troy University, Academic Scholarship to Tulane University, Academic Scholarship to University of Alabama. Son of James & Gail Skinner.



Jacob Scott Studdard, *Elmore County High School*

Football, Track, Weightlifting

First Baptist Church of Eclectic, Vacation Bible School volunteer, Youth Choir, numerous mission trips, men's Bible Study participant, food drive volunteer, volunteer for construction of new football stadium. School - Team leader TGIF, Mu Alpha Theta, tutor, First Priority, Foreign Language Club, Class 4A State Champion Weightlifting Team, All-County 2nd team Defense, Ranked 4th in All-State 4A Academic, Brains & Brawn Team, Track - 400 & 800 meter. Dual-enrolled at Faulkner University. Has received scholarship to Spring Hill College, River Region Scholarship to Huntingdon College, Dean's Scholarship to University of Mobile, Troy University and Auburn Montgomery. Son of Robin & Greg Studdard.



Laura Elizabeth Tatom, *Edgewood Academy*

Basketball, Softball, Track

First Baptist Church of Wetumpka, Hurricane Katrina Relief Shelter, numerous mission trips, 400 hours community service, FCA, 9th Grade Joe Sewell nominee, Beta Club, National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, Scholars Bowl, Treasurer Spanish Club, Student Council, First Priority, Lion's Club Youth Leadership, World Affairs Youth Conference, Drama Club. Has received Chancellors Award Scholarship to Troy University, Huntingdon College Scholarship, accepted into Auburn University. Daughter of Charles & Jamie Tatom.

SENIOR HIGH AWARD FINALISTS



Alexander Mitchell Taylor, *Edgewood Academy*

Football, Basketball, Baseball, Track

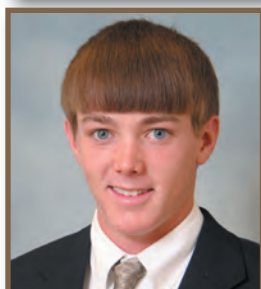
Good Hope Baptist Church, Youth Choir, Adult Choir, First Priority Praise team, numerous mission trips, Children's Harbor Clean-up Day volunteer, Beta Club, A/B Honor Roll 9-12, President - Government Club, Key Club, FCA, French Club, Spanish Club, YMCA Youth Legislature and Youth Judicial, Junior High Jimmy Hitchcock Award nominee, Captain Football and Basketball teams (12), Lions Club Camp Chandler Leadership camp, Rotary Club Speech Contest, Math team. All-County Basketball team (11-12), 2008 AISA All-Star team, All-County Football team (12), 2007 AISA All-Star Football team. Has received an AISA Scholarship to Huntingdon College, accepted into Auburn University, University of Alabama and Troy University. Son of Tony & Fran Taylor.



Caleb Andrew Veazey, *Holtville High School*

Football, Baseball, Basketball

Mt. Hebron Baptist Church, numerous mission trips, Upward Basketball Camp leader, Praise band Leader. School - ranked first academically in Sr. Class, National Honor Roll, Beta Club, National Who's Who, National Math Award, Boys State Delegate, TGIF, Class President '04-'07, First Priority. German Club, Spanish Club, FCA, Basketball Team Captain, James Chrietberg Award, University of Alabama Presidential Scholarship. Son of Jimmy & Cindy Veazey.



Brody Ellis Weldon, *Elmore County High School*

Wrestling, Baseball

Oak Valley Station Methodist Church (Tallassee), Vacation Bible School volunteer, Annual Conference youth delegate, Admin. Board, canned food drive, math tutor. School - State Champion in Wrestling, 160lb class, 1st Place Barry Mask Invitational Wrestling Tournament, 1st Place Lincoln High tournament, 1st Place St. James Tournament, Beta Club, National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, Foreign Language Club, Wrestling team Captain, Baseball - team Captain 2008, All County Honorable Mention, Lion's Club East - West All Stars, Who's Who, ECHS. Son of Rodney & Cindy Weldon.



Candace Marie Winn, *Holtville High School*

Volleyball, Softball

Shoal Creek Baptist Church, Vacation Bible School volunteer, Hurricane Katrina donation drive, Humane Shelter volunteer, March of Dimes volunteer. School - First Priority, FCA, German Club, Foreign Language Club, Jr. Civitan, Beta Club, 9th Grade Joe Sewell Honoree, Varsity Letter for Softball (5 years), Varsity Letter for Volleyball, Golden Glove infielder 2005, Top Dawg 2006, Izell Brown Award 2007. Currently enrolled in dual-enrollment program AUM, accepted to University of Alabama, Trustee Honors Scholarship, University of West Alabama. Daughter of Glenn & Roxanne Winn.



The Joe Sewell Memorial Award and John Sewell Scholarship is a project under the auspices of the Elmore County Community Foundation. Contributions to the Joe Sewell Fund are tax-deductible.

Checks should be made out to ECCF/Joe Sewell Fund and mailed to P.O. Box 743, Wetumpka, AL 36092. Inquiries should be referred to Butch Ruttan at 313-0009 or Barry Mask at 514-0904.

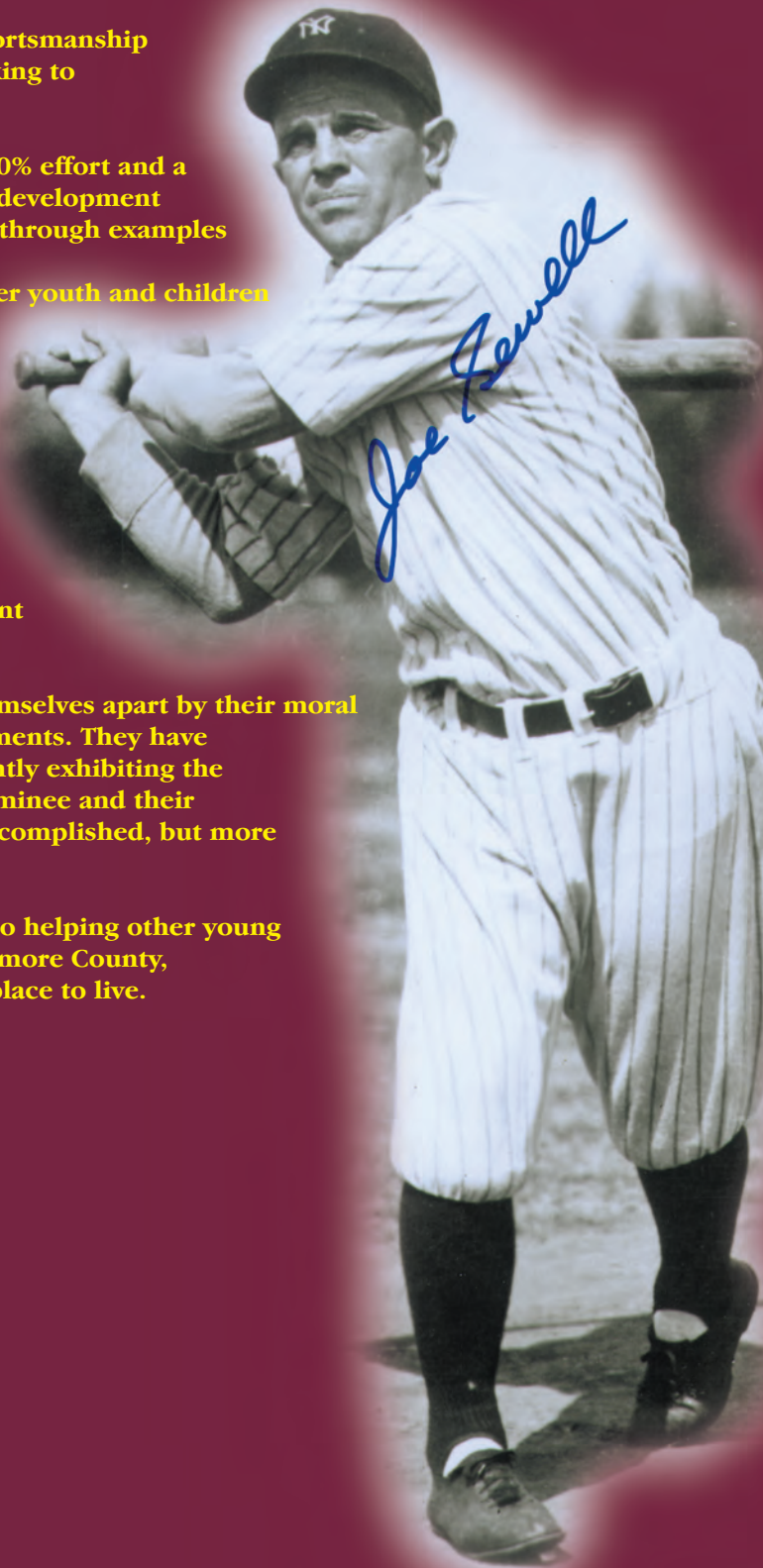
Purpose of the Joe Sewell Memorial Award

The purpose of the Joe Sewell Memorial Award is to recognize outstanding high school senior athletes, who by their actions have consistently represented the highest ideals of Christian leadership in athletics. Approximately 28 high school seniors from across Elmore County are nominated for this award. One boy and one girl will be selected as the overall Joe Sewell Award recipient. Each will receive a \$1,000 John Sewell Scholarship. Their high school coaches and administrators nominate the students. Approximately 20 ninth graders are also nominated and receive a certificate. The nominees for the award are recognized for:

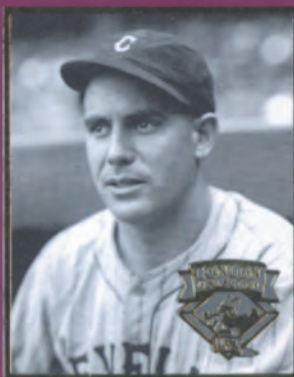
- Setting a Christian example of moral fitness and good sportsmanship
- Accepting their God-given gift of athletic ability and working to maximize their athletic potential
- Athletic achievement
- Achieving an academic performance level reflective of 100% effort and a recognition of the importance of education in their total development
- Obtaining the respect of their teammates and opponents through examples of character and perseverance
- Being a positive role model for their peers and for younger youth and children
- Giving 100% effort in practice and competition
- A willingness to make personal sacrifices for the good of their team
- Providing Christian leadership both in and out of the athletic arena
- Consistent church attendance, involvement and leadership
- Involvement in Christian activities and in organizations which promote Christian ideals
- Participation in student organizations, student government and other school activities

The nominees of the Joe Sewell Memorial Award have set themselves apart by their moral character, Christian example and excellence in their achievements. They have earned their nomination through hard work and by consistently exhibiting the qualities on which the award is based. We commend each nominee and their parents, families, coaches and teachers for what they have accomplished, but more importantly, for how they have gone about it.

Now we ask our nominees to "pass it forward" and commit to helping other young people be men and women of character and thereby make Elmore County, the State of Alabama, and indeed our great country a better place to live.



JOE SEWELL



LUKE SEWELL

THE SEWELL BROTHERS

NINTH GRADE CERTIFICATE WINNERS

Prattville Christian Academy

Joseph Hamilton
Lainey Heartsill
Morgan Wallace

Holtville High School

Halie Hood
Victor Taylor
Kelsey Yarnell

Tallassee High School

Alyssa Durham
Trey Cochran Gill
Morgan Wilson

Wetumpka High School

Zachary Carter
Jacob Levins
Morgan Stubbs



Stanhope Elmore High School

Ryan Callicott
Keonte Graves
Jasmyne Reeves

Elmore County High School

Jeremy Head
Miranda McCurdy
Dylan Meek

Edgewood Academy

Matt Moore
Amber Voss
Kelly Wells

New Life Christian Academy

Brandon Carter
James Gibbons
Alison Henderson

Joe Sewell still holds the record for The Hardest Player to Strike-Out in Baseball

Joe Sewell was born in Elmore County's Titus community in 1898. Most die-hard baseball fans know of the legendary Joe Sewell. However he stood in the shadows of some of baseball's giants in the game – Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig and many others. He played for the Cleveland Indians and New York Yankees in his career from 1920 to 1933. Sewell was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1977 and died in Mobile in 1990.

Joe Sewell still owns two of Major League Baseball's records, records which most fans of the game say will never be broken. He holds the life-time record for fewest strikeouts at bat during his 14 year pro career – 114 in 7,132 games. Sewell holds the single season record for fewest strikeouts at bat of just three strikeouts in 640 games in 1930 and 1932. A left handed hitter who threw right handed, Sewell was a speedy shortstop who led the American League in fielding twice and putouts and led the league four times in assists.

When it came to hitting, no one matched Joe Sewell. Few rookies then and even in today's modern era faced a tougher assignment or more pressure than Sewell did in 1920. While Sewell was playing his first professional season in New Orleans right out of college (Alabama), Cleveland Indians hero Ray Chapman was killed by a Carl Mays' pitch in August. When Chapman's replacement was hurt on Labor Day, the kid from Alabama got the call and was thrust into one of the most heated pennant races ever in the American League. "Little Joe" as he was called (5'7"), proved equal to the task, batting .329 for the rest of the season in helping the Cleveland Indians to their first American League Championship pennant.

From September 13, 1922 to April 30, 1930, he played 1,103 straight games – a major league record at that time, and only surpassed by his teammate, the great Lou Gehrig. He and his younger brother, Luke Sewell, are still ranked 8th on baseball's Most Career Hits list for brothers. Sewell used a 40-ounce bat called "Black Betsy" during his entire career. That bat rests now in the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame Museum in Birmingham.

But for all of his athletic feats, it is the character of the man that this award seeks to emulate as well. Joe Sewell was known as a quiet man of character and conviction. During the depression, Joe was known on several occasions throughout the years to bring baseballs, gloves and bats to the kids of Elmore County. He loved the game and wanted other poor kids from the South to have a chance to learn the game and the sportsmanship that accompanied it.

After retirement he spent several years coaching for the Yankees. He later was a scout for the Indians. He was head baseball coach at his alma mater, the University of Alabama, for several years leading the Tide to an SEC title in 1968. Alabama's baseball stadium is named for him.

Joe Sewell Memorial Award • P.O. Box 743 • Wetumpka, Alabama 36092

PREVIOUS AWARD WINNERS

2007 BOY'S AWARD



Chris Glover
*Holtville High School -
Football, Baseball*

**Chris Glover is now attending
Troy University.**

2007 GIRL'S AWARD



Kelly McWhorter
*Elmore County High School -
Cheerleading*

**Kelly McWhorter is now
attending Central Alabama
Community College.**

2006 BOY'S AWARD



Chaz Worthy
*Elmore County High School -
Football, Basketball, Baseball*

**Chaz Worthy is now attending
Huntingdon College.**

2006 GIRL'S AWARD



Ashley Hicks
*Stanbope Elmore High School -
Cheerleader*

**Ashley Hicks is now attending
the University of Aabama.**

2005 BOY'S AWARD



Josh Cain
*Edgewood Academy -
Football, Basketball, Track*

**Josh Cain is now attending
Jacksonville State University.**

2005 GIRL'S AWARD



Heather Finklea
*Elmore County High School -
Softball, Basketball*

**Heather Finklea is now
attending the University of
Alabama at Birmingham.**



Program

Fourth Annual

Joe Sewell Memorial Awards Banquet

Wetumpka Civic Center

May 6, 2008

Keynote Speaker – *John Croyle*, Founder, CEO, Big Oak Boys & Girls Ranches

Emcee – *Rep. Barry Mask*, Past Chairman & Co-Founder Joe Sewell Award

Call to order & Welcome – *Butch Ruttan*, Chairman Joe Sewell Award

Instructions for Dinner – *Cheryll Fochtman*, Banquet Chairman

Invocation – *Dr. John M. Brannon*

Dinner

Overview of the Joe Sewell Award – *Barry Mask*

Nomination & Selection Process – *Butch Ruttan*, Chairman

Recognition of Freshman Nominees – *Barry Mask*

Introduction of Senior Joe Sewell Award Finalists – *Barry Mask*

Introduction of John Croyle – PrimeSouth Bank, *Jimmy Monk*, President

Keynote Speaker – *John Croyle*, Founder, CEO Big Oak Boys & Girls Ranches

Senior Merit Award Winners

Girls Leadership Award – GKN

Boys Leadership Award – Pinkston & Courtney

Girls Academic Award – Central Alabama Electric Cooperative

Boys Academic Award – Alabama State Employees Credit Union

Girls Church, Community & Character Award – Don Duncan Tire & Auto

Boys Church, Community & Character Award – Neptune

Girls Athletic Award – *Chris Ingram*

Boys Athletic Award – *Trip Weldon*

Girls Overall Joe Sewell Award and John Sewell Scholarship Winner – *Billie Sewell*

Boys Overall Joe Sewell Award and John Sewell Scholarship Winner – Wetumpka Lions Club

Adjourning remarks – *Butch Ruttan*, Chairman

