**LUCIUS ‘BO’ LEVETT**

**Prep/High School**

Lucius ”Bo” Levett began his exemplary athletic career in Savannah, GA where he played football and basketball at A.E. Beach High School and was a local standout. During and after graduating from Beach High in 1957, he also played for the Frank Callen Boys Club, the local Jets, and several other basketball teams.

**Beyond High School – Savannah Police Department 1963-1985 – 19 National Championships**

In **1963** Levett was **hired by the Savannah Police Department** and he **founded the Policemen’s Athletic Association of Savannah in October 1964** to expand recreational opportunities for the city’s youth. This was the launching of his official coaching career. He coachedseveral **successful/winning Cloverdale** neighborhood **football and basketball teams 1964-1968.**

In **1966**, Levett was assigned to the Savannah Police Department’s Community Relations Unit #2, which served as a juvenile crime prevention unit on the Westside of the city at the Bethlehem Community Center. During this time, he **formed the Savannah Police Athletic League (PAL)** and started to field teams of every age group. ***At its peak, the Savannah PAL sponsored 15 basketball teams, seven football teams, two boys’ softball teams and one girls’ softball team. There were nearly as many cheerleading teams as those competing on the field and court.*** Team members had to maintain good grades and conduct at school and display strong character at all times to remain on a team. Levett served as a mentor, father figure, and advisor to many young people who struggled to find success in the world. He brought out the very best performance in athletes; he encouraged them, both in the game and beyond it, to put forth their very best efforts, to be strong and brave in the face of formidable opposition, and to work diligently toward achievement of their goals.

His Savannah PAL Basketball team won its **first national championship in Newark, NJ in March 1968**. In ***23 years, Levett took basketball teams to national tournaments, bringing home national championship awards nineteen of those years. Two years, the teams took second place honors in those tournaments.*** Parents, community leaders, and many local businesses and organizations supported the teams’ annual travels to these tournaments and their community service projects.

**1985-1996 - Harlem Globetrotters and Hall of Fame Inductions**

“Bo” Levett left the Savannah Police Department in 1985 and began a career with the Harlem Globetrotters as the equipment manager and referee, traveling to more than 122 countries with the team. Between tours of duty, he met with coaches and former players in Savannah to offer advice or serve as an assistant coach as needed.

In **March 1996**, Levett was **inducted into the A.E. Beach High School’s Athletic Hall of Fame** in recognition of his athletic coaching accomplishments. In January 2015, he was recognized for his career and impact on youth by the Georgia general Assembly. In May 2015, Levett was also inducted into the Greater Savannah Athletic Hall of Fame.

**Other Athletic Career Interests**

Beginning in the mid-1960s, Levett also owned/managed/maintained a local referee association, offering officiating services at the local, state, and regional levels. For a period of time after retiring from the Harlem Globetrotters, he also was part owner of a semi-pro football team in Roanoke, VA.

**Impact of Athletic Career**

Lucius “Bo” Levett has proven to be a leader of the highest caliber, a catalyst who motivated young athletes and those around him to exceed their personal expectations, to attempt seemingly unattainable goals, to demonstrate an exceptionally competitive nature, and perform as a team made of many cohesive parts.

Lucius “Bo” Levett’s legacy is marked by the hundreds of former athletes who played for him, the large number who coached alongside him and former players who became coaches because of him, and the scores who learned officiating from him. Countless young people learned of their own potential through his coaching them. “Bo” Levett is often credited with teaching them that discipline, dedication, integrity, sportsmanship, respect for the game, and love of family are valuable components of being a winner on and off the court/field. His record and reputation shows he succeeded in his dream of “building boys rather than repairing men”.

Lucius “BO” Levett made his transition November 10, 2018 in Apopka, FL. A celebration of his legacy will be held in Savannah, GA on February 16, 2019.

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