Holman shined at new J.C. Love Field

Editor's Note: This is one of a records for wins, 10 (sixth nationseries of features on Louisiana Tech's 2019 Hall of Fame Class. The induction ceremony will be Friday, October 18 on the floor of the Thomas Assembly Center. *Tickets are \$40 per ticket or \$320* for a table of eight. To order tickets, go to latechalumni.org/hof19 or call at 318-255-7950.

Louisiana Tech's J.C. Love Field was new in 1971, brand spanking, the best baseball park in the state - and it wasn't even close.

New too was Eddie Holman, prized recruit, twice an All-Stater at Ouachita High in Monroe and the Most Valuable Player in the Dixie Senior World Series Tournament after he threw 13 consecutive scoreless innings, gave up just three hits, and struck out 17 for the defending champs.

By the time Holman finished his senior year and Love Field turned 4, that pair and a bunch of solid base ballers had combined for a quartet of seasons that laid the foundation for a Bulldog Baseball Era that all other stretches will be measured against: seven NCAA Regionals in 17 seasons.

1971: 36-14, Gulf States Conference champions, NCAA Regionals. Holman was 8-2.

1972: 34-14. Tech's first season in the Southland Conference. Holman was 10-3, set school ally) and strikeouts, 130 (ninth nationally).

"My best year," Holman said. 1973: 27-17-1. Holman was 6-5, had arm problems for the first time. We'll get to that...

1974: Won the Southland at 11-4, 29-19 overall, finished a game shy of appearing in the College World Series.

So there were worse things than being a Louisiana Tech baseball player in the early 1970s. The Blue Goose, Tech's old travel bus, had been retired. The field was new. The uniforms were new. Plus 126 wins, two conference titles, and two NCAA Regional appearances in four years.

Holman, a left-handed workhorse with the gait of a champion, a fastball in the 90s and a sharp breaking curve, was a big reason for that.

Forty-five years later, Holman remains the program's leader in career wins with 33 and strikeouts with 336, still the SLC record even though Tech didn't join the league until Holman's sophomore year. He holds individual season pitching records for strikeouts with 130 and strikeouts per nine innings with 12.67, both set when he was a sophomore. Fast Eddie, they called him.

Still do.

Classifieds

STATEWIDES

He was 6-1, 190, and when he was on the mound, every inch and



Eddie Holman

every pound went into getting the enemy out, preferably on strikes. Some kind of fun...Back then, the student-athletes lived in the same dorm and went to each other's games. It wasn't unusual for half the basketball team or football team to be at Love Field.

"It was a brotherhood; no telling how many times I watched Eddie pitch," said John Allen, who threw javelin for Tech's 1973 SLC track and field champs. "I'm just glad I didn't have to hit against him."

On one of those long-ago spring afternoons, maybe on a double-digit strikeout day, with his white cotton Dodger-style uniform on, the "Tech" in red script across his chest, the blue number below it, Holman, from his steering-wheel spot on the mound, the baseball in his hand, an 0-2 count on a left-handed batter, teammates all around him chattering with gloves ready and more friends in the stands, must have smiled inside and thought to himself, "There is no way anybody in the world should be allowed to have this much fun."

Fast Eddie. King of the Hill.

Holman's reputation with anyone who knew him as a college pitcher was one of serious business on the mound and funny business off it.

When baby brother and future Tech Athletics Hall of Famer Dale came to Tech a couple of years after Eddie graduated, legendary Tech baseball coach Pat "Gravy" Patterson told a sportswriter he hoped that Dale would "open up" a little more. "He's not as loose as his brother Eddie was," Gravy said, "but then again, I'm not sure we want him that loose."

"He was a fun-loving guy, but what a competitor," said Tech's Hall of Fame sports information director Keith Prince. "He's one of those guys who just wanted the ball."

"I was pretty relaxed on the mound; intense, but relaxed," Holman said. "I never thought about it a whole lot, but every time I went out there, my goal was to throw a no-hitter."

He got his no-hitter as a sophomore against Louisiana College, March 1,1972. Before and after were all those strikeouts. And wins. As a junior, he and that whip-arm action had already broken Tech career records for most wins and strikeouts; with every win and punch out after that, he just kept breaking his own records.

"Great eye-hand coordination, physically developed, just a natural guy," Dale said. "Tell him to pick up a rock and throw it and hit a telephone pole, he'd automatically do it every time."

The boys grew up with older brother and sister Jim and Donna and baby sis Faith, the future All-Louisiana and All-South Region shortstop for the Lady Techsters softball team that went 45-11 in 1986. They lived at the end of a long rock driveway 10 miles east of Monroe, the site of wiffleball games that were "nothing short of epic," Eddie said.

"We didn't have much equipment but we played ball all day anyway," Eddie said. "There was nothing to do but play ball.

"I'm just glad my mom and dad didn't push me to play sports," he said. "They were proud of us, but they put no pressure on us, didn't give too much advice. They let me and Dale and Faith, all of us, do it our way, no expectations." Age 9 was when Eddie found himself on a Little League team.

"I didn't know they were playing hardball," he said. "I thought it was underhand, like we played at recess. First time I came up to bat, a boy about 6-6, tallest kid in the league, looks like Randy Johnson, he's the pitcher and hits me right in the side.

"From then on, when they started winding up, I started backing up," he said. "I was the only kid on the team who didn't get a hit all year. I figured if I was going to play ball, I'd rather be the pitcher."

So 8-2 as a freshman for Tech's league champs in 1971 was no big deal. In 1970, the Bulldogs had gone 21-18 overall, 6-14 in conference.

His junior season, Holman shut out Ole Miss, struck out 12. But it was just the eighth game of the season and chilly. For the first time, his arm hurt.

"Never had an issue until then; first time I ever got a cortisone shot," he said. "Back then, everybody pitched the whole game. Anyway, that's when I started having shoulder problems."

The strikeout numbers were never the same through his senior season and a 20-20 record in a couple of years in the minors. But he finished strong at Tech: he won 9 games as a senior, including four down the stretch as the Bulldogs won nine of their final 11 regular season games to make the regional.

Holman also won his final game as a Bulldog, a testy 5-4 battle in the regional against a Texas team that would finish 54-8. Holman beat Longhorn ace and out."

future major leaguer Rich Wortham, 50-7 in his college career.

But Texas won the next two games to advance to the College World Series.

And after that tough first plate appearance in Little League, Holman even learned to hit. He batted .371 for Tech, and at an Old Timers game around 15 years ago, both he and Dale homered. Both are on the SLC's 1970s All-Decade Team.

Recently retired from a successful business career, for the past few years Holman's gone on vacations with Patterson and two other teammates, third baseman Ronnie Burns. They're getting slower than when they played baseball but getting much, much better at lying.

"I'm doing community service," Holman said of spending time with them. "All we talk about is our time at Tech. Lately I'm hearing stories about how one of them robbed a guy of a home run to win me a game and another one made a diving stop or threw out a guy flat-footed. As ballplayers, they seem to get a lot better every year."

He "couldn't be happier" about his induction, something he feels means more to him now than it would have years ago.

"So many of the guys are going to come," Holman said. "And all the childhood memories we had coming up when we had to make up games to play, walking or riding our bikes all over Monroe just to get to a ballpark...the fact that my brother's in there...I'm a lot more excited than I thought I'd be."

The Hall is a long way from rock throwing for an intense competitor like Fast Eddie who always just wanted to be in on the fun and games.

"Somebody told me that at one of the State Fairs when Eddie was in college, well, you remember that game where you throw the ball and try to break the beer bottles?" Dale said. "He cleaned 'em

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А	2 hours	1	12 hours	300	5	\$1.25
В	2 hours	1	12 hours	300	7	\$2.79
С	30 hours	2	12 hours	300	10	\$4.04

For questions and comments regarding ELL's filing, please call the LPSC toll free at (800) 256-2397. Additionally, the filing, including its attachments may be viewed in the Records Division of the LPSC at the following address:

> **Records** Division 602 N. 5th Street, 12th Floor Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802 Telephone: (225) 342-3157

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LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY and the LOUISIANA AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES COMMISSION

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Lakeland Cotton and Grain Co., Inc. was placed in Receivership on September 10, 2019, in the proceedings entitled "Mike Strain, Commissioner of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, and the Louisiana Agricultural Commodities Commission v. Lakeland Cotton and Grain Co., Inc.," proceedings number 46,575, Division C of the Fifth Judicial District Court for the Parish of Franklin, State of Louisiana. Commissioner Strain was initially appointed as Temporary Receiver on September 10, 2019, and has now been appointed as Receiver following a hearing on September 19, 2019.

This Notice is for all creditors who may have a valid claim against Lakeland Cotton and Grain Co., Inc. Claims must be submitted to the Louisiana Agricultural Commodities Commission for a determination of the validity of the claim. Claim forms, including a required proof of loss form, and worksheet, may be obtained at the offices of Lakeland Cotton and Grain Co., Inc. at 3397 Front Street, Winnsboro, Louisiana 71295, or by contacting either of the following:

Kyra Fitzgerald	Stephen Sessums
Director of LACC	Assistant Commissioner of ACS
225-935-2164	225-922-1342
kyra@ldaf.state.la.us	ssessums@ldaf.state.la.us

Claims must be submitted in person, or by certified mail to: ATTN: Kyra Fitzgerald, Director of the Louisiana Agricultural Commodities Commission, 5825 Florida Boulevard, Suite 5000, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806 You are hereby notified that all claims must be received by the Louisiana Agriculture Commodities Commission within 60 days of the date of the publication of this notice, or the claim could be deemed invalid. September 23, 2019

10-2/10-23

WHEREABOUTS NOTICE

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of Johnathan Parker please contact the office of Michael E. Kramer, Attorney at Law, 6658 Kinloch Street, Winnsboro, Louisiana 71295, (318) 435-7525. 10-9, 10-16 2tb

9-25, 10-2, 10-9 3tb