



## **Jesse Presley**

### **My Coach, My Mentor, My Friend**

How do you thank someone enough for a long and continuing influence on your life?

I remember the many nights of encouragement and hard work as we learned the fine art of trying to punch someone's lights out. Jesse would run with us, hit the heavy bag, jump rope, run around the ring hitting us from every angle until we understood boxing. He told us about "Mickey Walker", about his twin brother Jerry and how they confused the crowds, about the many Bonny Oaks boys who fought with everything they had. He inspired us.

Then he drove us down to Memorial Auditorium where thousands of people cheered us as we took on the best Chattanooga had to offer. We were well prepared because of Jesse Presley. We became Golden Glove Champions.

I remember Jesse's leadership on the Bonny Oaks Fast pitch Team. I remember how Jesse played with wild abandonment at shortstop....He was loose, flexible, quick, and had a rocket arm to first...He sprayed hits in every direction all over the field and ran like a rabbit. He looked like he was having fun all the time. I wanted to be like Jesse. He inspired us to always work hard and improve our skills.

Finally I played side by side with Jesse on the Bonny Oaks Fast Pitch team. We won the Chattanooga City Series. We became Champions.

I remember the many..many..pick up basketball games in the new Bonny Oaks gym. Rev Radford would bring over a team and lots of cheerleaders and we would play for hours and hours. Jesse had a nice smooth jump shot and played like the ever-ready Bunny non stop. He showed us how much fun all sports were....He helped me develop and play on the Tyner High School Basketball team.

Did I mention that Jesse talked to me about how important college would be.....He helped me attend Berry Academy with the plan to transfer over to Berry College.

Jesse and Pauline Presley have been family friends for over 40 years.

Jesse Presley was my Coach, My Mentor, and My Friend.

I know that he was a huge positive influence on many of the Bonny Oaks family.

Thank You Jesse and Pauline.

Pete Hale 1961-1967

