

# Lady Engineers' Season Ends at State Tournament

by **MIKE WISEMAN**  
**Estill Tribune Sportswriter**  
 The 2016 Estill County Lady Engineers' softball season came to a abrupt end as they lost their first two games in the Worth/KHSAA State Tournament this past week in Owensboro.

to continue the momentum and would find themselves dropped into the loser bracket by the score of 10-5.

Muncie would go 2-3 with 3 rbi's in the game and give up 6 earned runs with 5 K's from the mound. Taylor Wiseman, Abby Winkle, and Haley Bishop would also rap out hits and Hayley Puckett would drive in a run.

with a ground out. Congratulations to the Lady Engineers on a great season as they finished 22-13 and captured their 11th consecutive 56th District Championship and their 5th straight 14th Region Championship.

Good luck and much love go out to the five seniors, McKeely Muncie, Zoe Deaton, Haley Bishop, Hayley Puckett, and Sarah Barnes.

Congratulations to McKeely Muncie on being named 14th Region Player of the Year by the High School Coaches Association. Muncie and Zoe Deaton will both represent Estill County in the East-West All Star Game this weekend at Georgetown College.

Congrats to Abby Winkle, McKinley Meek, Kaylee Covey, and Sarah Wiseman on being named to the 14th Region All Star Team that will participate in the Southeast KY All Star Game on June 22 in Russell, Kentucky.

It has been my pleasure to cover these ladies all year and what a great team it has been. Great job Shirley, Danny, and Brittany. GO BIG BLUE!!!!



2016 Estill Lady Engineers fast pitch softball seniors. Left to right, Sarah Barnes, Hayley Puckett, Haley Bishop, Zoe Deaton and McKeely Muncie.

## State Tournament N. Laurel 10, Estill 5

In the first game, the Ladies would face a perennial top-25 team North Laurel. Estill's usual steady defense came unglued in the first inning with North Laurel squeezing in two runs and the Lady Engineers finding themselves down 4-0 before recording an out. North Laurel would add on two more in the top of the first plus four more through the next 3 innings, and when Estill came to bat in the bottom of the fourth inning, they would be facing a 10-run deficit.

But this group of determined young ladies would not go down without a fight. Estill would scrap together five runs including a bases-loaded triple by McKeely Muncie and chase North Laurel's starting pitcher.

## State Tournament McCracken 12, Estill 1

The Lady Engineers search for a win to keep their tournament hopes alive would soon be ended as they were matched up with #1 McCracken County in the losers bracket on Friday.

McCracken Co. would show why they were #1 practically all season long with their aggressive and hard nosed play.

Sarah Wiseman would be the only Lady Engineer to scratch a hit out in this one and the Ladies would see their season ended in a five inning affair, 12-1.

S. Wiseman would go 1-1 plus a walk and Kaylee Covey would drive in Estill's last run of the season

# Beard Named To Hall of Fame

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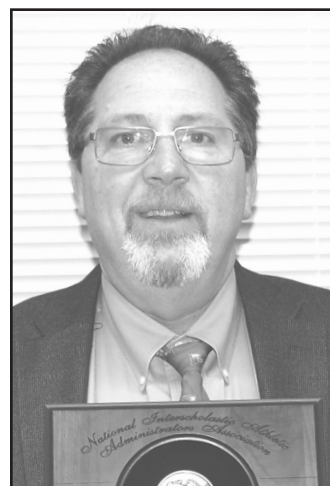
"I think I have been named Region Coach of the Year four times including 2015," says Beard. "I was honored with the Elvis Thank You Very Much Award in 2015 and received one of the Outstanding Achievement awards at the Southeast All-star Showcase this year."

Beard was born and raised in Louisville, graduated from EKV, and taught 5th and 6th grade in Estill County for 31 years. "I retired from teaching in 2006 and have enjoyed just coaching," says Beard.

She has been married to her husband Bill for 44 years. He is a retired Estill County principal and they have three sons and four granddaughters. with another one due the end of this month.

"I have always loved the sport of softball and am honored to have been a part of so many girls lives for the past 33 years," she adds. "And I am deeply honored to be considered for the Hall of Fame."

One of Beard's present assistant coaches, Danny Wood, has already been named to the State Hall of Fame, in baseball. He retired as Estill baseball coach in 2009 and is enjoying helping the softball team where



Arthur Ballard



Danny Wood

his daughter, sophomore Lindsey Wood, is a player.

The third member of Estill's athletic department to receive high recognition is Athletic Director Arthur David Ballard who in December was named as one of nine recipients of the 2015 Distinguished Service Award given by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association. Ballard became only the fifth Kentuckian to receive this award; however, he is the second Estill Countian to be named. Ravenna native and former Estill County educator Phil Rison was given the award in 2007 while serving as athletic director of Montgomery County.

Phil's brother, Bart Rison, a successful basketball

and softball coach at Montgomery County, was named to the Kentucky Softball Coaches Hall of Fame in 2009.

Congratulations, Shirley. McKeely Muncie of Estill was named 14th Region Player of the Year for 2016 and Wolfe County Lady Wolves coach Benny Campbell was named Coach of the year. He coached Wolfe to their fourth straight winning season and a runner-up title in the 14th Region.

Estill's 2016 seniors, Muncie, Deaton, Hayley Puckett, Haley Bishop and Sarah Barnes, finished with a four-year record of 92 wins and 62 losses which is third best in Estill history behind four-year records of 2014 (103-58) (1st) and 2015 (102-60) seniors.

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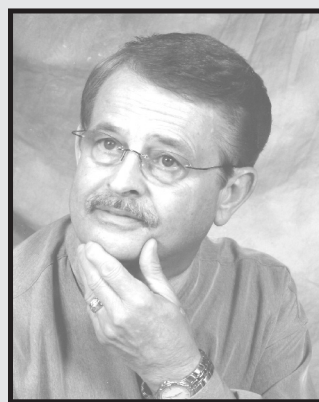
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