Making History

DICK '60 AND RICH '84 MYERS
MARK 50 YEARS ANNOUNCING
GAMES AT RALSTON FIELD

By Christopher Barrows
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OR HALF A CENTURY THE VOICE of Wilkes football has been a member of the Myers family. The father and son team—Dick Myers Sr. ’60 and Rich Myers Jr. ’84—celebrated this milestone during the fall 2009 football season.

Dick began announcing during his college days at Wilkes. As a student working in the sports information office, he began doing public address work at basketball games and wrestling meets. In 1960, Wilkes football moved from Kingston High School Stadium to Artillery Park. Wilkes lost the stadium announcer and Dick stepped up to the mic.

Rich grew up attending many Wilkes basketball, wrestling and football events with Dick. When he was 12, he even began helping his father in the press box during football games, keeping an eye on substitutions and doing odd jobs.

“It was fun,” he remembers. “You got a chance to really experience the game, talk the football talk. As a kid, you dream of doing that kind of stuff.” Since most games took place on Saturdays, Dick was able to manage his public address duties and a full-time job. However, when he obtained employment out of town, he found the Wilkes commitment difficult to maintain. Unable to commit to working every game, he knew it was time to step down.

“When I got the call asking if I’d like to return, I told (John Reese, former athletic director and head wrestling coach) he should give one of his students a chance: a chance like I had.” He also informed Reese that the answer was “right under his nose” and suggested that he ask his son.

Rich took his father’s post in 1984. By that time, he was well-equipped to take the reins. According to his sister, Ellen (Myers) Parmenteri, Rich “grew up listening to games on the radio,” she says. “You could see how he picked up the announcing by helping and observing Dad.” Rich’s first assignment was calling an alumni football game.

Dick is now the one assisting his son on a variety of occasions at Wilkes in what he describes “a reversal of roles,” performing some of the tasks he used to assign to Rich.

Although the pair has only announced together once, at a Wilkes game at the former Lackawanna County Stadium, now PNC Field, they share countless memories from their time in the press box. Both remember the Colonels’ undefeated seasons including the Golden Horde years under coach Rollie Schmidt.

Some defeats—while best forgotten—are also remain in their memories.

“Three years ago we lost to Rowan on a fumble when we had the game,” Rich recalls. “Those are the toughest moments.”

The strong family connection to Wilkes extends beyond the announcing booth. Ten family members attended the University. Dick met his wife, Lois (Tremayne) Myers ’57, when they were students, along with her cousins William ’57 and the late Ronald Tremayne ’58. Both Tremaynes served on the University’s Board of Trustees. Dick’s brother Thomas is a graduate of the class of 1958 and his sister Barbara also attended Wilkes for a time. His brother-in-law James Speicher graduated in 1956.

The legacy continues into Rich’s generation: His sister, Ellen, will soon graduate from Wilkes and her husband, Dale Parmenteri ’89, and her brother-in-law David Parmenteri ’79 provide other Wilkes connections. The third generation of this alumni family, Dale and Ellen’s son, Matthew Parmenteri, is a Wilkes freshman.

Rich Myers receives a phone call at the end of every year, just as his father did, asking if he’d be interested in coming back. At the completion of this past season, he found himself tied with his father for a record 25 seasons as the voice at Ralston Field. That milestone gives him another reason to want to return next year.

“I will break my father’s record,” he says. “It will really be neat.”