

Brent James – Call him king of the triple crown



Brent James, second from left, was one of four seniors who led Clinch County High School to state championships in football, basketball and baseball in the same academic year -- a feat no other high school has accomplished in Georgia. Pictured with James, left to right, are Jamie Spates, Gregory Calley and A.C. Cooper.

Thursday, March 31, 2016 - Twenty-seven years ago, Brent James was embarking on the last leg of a milestone that still stands today.

James, now Georgia Power's local office manager in Homerville, was one of four seniors who led the Clinch County High School Panthers to capture football, basketball and baseball state championships within the same academic year, a triumph that had not been accomplished previously, nor since, in Georgia high school sports.

“It was a very special time for all of us,” James recalled recently as the high school basketball season came to an end and baseball was beginning. “Everyone in the community supported us. Our coaches taught us how to come together as a team and pushed us to be the best we could be while still allowing us to be ourselves. It’s a great memory we’ll always have.”

James said that many of the traits the players learned during that incredible sports year are behaviors he still uses in his daily job. To succeed, team members had to learn to communicate effectively, identify priorities, organize to make the best use of each player’s skills and take responsibility for their own actions.

As seniors, they were regarded as school leaders. “We had gotten knocked out of the football championship in our junior year and I was determined that wouldn’t happen again,” said James.

During the football season, he played wide receiver and safety positions. He was a guard on the basketball team and third baseman on the baseball team.

Dubbed “the Four Kings of the Triple Crown” by the Clinch County community, James and former teammates are always ready to share their memories and their experiences with today’s youth, helping them to recognize important skills and the need for hard work. Given their commitment to the community, it should come as no surprise that the 2015 Clinch County Panthers took home the state football championship as well this past season.