

WILLIAM H. "BILL" McDONALD

O N JUNE 18, 2004, **BILL MCDONALD, LONGTIME ATHLETIC TRAINER AT**

the University of Alabama, was inducted into the National Athletic Trainers' Association Hall of Fame. McDonald considered the induction a great honor, especially because 20 years to the date, his longtime mentor and friend, Jim Goostree, had also entered the Hall of Fame.

Bill always wanted to play sports while growing up in Carbon Hill. His ankles would not cooperate with his desire to be an athlete, so he entered the athletic arena in a different mode; he became interested in sports medicine. At Carbon Hill, Basketball Coach Wimp Sanderson worked with Bill as a sports trainer and manager. Bill followed Sanderson to the University of Alabama to be a student athletic trainer while he pursued his degree. After graduation, Bill began his career as an athletic trainer in a Georgia High School. In 1974, he joined the athletic training staff at Georgia Tech and was promoted to head trainer after two years. He spent the next thirteen years in that position.



In 1987, Georgia Tech Head Coach, Bill Curry, was hired by The University of Alabama and Bill jumped at the chance to return to his alma mater. Bill has contributed much to his alma mater and has received many honors in association with his work in sports medicine. McDonald's work extends beyond the confines of the University he loves. Bill is recognized throughout the nation and has been an inspiration to an untold number of young certified athletic trainers. While at Alabama, Bill has had the opportunity to earn four football national championship rings (1992, 2009, 2011, 2012).

Bill retired in 2010 as head athletic trainer and director of sports medicine. He remains on the staff to assist with the athletic training curriculum, from which five of the head trainers in the SEC received their training. Bill currently served as Director of Football Travel and arranges the transportation and lodging for the team.

Bill McDonald has received numerous honors. He was a trainer for NATA in the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta and was presented the NATA Most Distinguished Athletic Award in 2000. Bill was selected into the Alabama Athletic Trainers Association Hall of Fame in 2005 and received the American Orthopedic Society for Sports Distinguished Trainer Award in 2009. In 1999, he was honored by the Alabama athletic department's creation of the Bill McDonald Citizenship Award. One of the most notable contributions of Bill McDonald was his involvement with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Bill acknowledged multiple needs: "In dealing with student athletes, I knew that there were a lot of spiritual needs -- not just physical and emotional needs -- so we tried to enhance that with them."

Bill is married to the former Dian Cook of Carbon Hill and the couple has two children. Scott is a Strength and Conditioning Coach for Georgia Tech and Bryan is a Doctor of Chiropractic in Tuscaloosa.