Feix Remembered

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The impact Coach Jimmy Feix had on the WKU community is immeasurable.

In this week’s View from the Hill, Amy Bingham talks to two people who say his legacy was made both on and off the field.

His name is synonymous with Western Kentucky University. From All –American football player to winningest football coach to alumni director and even athletic director. Jimmy Feix truly counted Western as part of his family.

 “Most honest, concerned, humble person that you’ve ever been around.”

 “I never heard anyone say a negative thing about Jimmy Feix.”

 “This bring back a lot of memories.”

For Harriet Downing and Coach Butch Gilbert, stories about Jimmy Feix are a dime a dozen.

 “That was a great night too.”

For Coach Gilbert, the mutual respect and admiration for Feix began when they were on opposing teams in high school.

 “He was the quarterback of Henderson and I was the star of course at Bowling Green High (laughs).”

Not long after, they were on the same side of the ball as Hilltoppers under Coach Jack Clayton.

Mrs. Downing remembers Feix winning a crucial game against arch rival Eastern in the early ‘50’s.

 “All of the sudden Jimmy throws this pass and I don’t know how long it was but it was a long one and Mac Stevens caught it for a touchdown and we won the ballgame.”

That Western/Eastern rivalry only intensified during Feix’s 14 year stint as head football coach, when Gilbert served as an assistant.

 “Anything good we got credit for, anything bad he took it on himself.”

But Downing says it’s the way Feix led the team off the field that made an even bigger impact.

 “He always told his players that they were like a mirror and anything they did good or bad reflected on their university.”

 “They wanted these young men not to just not just good football players but to be good men.”

 “Western runs tight with him.”

 “You could not question his loyalty, his integrity in any way.”

 “It’s been a great journey.”

WKU will honor Feix with a memorial video and a moment of silence prior to kick off at the October 25th home game against Old Dominion. And players will wear a Feix decal on the back of their helmets for the remainder of the year.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

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