

Augusta Military Academy

Oral History

Mike Welch, '48
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The time I spent at AMA was packed with action and excitement. There were a number of people and events that influenced me and that stick in my mind right to this day.

I am proud to have been First Captain in my senior year and among those who I owe this to was **Dave Eborn**, "The Voice of AMA", who in 1943 became First Captain and he was my mentor.

Sports played an important role in my time at Augusta as well as the academic and military side. I remember **Major Blackburn**, PMS&T, who was the best story teller that I have ever met. He rolled his own cigarettes and smoked them in class.

"**Pop**" **Slagle**, formerly of the Philadelphia Eagles, was head coach in 1943 and his son, **Steve [Slagle]**, played for him on the AMA football team. I loved Coach Slagle because he played everyone. His motto was "If you practiced, you'll play." On the '43 team was **George Papack**, a 2nd team All American at Georgia.

During my years at AMA, 1943-47, the best all around football player, at 145 pounds, was **Bobby Bowie** of Galax, Virginia. During that same period, the best basketball player at AMA and one of our first seven-footers was **Jim Slaughter** who went on to play at South Carolina.

We had a great boxing team in 1943! The matches were always packed.

In 1945 we played in the biggest football game to that time, in Newport News at Apprentice Field with a crowd of 15,000 attending. Granby High was undefeated with triple threat Chuck Stobbs as their star. The final score: Granby 33, AMA 7.

Another highlight was when AMA served as the Honor Guard for the Queen of the Apple Blossom Festival in Winchester during my 1946-47 year. **Major Roller** attended and lifted drinking restrictions.

You can view the 1948 RECALL online here:
<https://galleries.amaalumni.org/Recalls/Recall-1948/>