

TWO-SIX PROJECT

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to respectfully request that the baseball field at North Street Park in Fayetteville, NC, be named and dedicated in honor of Coach Donald Bennett. For over four decades, Coach Bennett's unparalleled dedication as a veteran, coach, mentor, and community leader has transformed countless young lives and profoundly shaped Fayetteville's sports culture, elevating our city onto the national stage. Renaming this field in his honor would be a fitting tribute to the movement he inspired, a movement built on commitment to athletics, character development, and access to opportunity.

Born in Charleston, South Carolina, Donald Bennett's love for baseball was lifelong. After proudly serving over 20 years in the U.S. Army, retiring as a Master Sergeant, he settled in Fayetteville and seamlessly transitioned his focus to community service through coaching and youth development.

In 1983, at just 14 years old, he began volunteering his time at local organizations like the YMCA and community recreation centers. He quickly became known not just for coaching baseball, football, basketball, and soccer, but for his profound mentorship, instilling discipline, work ethic, and self-respect. His dedication remained unwavering, even after being diagnosed with multiple myeloma, he continues to coach with the same passion and commitment.

It was at North Street Field where Coach Bennett's legacy truly blossomed. This park became the foundational home for his pioneering travel teams. With a clear vision, he transformed raw potential into elite talent, providing top-tier instruction and life mentorship that helped athletes become better players and people. What started as community practices evolved into the nationally recognized Carolina Rebels, a premier youth travel baseball organization that ranked Top 3 in North Carolina and Top 40 nationally in the 15U division. Through the Rebels and later a partnership with 5 Star National Baseball, Coach Bennett's programs have produced over 100 college commitments across NCAA Divisions I, II, and III.

His mentorship has guided numerous athletes to professional careers, including:

- Dennis Smith Jr. – NBA guard, 2017 NBA Draft Lottery Pick
- Alim McNeill – NFL defensive tackle, Detroit Lions
- Isaiah Bennett – His son, ranked #1 in North Carolina and #20 nationally; a two-time USA Baseball National Team member and 2019 San Diego Padres draft pick

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Coach Bennett's impact extends beyond elite programs. He has remained a fixture in Fayetteville schools, volunteering at EE Smith High School, leading Pine Forest Middle School to a near-unbeaten record from 2011 to 2015, and offering support at Seventy-First High School.

North Street Baseball Field is more than a location; it's where a generational impact began—a sacred ground where belief was built, dreams took shape, and lives were changed. Naming this field after Donald Bennett would not only honor his decades of selfless work but also serve as a powerful reminder to future generations of what commitment to uplifting others can achieve. His remarkable legacy is inextricably woven into the very history of this field, and his inspiring story deserves to live on in the space where it all began.

Sincerely,



Grant Bennett

Founder, The Two-Six Project

List of Coach Donald Bennett's Most Recent Players College Commitments

Name	College/University
Shemar Dalton	NC A&T
Elijah Knight	Guilford College
Jason Montague	Coker College
Randy Floyd	UNC Pembroke
Brendan Cuthrell	Guilford College
Mac Gortney	Sewanee
Darren Bowen	UNC Pembroke
Noah Lea	NC A&T
Jason Delossantos	William & Mary
Brandon Butterworth	NCCU
Greg Bello	South Eastern CC
Jett Rutherford	Caldwell CC
Kyle Wimmer	USC Lancaster
DJ Valoy	Grambling St
Brandon Davis	UNC Charlotte
Blake Cheatham	Averett University
Aidan Rice	Davidson College
Nicholas Noto	Samford University
Zach Smith	Cleveland CC
William Bishop	Averett University
CJ Collins	Averett University
Will Flower	Catawba Valley
Cameron Revels	UNC Pembroke
Charles McDowell	UNC Wesleyan
JC Menendez	
TJ Parker	Wake Tech CC
Michael Dansky	Wingate Univ.
Jaylen Mack	SE CC Whitefield / South Eastern CC
Heath Yow	Brevard College

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Gordon Pihl	Brunswick CC
Syncere Pittman	WSSU
John Burton III	Brevard College
Landon Harris	UNC Pembroke
Ras Amon	WSSU
Keith Sherard Jr.	Tuskegee
Garrett Dunn	Coker College
Bryson Horney	Belmont Abbey
Ben Jones	St. Andrews
Robbie Burnette	UNC Asheville
Jaiden Chinnis	West Texas A&M
Clay Haigh	Cleveland CC
Louis Berini	Queens
Antonio Rentas	Cleveland CC
Donovan Whitfield	Norfolk State
Luke Collier	Lee University
Ben Michael	Lenoir Rhyne University
Jonathan Douglas	Florence Darlington CC
Joe McKinney	Francis Marion
Zious Dorley	Wake Tech CC
Caiden Chilausky	UNC Asheville
Tyler Steele	UNC Greensboro
Javier Martinez	Grambling St
Ried Dittner	Brunswick CC
Colby Guy	Jackson St
TJ Ash	NC A&T
Nate Anderson	Cleveland CC
Zachary Ross	Barton College
Justin Clark	Fayetteville
Isaac Gonzales	UNC Asheville
Jackson McLamb	Barton
Zach Smith	Averett University
Ethan Ashlock	Methodist
Hunter Powell	Methodist

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Buddy Howard	Western Carolina
Carson Peggins	Univ. of Lynchburg
Joshua Morgan	Cleveland CC
Bo Trantham	UVA Wise University
George Triplet III	Limestone College
Colby Helms	USC Union
Larson Scholtz	Louisburg
Will Stadler	William Peace College
Nic Keever	Rockingham CC
Christian Glaze	Cleveland CC
Miles Newsome	Brown University
Elliot Darr	Cleveland CC
Griffin Dawes	Guilford Tech
Alex Acosta	Guilford Tech
Wyatt Hedrick	Wake Tech CC
Coltin Hedrick	Wake Tech CC
Matthew Sermeno	Georgian Court University
Logan Teno	Catawba Valley CC
Luke Ligon	Wake Tech CC
Rayce Buskirk	Coker College
Thomas Ealy	Virginia State
Adam Newcomb	Brevard College
Conner Berry	Barton College
Trip Rhoden	Morehouse
Jack Carela	St. Andrews