

WHUB's 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
Special to the Herald Citizen and Plus: 17 July 1990  
Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN

Davidson, Burgess In 28<sup>th</sup> Year

It was 28 years ago that Gene Davidson and Eldon Burgess first teamed together to bring listeners over radio station WHUB a season-opening football game, matching the Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles and the Memphis State Tigers from the Mid-South Coliseum in Memphis.

Since that time, the two have brought sports hungry fans in this area hundreds of football, basketball and baseball games over WHUB radio. This includes not only Tennessee Tech sports, but local high school contests as well.

It was in the springs of 1957 that Davison, a young Tennessee Tech student, got his first taste of broadcasting as a weekend announcer at WHUB.

Since that humble beginning, Davidson has gone on to become what many call the "Dean of Ohio Valley Conference sportscasters."

"I always liked sports and played them some, and it was in Livingston that we used to tape Livingston Academy football and basketball games and play them back the next day," Davidson said.

Returning to WHUB in 1961, Davidson arrived just in time to fill a vacant sports casting slot, for Raymond "Bull" Brown went back into coaching on the staff of then TTU football coach Wilburn Tucker, and Davison took over.

"I remember the first Tech game I broadcast; I think it was the 1962 opener with Memphis State in Memphis. It started to pour rain at the game's beginning, and it was awfully difficult to see the yard markers, I'm not sure what kind of game I called that day," he said.

Incidentally, the quarterback for the Golden Eagles in that Memphis State game was now Golden Eagle head football coach Jim Ragland.

Has Davidson every regretted going into broadcasting, and especially into sportscasting?

"I just drifted into broadcasting, and I enjoy doing the games; sports are enjoyable," he added.

Meanwhile, the road Burgess took to radio was more of a planned affair than that Davidson took.

“I joined WHUB in 1956 after I had graduated from the Tennessee School of Broadcasting in Nashville. I also took engineering at the school,” said Burgess.

In the beginning, Burgess did not do any sports announcing; like Davidson, that work came later.

“My first game was Gene’s first at WHUB - - that Memphis State game in the rain,” he said.

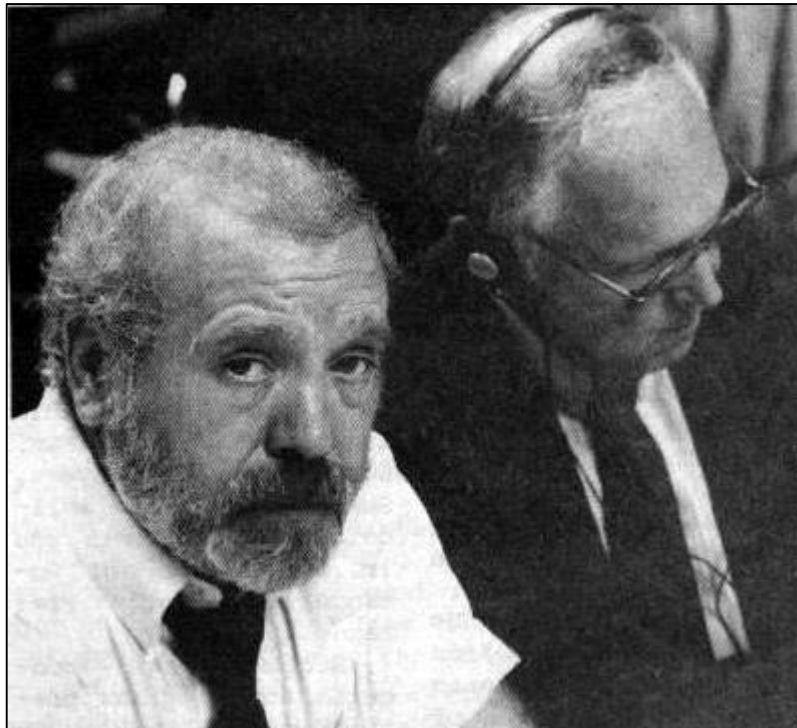
Before getting into sports, Burgess did some announcing and work on program logs - - a kind of jack-of-all trades, he says.

Today, Burgess and Davidson still form the sports voices of Tennessee Tech basketball and football for WHUB. In addition Burgess handles the play-by-play of Cookeville Cavalier High School football and basketball, along with Mike Dyer.

There’s a lot of long hours in working with sports at the station, but it’s a good job, and you get to take trips to many different places - - like Omaha, Nebraska, Las Vegas, New York City, a game we had in Vermilion, South Dakota,” said Burgess.

What spare time Burgess does have, he spends as a part-time salesman for WHUB and working on WHUB-FM computer logs.

<http://www.ajlambert.com>



SPORTING FELLOWS - - Gene Davison and Eldon Burgess have been broadcasting sports together on WHUB since 1962, making them one of the longest running partnerships of any sportscasters in Tennessee.