

Strength halts

grief in death

Keith Henderson's 'spirit' dominates field dedication

By Nick Russo

After last Friday's dedication ceremony, many people in Monroe knew that Keith Henderson field at George Walton Academy was named in honor of a young man who played football for the Bulldogs and who died in an auto accident earlier this year.

What a lot of people may not know is that Keith Henderson was primarily responsible for building that field.

"He actually built the field. He

drove the bulldozer and dug it out. He planted the grass. He weeded and watered it," Rick Eddy, a history teacher at GWA and a close family friend of the Hendersons, said.

Keith was "pretty talented with a bulldozer," Eddy said. Besides the George Walton Academy field, he also did a great deal of work at the Overlook Golf Course, near Loganville, when it was being designed and built.

Actually, Keith was pretty talented in a lot of ways, according

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to those who knew him. Besides his work on the field and on the golf course, he was an excellent football player, was president of the student council at GWA during his senior year and still found time to pursue a strong interest in music.

He played guitar and was especially fond of good, hard-driving rock and roll, along the lines of Hendrix, Led Zeppelin and the Rolling Stones, Eddy explained.

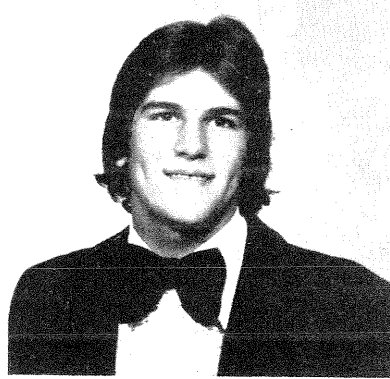
Keith was a standout football player and was the only Bulldog in 1977 to be named best player of the week, best defensive player of the week and best offensive player of the



KEITH HENDERSON
... died in accident

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In Memory of Keith Henderson



Keith Henderson, a member of the senior class at George Walton Academy met with a fatal accident April 2, 1978.

Keith was the son of Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Henderson.

The Senior class would like to dedicate not only this page to you, Keith, but also our lives – to accomplish the things you set out to accomplish, to enjoy the things you would have enjoyed, to laugh at the jokes you would have told.

We have many memories that will last forever – memories of Keith the Clown, Keith the Leader, Keith the Athlete, Keith the Friend, Keith the Brother.

We all grieve, but our grief is not for you, Keith, it is for ourselves. We feel cheated that we were not allowed to spend our lives with you, to carry out the dreams we dreamed together. We feel hurt that you went away without asking if we wanted to go with you, without at least letting us say good-bye.

Our classrooms are empty without you, Keith, but our lives are empty also. Good-bye Keith. We love you.

*The Senior Class
1978*



SCOREBOARD, FIELD DEDICATED TO KEITH HENDERSON
George Walton Coach Ronald Bradley, L, among spectators

week. In fact, he was named best offensive player of the week twice.

In both 1975 and 1976, he was named best defensive lineman for the Bulldogs and in 1977, was awarded the Sportsmanship Award by Bulldog Head Coach Ron Bradley.

Other school activities included playing basketball as a freshman, playing golf as a sophomore and being a member of the Spanish Club for two years.

Keith's parents, J. W. and Mae Henderson of Loganville, his brother, John and his sister, Faye were among the large crowd that saw and heard the moving dedication ceremony Friday night.

At that ceremony, George Hearn III, chairman of the Board of Trustees at George Walton

Academy, read the resolution dedicating the field to Keith Henderson, before Keith's jersey, number 51, was permanently retired.

"We do not come here tonight to mourn one who, in the common acceptance of the term, is dead, but to praise one who is very much alive. He lives in the hearts and memories of many and the beauty and fragrance of his life will be a blessing to all of us as long as we live," Hearn said.

Though there is certainly a great deal of sadness in the Henderson family, there also must be a great deal of pride in the work that Keith did and the example that he left behind — an example of a short life, lived to its fullest.