



Staff photo by Michael Adams

Ed Sanders, left, and Donnie Aldridge share memories with each other and family members Friday before being formally inducted into the Bastrop Sports Hall of Fame.

Aldridge, Sanders inducted into Bastrop Hall of Fame

BY MICHAEL ADAMS
Sports Editor

With the 2009 Bastrop Bears football team lined up behind him and a tentative crowd of roughly 300, a tearful Donnie Aldridge spoke of the barriers he overcame to become one of Bastrop's all-time greats.

Aldridge, along with Ed Sanders, was inducted into the Bastrop Hall of Fame Friday night during halftime festivities at the 2009 Bastrop Spring

Showcase at Erhard Field.

The 1967 graduate was one of the first African-American football players to set foot on Erhard Field.

He voluntarily transferred from Emile High School - the all black high school in Bastrop County before Bastrop was integrated in 1968.

"(Erhard) was sacred ground," Aldridge said. "In 1966, it was a miracle for a black man to be embraced by a white man. When I came to

Bastrop High School, the same kids that were calling me names and fighting with me, became my friends. I was never called the "N" word again after that."

Aldridge was a catalyst in making the transition for players coming from Emile to Bastrop successful and was a key player on the 1966 Bastrop team that went to the state semifinals.

Aldridge gained 1,500 yards
See ALDRIDGE, Page B2

ALDRIDGE: HOF induction 'is a honor'

Continued from Page 1B

and had more than 20 carries that year and is Bastrop's only consensus High School All-American.

In 1966, Aldridge was an all-district, all-CenTex, all-super Centex and all-state selection.

He went on to play football at Arizona Western Junior College and the University of Texas at El Paso.

Being inducted into the Bastrop Hall of Fame is something that Aldridge said he will always hold dear to his heart.

"This is an honor," he

said. "When I was growing up, I had always dreamed about playing football on Erhard Field. I would stand at the fence and go watch the Bears never thinking I would get to play there."

Aldridge said it was Sanders who became his closest friend, as the two competed for the same position on the 1966 football team.

Sanders, who is currently an assistant principal at the Bastrop ninth-grade campus., moved to fullback in 1966 and was a three-time all-district selection in both football and bas-

ketball. He was also an all-state selection in football in 1967 at defensive end.

"I have been a Bastrop Bear all my life," Sanders said. "This is a great honor."

Sanders went on to letter in football at Lamar University before transferring to the University of Texas at Austin, where he graduated with honors with a Bachelor of Science degree in Health and Physical Education.

He received his Master's of Education from Southwest Texas State University in 1981.