

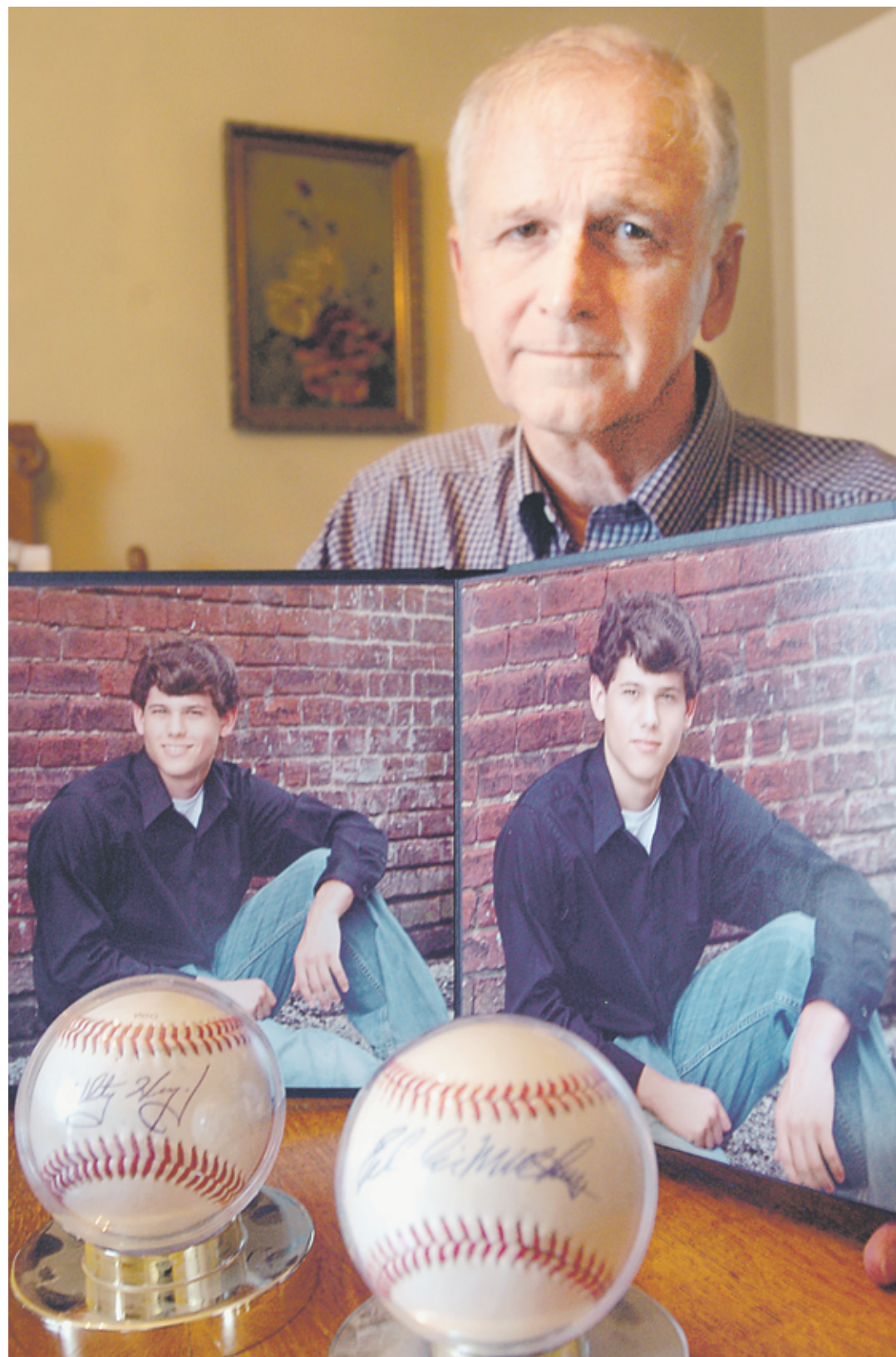
SPORTS

GENERALS
JACKSON DROPS
FINALE IN HUNTSVILLE, B2

SAM BOMAR NIGHT

Living legacy

Memorabilia auction this weekend for Bomar Scholarship fund



By David Thomas
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*“Baseball cards and birthdays take me back to a world gone away, memories, seem like yesterday”
 — Old Days, Chicago*

Perhaps somewhere on the baseball memorabilia Hugh Bomar has collected over the years, there just might be a fingerprint that belonged to his late son, Sam.

“I started collecting in the early 90s,” Hugh said. “The reason I did it, it was something to pass on to our son, and now that I don’t have any one to pass it on to, it’s a good way to raise funds for the scholarship.”

Sam Bomar passed away May 2010, from an accidental shooting, and his father is putting his baseball collection on the auction block Friday at Pringles Park.

The occasion is the second annual Sam Bomar Night at the Jackson Generals, followed by Saturday’s 8 a.m., Sam Bomar 5K Run/Walk at Pringles.

The combined events raised approximately \$30,000 in scholarship money in 2010.

“(Accident) is absolutely the worst thing that could happen to anybody,” Hugh said. “Rayna (Hugh’s wife) is extremely involved, and she is a lot stronger than I have been.”

Unable to find the strength to become involved in the organization of the scholarship drive, Hugh felt this was one way he could contribute.

“I broke down when the accident occurred, and I haven’t gotten strong enough yet to get out and try to organize ... ask people to join in,” Hugh said. “It’s something I can’t explain ... the pain of losing him, it’s just getting worse.”

“I like to talk about him, but I don’t want to mess something up, trying to organize something.”

Hugh said Rayna, their niece,

Hugh Bomar, holds up photos of his son, Madison Academic High School baseball player, the late Sam Bomar. An auction, featuring items such as signed baseballs by Whitey Herzog and Eddie Matthews, will be held for the Sam Bomar Scholarship Fund during a Jackson Generals baseball game on Friday.

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Bomar

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Angela Snider and one of Sam’s best friends, Bree McCuin, came up with the idea of selling the baseball collection.

“They started kicking the idea around,” Hugh said. “They were just gathering dust.”

Hugh remembers a time when he gathered autographed cards, photographs and baseballs from a virtual “Who’s Who” in Major League Baseball — names such as Hank Aaron, Bob Feller, Bob Gibson and Roger Maris.

Hugh didn’t have to pause when asked what he considered the crown jewel.

“There is one that stands out,” Hugh said. “The same one that interested Sam, interested me. It was Joe DiMaggio, Mickey Mantle and (Boston’s) Ted Williams all in the same photo.”

The moment was captured the only year The Mick and Joltin’ Joe played the same season with the New York Yankees.

“I bought it in Knoxville and spent a fortune,” Hugh said. “Most of (autographs) I got by sending (collection) to these individual players, but that one stands out more than any of the others, if you can imagine.”

Hugh said it was about one month before Sam’s passing that his son looked at the collection for the first time.

“He went through them carefully, and he was excited about them,” Hugh said. “They sat on a shelf for years, and we never paid much attention to



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Hugh Bomar, father of Madison Academic High School baseball player, the late Sam Bomar, will be auctioning off memorabilia for the Sam Bomar Memorial Scholarship Fund during the Jackson Generals baseball game on June 17.



SAM BOMAR NIGHT AND 5K

• **Sam Bomar Night** is Friday night at Pringles Park when the Jackson Generals play the Carolina Mudcats at 7:05 p.m. Funds from pre-purchased tickets go toward the scholarship fund. The memorabilia auction will take place during the game.

• **Sam Bomar Memorial 5K Run/Walk** will be Saturday at 8 a.m. at Pringles Park. Registration begins at 7 a.m. with a \$20 entry fee.

them.”

The value of the collection cannot compare to the pleasure Hugh had while watching his son play the game they both loved, especially as a member of Madison Academic’s baseball team.

“One time, (Madison) was playing South Side, and he made a running, shoe-string back-handed catch, while in a full gallop,” Hugh said. “He pulled the ball out of his glove and threw it home ...

one of the most spectacular plays I had seen.”

Hugh also recalls what he saw when he expressed himself vocally.

“I remember letting out a yelp and yelling, ‘That’s my boy,’” Hugh said. “He heard it out on the field ... and he had a grin. Even the South Side (public address) announcer complimented him on such a good play.”

For Hugh, that will always live on, and he’s hoping his son’s legacy

will as well.

“Well, it’s important not to let him be forgotten,” Hugh said. “There are no siblings, no wife or child to remember him ... he’s got a bunch of real good friends, and they will remember him.”

“I’m surprised about the stories I’ve heard about him, and it makes me more determined than ever that he’s not to be forgotten.”

And Hugh will never forget the child he taught how to bait a hook, clean a fish or skin a squirrel.

“We did all those things that dads should do with their sons,” Hugh said. “We had a lot of fun, and I’m always glad to talk to anybody who wants to talk to me about him ... he was a special young guy.”

— David Thomas, 425-9637