



Harold Williams (left) and Jimmy Gillis

Duo's volunteerism has filled hearts, stomachs of generations of BA students

An iconic scene in one of history's greatest baseball movies, *Field of Dreams*, features the character Ray Kinsella, played by Kevin Costner, after he built a baseball field in his backyard asking the ghost of Shoeless Joe Jackson, "I want to know what's in it for me?"

Harold Williams and Jimmy Gillis have never asked that question. For more than 30 years the selfless duo, born on the same day, in the same town, Morton, in 1930, have cooked hamburgers, chicken sandwiches, and sausage dogs for the Brookhaven Academy concession stand at countless Cougars sporting events.

Williams and Gillis are reminded of 'what's in it for them' every time a former student athlete stops by to say hello and eat their food.

"People have come to depend on us and we aim to never let them down," Williams said. Gillis chimed in, "and we may be a little slow keeping up with all the orders sometimes, but we'll get them all fed."

Even the opposing fans know to wait until they get to the ballpark to eat their meal.

"I had a parent from Central Private tell me once," said Williams, "that he made his entire family wait on supper because he knew the 'two old guys' would be cooking at the ballgame." "He remembered us from the previous season."

Baseball is not the only sport they have given decades of service to. Williams ran the game clock for basketball for 21 years and Gillis has kept the scorebook for 19 years.

After 30-plus years of service to BA, which includes dozens of school related projects, there have been many ups and downs, but when asked, the duo said almost in unison - "We've enjoyed every minute of it."