

## FOR STAMPS, COUGAR FOOTBALL 'SAVED ME'



As all the stars aligned for the Brookhaven Academy Cougars 2009 football state championship season everyone around the program came away with lasting memories. One BA graduate even credits that team with pulling him out of depression and anguish.

"I give God the glory for my story," said Warren Stamps ('77). "Cougar football saved me."

Stamps was admittedly in a dark place following a divorce when a friend, Keith Lucas, asked him to come along to see Lucas's son Will, then a sophomore on the Cougars football team, kickoff their season. The joy and excitement that followed as the Cougars reeled of a 15-0 season, the second state championship for then head coach Herbert Davis at his alma mater, helped Stamps regain focus and build his successful landscape business, Rainbow Landscape Contractors.

While some of the Academy's benefactors give monetary gifts, Stamps has given back to BA through his labor and ingenious landscape design skills, as natural as a rainbow, as his company's motto suggests.

"Sometimes God uses other Christians to help us and we usually don't even see it coming," Stamps said. "That football team believed in themselves and they helped me believe in myself again. My good friend Keith (Lucas) would call me every week and I really looked forward to traveling to the road games too!"

Stamps recalls playing football briefly as a junior high student at BA back when they met at Whitworth College, now the Mississippi School for the Arts.

"Coach Crotwell held practice at Whitworth and I remember getting flattened by a couple of seniors," Stamps said. Until 2009 at BA, that was pretty much my experience with high school football," he said with a laugh.

Stamps has given of himself on many mission trips, both in and out of the country, since 1992. He is known for his humble and meek spirit and his penchant for helping out anyone that has a need,

especially of the horticultural variety. When called by his alma mater to design a one-of-a-kind outdoor garden classroom Stamps jumped in to the project feet first.

“To this day I just loving coming back to BA so when the science teachers asked me to help with the project, I started praying about it,” Stamps said. “I wanted God to reveal to me what His plans were for this project. It’s a very large space.”

Stamps donated his labor for a project that was completely funded by grants and private donations. Stamps gave extra river rock from Rainbow when needed and even bought five large trees with his own money.

“God has given me talents and I just want to use them,” said Stamps. “It’s what we’re called to do as Christians.”