

2 Homecoming queens separated by 40 years

By Jaxcyn Craig

Mrs. Dawn Lafrenz, a Durant elementary school associate, was voted Durant's Homecoming queen in 1984 and still remembers the event fondly.

Now her friend's daughter, Lauren Callison, shares the same crown 40 years later.

Mrs. Lafrenz was crowned during half time Friday night of a Durant football game.

The Muscatine Corvette Club rented Corvettes for members of the court that year, and they paraded around the track in the cars. Mrs. Lafrenz remembers that the students built real floats with chicken wire wrapped around a hay rack. Students would go to someone's house or garage to build the floats.

The parade was held on a Friday at 2:30 p.m. during the school day for just one year. This was different from the regular schedule when the parade was held in the evening.

"So we kind of broke a lot of tradition and just tried different things," said Mrs. Lafrenz.

The theme for Homecoming was the song "Purple Rain" by Prince. The dance was held in the high school gym that year. The student council decorated the gym. Mrs. Lafrenz never had to give any speeches. The Homecoming king that year was John Vastine. He now lives in Minnesota.

As Homecoming queen, Mrs. Lafrenz felt it was important to just be herself.

“Treat everybody the same whether you're a freshman or a senior,” said Mrs. Lafrenz. She says it was a fun time being chosen queen, and she never really was treated differently by any students afterwards.

Mrs. Lafrenz is friends with Mrs. Leslie Callison, a Durant elementary school teacher. Mrs. Callison's daughter, Lauren, was chosen as Durant's newest Homecoming queen in September, and Lauren said that it was a “surreal moment” that she will never forget.

Lauren's family is very proud of this moment. Her mom and dad hugged her after being crowned.

Lauren has known Mrs. Lafrenz her whole life. Lauren's brothers and Mrs. Lafrenz' sons grew up together in Durant. Lauren still sees Mrs. Lafrenz at school sporting events.