

http://www.scnow.com/sports/article_f5bef7b2-4f3f-11e8-adeb-e31276da6772.html

Former standout pitcher from Pee Dee dies at 50

From staff reports May 3, 2018

A former standout pitcher in the Pee Dee died Thursday.

Johnny Ard, 50, of Valdosta, Ga., died at South Georgia Medical Center.

Ard played youth and high school baseball in Hemingway before moving on to a college career at Francis Marion.

In 1988, Ard was a first-round draft pick of the Minnesota Twins and later played for the San Francisco Giants organization.

He was an avid outdoorsman.

Survivors are his wife, Bonnie, sons, Luke Ard and Jude Ard all of Valdosta; his mother, Nina Dewitt of California, and a brother, Joey Ard of South Carolina. Johnny was preceded in death by his father, Harley Proctor Ard and a brother, Jimbo Ard.

A memorial service will be held at 4 p.m. Tuesday at Park Avenue United Methodist Church. Rev. Hale Bishop and Mr. Justin Crenshaw will officiate. The family will receive friends following the memorial service at the church. Condolences may be conveyed online at www.mclanecares.com.