

2015 Spring Newsletter

Legendary Coach Stressed the Game of Life

By Ron Flynn

It would be hard to argue with the fact that Gayle Hoover was one of the greatest basketball coaches and players in the history of South Dakota.

As a player, his career began at Washington High School where he led the team in scoring his senior year. He played for coaches Wally Diehl, Arnie Bauer and Grant Heckinlively from 1952-54.

He remembers Diehl as a disciplinarian and very knowledgeable about the game. He made basketball a challenge but fun to come to practice and work hard. Diehl prepared Hoover well as he went on to excel at the University of Sioux Falls. Hoover remembers not starting his first game at USF (then known as Sioux Falls College), but he came off the bench to score 18 points. He started every game after that.

Hoover went on to set a South Dakota college career scoring record of 2,169 points, a record that stood for around 13 years. Teams didn't play as many games then as today, but his scoring average over four years would be hard for anyone to beat: 24.4 points per game.

He still holds the scoring record at USF, and his jersey number 12 was retired. College coaches he played under were Phil Tinsworth, Jack LaSalle and Sammy Hasegawa. Hoover enjoyed his years at USF and learned that a coach could be demanding, without a lot of ranting and raving or foul language. All of his coaches were true gentlemen with solid



Gayle Hoover coached Parker to 577 victories in 34 years with a winning rate of 73 percent.

Parker Players Share Memories Page 3

Christian backgrounds.

Another benefit of having attended USF was meeting his future wife, Clarkie Hutchison, on the very day he went to register. She was working part-time in the business office.

They later had a history class together and fell in love. That love affair has now lasted for more than 59 years of marriage, and was highlighted by the birth of daughters Kathy, Robin and Nancy. Their daughters are now married to Ron Fujan, Byron Nogelmeier and Rob Kunz, respectively. The Hoovers also have six grandchildren.

Hoover said some of the best players he played against in college would include Gordie Fosness of Dakota Wesleyan, Dale Hall from Huron College, Chuck

Neller at South Dakota Tech and Marv Rasmussen of Northern State. He played with some talented teammates as well, such as Don Renner, Lynus Pickert, Kenny Anderson, Jim Fett, and his cousin Ike Hoover who dished out a lot of assists to Gayle.

Even today, Hoover can remember the excitement he felt on the day of a game as a 7th grader. That excitement, anticipation, sweaty palms, etc., continued throughout his playing and coaching careers.

His greatest thrill came from watching the development of confidence in athletes from scared freshmen to successful, mature, respectful individuals in addition to becoming accomplished players.

Hoover coached one year in Minnesota before returning to be closer to home. He and his wife settled in Parker, where he coached and taught biology while Clarkie became an English teacher and librarian. During the 34 years

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Legendary Coach Stressed the Game of Life

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he coached at Parker High School his Pheasants won 577 games while losing only 217. His win total stood as a state record for close to 20 years.

One thing his teams had in common was the 2-1-2 zone, which he taught a bit differently than other teams who used that defense.

The way his teams played the 2-1-2 allowed them to put pressure on the ball, maintain good rebounding position, and allow them to play successfully against taller teams. He also liked to fast break and would utilize a full-court press from time to time.

His motto was: "Keep it simple; do it well." He believes hard work, dedication and respect for a team concept was and remains the recipe for a winning program. Hoover's teams won 13 conference championships and finished second 14 times. They won 12 districts and eight regionals.

While his teams never captured a state title, they always were competitive at state, finishing second on three occasions, third once, and consolation champion on another occasion. Parker had some good teams before Hoover



Gayle Hoover

came to town, but they had never qualified for the "Big B" before his team earned a trip in 1964.

When I asked Hoover if he was ever tempted to

give college coaching a try he said that he had thought about it but really enjoyed working with high school athletes. The parents were a great part of the program as well so this made for a good coaching experience.

When asked how the game has changed today he mentioned that kids are faster, stronger and better prepared as they enter high school. Offenses use fewer set plays than before, while defense still comes down to hard work. A problem he observes today is the lack of boxing out for rebounds and not seeing the whole floor.

A player who has good fundamental skills, a desire to work hard and improve, will have success. Attitude is very important.

He worries about the high cost of some of the camps and traveling teams and how that

might work to the detriment of young athletes who can't come up with the money to play.

Hoover's advice to young coaches would be to love the game and to motivate athletes while teaching them the true meaning of sportsmanship and teamwork.

The list of honors Coach Gayle Hoover has won is too lengthy to detail completely, but a few of his awards include:

- 1975 S.D. Boys Basketball Coach of the Year
- 1975 National Coach of the Year Candidate
- 1984 S.D. Intercollegiate Conference Hall of Fame
- 1985 ASA Softball Hall of Fame
- 1987 S.D. High School Coaches Hall of Fame
- 1994 S.D. High School Activities Association Distinguished Service Award
- 2006 National High School Athletic Coaches Hall of Fame
- 2009 Athletic Directors Hall of Fame

(Ron Flynn graduated from Parker High School and Dakota State University. He is a member of the Hall of Fame board of directors.)

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Hoover Influence has had Enduring Impact

“As I reflect back on playing for Coach Gayle Hoover, there are numerous things that I remember but here are a few:

He was a great teacher first and foremost, and I believe to be a great coach you have to be able to teach the game. He stressed the fundamentals but kept things simple. He taught you how to be instinctive, which I feel was always a key to his teams being so well prepared, especially at tournament time.

Coach inspired his players and teams to play at a high level. He instilled confidence and I’ve always felt that his teams played better than the talent he was dealt. The essence of coaching, in my opinion, is to get people to achieve and execute at a level beyond their talent and skill. Coach had a unique ability to do that.

Lastly and maybe most importantly, he always wanted us to be gentlemen, on and off the court. As I was growing up, other than my parents, he was the one person I didn’t want to disappoint. I think about life lessons that he would share and I know that many of those lessons had a huge impact on me as a person, a coach and a parent.”

Mike Begeman

Parker ‘75/Augustana College ‘79

“When people talk about Coach Hoover they often bring up the tough 2-1-2 zone defense. But when I think of Coach I always tell the story of how he was instrumental in keeping me from going down a bad road. I was a good kid, but trouble always seemed to follow me and as a result I was making some bad choices as an 8th grader.

You could say I was at the fork in the road. But I made the right choice, thanks to Coach. When I was a freshman, during P.E., he pulled me aside and taught me how to shoot a jump shot. For him to do that was not only inspiring, but motivational. He believed in me.

Everyone wanted to play for Coach. I didn’t want to let my teammates down, but mostly I didn’t want to let him down.

Coach was a disciplinarian and expected hard work. Someone said, ‘Hoover gives his players water breaks, but they will give two head fakes and a pivot on the way.’ Coach said he wanted his players to be good on the court, but better off. Three people had a big impact on my life: my dad, my college football coach and Coach Hoover.”

Don Jorgensen

Parker ‘82/Dakota Wesleyan University ‘86

“Gayle Hoover was a coach that demanded his players’ respect.

Memories of his coaching philosophy were evident in the habits he instilled in players to be self-disciplined doing the things that would make them successful and that unsuccessful players were reluctant to do.

I recall jumping rope so many times with wrist, ankle and waist weights on and of course playing the 2-1-2 zone with those same weights on with your hands up.

As strict as he was, it was a privilege to have played for him. I’m sure most of his players probably feel the same way.”

Lee Stoddard

Parker ‘64/Dakota State University ‘68

“Coach Hoover. Thinking back of memories of Coach, the first things that come to mind are respect, confidence and pride.

Everyone had a great deal of respect for Coach. He had a tremendous reputation, and we all looked forward to the day we would get to play for him.

He had a way of giving each player confidence in their ability and he would give the team a great deal of confidence in any game we went into. He also had a way of instilling pride in us and making basketball, our team, school and community things we were proud of.

He did things to make playing for him special. I remember him getting the record player out, and we could even bring some of our own fire-up music if we wanted to listen to that.

There were several things that Coach did to help us become successful on the court, but more importantly, helping to mold us to be successful in life. I know choosing a career as a teacher and coach I was influenced tremendously by Coach. There were numerous traditions that I took from his teachings and tried to instill them in the teams that I later coached as well.

I enjoyed the four years I had an opportunity to play for Coach, and I always appreciated the way he treated us when we came back to Parker. Even though we were done playing, we were still part of his Team. Even though it has been nearly 40 years, I still cherish the memories of playing for Parker and for Coach. He is a Hall of Famer.”

Kelly Flynn

Parker ‘76/University of South Dakota ‘80

Yankton Dominance Defined One-Class Era

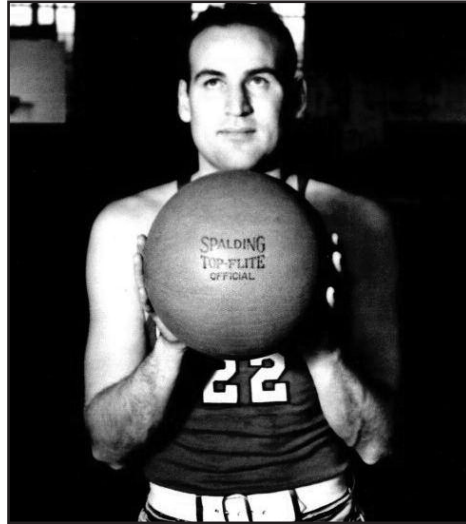
By Bob Swanhorst

When South Dakota's High School Basketball interests finally decided to have a statewide tournament it was a one-class affair. Although the South Dakota Athletic Association was formed in 1905, it was an avid sports enthusiast from Huron College who initially got the ball rolling for a state tournament in 1912.

Mr. Charles W. Hochstetler served Huron College from 1907 until 1919. When Hochstetler resigned for a similar position at Rawlins College, Florida, the local newspaper's account was glowing. "He (Hochstetler) was always willing to do anything he could for the College and, looking over the different things he did, one is tempted to say he could do nearly everything. He was in Huron 'always on the job,' a good teacher and exceptionally skillful executive. The Faculty loses a Professor of History, a registrar, and chairman of the committee on courses of study." The paragraph ended by saying Hochstetler personified athletics in Huron. It is his "personification of athletics" that gave him a special place in the history of high school basketball.

For nine years the tournament was held in Huron and interest and expansion marked every year. After four years it was turned over to the South Dakota Athletic Association. By 1916 the growing pains were quite evident. 26 teams showed up. Two sites in Huron had to be utilized as games were packed into the two-day affair. The following year districts were employed with 55 teams playing off in seven district tourneys.

From 1912 to 1921 the tourney was not really dominated by the larger schools across the state as Redfield, Salem and Elkton had all won championships. Beginning in



Ray Hamann starred at Yankton before playing at the University of Wisconsin.

1922 that all changed. Yankton High School went on to win seven of the next 10 years of state tournaments. What were the reasons behind this dominance? The most logical answer could be projected as superior coaching with ample talent available. Especially evident was center Ray Hamann. Hamann started and was all-tourney for four years. At 6'5" he was said to have controlled 95 percent of all jump balls. Jump balls were extremely important during those early years because the rules mandated a jump ball following field goals.

Whatever the reasons, a two-class system was on the horizon. One year before Yankton's seventh title in 1931 a two-tournament system was introduced in 1930. It failed miserably both financially and in attendance. District runner-ups went to a "B" tournament and the champs went to the other tourney. For that year it seemed no one really cared for a "losers" tournament. However, with Aberdeen, Sioux Falls Washington and Mitchell winning the next tourneys, a "B" tourney, based on the size of schools, was established and it ran from 1936 until 1984.

From time to time the tourneys needed some tweaking but the two-class system proved to be extremely popular. Incidentally, that last tourney in 1935 had gross revenue of almost \$4,700.00 and a net of \$2,680.00. Two referees were used at a total cost of \$258.00 for the entire tournament.

The coaches of those Yankton teams were Clem Letich and Warren W. Stephenson. Letich won in 1922, 1923, 1924 and 1925. Stephenson won in 1928, 1929 and 1931. Records and some oral history passed down over the years tell us that the Yankton teams of 1924 and 1931 were especially impressive. Chicago held a National High School Tourney in those days. As many as 44 of the 48 states were sometimes represented and Yankton represented South Dakota very well. In 1924 Yankton ended as runner-up at that tournament. 1930 was the last and final year for the National Tourney. Who knows what Yankton's 1931 team could have done at the nationals as they ended the season 31-0? They have been considered by many to be one of South Dakota's greatest high school teams.



Warren Stephenson

What effect and how much those great Yankton teams and all those championships prompted a two-class system can never be entirely known. A host of states kept to a one-class system for years. Most notably in this area were Indiana and Minnesota. For South Dakota, Yankton had been nicknamed "Mother City of the Dakotas" and it is not a stretch to regard their early basketball prowess as the "Mother of a Two-Class play-off system" in South Dakota.

Hall of Fame Members



- A**
Carla Allard-Watson,
Bennett County '87 – 2015
Rich Andrzejewski,
Arlington '69 – 2014
Richard "Milt" Authier,
Woonsocket '67 – 2014
- B**
Bruce Bad Moccasin,
Pierre '67 – 2010
JoElle (Byre) Benson,
Washington '82 – 2011
Scott Bosanko, Aberdeen '77 – 2013
Julie (Harmacek) Bridge,
Avon '83 – 2014
Steve Brown, Hamlin '74 – 2010
Gerhardt "G.E." Buenning,
Parkston '66 – 2014
Amy Burnett, Huron '91 – 2015
- C**
Harry Carleton,
Washington '43 – 2011
Lee Colburn,
Brookings '69 – 2015
- D**
Katie Dailey, Jefferson '81 – 2015
Chris Divich, Doland '52 – 2013
Terry DuPris,
Cheyenne-Eagle Butte '76 – 2011
Jim Dyer, Willow Lake '60 – 2015
- E**
John Eidsness, Canton '66 – 2015
- F**
Randy Fletcher, Reliance '65 – 2012
Gordon Fosness, Presho '53 – 2011
Mike Freier, Tripp '67 – 2015
Bart Friedrich, Mitchell '85 – 2014
- G**
Diane (Hiemstra) Gabriel,
Yankton '80 – 2011
Carol (Freeman) Galbraith,
Canova '79 – 2013
Barry Glanzer, Armour '78 – 2012
Max Gonzenbach,
Milbank '54 – 2010
DuWayne Groos,
Sisseton '62 – 2014
Cathy (Coyle) Grubb,
Belle Fourche '79 – 2011
- H**
Clyde Hagen, Webster '66 – 2013
Ray Hamann, Yankton '31 – 2015
Steve Hammer, Pierpont '69 – 2014
Becky Hammon, Stevens '95 – 2010
Greg Hansen, Hurley '70 – 2012
Garney Henley, Hayti '55 – 2013
Luther Hippe, Washington '83 – 2014
- I**
Chuck Iverson, Vermillion '69 – 2015
Jim Iverson, Platte '48 – 2010
- J**
Don Jacobsen,
Lake Norden '57 – 2010
Randy Jencks, De Smet '71 – 2012
Becky (Flynn) Jensen,
Wakonda '92 – 2010
- K**
Eric Kline, Aberdeen '91 – 2012
Mandy Koupal, Wagner '99 – 2014
- L**
Jimmy Lovley, Elkton '20 – 2015
Lance Luitjens, Custer '92 – 2010
Jerry Lund, Belle Fourche '57 – 2013
- M**
Tom Malchow, Aberdeen '61 – 2011
Lien Marso, Harrold '51 – 2014
Tom McGrann,
Watertown '59 – 2010
Jesse Mendoza,
Cheyenne-Eagle Butte '71 – 2012
Rod Merriam, Huron '80 – 2010
Phil Miedema, Hitchcock '58 – 2014
Amy Mickelson, Brookings '86 – 2013
Alan Miller, Stickney '81 – 2011
Mike Miller, Mitchell '98 – 2013
Jim Mitchell,
S.D. School for Deaf '54 – 2015
Myron Moen, Sisseton '63 – 2012
Colleen Moran, Stickney '79 – 2014
- N**
Chad Nelson, Yankton '74 – 2013
Roger Nelson, Brookings '54 – 2011
Rick Nissen, Miller '72 – 2011
- O**
Lori (Wohlleber) O'Farrell,
Summit '86 – 2014
Tom Orton, Madison '65 – 2012
- P**
Harley Petersen, Hayti '54 – 2011
Courtney (Stapp) Pool,
Newell '94 – 2012
- R**
Marv Rasmussen,
Claremont '55 – 2015
Julie (Jensen) Rozell,
Langford '91 – 2015
Renee Ruesink,
Castlewood '84 – 2013
- S**
Rena Sallquist,
Brookings '86 – 2011
Jim Schlekeway, Britton '64 – 2013
John Sivesind, Roosevelt '96 – 2015
Terry Slattery,
Salem St. Mary's '56 – 2011
Gene Smith, Watertown '47 – 2010
Taran Stapp, Newell '96 – 2012
Karla Stevenson, Hamlin '83 – 2012
Bob Stewart, Aberdeen '49 – 2012
Wayne Stone, Mitchell '41 – 2013
Jason Sutherland,
Watertown '93 – 2012
Jim Sutton, Onida '53 – 2011
Bob Swanhorst, Cresbard '57 – 2010
Wendy Swanhorst,
Cresbard '78 – 2013
Rex Swett, Huron '58 – 2010
- T**
Jim Tays, Gettysburg '50 – 2015
Kim Templeton, Miller '72 – 2011
Denver Ten Broek,
McIntosh '99 – 2014
Mark Tetzlaff, Hamlin '81 – 2014
Jack Theeler, Sisseton '63 – 2012
John Thomas, Alexandria '65 – 2010
Robin (Anderson) Thormodsgaard,
Clear Lake '80 – 2010
Harold Thune, Murdo '37 – 2010
LaMoine Torgerson,
Forestburg '59 – 2012
- V**
Lisa Van Goor, Yankton '80 – 2010
- W**
Marty Waukazoo,
Rapid City '67 – 2013
Chuck Welke, Warner '94 – 2013
Vince Whipple, Rapid City '56 – 2015
Willie White, Pine Ridge '87 – 2014
Jerry Wingen, Canova '56 – 2011
Kris (Holwerda) Woerner,
Brookings '81 – 2014
- Read bios at www.sdbbhof.com

Brothers Drove Ravinia to “B” Prominence

By Bob Swanhorst

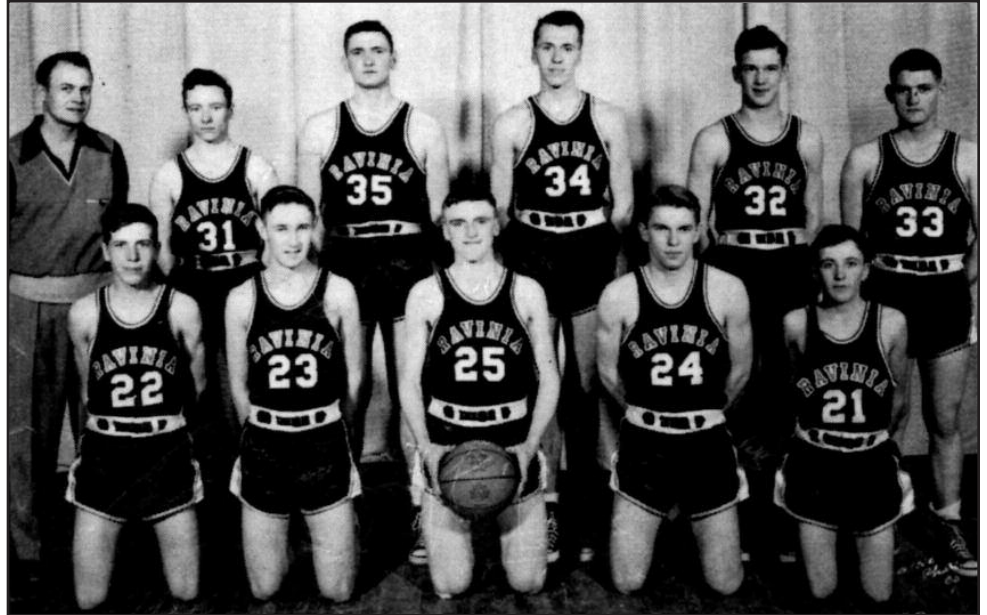
Big “B” Comes of Age

In many ways 1953 was the beginning of the “B” Tourney becoming South Dakota’s Sporting Event of the year. District and Regional Tourneys were drawing record numbers, the city of Huron had just completed a beautiful Arena, and rural interest in basketball was mushrooming. Three schools in the ‘53 tournament had less than 60 students in high school. Pride seemed to have overcome the lack of numbers.

The 32 District Tourneys took in almost \$65,000.00, and the eight regional sites took in almost \$24,000.00. It seemed the only thing that held back even larger receipts was lack of seating at the play-off sites. The State Athletic Association stated an attendance figure of 33,951 for the state tourney. The six sessions drew record crowds from an estimated seating of 6,000 at the Huron Arena. The Friday night crowd of 6,700 was a record and total receipts were \$9,000.00 more than ever recorded for a state tourney.

The semi-final night also experienced another first. Mitchell Daily Republic Sportswriter Les Helgeland wrote: “After the Arena was filled to capacity and the remaining tourney-goers were turned away from the door, permission was granted to set up a short-circuit television camera in the corner of the gym. The game was televised and was witnessed on screens in four down-town Huron business firms.”

Although attendance and receipts spoke volumes about the tournament the product on the court was equally as impressive. Onida was regarded as a slight



The 1953 Bears were, from left, front, Russell Sorenson, Vernon Dvorak, Glenn Smith, Loren Romman, Warren Hawley. Back, Coach “Ike” Oleson, Dale Carda, Dale Hall, Dan Morrow, Jim Davis and Neil Hall. Ravinia took second in the “B” and finished the season with a 25-4 record.



Dale Hall



Neil Hall

favorite, but it was a wide-open affair. One of the most impressive entries in ‘53 was a dark horse team out of Ravinia.

The ‘53 Ravinia Bears

The Ravinia Bears featured a pair of brothers. Neil and Dale Hall. Outstanding brothers on the same team were common in Class B circles. In 1952 Ipswich had the Hammrich brothers, Leo and Harvey, and Dell Rapids had the Rileys, Jim and Virg.

Neil and Dale Hall’s father, Casey, ran a gas station/garage in

Ravinia. At one time three Hall brothers were on the team; Verle a senior, Neil a sophomore and Dale a freshman. They were called the Casey Oilers in local circles, but with time and developing talent, the Casey Oilers soon became one of South Dakota’s best high school basketball teams. Ravinia flourished under the skillful guidance of Coach “Ike” Oleson. The other starters in ‘53 were Dale Carda, Dan Morrow and Jim Davis.

When Ravinia won their first ever District Crown by beating Wagner (59-49) it was Neil’s 24 points that led the way followed by Dale’s 16. The following week at the regional finals Dale scored 29 and Neil hit for 16 in a win over Wakonda and Milt Sorenson (66-51).

The following week it was on to the state tourney. Ravinia entered the State Tournament with a 23-3 record. Hayti loomed as Ravinia’s first round opponent. Coaching Hayti was Jim Marking and their 29-0 record made them extremely formidable. They also had players

Brothers Drove Ravinia to “B” Prominence

that later became household names such as Garney Henley, Harley Peterson and Harvey Schaefer to mention a few. Neil Hall had a great game scoring 23 points and Dale got 16 additional points in a big win over Hayti (49-45).

The semi-finals found Ravinia beating Emery in a hard fought battle (55-52). Dale Hall began to really shine. He had 24 points and scored three points in the final 57 seconds to secure the win. Onida handed Franklin and their one-two punch of Jerry Thomas and Paul Olson a defeat by a score of 76-47. That set up the Championship battle between Ravinia and Onida.

In a tough, close battle, Onida prevailed 51-45. Dick Dozier of the Argus Leader wrote, “For Ravinia the stand was a gallant one. The Bears from Charles Mix County and CMD champions were never out of contention. The Warriors stiff-armed their challenge with a telling control game which erupted with only one shot in the last five minutes.” Dale Hall led Ravinia with 18 points and Morrow had 11. Onida’s Jim Sutton had 21.

Harley Zephier, a brilliant sophomore out of Mission, led tournament scoring with 86 points

and Dale Hall was next with 58. Sutton was third at 54. Zephier and Hall were the only unanimous all-tourney picks on the 11-man squad. Neil Hall and Morrow were Honorable Mention. The Ravinia Bears had indeed established themselves in high school basketball circles from the old days of “The Casey Oilers.”

Dale Hall’s basketball career continued at Huron College under Coach Wid Trussler for three years and Darrell Mudra for Dale’s senior year. Dale’s reputation as one of South Dakota’s finest players in high school and college became quite evident. He amassed 1,742 points which was a Huron College record. It stood from 1958 until broken by Steve Hammer (Pierpont) in the early 1970s. Dale played with names like Vern McKee, Joe Lockwood, Tony Adams, Ralph Weddle, Bill Arteman and Neil Doeden (he transferred later) while at Huron College.

Both Neil and Dale Hall graduated from Huron College in 1958. They had high praise for the college and all the support they received from the Tschetter-Hohm Clinic. Ironically both entered the field of education as coaches and

initially played one another in their coaching debuts. Neil was at Fairfax and Dale at Geddes. The balance of their careers was spent as superintendents, Dale at Wagner and Neil at Corsica.

Three Generations of Halls in State Tournaments

For six decades and three generations there were Halls in South Dakota State Tournaments. After Neil and Dale in 1953, Dale’s son Mike was to follow. Dale was at Wagner and in 1974 his son Mike played on the Wagner team that went to the State “B”. They defeated Leola (56-55) for seventh place. Mike’s son Eric played for Huron High School. The state divided into three classes in 1985. Huron won their way into the State “AA” in 2004. They beat O’Gorman 75-69 in the Class AA Championship game held in Rapid City. Eric was a 6-7 senior and made first team all-state. Eric went on to letter all four years while at the University of South Dakota. He made all-NCC in 2007 as a junior and as a senior in 2008. The LITTLE town of Ravinia and the name Hall has had a BIG impact on South Dakota basketball.

Coming in the 2015 Fall Newsletter

Chris Divich was a multi-talented 6-foot-3 forward who ranked among our state’s finest high school basketball players.

He left small-town South Dakota in pursuit of major-college competition. The eventful path Divich followed eventually took him to a position of leadership as one of the country’s most respected military figures.

Along the way Divich played collegiately in one of America’s most revered arenas for an immortal coach who is a member of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. And he forged a lasting friendship with the most dominant player in basketball history.

During his decorated military career Divich, whose service

initially began as a combat pilot, was awarded the prestigious ‘Order of the Sword.’ It is the highest honor the enlisted corps can bestow upon a senior officer in the U.S. Air Force.

Read about Divich in the South Dakota High School Basketball Hall of Fame’s upcoming 2015 Fall Newsletter.

'25: Was un-Crowned Montrose State's Best?

This is the third in a series of historical stories researched and written by Terry Slattery for the South Dakota High School Basketball Hall of Fame newsletter. An additional installment will appear in the 2015 Fall Newsletter.

By Terry Slattery

At the start of the 1924-25 basketball season most fans in the area knew the Montrose Fighting Irish and the Salem Cubs would be two of the better teams in South Dakota.

The anticipation and excitement in both towns was highly elevated due to the intense sports rivalry that had existed for as long as anyone could remember. I believe it all started when, somehow, Salem connived to get the rights to have green and white as its school colors and the Fighting Irish had to settle for black and red.

Mr. Donahue, coach at Montrose, and Mr. Edmonds, coach at Salem, were both of the opinion that to be a better team you should play against the best as often as possible.

The towns are just 10 miles apart in McCook County and at the time were serviced by four passenger trains going each direction every day. So travel was easy. With that in mind the two teams set a schedule that allowed them to play each other four times in the regular season. And, as fate would have it, they played two more times in tournament play.

The first game was played on Christmas Day at Montrose with the Irish winning 23-20. They

played again on New Year's Day in Salem and again Montrose won, this time 20-18. In mid-January they played in Montrose with the home team winning again by a two-point margin.

The next meeting was scheduled for Salem on Feb. 19. For four weeks before that game there was a rather large ad in the local newspapers telling about the game and listing Vince Galvin of Sioux Falls as the referee. At that time there was only one referee per game and Galvin was ranked as one of the very best. Salem was the winning team 18-16.

The very next week the teams would meet again in the County Tournament, held in Spencer with five teams competing. Montrose beat Spencer in the first round while Salem, Bridgewater and Canistota were given byes. In the second round Montrose again bested Salem by a score of 25-17 and the Irish went on to win the tournament with a victory over Bridgewater.

Going into the district tournament held at Salem on March 2-3, Salem had a record of 20-4 with all four losses coming against Montrose. The Irish were 22-1 with their only loss coming to Salem. The district had 11 teams entered and again Montrose got the worst of the draw.

Canova and Spencer played in the first game beginning at 9:00 a.m., followed by games of Farmer vs. Humboldt and Hartford vs. Montrose. Canistota, Salem, Dolton, Fulton and Marion were given byes into the second round to be played that afternoon and evening.

The result was that Montrose had to win three games to get to

the finals and Salem only two. And, as fate would have it, they met in that final game. Montrose led at the end of each quarter, but Salem rallied in the fourth to pull out a 15-14 win.

Montrose's season ended with a record of 25-2 with both losses to Salem. Salem went on to the 16-team state tournament with a record of 23-4 with all four losses to Montrose.

At state Salem beat Sioux Falls Washington 21-16, Parkston 20-8 and Madison 20-9. The Cubs then lost to Yankton in the finals by one point, 13-12. Their record then stood at 26-5 and they were invited along with Yankton to play in the National High School Tournament in Chicago.

At national the Cubs lost to Clarkston, Wash., 32-11 and to Portland, Ore., 27-23. But they gained experience that would serve them well the next year.

The True Essence of Basketball

South Dakotans who love basketball understand the meaning of the words inscribed on a plaque at the historic Palestra Arena in Philadelphia:

*"To play the game is great ...
To win the game is greater ...
But to love the game
is the greatest of all."*

The Palestra was opened in 1927 on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania. It is commonly called The Cathedral of Basketball.

Will to Win Pushed Wakonda Streak to 101

By Becky (Flynn) Jensen, Nicky (Johnsen) Gilbertson and Trina (Hansen) Merideth

Imagine a world with no cell phones, no Internet and no cable TV. Now imagine that same world and a small rural South Dakota farming community with a population of approximately 350.

Andy's "Mayberry" may come to mind and that picture may not be too far from the mark. Now imagine a group of 12 wide-eyed, clean-faced girls with nothing better to do than to hang out at the local gymnasium.

Their hot spot was the gym. Their Facebook included face-time on the basketball court. Instagram was taken with a Polaroid, had to be developed at the local drugstore, and took a week to get back. It was a different age, a different time, and maybe a fluke. But such is the story of the Wakonda Warriorettes and their winning streak from 1988 to 1991.

Coach Ron Flynn would seek out the toughest competition in the state year after year, looking for the best teams that were willing to schedule a game regardless of which class they belonged to. When given the opportunity to test themselves against much larger schools the Warriorettes were never intimidated.

Coach kept the newspaper and television coverage in perspective, making sure the focus and energy was directed toward playing well and not about individual success. The town became a popular location for media outlets but the gym was a safe haven.



Becky (Flynn) Jensen was a six-year starter and key player in the Wakonda win streak.

How is a legacy defined? "Something handed down from an ancestor or predecessor or from the past." Wakonda's legacy started long before the winning streak began in 1988. The last regular-season loss was in 1986, the last home loss in 1982, and the last time the Warriorettes lost to a Tri-Valley Conference opponent was in 1980.

We watched older girls represent Wakonda for years before we ever stepped on the high school court, learning how to win and instilling the will to win. It is defined by commitment, dedication, teamwork and foremost by love for the game.

It started with Coach and the development of the program stemming from him coaching the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade teams. We played junior varsity and varsity basketball with the fundamentals already developed.

Coach continued to stress

fundamentals at every practice but the foundation existed so by the time we started the season we were prepped and ready to focus on plays, shooting and scrimmaging. We despised the wind sprints at the end of practice but the result was we were faster, could play longer and full-court press when the call was given.

However, it goes back before 5th grade basketball when Coach would check on us during our elementary recesses, replace the outside nets, and provide a correction or compliment. The groundwork was laid long before the scoreboard mattered.

Each season of wins, led to more pressure and compounded the need to win. It wasn't just a matter of being good, it was about being great, an expectation that the scoreboard would reflect a victory worthy of our reputation. It was that feeling that motivated us to keep practicing all year, work hard in the offseason, and be prepared for every opponent we faced.

It was playing with passion and defending what the television stations and newspapers were saying: "Wakonda can't be beat." Fortunately for us, for 101 consecutive games Wakonda couldn't be beat.

(Becky (Flynn) Jensen, Nicky (Johnsen) Gilbertson and Trina (Hansen) Merideth were instrumental in Wakonda's win streak. Jensen played at Creighton University and was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2010. Gilbertson played at Augustana College and Merideth at the University of South Dakota)

Wizard of L.A. had Roots in South Dakota

By Greg Hansen

The Los Angeles High School Sports Hall of Fame originated in 2011 and its first banquet was held on the campus of the University of Southern California.

Among the initial inductees were basketball's Gail Goodrich, football's John Elway, baseball's Don Drysdale and South Dakota native Larry Hanson.

Jefferson High School in south-central Los Angeles had been known as a football school. That changed with the arrival of Hanson in 1946. His coaching turned the Democrats, called the Demos, into a basketball power.

The Demos won five Los Angeles city championships under Hanson. They reigned in 1951, 1955, 1958 and 1965. The fifth title came in 1972 in Hanson's final season. His career winning rate was over 90 percent.

Hanson coached many great players at Jefferson but probably

the best was Billy McGill. The 6-foot-9 center averaged 38.8 points per game as a University of Utah senior in 1962 to lead the nation. Chicago chose McGill with the first overall pick in that year's National Basketball Association draft.

Hanson had been a versatile athlete at the University of South Dakota, when he was known as Lawrence not Larry. He graduated in 1933. As a Coyote senior Hanson was an all-North Central Conference back in football, played basketball, and set a Howard Wood Dakota Relays pole vault record.

The Vermillion native began his coaching journey at Aberdeen, Gettysburg and Alexandria in South Dakota before heading westward.

Like many coaches in that era, Hanson was involved in several sports. He spent time at San Diego-area high schools El Centro and La Jolla before settling at Jefferson. While at La Jolla he also was golf coach and his star was Gene Littler, who went on to win 29

tournaments on the PGA Tour.

Jefferson did not win the Los Angeles city basketball championship in 1970 but did claim a conference title. That season may have represented Hanson's finest job of coaching because of the obstacles he overcame.

The Demos returned a veteran roster with high expectations. But due to internal problems Hanson dismissed nine lettermen and instead relied upon young, inexperienced players.

"They were dissidents and I don't think there is any room in sports for that. It was a difficult decision to make, but I thought it was best," said Hanson later. "They thought we couldn't win another title without them. I think they learned a valuable lesson when we did."

UCLA's renowned basketball coach John Wooden was known as the college Wizard of Westwood. Then perhaps Larry Hanson should be remembered as the high school Wizard of L.A.

In Remembrance

Jim Cordts died Nov. 5, 2014, in Madison at age 79. A graduate of Clark High School and Northern State University, he taught and coached for 42 years at Wessington, Howard and Madison. His basketball team at Howard in 1964 won the Class B state championship and finished unbeaten at 28-0.

Doug Martin died Dec. 14, 2014, in La Crosse, Wis. He was 78. The basketball coach at Mount Marty, the University of South Dakota and Dakota Wesleyan for 27 years, his overall record was 371-418. He was a graduate of La Crosse Logan High School and the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

Ed Byhre died Jan. 4, 2015, in Miller. He was 70 and from Highmore. He graduated from Richfield High School, Minn., and was an Augustana College

basketball standout. He was an assistant at Huron College. He coached Eastern Kentucky to a 21-8 record and Ohio Valley Conference title in 1979.

Ed Harter died Feb. 4, 2015, in Madison at age 86. He was a 28-year basketball coach at Dakota State University (formerly General Beadle State). He guided the Trojans to an SDIC co-championship in 1967. He graduated from New Castle High School, Ind., and Western New Mexico University.

Vince Brewer died April 8, 2015, in Rapid City. He was 93 and from Pine Ridge. He starred as St. Francis Indian School was dominant in the Catholic state basketball tourneys. In 1941 he and the Scarlet Warriors took second in the National Catholic Tournament in Chicago. He was a U.S. Navy veteran.

Teams that Earned State Titles in 2015

Here are the teams that won South Dakota state championships during the recent basketball season:

GIRLS

Tournaments were March 12-14

Class AA - Sioux Falls Washington 'Warriors' (15-11)

Class A - St. Thomas More 'Lady Cavaliers' (24-1)

Class B - Ethan 'Rustlers' (26-0)

BOYS

Tournaments were March 19-21

Class AA - Sioux Falls Lincoln 'Patriots' (21-5)

Class A - Aberdeen Roncalli 'Cavaliers' (23-2)

Class B - Hanson 'Beavers' (22-4)

A Recap of our Past Teams of Excellence

2011: Honored was 1963 Sisseton. Sisseton won the Class A state championship and finished 25-0. All five starters went on to play college basketball - Jack Theeler, Myron Moen, Simon Schloe, Bob Hull and Bob Brewster. Sisseton was coached by Theeler's father, Jack Theeler Sr., and defeated Brookings 58-42 in the title game of the state tournament.

2012: Webster was recognized for its march to Class B state titles in 1946, 1947 and 1948. The three-peat would not have been possible without a half-court shot by Lefty Engebritson in the first round of the 1946 tournament. That basket lifted the Bearcats past Platte 45-44. Coach George Houk's team went on to win that tourney and then added two more championships.

2013: The honor went to 1964 Howard. The Tigers were rated No. 1 in the first Class B poll of the season and remained there throughout. Howard concluded a 28-0 record by downing Scotland 60-51 in the state tournament

championship game. The Tigers of Coach Jim Cordts were sparked by all-tourney selections Dennis Carlson, Glen Rasmussen and Roger Truman.

2014: Mitchell 1985 was selected from a Kernels' run of consecutive state championship teams in 1984, 1985 and 1986. Coach Gary Munsen guided the 1985 Kernels to a 23-0 record. Mitchell boasted three Class A first team all-state players in Bart Friedrich, Chad Andersen and Tim Byrd. The Kernels defeated Sioux Falls Washington 62-59 in the championship game.

2015: A team that finished the season with a 78-game win streak, 1990 Wakonda, was recognized. The Warriorettes compiled a 26-0 record and won their third consecutive Class B state title. Ron Flynn was coach of the Warriorettes and the team featured his daughter, Becky (Flynn) Jensen, and Nicky (Johnsen) Gilbertson. Both were first team all-state that season.

Some Things to Know About the Hall of Fame

Our Home: The South Dakota High School Basketball Hall of Fame is located at the Sanford Pentagon in northwest Sioux Falls. The Pentagon, centerpiece of the Sanford Sports Complex, is one-half mile east of Interstate 29 and Benson Road. Normal hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday through Friday.

History: We are a non-profit organization. We chartered as a 501(c)(3) in 2009 and are governed by a 15-member board of directors. Our mission is to identify, record and preserve South Dakota

basketball history.

To Help: The generosity of donors makes the continued work of the Hall of Fame possible. Contributions assist in many ways. One example is this newsletter. Send tax-deductible gifts to SDBBHOF, 2210 W. Pentagon Place, Sioux Falls, SD 57107. See a list of our donors on our website.

Website: Go to www.sdbbhof.com.

Your Voice: Let us hear from you. Go to our website, click on Contact,

provide your name, and share your thoughts and comments about any Hall of Fame topics.

Inductees: There have been 98 of the most accomplished players in state history already inducted. Our next group of inductees -- the Class of 2016 -- will be announced in the upcoming months.

Newsletter: We publish twice each year with a spring edition and fall edition. There are nearly 1,000 people on our mailing list.



Sanford Pentagon
2210 W. Pentagon Place
Sioux Falls, SD 57107



Class of 2015



Sixteen former standouts were inducted into the South Dakota High School Basketball Hall of Fame during the sixth annual banquet March 28 at the Ramkota Hotel in Sioux Falls. Newest members are, in back, Jim Dyer, Willow Lake '60; John Sivesind, Sioux Falls Roosevelt '96; Chuck Iverson, Vermillion '69; Jim Mitchell, South Dakota School for the Deaf '54; Jim Tays, Gettysburg '50; Marv Rasmussen, Claremont '55; and Lorre Colburn representing the late Lee Colburn, Brookings '69. In front, John Eidsness, Canton '66; Amy Burnett, Huron '91; Carla Allard-Watson, Bennett County '87; Katie Dailey, Jefferson '81; Julie (Jensen) Rozell, Langford '91; Vince Whipple, Rapid City '56; and Mike Freier, Tripp '67. Also inducted posthumously were Ray Hamann, Yankton '31; and Leonard "Jimmy" Lovley, Elkton '20. The 1990 Wakonda Warriorettes were cited as the Team of Excellence.