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2014 Fall Newsletter

Experience Basketball History at Hall of Fame

With a vision toward a grander future, the South Dakota High School Basketball Hall of Fame moved into the Sanford Pentagon in fall 2013.

The Pentagon is a glittering basketball showcase. It serves as the centerpiece of the Sanford Sports Complex in northwest Sioux Falls. The Pentagon features the acclaimed Heritage Court, which has a seating capacity of 3,100 and is a throwback to gymnasiums of the 1950s.

The Hall of Fame is located inside the Pentagon on the first floor near the main entrance. Exhibits are encased in secure display units. Additional memorabilia is being accessed for placement in second floor corridors as well as in the Hall of Fame meeting room.

"The Pentagon offers a great venue for the Hall of Fame," says executive director Dave Wagner. "We are excited about our partnership with the Pentagon and look forward to the future growth of our organization."

A tour of the Hall of Fame allows visitors to relive some of the most cherished moments in the history of South Dakota high school basketball. Available for inspection are a myriad of items that document the state's greatest teams, players, coaches, officials and games.

"We are very pleased with the large number of people who have already visited us at the Pentagon. We have been greatly encouraged by their positive response," says Wagner. "It is our hope that visitors come away with a clearer understanding of the historical significance that basketball holds in South Dakota."



Sanford Photo

The modern design of the 160,000 square-foot Sanford Pentagon makes it a distinctive destination.

In its most basic form, the Hall of Fame's mission is to chronicle and preserve the finest elements of South Dakota basketball for future generations to experience and enjoy. The Hall of Fame pays tribute to the state's greatest players and most endearing basketball traditions. It provides an ongoing historical narrative.

"Residents of each community in our state, from the largest city to the smallest town, have fond memories of basketball players and teams from the past. It is important that those memories never be allowed to fade away," says Wagner.

"We hope that the Hall of Fame will serve as a means, both now and into the future, to sustain those memories and even enrich them. Members of our board of directors are working very hard to ensure that happens."

The first class of inductees was welcomed into the Hall of Fame in 2010. Since then four more classes

have been inducted. There are now 82 former standout players enshrined in the Hall of Fame. The inductees are among the most recognizable names in the history of South Dakota basketball. They come from Belle Fourche to Brookings, Aberdeen to Avon, Pine Ridge to Parkston, and all areas in between.

With its move to the Pentagon, the Hall of Fame has attained greater visibility and has become more accessible to the many people who share an appreciation of South Dakota basketball.

Please visit the Hall of Fame and find out what a special place it is. The Pentagon is located one-half mile east of Interstate 29 and Benson Road. It is open from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Monday through Friday. For additional information or to schedule a tour of the Hall of Fame call Wagner at (605) 467-3010 or Hall of Fame president Bob Swanhorst at (605) 321-0521.

SOUTH DAKOTA BASKETBALL HISTORY 201

The Catholic High Schools

This is the second in a series of 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 spring 2015 newsletter.

By Terry Slattery

In 1895, just five years after the massacre at near-by Wounded Knee Creek, and three years after Dr. Naismith published his "rules for basketball", the Jesuit Catholic Priests built the first basketball court at St. Francis Indian Mission. Some described it as "open air with a dirt floor", while another said it was "out doors with one hoop nailed to the first building erected at the mission and the other on a telegraph pole". That was four years before South Dakota became a State.

The head start given to the Indian boys served them well. They organized club or independent teams of all ages until the High School was built and certified in 1921. From the start the school teams were thought by many to be South Dakota's finest, but because they were not a public school they were not invited to play in state competitions.

As Chicago University hosted a national high school basketball tournament for public schools, Loyola University did the same for Catholic schools from 1924 to 1941. St. Francis participated in that tournament 13 times beginning in 1926, nine times by invitation and four more as State Catholic Champs. With 32 teams competing from all over the country, the Scarlet Warriors fared well each year, making the semi-finals five times and finishing second to Central Catholic of Ft. Wayne, IN, in the very

last tournament in 1941.

During that period other Catholic high schools were opening, led by Sioux Falls Cathedral, Mitchell Notre Dame and Rapid City Cathedral. Soon following were smaller towns of Dell Rapids, Grenville, Howard, Lead, Madison, Salem and Sturgis, and three more Indian Mission teams, Holy Rosary, Marty and Stephan.

Father Bernard Weber of Salem St. Mary's and Father E.J. Egan of Madison St. Thomas organized and sponsored the first State Catholic Tournament in 1937, an eight team affair held at the public school gym in Salem. St. Francis won that one, and the next three, held at Salem, Madison and Mitchell, respectively.

At Mitchell in 1940, Holy Rosary was only in its third year of high school and their team of mostly sophomores and juniors gave St. Francis a scare before settling for second place. The next year with the tournament back in Salem and featuring 12 teams for the first time, Holy Rosary won the final over St. Francis 25-24. They were both invited to the national tournament in Chicago where St. Francis finished second and Holy Rosary third. In 1942, Holy Rosary again topped St. Francis in the state finals by a score of 27-26 with the tournament held in Madison.

Due to World War II there was no tournament in 1943, and in 1944 only seven teams participated in a shortened event won by Sioux Falls. From 1945 through 1964 the tournament featured 12 teams playing in a three day affair. The first four teams drawn from the hat were given byes into the second round, making for two days of four championship games, with the semi-finals on the third afternoon and the finals that evening. In 1947

and 1954 the tournament was held at Rapid City, and at Aberdeen in 1949. All the rest were at the Corn Palace in Mitchell or the Coliseum in Sioux Falls.

The tournaments flourished with packed houses for most all of the championship rounds and very good numbers for the consolation games. The tournaments were backed by local merchants as well. The "Official Program" from the 1955 tourney held in Mitchell was a 65 page booklet that sold for five cents a copy at the games.

A game between two of the Indian teams, or one of the better small schools going against Sioux Falls Cathedral, meant a packed house every time. Those Cathedral games were always the noisiest, with most of the small school fans banding together in a kind of "David vs. Goliath" mentality.

Basketball was king in South Dakota, and that was especially true for the Catholic Schools because for some it was their only sport. The basketball coaches were most often local men with little or no college experience. They worked full time at day jobs at Morrell's, the railroads, the telephone company, insurance sales, local Jewelers, etc., and as far as I know were paid very little for their coaching services. Emil Redfish of St. Francis and Bob Clifford of Holy Rosary were the most notable and respected of these men, but all should be lauded for their efforts.

The beginning of the end came in the late 1950's as modernization of mining techniques in the west and farming in the east meant fewer jobs. Farms were getting larger and farm families, along with small towns, were shrinking. St. Patrick's of Lead and St. Martin's of Sturgis

Continued on Page 3

The Catholic High Schools

Continued from Page 2

were the first to close their high schools, followed by Howard, Mitchell and Salem.

St. Mary's of Dell Rapids is still open and competing well in most sports. The Cathedral schools of Sioux Falls and Rapid City closed and re-opened in new buildings as O'Gorman and St. Thomas More. The four Indian Mission schools are now non-sectarian, operated by the government with two name changes: Holy Rosary is now Red Cloud and Stephan is Crow Creek.

The last year for the tournament was 1964 at the Coliseum. Eleven teams participated with O'Gorman

winning the championship. Dell Rapids, Mitchell, Salem and St. Francis participated in all twenty-seven tournaments. St. Joseph's of Grenville in just the very first one.

Sioux Falls won the championship twelve times, followed by St. Francis with five, Holy Rosary four, Notre Dame and Marty twice, and Stephan and St. Agatha once. The 1956 championship may be the most remembered. That year the St. Agatha Agates of Howard were the champs and their cross town rival Howard High won the State "B" a week later.

There were many very good players participating in these

tournaments that did not get the recognition they deserved because they were not part of the High School Athletic Association, and not eligible for all-state teams, except in the very last few years of the tournament. I hesitate to mention names as the list would be long, but must say I feel "Sunny" Jim Schmidt of St. Mary's Dell Rapids 1938-41, ranked higher above his peers than all the rest. I hope to tell you more about Jim in the future. Thank you for your interest!

(Terry Slattery played at Salem St. Mary's High School and South Dakota State University. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2011.)

Tributes Planned for Record Holders

Enduring tributes to two of the state's all-time greatest players will soon be added to the South Dakota High School Basketball Hall of Fame.

Plaques at the Hall of Fame in the Sanford Pentagon will recognize Kent Hyde and Mandy Koupal for their remarkable achievements. Both are mentioned prominently in the National High School Sports Record Book which is recognized as official by the National Federation of State High School Associations.

As an Onida senior in 1954, the 6-foot-7 Hyde averaged 50.4 points

per game. That scoring average was a national boys record for 17 years and still ranks fourth in history.

Hyde totaled 1,412 points in 28 games that season for the Warriors. His high game was 66. Hyde was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2013.

The 6-1 Koupal starred at Wagner where she became the most accurate field goal shooter in the history of girls basketball.

During her 1995-98 career Koupal shot 69.1 percent from the field, converting 758 of 1,097 attempts. That remains a national record.

Koupal also has the two highest single-season field goal percentages in history. She shot 76.4 percent as a senior and 75.3 percent as a junior. Koupal was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2014.

After their high school careers, Hyde and Koupal both became all-North Central Conference players. Hyde played at South Dakota State University. Koupal spent her first season at SDSU and her final three at the University of South Dakota.

Hyde now lives in Little Rock, Ark., and Koupal in Wagner.

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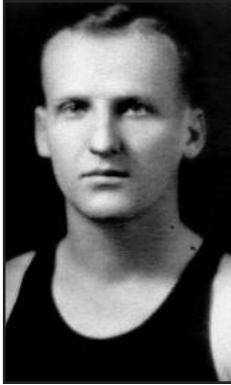
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Perrin, Teammates Made Nation Take Notice

By Greg Hansen

A trip to Chicago proved to Sam Perrin and his Huron High School teammates that they were capable of competing against the very best.



Sam Perrin

Huron edged Aberdeen 18-17 in the championship game of the 1927 state tournament. News reports stated that the game drew 4,800 fans to the Corn Palace in Mitchell. It was the largest crowd at that time ever to see a basketball game in South Dakota.

Promise was evident at Huron two years earlier when Perrin, Harold Marquis, Percy Washabaugh and Harold Crawford all made impressions as sophomores. Then as juniors Perrin, Marquis and Washabaugh were named to the all-conference team in a Big Eight that included Aberdeen, Brookings, Huron, Madison, Mitchell, Sioux Falls, Watertown and Yankton.

So it was no surprise when Huron fielded a talented team in 1927. Its state title earned Huron an invitation to the National Interscholastic Basketball Tournament hosted by the University of Chicago from 1917-1930.

Each state champion was invited as well as any runner-up that lost in the finals by only one point. Thus an invitation also was rendered to Aberdeen. There were 43 teams entered, including 36 state champions.

South Dakota had previously done well in the tournament. Yankton finished second in 1924 and Salem took third in 1926. Spectators who turned out to watch the action at Bartlett Gymnasium knew that the boys who came from South Dakota could play.

Huron's coach was Frank Coffey, a Watertown native and former football player at South Dakota State. Coffey coached at Platte before moving to Huron. In those days local newspapers often gave a nickname to a team based on its coach's name. So the Huron team was called the Coffeymen.

The Huron Municipal Band played as a crowd estimated at around 4,000 wished the team well when it boarded a train at the Chicago & North Western Station in Huron. Each player took with him to Chicago a new suit coat and travel bag courtesy of the Huron Chamber of Commerce.

Aberdeen lost in the first round to Kansas champion Winfield 26-23. Huron drew the South Carolina champion, Greenville, and won 22-20.

Then the Coffeymen downed Lincoln, Neb., 25-16; and London, Ky., 24-21. Next they beat Pocatello, Idaho, 33-16, as the 6-foot-1 Perrin scored 24 points. In addition to its four established seniors, Huron received standout play from freshman Conrad "Cornie" Collin, who would go on to become one of the greatest athletes in Creighton University history. Other key contributors were Kenneth Hoppell, Arthur Campbell and Lawrence Sheridan.

The estimated group of 25 fans from Huron who attended the opening game on a Tuesday had grown to more than 100 by the time the team took the floor Saturday against Arkansas champion Batesville. After each victory, according to Huron mayor D.G. Medbery, more people set out by train or car to make the 700 mile journey.

Luck ran out for the Coffeymen in the semifinals. They fell to Batesville 25-16. Cicero, Ill., then beat Batesville 18-16 in the championship game. Florence, Miss., edged Huron 19-16 for third place. At the conclusion of the tournament Chicago's legendary coach, Amos

Alonzo Stagg, presented trophies to the top four teams.

Perrin, the son of a Congregational minister, considered several colleges. He chose to attend his brother's alma mater, Carleton College in Northfield, Minn. There he became a three-year starter in two sports as an end in football and all-Midwest Conference forward in basketball.

When he graduated in 1931, the Carls (now the Knights) had won four straight conference basketball titles. They had a home winning streak at Sayles-Hill Gymnasium of 38 games. Their last home loss was to Indiana.

Carleton went 12-3 during Perrin's senior season with the only losses coming at Illinois, Northwestern and Minnesota. The Carls lost by a single point to the Gophers, the runner-up team in the Big Ten Conference.

After graduating Perrin spent time coaching freshman sports at Carleton before moving to the high school level at Shattuck in Faribault, Minn., and then Minneapolis North. He served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy during World War II and then returned to teach and coach at North. He retired in 1972 and lived the rest of his life in Minneapolis.

Perrin and wife Helen had one son, David. Perrin died in 1996 at age 87.

Ozzie Cowles was Perrin's coach at Carleton. Cowles later coached Dartmouth before leading Big Ten programs at Michigan and Minnesota. He was once asked about the best players he had coached.

"I still haven't seen the fellow I'd place above Sam Perrin of Carleton for all-around work and ball handling," said Cowles. "He was one of the greatest college basketball players of his time."

(Greg Hansen played at Hurley High School and Dakota Wesleyan University. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2012.)



Hall of Fame Members



- A**
Rich Andrzejewski,
Arlington '69 - 2014
Richard "Milt" Authier,
Woonsocket '67 - 2014
- B**
Bruce Bad Moccasin,
Pierre '67 - 2010
JoElle (Byre) Benson,
Sioux Falls Washington '82 - 2011
Scott Bosanko,
Aberdeen Central '77 - 2013
Julie (Harmacek) Bridge,
Avon '83 - 2014
Steve Brown, Hamlin '74 - 2010
Gerhardt "G.E." Buening,
Parkston '66 - 2014
- C**
Harry Carleton,
Sioux Falls Washington '43 - 2011
- D**
Chris Divich, Doland '52 - 2013
Terry DuPris, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte
'76 - 2011
- F**
Randy Fletcher, Reliance '65 - 2012
Gordon Fosness, Presho '53 - 2011
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 '78 - 2011
- H**
Clyde Hagen, Webster '66 - 2013
Steve Hammer, Pierpont '69 - 2014
Becky Hammon,
Rapid City Stevens '94 - 2010
Greg Hansen, Hurley '70 - 2012
Garney Henley, Hayti '55 - 2013
Luther Hippe,
Sioux Falls Washington '83 - 2014
- H**
Dana (Nielsen) Honner,
Armour '87 - 2012
Kent Hyde, Onida '54 - 2013
- I**
Jim Iverson, Platte '48 - 2010
- J**
Don Jacobsen,
Lake Norden '54 - 2010
Randy Jencks, De Smet '71 - 2012
Becky (Flynn) Jensen,
Wakonda '91 - 2010
- K**
Eric Kline,
Aberdeen Central '91 - 2012
Mandy Koupal, Wagner '99 - 2014
- L**
Lance Luitjens, Custer '92 - 2010
Gerald Lund,
Belle Fourche '57 - 2013
- M**
Tom Malchow,
Aberdeen Central '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 '85 - 2013
Alan Miller, Stickney '81 - 2011
Mike Miller, Mitchell '98 - 2013
Myron Moen, Sisseton '63 - 2012
Colleen Moran, Stickney '79 - 2014
- N**
Chad Nelson, Yankton '74 - 2013
Roger Nelson, Brookings '53 - 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 '93 - 2012
- R**
Renee Ruesink,
Castlewood '84 - 2013
- S**
Renae Sallquist,
Brookings '85 - 2011
Jim Schlekeway, Britton '64 - 2013
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 Central '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**
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 Jr., Warner '94 - 2013
Willie White, Pine Ridge '87 - 2014
Jerry Wingen, Canova '56 - 2011
Kris (Holwerda) Woerner,
Brookings '81 - 2014

Cheyenne Indian Agency Braves: The Team Without A Home

By Bob Swanhorst

South Dakota High School Basketball can be broken down into three eras depending on how the tournament play-off championships were conducted. From 1912 to 1935 (with one exception in 1930) there was one class, from 1936 to 1984 there were two classes, and from 1985 to the present there are three classes. Over the years district, regional, and sectional play-offs developed and in some years there were double elimination systems in place. There were also some years when a certain conference refused to participate. But by and large the tournament became a mainstay of the high school activities season.

There has never been a scientific poll conducted, but most fans would seem to overwhelmingly choose the two class system conducted from 1953 until 1984 when the 32 largest schools were "A" and all the remaining schools were "B". It soon became known as the big "B" and fans and teams scrambled to become part of the event. Finding lodging for two years in advance was not uncommon and it is common knowledge that the Huron Arena was constructed primarily to attract the big "B" in the spring. In 1958, before the "B" tourney, Huron advertised that 110,000 people had viewed basketball in the arena already that year.

What made this tournament so popular? Many things, but without a doubt at the top of any list was community pride. It is also no secret that just as the Huron Arena was built to attract the tourney many small communities constructed gyms for the purpose of giving their high school teams a gym worthy of hosting games and a sense of pride. Many communities considered working with the school district and

the National Guard and some just flat out donated materials, labor, and expertise and built a new gym. Murdo, Eureka, Columbia, Conde, Webster, and many more communities constructed gymnasiums and became hot beds of basketball. Community pride centered on that gym and their high school team.

Also at the top of that popularity list were the outstanding individual athletes and the colorful Native American teams. South Dakota was fortunate to have developed some of the best Native American basketball which was first showcased in the National Catholic Tourney held in Chicago. Both public and other parochial schools played a role too. At the pinnacle of those years during the big "Bs" was the Cheyenne Indian Agency Braves. In 1957, 1958, and 1959 a special coach and host of special players made for a very special team.

Gus Kolb, a native of Leola, became the coach at the old Cheyenne River School after a stint at Ree Heights. A South Dakota State graduate and accomplished baseball player, Kolb was about to begin a three year era of winning. The gym had hardly any seating capacity and the floor was buckling due to moisture and swelling. Cheyenne played most of their games on neutral or away floors. Gettysburg and Mobridge were considered the home floor and the rest of the games were on the road. Those three years saw Cheyenne win 85 games and lose just 13, nine of those losses were during the first year of Kolb's reign. Their schedule during those years featured some real powerhouses like Corona and Ellendale, North Dakota. Geographically they had to constantly put up with Agar, Onida, McLaughlin, Eureka, Selby, and Cresbard among other tough teams.

The teams featured some of the best players, native or white, ever assembled on one high school team. They never had anyone over 6'4" and weren't about to out muscle you. Their strong point was finesse - finesse in dribbling, passing, shooting, and above all, in defense. Quick hands and a constant running game kept the game as interesting as possible. Fans loved to see them play. There was no slowing them down.

Leading the way in 1957 was senior Andy Condon, but most were underclassmen and the future was looking all roses. On January 7, 1957, at Gettysburg they dropped a 67-65 decision to Cresbard, a team that would be the state champs that same year. Andy Condon, Mel Bagola, and Bob Mandan all had double figures in that game. Andy Condon's younger brother was Chet Condon, who became one of Cheyenne's all-time great players. His cousin, Bernie In-the-Woods, was a great player in later years at Dupree. The team finished 20-9 but did not win the district.

1958 saw a rapidly improving team steam roll through the regular season, the district, and the regional. They ended up undefeated at 31-0 when they entered the state tourney. Only two teams had come close, Corona lost 48-45 in a Northern State preliminary game and Agar scared them but lost 61-59 in the regional finals. Freddie Knife emerged as a classy and colorful player. They were a solid team and all five players were capable of scoring double figures on any given night. They became the number one rated team in the state for all "B" schools.

The "Boys with Poise" was the mantra hung on the team as they had been undefeated and now faced Forestburg in an opening round



The tireless defense and the rapid-pace offense of Cheyenne Indian Agency helped make the Braves a highly successful and popular team in South Dakota. Members of the 1959 state Class B champion Braves were, from left, Keeler Condon, Percy Phillips, Delano Chasing Hawk, Tommy Makes Him First, Freddie Knife, Chet Condon, Eugene Red Bird, Bob Mandan, Mel Bagola, Elgin Stricker and Coach Gus Kolb.

game of the 1958 state tourney held in Aberdeen. Forestburg, with scoring aces Dick Baysinger and LaMoine Torgerson, fell 64-59. Their second round game was a nip and tuck affair with Corona, a team they had beaten by three points earlier on the Aberdeen Civic Arena floor, coming out on top 56-53. Coach Kolb decided to slow it down which may well have been the downfall in the loss. Hindsight is always 20/20. In the third place game the team won over Fairfax 87-75. Cheyenne's season ended at 33-1. Knife was named all-state, but the team was very well balanced and all the mainstays were back for another year.

The 1958-59 season saw Cheyenne winning 28 games and losing but three. Losses were to Ellendale and Agar, each by one point, and the McLaughlin Midgets by two points. Bagola was actually their leading scorer with an 18 point average. But again, they were balanced and very capable to play off an opponent's weakness.

The state tourney that year had Cheyenne in the feature game as teams were not seeded at that time. In the opening round Cheyenne met Columbia in the evening's first

game. It was a game no one in attendance would ever forget.

Columbia, with George Birger coaching, had experienced a dominating year in football and basketball. They were 6-0 in football and scored over 100 points against one team, and most teams were beaten overwhelmingly. The last game on their football schedule was forfeited to them. In basketball they had very little trouble with the opposition as well. They entered the tourney 35-1 with their lone defeat a double overtime loss to Ellendale. Ellendale went on to win the North Dakota State Championship and was the same team that had defeated Cheyenne by one point. The only other close game had been against a Frank Funk led Conde team that ended up 58-57 in Columbia's favor. Columbia was also the number one rated team in the state. They also had a strong winning tradition that former coach Bud Hurin had established over the years. The school district, with help from the farming community, had built an enviable gymnasium that was a source of local pride.

It certainly appeared that Columbia was number one as they

led Cheyenne by a 33-17 score late in the second period. At half Columbia was up by 13 points, and was seemingly in control. The second half saw a struggle develop as Cheyenne's zone press began to take a toll. With 1:59 to go in the game Columbia still clung to a 39-36 lead. Then the roof fell in. The arena crowd of over 6,000 fans seemed to rise up behind Cheyenne. Every move Cheyenne made brought more and more noise and cheering. Players couldn't hear the referee's whistle and with Knife making some impossible moves and shots Cheyenne appeared to feed off the crowd. When the cheering stopped Cheyenne had won 56-46.

Columbia's scoring had Tom Hanson with 15, Sandy Andree 10, Bob Davis 10, Doug Badley 6, and Delmar Moench 5. For Cheyenne, Bagola, who had led them in scoring all year, had 15, Knife 13, Mandan 11, Chet Condon 9, and Eugene Red Bird 8. Not only had Cheyenne ignited the crowd with wizardry like touch passing, but they also had some touch field goal shooting. It had been one of the most noteworthy comebacks in all of

Continued on Page 8

Cheyenne Indian Agency Braves

Continued from Page 7

state tourney competition. Many have said it was the most exciting game they had ever seen in a South Dakota Tournament.

Cheyenne went on to beat Plankinton 61-51 and DeSmet 63-47 to win the 1959 State "B" title. Kolb was chosen the 1959 High School Coach of the Year. Bagola and Knife both made the all-state team.

Columbia ended the year with a 37-2 record. Even today few high school teams have ever won more games in a single season than Columbia did in 1959. Columbia's outstanding tradition continued with teams in the state tourney in 1961 and 1963. It soon came to an end however when enrollment steadily declined. The high school closed its doors in 1968 and joined with the Groton District. Tom Hanson, incidentally, is an uncle to Zach Hanson who led Pierre to a Class AA Championship in 2013 and is currently playing for the Creighton Bluejays.

Cheyenne on the other hand moved into a new gym and joined Eagle Butte in the fall of 1959. They went on to have great players and teams featuring players like Jesse Mendoza and Terry DuPris among many others. Cheyenne-Eagle Butte teams went to seven more "B" tourneys and went to the "A" tourney

nine more times after the three class system was used after 1985-86.

Only two players and the coach are alive from that Cheyenne era: players Mandan and Bagola, and Coach Kolb. Kolb was 90 years old in September of 2014. He and the former Mila Nelson have been married for 47 years. In 1997 he retired to Mission, Texas. Today he is in a home in nearby McAllen, Texas. Mila was not married to Gus during the Cheyenne era, but experienced the team years later at a reunion gathering. She was very much impressed with the kindness and friendship among the team and coach. Gus had been made an honorary chief in the days after the championship and presented with a full regalia. He later returned the regalia to Eagle Butte where it has a home for permanent display.

Mandan is at home in Dupree. Bagola resides in Mobridge. Bagola had joined the Marines after high school and spent four years serving his country. Being in the reserves he was called to active duty and spent eight months in Vietnam. Knife, Chet Condon and Red Bird are deceased. At Knife's funeral in 2005 many relatives and friends gathered. Mila Kolb indicated that many beautiful Satin Royal Blue and White Quilts, Cheyenne's colors, were presented to

attendees and number 31 had become something of a legend. Years later Kyle Mesteth even composed a rap song dedicated to number 31 called "You can't stop me".

Knife and Chet Condon were underclassmen in 1959, but Knife turned 20 ending his eligibility for high school play and Condon dropped out of school and played traveling basketball. He would later get his GED. In 1970 Condon and Knife played in the All-Indian National Invitational Basketball Tournament in Idaho. It was a twelve team tourney with teams from all over the United States and Canada. They played under the logo of Cherry Creek YMCA. Condon was named the outstanding player in the tourney. The two received numerous honors and were named as two of the seven greatest athletes from Cheyenne River.

Cheyenne's contribution to high school basketball in the state was significant. They will always be remembered as "The team without a Home," and in the parlance of sports talk, those who played against them and saw that team will always say, "They could play."

(Bob Swanhorst played at Cresbard High School and Augustana College. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2010.)

HOF Weekend 2015

Sixteen former greats who will comprise the Class of 2015 will be announced soon by the South Dakota High School Basketball Hall of Fame.

Please make plans to join us in Sioux Falls and enjoy the sixth annual Hall of Fame Weekend on March 27-28.

An informal reception for inductees will be held at the Sanford Pentagon from 4-7 p.m. on Friday. The event is free and

the public is encouraged to attend.

Refreshments will be available and those in attendance will have the opportunity to visit with members of the Class of 2015. Also at the reception will be many other Hall of Fame members who were inducted in previous years. Recognition will be given at 5:30 p.m. to Myron Moen, the Founder Emeritus of the Hall of Fame.

The induction banquet will be at the Ramkota Hotel on Saturday.

Doors open at 11 a.m. with the banquet to begin at 2 p.m. Tickets will remain at \$35 and include the banquet, meal and a Hall of Fame booklet. Also to be honored during the banquet is a Team of Excellence.

The Class of 2015 will increase membership in the Hall of Fame to 98. Information about purchasing tickets will be released later this winter.

Time on Court Helped 1968 Trio Reach NFL

By Greg Hansen

In the winter of 1968 the high school basketball landscape in South Dakota was illuminated by three stars who were destined to achieve football greatness.

Neil Graff. Larry Jacobson. John Dutton. Each was a first team all-state basketball player that season. All were bound for the NFL.

"There were some great athletes in South Dakota back then," says Graff. "It was a unique time."

Graff was a 6-foot-3 guard who could shoot, rebound and handle the ball. He was the driving force as Lincoln marched into the championship game of the Class A state tournament at the Sioux Falls Arena.

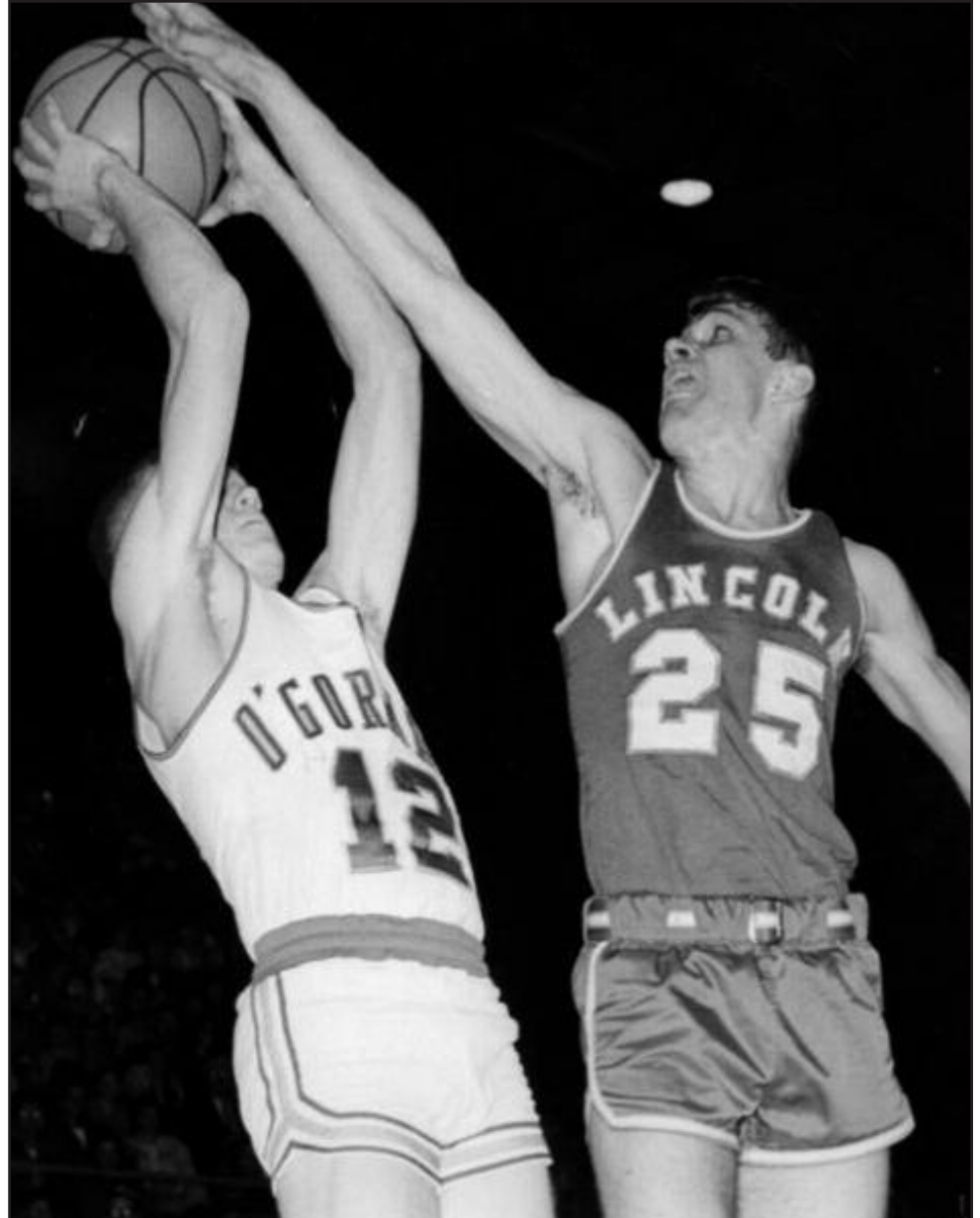
"We beat Washington and O'Gorman in close games in the region. When we got to the state tournament, the Cinderella team was Miller. We ended up meeting them in the semifinals," says Graff.

Miller was led by Al Nissen, who would go on to play at the University of Nebraska. Lincoln defeated the Rustlers to set up a title game against Brookings and its standout forward, the late Lee Colburn. Brookings held off the Patriots 69-57 to claim the championship.

Graff averaged 17 points per game that season. He converted an impressive 83 percent of his free throws, displaying the touch that would eventually allow him to excel at quarterback for the University of Wisconsin.

Jacobson powered O'Gorman to a 19-3 record by shooting 57 percent from the field while averaging 15 points and 11 rebounds. Both athletes were seniors and were heavily recruited for basketball before deciding that their futures would be in football.

"The first school to offer me a scholarship was the University of



Neil Graff blocks a shot for Lincoln in a game against O'Gorman. Graff left the Patriots and went on to play on both the freshman football team and the freshman basketball team at the University of Wisconsin. He then gave up basketball to concentrate on his football career.

South Dakota," says Jacobson. "They told me I could choose to play either basketball or football, it was up to me."

Jacobson was 6-6 and dominated basketball games with his strength. But he also was unusually agile. College football coaches took notice.

"Back then there were letters of intent within conferences and I signed a Big Ten letter to play football at the University of Iowa. But then I fell in love with Bob Devaney and Monte Kiffin and the other coaches at Nebraska," says Jacobson, who weighed 220

Continued on Page 10

Time on Court Helped 1968 Trio Reach NFL

Continued from Page 9

pounds during football season at O'Gorman before slimming down to 210 to gain added quickness for basketball.

Jacobson matured into a 245-pound defensive tackle who became an All-American for the Cornhuskers. As a senior he won the Outland Trophy as the nation's top interior lineman. Nebraska, a member of the Big Eight Conference, went 33-2-1 during Jacobson's career.

A game that was paramount for the Cornhuskers during their ascent to the top of the college football world occurred in the Orange Bowl when Jacobson was a junior in 1970.

"We were No. 3 in the final AP poll before the bowls," says Jacobson. "The two teams rated above us both lost their bowl games before we played our bowl game. So when we took the field we knew what was at stake."

Nebraska responded by downing LSU 17-12 and was crowned national champion with an 11-0-1 record. The following season, with Jacobson a stalwart senior, the Cornhuskers returned to the Orange Bowl and crushed Alabama 38-6. Nebraska finished 13-0 and repeated as national champion.

"Coming from Sioux Falls, not really knowing how good I was, and then all of a sudden you're playing on two national championship teams. It was hard to believe," says Jacobson, a retired stockbroker who



Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Neil Graff prepares to take a snap from center in an NFL game against the Denver Broncos.

now lives in South Bend, Neb.

Graff first drew widespread attention for his football flair when he was a junior at Lincoln and quarterbacked the Patriots to the mythical state championship. He went on to distinguish himself in the Big Ten and graduated as Wisconsin's career leader in several passing categories.

In one of Graff's sharpest performances he threw for three touchdowns in a 29-16 victory over Penn State. Graff started all 31 games of his career, was voted the Badgers' Most Valuable Player as a senior and played in the 1971 Blue-Gray College All-Star Game.

And he credits lessons learned as a high school basketball player as being instrumental in his football success.

"I was not the fastest guy in the world at 40 yards. But basketball had really helped my quickness. Things like lateral movement and quick starts and stops. Those things served me well as a quarterback," says Graff, who is an investment advisor and lives in Sioux Falls.

"Basketball also helped me develop my competitiveness. I wanted to win so badly on the basketball court and would do whatever it took. I carried that with me on to the football field."

Graff was selected by the

Minnesota Vikings in the 1972 draft. During his six years in the NFL he also spent time with New England, Pittsburgh and Green Bay.

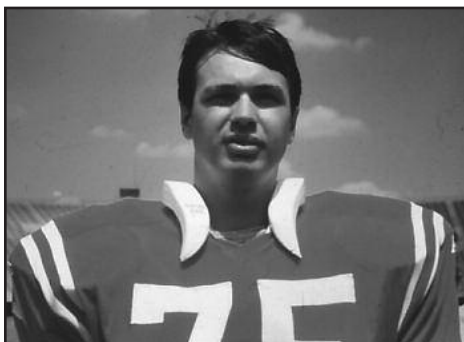
Jacobson's four-year career was spent entirely with the New York Giants, who drafted him in 1972.

After emerging as a starter in his rookie season, Jacobson was plagued by injuries to the same leg on which he had undergone knee surgery while at Nebraska. In his second year as a Giant he stepped on some broken glass and damaged tendons in his foot. Then in his fourth season he suffered a broken leg which forced his retirement from the NFL.

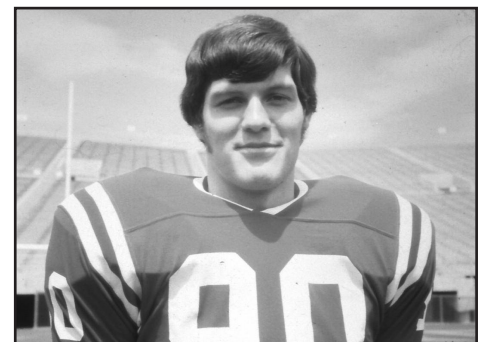
Dutton was a grade behind Graff and Jacobson. He earned Class B all-state basketball honors in 1968 as a junior at Rapid City Cathedral. The next fall, while Graff and Jacobson were heading off to college, Dutton transferred to Rapid City Central after Cathedral closed.

The Cobblers of legendary coach Dave Strain already had a wealth of talent with such players as the late Steve Withorne, Rich Gerry and the late Jack Tennyson. Dutton's presence made them a powerhouse. Rapid City went 24-1 and won the Class A state title, downing Brookings 57-50 in the finals. When the season ended Dutton was again named first team all-state to become one of the few players in the old two-class system to earn that honor in both Class B and Class A.

Continued on Page 11



Larry Jacobson



John Dutton

Time on Court Helped 1968 Trio Reach NFL

Continued from Page 10

Dutton, like Jacobson and Graff before him, was considered a prize recruit by college basketball coaches. But he, too, settled on football. And like Jacobson he chose Nebraska.

The 6-7, 248-pound Dutton became an All-American in the Cornhuskers defensive line. He played two seasons for Devaney

and then his senior season for Tom Osborne. Dutton was part of teams that went 31-4-2 before he was drafted by the Baltimore Colts.

In a 14-year career in the NFL, spending time at both defensive end and defensive tackle, Dutton was with the Colts from 1974-78 and the Cowboys from 1979-87. He was named to the Pro Bowl three times

and is now a businessman in Dallas.

South Dakota basketball fans were aware in the winter of 1968 that Dutton, Jacobson and Graff were special athletes. Before long all of America knew.

(Greg Hansen played at Hurley High School and Dakota Wesleyan University. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2012.)

Visit Our Website to Stay Informed

If you enjoy basketball, and have an interest in the evolution and history of the game in our state, you need to become a regular visitor to the South Dakota High School Basketball Hall of Fame website.

Website readers are kept up to date on Hall of Fame events and activities. They can review biographies of all prior inductees, stroll down memory lane via a list of once prominent teams that no

longer exist, and learn about the origination and progression of the Hall of Fame. Our website is the place to become familiar with memorable personalities, teams and games from the past.

Recent website posts have dealt with such topics as a Hall of Fame charter member who has become a trailblazer in the NBA; and an award winning regional television program that featured the Hall of Fame and

its home at the Sanford Pentagon in Sioux Falls.

Contact information on the website can assist anyone desiring to get in touch with the Hall of Fame. And an official nomination form is available to download by those wishing to nominate a former player for consideration.

The website has something for everyone who loves basketball. See for yourself. Visit us at sdbbhof.com.

WCCO Program Showcases Hall

"Life to the Max" is a popular regional television program that is broadcast by WCCO-TV in Minneapolis.

The South Dakota High School Basketball Hall of Fame was featured on the program during May. The segment was titled "Hoosiers West."

Longtime television and radio personality Mike Max is the host of "Life to the Max." The program focuses upon interesting sports personalities and topics throughout the Midwest.

"Hoosiers West" offered viewers a close up look at the operation of

the Hall of Fame and its home at the Sanford Pentagon. It traced the progression of the Hall of Fame from its beginning to present day. Among those interviewed on the program were 2014 Hall of Fame inductees Mandy Koupal, Willie White and Rich Andrzejewski.

Tournament Schedule

Following are dates and sites of this season's boys and girls state basketball tournaments according to the South Dakota High School Activities Association:

Girls

March 12-14, 2015

Class AA - Frost Arena, Brookings.

Class A - Watertown Civic Arena.

Class B - Huron Arena.

Boys

March 19-21, 2015

Class AA - Sioux Falls Arena.

Class A - Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City.

Class B - Barnett Center, Aberdeen.



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



Class of 2014



Pictured is the South Dakota High School Basketball Hall of Fame Class of 2014. These former greats were inducted during a banquet last March in Sioux Falls. Honored for their outstanding accomplishments were, from left, front, Willie White, Pine Ridge 1987; Lien Marso, Harrold 1951; Luther Hippe, Sioux Falls Washington 1983; Mark Tetzlaff, Hamlin 1981; DuWayne Groos, Sisseton 1962. Middle, Mandy Koupal, Wagner 1999; Lori (Wohlleber) O'Farrell, Summit 1986; Julie (Harmacek) Bridge, Avon 1983; Kris (Holwerda) Woerner, Brookings 1981; Colleen Moran, Stickney 1979. Back, Denver Ten Broek, McIntosh 1999; Aaron Miedema representing his father Phil Miedema, Hitchcock 1958; Richard "Milt" Authier, Woonsocket 1967; Bart Friedrich, Mitchell 1985; Gerhard "G.E." Buenning, Parkston 1966; Rich Andrzejewski, Arlington 1969; and Steve Hammer, Pierpont 1969. Also honored were the Mitchell Kernels of 1985 as Team of Excellence. Mitchell was undefeated Class AA state champion under Coach Gary Munsen.