

2017 Spring Newsletter

S.D. Prodigy left Imprint on two States

By Greg Hansen

There are rare occasions when a very young basketball player exhibits such advanced skills that he becomes a sensation on the big-school varsity level in South Dakota.

Such was the case in the winter of 1964.

Each time Brookings High School visited an opponent's gym, larger than normal crowds turned out. Fans wanted a glimpse of freshman prodigy Eric Bundgaard.

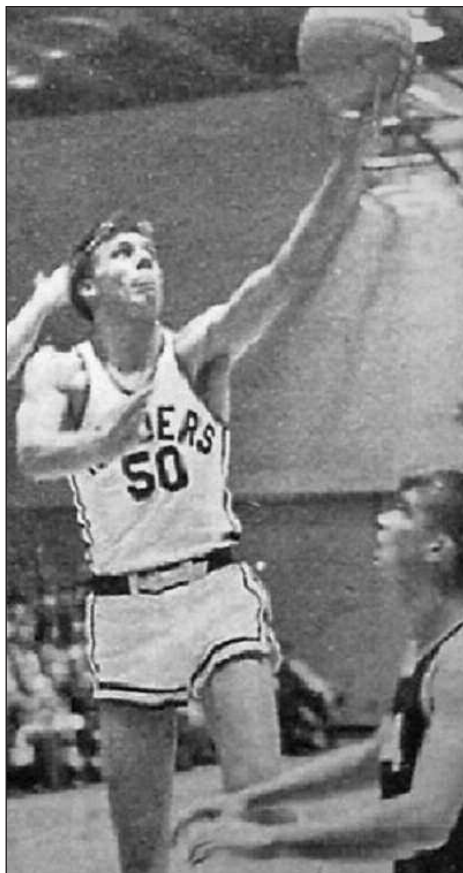
The Bobcats faced Sioux Falls Washington at the Arena in January. A preview story in the Argus Leader appeared two days before the game under a headline that said 'Bundgaard Here Friday.'

That season the Eastern South Dakota Conference featured a three-way race for the scoring championship. Washington senior John Eggers ended up winning with an average of 17.5 points per game. Mitchell senior Fred Smith was second. Bundgaard finished third at 15.3.

"I had expected to be on the 'B' team," remembers Bundgaard. "One day Coach (Don) Mohlenhoff came into the study hall and told me I was going to be with the varsity. It was kind of overwhelming for a freshman."

But the stage was definitely not too big.

"There was an opportunity for me because Brookings had graduated a ton of players the previous year after taking second at the state tournament," says Bundgaard. "It probably helped that I was so scared my whole freshman season that I didn't think about being nervous."



The 6-foot-5 Eric Bundgaard averaged 20.8 points per game in four varsity seasons.

Bundgaard were such players as Zoell Colburn, Bob Bozied and Mike O'Connell. Colburn's younger brother, Lee, later became a standout for the Bobcats and South Dakota State University.

Bundgaard, during his sophomore season in 1965, dominated ESD scoring with a 21.0-point average. Ebert, a senior, was a distant second at 17.0. Bundgaard became the first sophomore to be named Class A first team all-state.

But then South Dakota lost its brightest rising star. Bundgaard's father, Axel, left as SDSU athletic director. He took a similar position at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn., a town similar in size to Brookings located about 35 miles south of the Twin Cities.

Relocating was nothing new for Eric. The Bundgaards had moved to Brookings when he was a seventh-grader. They came from Waverly, Iowa, where Axel had been basketball coach at Wartburg College.

"There was some trepidation about leaving Brookings. But we made the move as a family," says Eric. "Northfield was the smallest school in the Big 9 Conference and had really struggled."

The Raiders staggered to a dismal 4-18 record the year before. Things changed dramatically during the 1966 season because of the presence of their dynamic junior transfer.

Northfield opened by beating South St. Paul 54-45. Next the Raiders used Bundgaard's 31 points and 18 rebounds to down Owatonna. Later he scored a school record 42 points against Winona.

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Bundgaard is now 68 and lives in Green Valley, Ariz. He recalls the ESD as "a really tough league." Some opponents he considered especially talented were Eggers and Royhl Ebert of Washington, Denny Lokken of Yankton, and Smith and Jim Cooper of Mitchell.

In the Brookings lineup with

S.D. Prodigy left Imprint on two States

Regarded as one of Minnesota's elite leagues, the Big 9 included such schools as Albert Lea, Austin, Mankato, Owatonna, Rochester John Marshall and Winona. Bundgaard was the Big 9 scoring champion with 26.4 points per game and also averaged 14.5 rebounds. For the first time in 23 years, Northfield won the District 4 Tournament as Bundgaard had games of 23, 28 and 27 points.

The Raiders continued to impress during Bundgaard's senior season in 1967. They climbed as high as No. 4 in the Minnesota one-class ratings, again won District 4, and Bundgaard repeated as Big 9 scoring king. In two seasons at Northfield, he had 34 games of at least 20 points.

Among his varied assets was exceptional speed. Bundgaard was a Minnesota state champion in the 180-yard hurdles, setting a school record of 19.6 seconds, and he also held the Raiders' record of 21.8 in the 220. Bundgaard had been a starter in football as a sophomore at Brookings. Then at Northfield he earned all-Big 9 honors as a junior and senior while playing safety and split end.

A two-time Minnesota basketball all-stater, Bundgaard was a high school All-American as a senior. He received scholarship offers from a



Eric Bundgaard
In 1965



Today

number of schools including Florida, Kansas State, Missouri and SDSU before choosing Colorado. After a semester with the Buffaloes he came home to St. Olaf, where he was all-Midwest Conference and helped the Oles win two league championships.

South Dakota fans got another look at Bundgaard during his senior season at St. Olaf when the 6-foot-5, 210-pound forward led the Oles against SDSU in the 1972 NCAA Midwest Regional Tournament.

"That game is one of my clearest memories from high school and college," says Bundgaard. "It was at St. Olaf and it was a packed house. Two outstanding teams. Lee Colburn and I guarded each other much of the game and I recall his size, strength and skill."

Colburn scored 18 points for the

Jackrabbits. But the Oles won 87-72 behind 15 points and 14 rebounds from Bundgaard.

In track Bundgaard anchored St. Olaf's sprint relay teams. The Dallas Cowboys were intrigued by his combination of size and speed. Though he had never played college football, Bundgaard received an offer to attend training camp as a free agent receiver.

"The Cowboys were into identifying college basketball players with prior football experience in high school and a projected aptitude for professional football," says Bundgaard. Instead he chose to join a Mozambique professional team in the Portuguese Basketball Federation.

Later he earned a master's degree at the University of Minnesota and had a long career in hospital administration and secondary education in Utah, Minnesota, Iowa and Colorado.

Bundgaard was on a path to become one of South Dakota's all-time greats. Circumstances intervened. Instead he finished his brilliant career in Minnesota. It has been 50 years since Bundgaard's high school graduation in 1967. In both states, he was a player worth remembering.

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Six-Overtime Thriller in '63 Made History

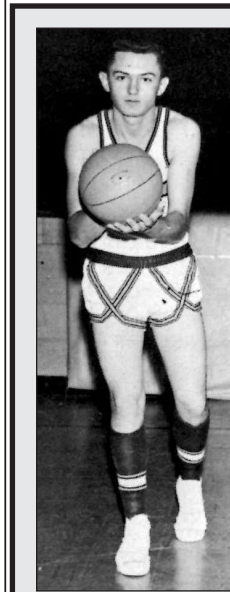
By Whitney Jencks

For those who don't miss the turn off Highway 14, Bancroft, South Dakota, can be found between DeSmet and Huron in Kingsbury County, and to most is known as a small farming community. While today, just 19 residents still reside in Bancroft, in 1963 it was the site of a very unlikely game that set a record in South Dakota sports history that still stands - the first high school boys basketball game to reach six overtimes.

While overtime itself isn't that uncommon, the event of multiple overtimes is becoming increasingly less so. Nowadays with the addition of shot clocks and the three-point line contributing to faster paced games and greater opportunities to widen the score, it's considered a feat if a game goes into triple overtime. Even in the big leagues, there's only been one six-overtime game in NBA history (Indianapolis Olympians vs. Rochester Royals, January 6, 1951). At the time of this historic game, six overtimes in a high school game was unheard of.

On a Tuesday night in 1963, the Eagles hosted their rival Iroquois in a "friendly" regular season match-up, but this wasn't the first time the teams met that season. Earlier, Bancroft took home the 'W' by a slim margin of five points (and the teams would meet again in the District Championship with Iroquois winning and going on to place third at State).

At the beginning of the school year, the nearby high school in Yale had closed sending members of its team to Bancroft - three of whom were in the starting line-up. With Bancroft, Yale and Iroquois within about 15 miles of each other, this was the sort of rivalry between good friends, as the players all knew each other and ran around



"I missed everything on both free throws. Didn't draw iron, didn't hit the backboard. Nothing. The game could have ended, but then we wouldn't have the record."

Bancroft center
Del Gross

together outside school and sports.

Needless to say, whenever Bancroft played Iroquois the game drew a crowd. The three rows of bleachers on each side of the gym were packed, and because of the crowd and eventual length of the game, it started "raining" inside the gym.

"One of the things I remember is that the ceiling started sweating," says Terry Jencks, a power forward for the Eagles from 1960-1964. "We had to stop a number of times during the overtimes to wipe the moisture off the floor."

The game began much like any other with Bancroft jumping out to an 18-13 lead after the first quarter. That season Bancroft averaged 72 points per game, attributing their success to quickness and shooting ability.

But tenacity can sometimes result in injury and early in the first half Bancroft point guard Bill Maas collided with an opponent while going for a ball at midcourt, and needed to leave the game to get stitches. The game lasted so long that Maas was taken to DeSmet

about 17 miles away, received medical attention and returned to watch the final minutes.

The rest of the game was no less dramatic. By the end of the first half Iroquois had tied it up 35-35, and after a slower third quarter the Chiefs led 47-44. At the end of regulation, the scoreboard read 60-60.

Each team would score only one basket in the first overtime, and the score would remain the same through the next two. During the fourth overtime, tied at 64-64, Bancroft's center, Del Gross, had a chance to end the game. Gross was fouled with no time left on the clock.

"I missed everything on both free throws. Didn't draw iron, didn't hit the backboard. Nothing," says Gross. "The game could have ended, but then we wouldn't have the record."

With the score tied 66-66 at the end of five overtimes, the Eagles and the Chiefs began the sixth overtime, solidifying their participation in the longest game in South Dakota history.

Nearing the end of the final
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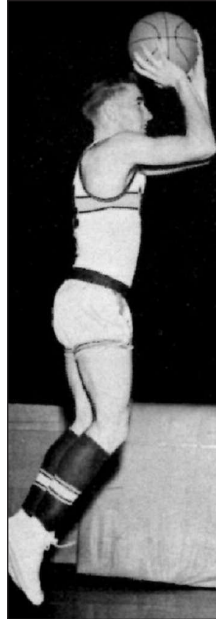
Six-Overtime Thriller in '63 Made History

overtime, Iroquois led 68-66, but with about three seconds left Jencks made a shot and was fouled. He missed the free throw, but Gross managed to snag the offensive rebound and put up a quick jump shot as time expired. It was 11:10 pm, some three-plus hours after the game had started, another three quarters of time had been played, and Bancroft had won 70-68. Jencks led with 23 points. Gross and Ray Boetel each added 15. Iroquois was paced by Wayne McNaboe with 23, Alan Rasmussen 15 and Ken Westerberg 14.

Following this historic game, there have been other boys games to have reached six overtimes (including Redfield 46, Aberdeen Roncalli 45, 1986; Corsica 44, Geddes 42, 1985; Selby 49, Leola 45, 1982), but none that have played seven.

A few years later in 1968, Bancroft High School would close its doors, and while the Eagles never made it to the State Tournament, they would always have this historic marker.

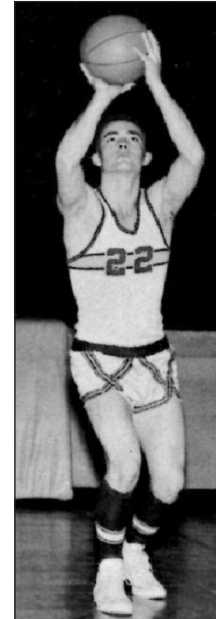
"We didn't realize no one had



Bill Maas



Ray Boetel



Terry Jencks



Bill Bieber

ever gone six overtimes before. We were just kids. We didn't know what we were doing, we just wanted to beat them," says Gross. "It's fortunate that we got to do this in South Dakota sports. It's a unique thing that we get to claim and it will always be there."

Gross says he's hopeful there will

be a seven-overtime game in the future and the record will be broken.

"Records are meant to be broken. If a game goes into four, I start thinking that maybe this is the one. I do wish that someone would go seven. I'd talk to them about our game and congratulate them on the win."

In Solemn Remembrance and Tribute

Pal Christensen, 88, of Yankton died Nov. 15, 2016. The U.S. Navy veteran received his education at Yankton. He refereed high school basketball for 37 years.

Jim Dyer, 74, of Scottsdale, Ariz., died Dec. 13, 2016. He led Willow Lake to second in the 1960 Class B tourney. A star at USD, he was inducted into the SDBBHOF.

Dale Hall, 81, of Wagner died Dec. 14, 2016. The standout at Ravinia and Huron University was a SDBBHOF inductee. He was a long-time educator.

George Blankley, 98, of Madison died Dec. 29, 2016. Involved with Dakota State basketball as AD, he graduated from Curwensville, Pa., and College of Idaho.

Clint Roberts, 82, of Ft. Pierre died Feb. 13, 2017. A standout basketball player at Presho, he was a former member of the U.S. Congress.

Rich Hanson, 81, of Sioux Falls died March 9, 2017. A graduate of Aberdeen and Northern State, he was a basketball referee from 1959-79.

Rich Greeno, 88, of Sioux Falls died March 27, 2017. He refereed in the first girls state tourney in 1975. A graduate of Langford and Northern State, he was a successful track and cross country coach.

Joe Lockwood, 84, of Sioux Falls died April 6, 2017. The Doland and Huron University grad coached Washington to Class A girls titles in 1980 and 1981.

The Longest Game ... an Everlasting Record

By Bob Swanhorst

On February 10, 1956, the Yankton College Greyhounds visited the Black Hills State Yellow Jackets. What followed was a seven overtime game that to this day is still on the NAIA record books. It is probably quite safe to say that the record will never be broken. Circumstances for a seven overtime game in 1956 were considerably more conducive for that to occur than they are in 2017. There wasn't a shot clock and there wasn't a three-point line. Coaches stubbornly knew that if their zone defense was effective they could just stay with it and take their chances on getting the ball back after a missed shot attempt.

Yankton, one of South Dakota's early premier colleges, had its usual lineup of talented players. Most were from South Dakota and already had distinguished playing careers. Bob Putnam, a former Yankton great in both football and track, coached the team that included Kay Besanson from Delmont, Jim Adkins and Ken Thury from Parkston, Bob Brooks from Lake Andes, Jim Flavares and Joe Buckstead from Yankton, Irl Oakes from Montrose, and Leroy Schuette from Scotland. Rounding out the squad was Dennis Reinmuth, who played high school in both South Dakota and Iowa, Gilmore King and Paul Heffron from Minnesota, and Fred Benner from Iowa.

The Jackets were coached by Bud Fulleton and the team featured one of Black Hills' all time great players in Jerry Groeneveld from Lead. Other recognizable South Dakotans were David Geary

Delmont Grad was YC Flash in Track

Kay Besanson of Yankton College played a key role in the famous 1956 game won by Black Hills State 80-79 in seven overtimes.

The graduate of Delmont High School was all-South Dakota Intercollegiate Conference in basketball twice for the Greyhounds.

But it was in track where Besanson earned national acclaim. His time of 20.9 seconds was the fourth fastest 220-yard dash in the United States in 1956.

The 6-foot-4, 220-pound Besanson also clocked 9.7 in the 100. His track coach at YC was the legendary Carl Youngworth.

Besanson was a 1954 graduate of Delmont.

from Provo and Curt Johnson from Quinn.

The game saw Yankton come from behind and tie the score at 63 with Reinmuth, Yankton guard, hitting two free throws with four seconds remaining. Reinmuth again hit free throws and the score was knotted at 69 after one overtime. During the next three overtimes the Yellow Jackets stood in a zone and Yankton held the ball for the last shot. That strategy yielded one point in fifteen minutes for each team. The fifth and sixth overtimes were different in that both teams played, but the end results was a tie at 79 all after the completion of the sixth overtime. The climax of

the seventh overtime was a scuffle for a rebound on a missed free throw. Brooks and Dave Ruff had what appeared to be a jump ball at the buzzer. The referees, a belief held in some quarters, had enough as a foul, rather than a jump ball, was called on Brooks. Ruff hit the free throw and ended an epic battle giving the Yellow Jackets the win.

The game's final score of 80-79 will forever be recorded as a Black Hills State victory over Yankton College. The game's details are still out there however. Black Hills had led 41-29 at half time. It was not until the sixth overtime that Yankton ever led in the game at 79-77. Adkins hit 19 for Yankton while Groeneveld had 22 points for the winners.

In May of 2006 Yankton guard Reinmuth wrote an account of that fateful night in 1956. Included was the following account:

"After the season ended, the South Dakota Sports Writers Association voted the game as the "Sports Oddity" of 1956. As Don Bierle, The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan sports editor, wrote in 1956: There apparently weren't any freak plays which caused this grueling match of basketball wits, but instead each team waited its chance to score without giving the opposition enough time to recover. And the two SDIC clubs failed six times. So the 1956 sports oddity is not only viewed as a highly unusual event, but it established a national record and gained prominence in the national basketball record books which promises to live long into the future."

INDEED!

Doland Wheelers of '32: A Few Good Men

By Darrel Hahn

A while back, I ran across an old newspaper photo of the 1931-32 Doland Wheelers basketball team which brought back a few memories. My father, Howard Hahn, was a sophomore substitute on that team and used to tease me that my own Wheeler team was pretty good but probably couldn't have done much against that '32 squad. On other occasions, when I'd had a good scoring night, he would tell me that I wouldn't have gotten those points if Dwight Hoover had been guarding me. By the time I headed off to college, I had heard all I needed to about these guys. However, seeing the old picture after so many years prompted me to see what I could find out about this team and maybe separate a little fact from fiction.

According to the Mitchell Evening Republican, 250 teams began the 1931-32 season and would compete for one state championship. By comparison, in 2015-16, 157 teams competed for three championships in South Dakota. The debate about the creation of a "B" division was in full swing as many tiny towns saw little chance of advancing to the State Tournament much less winning the title. Doland had 40 boys in high school that year and 22 of them were out for basketball. They had been district champions four years straight but were never able to advance to the State Tournament with always tough Aberdeen standing in the way.

Ray White was the coach and was reputed to have been a severe disciplinarian. According to my father, White ruled the team with a fist, and no player or parent dared to question his decisions. The team got off to a strong start by winning the first few games, including a 30-26 victory over Huron, before falling to Aberdeen 18-16. From that point on however, the Wheelers would drop only one more game and entered

One-Class Finals

1910s: 1912 – Redfield 33, Lake Preston 25; 1913 – Aberdeen 21, Montrose 12; 1914 – Salem 32, Aberdeen 21; 1915 – Elkton 29, Salem 28; 1916 – Sioux Falls 21, Redfield 20; 1917 – Huron 23, Aberdeen 22; 1918 – Lead 20, Elkton 11; 1919 – Elkton 42, Mitchell 6.

1920s: 1920 – Elkton 31, Madison 20; 1921 – Madison 29, Mitchell 21; 1922 – Yankton 33, Rapid City 21; 1923 – Yankton 25, Mitchell 23; 1924 – Yankton 16, Madison 15; 1925 – Yankton 13, Salem 12; 1926 – Salem 24, Highmore 15; 1927 – Huron 18, Aberdeen 17; 1928 – Yankton 31, Sioux Falls 13; 1929 – Yankton 23, Madison 15.

1930s: 1930 – Huron 17, Yankton 13; 1931 – Yankton 39, Lead 17; 1932 – Mitchell 21, Rapid City 7; 1933 – Aberdeen 19, Marion 16; 1934 – Sioux Falls 34, Mitchell 32; 1935 – Mitchell 27, Miller 20.

district play on a 14-game winning streak. They were selected to host the district with a large gymnasium that offered an electric scoreboard – "one of few in South Dakota." The Wheelers rolled to another district championship and gained a regional win over a good Milbank squad before facing Aberdeen for the right to play in the State Tournament in Sioux Falls. This time the little town came out on top 23-17.

Much of the pre-tournament hype centered around defending champion Yankton and whether the winners of seven of the last 10 state

titles would falter. Sioux Falls, Rapid City and Mitchell were considered strong contenders. Doland, after the win over Aberdeen, was considered a dark-horse. One paper called the Wheelers "one of the best quints ever formed in NE South Dakota." They had great team speed and adopted a quick attack and a defense that forced the opposition into action. A very solid 19-2 Pierre squad would be their 1st round opponent.

The game started slowly with defense taking the spotlight. Doland led 3-2 at the quarter and went to halftime with a 9-6 advantage. Pierre staged a comeback in the 3rd period bolstered by some long-range shooting from Kenneth Tweedle and tied the game 13-13. The Wheelers led 17-15 late in the game before Hoover got loose under the basket and was fouled. The giant guard (5-foot-11, 182 pounds) calmly sank the free throw to seal the victory. The Argus Leader headline read "This Hoover Also Mighty Man," making reference to our President at that time, Herbert Hoover. The article stated that, "Dwight Hoover's tremendous shoulders and powerful physique seemed to spread from one goal to the other, walling off the path to the basket for the Governors."

Rapid City edged Sioux Falls in another close game and was considered a huge favorite to beat Doland in the semifinal. The Wheelers however, made it clear prior to the tournament that they were confident in staying with any of the teams represented. Hoover was assigned to the Cobblers scoring ace Marvin Carroll, but the team still faced a mismatch in the pivot where Rapid City's Donald Bowman towered over everyone. Doland stayed close in the first half and trailed only 13-10 after a hook shot by Clair Lovelace just before the break. However, Rapid started going to their big man in the 3rd quarter and built a commanding



Doland made a run at the championship in the 1932 single-class state tournament in Sioux Falls. The Wheelers were, from left, Virgil Herker, Howard Hahn, Marvin McNickle, "Red" Johnson, Dwight Hoover, Coach Ray White, Kenny Parchen, Clair Lovelace, Melvin McNickle, Alvin Thomas and Eugene Parchen.

20-11 lead.

Doland staged a big comeback in the final quarter and brought it to 20-18 late in the game before Hoover was whistled for his 4th and final foul and sent to the bench. He had held Carroll to one point. In a desperate attempt to get the ball and tie the game, the Wheelers left a man open under the basket and fell by a final score of 22-18. Marvin McNickle had a great scoring game for Doland with 11 big points, but his twin brother Melvin could not match him and finished with a single point. They both went on to become Army generals and along with Chris Divich make three general officers that came from that little town in Spink County.

Mitchell went on to beat Rapid City in the final and claimed its first state championship. Doland came up a little short of becoming the Hickory Huskers of South Dakota but had a great run nonetheless. No town as small as Doland ever won a state championship in the one-class system, but the Wheelers did claim the Class B championship a few years later in 1937.

In my research I learned that these guys were more than a good basketball team. In football they gave up only six points in the entire eight-game season and that was to the Northern State Freshmen. They also beat Huron 32-0 and tied Milbank and the famed Manders brothers 0-0. If that wasn't enough, they finished

2nd in the State Track Meet to Howard Wood's Sioux Falls Warriors. It just shows what a few good men can accomplish.

As for my own questions, I think it's hard to compare teams that scored 20 points a game with those that scored 60. However, I will have to concede to Dad on the Hoover deal. Only a great defender could be named to the all-tournament team while scoring only three points in two games. And anyway, what could I have done against a guy whose shoulders seemed to spread from one goal to the other!

(Darrel Hahn was a 1968 graduate of Doland High School. He scored 1,940 points during his career with the Wheelers).

Coming in our 2017 Fall Newsletter

The list of high school players in our state who went on to become stars at local colleges is long and illustrious.

Which has been the best collegiate starting five comprised entirely of players who were all products of South Dakota prep basketball?

In our upcoming 2017 Fall

Newsletter, we examine a unit that certainly ranks among the very best: Five players who performed for different high schools in the state and then joined forces to lead their college team to greatness.

Also in the newsletter:

- Two proud programs whose excellence created the first major

rivalry in South Dakota girls basketball.

- An event so popular it set the course for the many classics that now dot the state's basketball calendar.

These stories and others will be featured in the newsletter to be published near Thanksgiving.

Hall of Fame Welcomes the Class of 2017

The defining event of each year for the South Dakota High School Basketball Hall of Fame is its annual induction banquet.

Thirteen of the state's most elite players from the past were welcomed into the Hall of Fame on March 25 at the Ramkota Hotel in Sioux Falls.

A large and enthusiastic crowd honored the Class of 2017. And recognized during the banquet as a Team of Excellence was 1987 Pine Ridge, a 26-0 state Class A champion.

The selection process for 2018 is now underway for the Board of Directors as they review the credentials of former standouts who have been nominated. Members of the next class will be announced in December.



John Simko Photo
Class of 2017, from left, front, Mike Sisk, John Lillibridge, Joe Ashley, Gary Evjen, Guy Mackner. Middle, Ann Pancoast, Leatrice Big Crow for her late daughter SuAnne Big Crow, Nancy Schmidt for her late father Jim Schmidt, Kriss Edwards, Donna Muir. Back, Terry Jordre, Jerry Buri, Ron Bertsch.

Fast Break of Things to Know

HOF Overview: The South Dakota High School Basketball Hall of Fame is located at the Sanford Pentagon pictured at right. We are a non-profit organization and chartered as a 501(c)(3) in 2009. To learn more about the Hall of Fame visit our website at www.sdbbhof.com.



Sanford Photo

Milestone 800: Curt Fredrickson (820-300 in 38 seasons) got his 800th win when Northern State's women beat Nebraska-Kearney 71-45 on Nov. 21. He was a Class A all-state player for Aberdeen in 1970.

Gopher Tribute: A star for Minnesota from 1939-41, Harold Thune of Murdo was honored by the Gophers during their 56-52 win over Vanderbilt on Dec. 3 at the Pentagon. He is a SDBBHOF member.

Stepping Away: Mt. Vernon native Chad Greenway, a Class B basketball all-stater in 2000 and 2001, retired from the NFL on March 7 after 11 years as a Minnesota Vikings linebacker.

DII Champ: Athletic director Mel Tjeerdsma, a Springfield native, oversees the Northwest Missouri State basketball program that won the NCAA Division II title March 25.

NBA Designer: Hanson graduate Tasha Determan designed the Skills Challenge trophy at last winter's NBA All-Star Weekend. She studies sculpture at the University of South Dakota. The trophy was won by New York Knicks forward Kristaps Porzingis.

Frogs Prevail: Texas Christian beat Georgia Tech 88-56 in the NIT title game March 30 at Madison Square Garden. Mitchell graduate Ryan Miller was a Horned Frogs assistant coach.

Chicago Ace: The University of Chicago (16-9) was led in assists in the 2017 season by senior Tyler Howard with 4.9 per game. He is a Roosevelt product. He started 73 of the 82 games he played in his career with the Maroons.

Roosevelt Girls made Nation take Notice

(This is the second of a two-part segment profiling South Dakota girls programs that have won five consecutive state titles. The first installment examined the Armour Packers of 1983-87 and was published in our 2016 Fall Newsletter.)

There was no widespread fanfare following a Roosevelt High School loss against Brookings in a girls basketball game on Oct. 2, 1997.

But the next time the Rough Riders lost a game -- five years later against Lincoln on Dec. 15, 2002 -- it caused headlines near and far.

In between, Roosevelt took the court 111 times without suffering a defeat. That historic run included five consecutive Class AA state championships from 1997 through 2001.

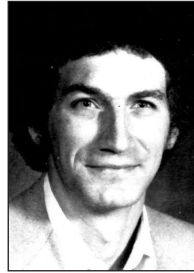
The late Fred Tibbetts orchestrated a confident program in which the Riders expected to win and then went out and did it. His passion for basketball was contagious and his players devoted themselves to off-season work and improvement.

A highlight occurred in late December of 1999 when the Riders were invited to play in the Northwest Holiday Hoopfest, a prestigious 16-team tournament in Beaverton, Ore.

Because the South Dakota season was in the fall, the tourney was an out-of-season event. Roosevelt required permission from the South Dakota High School Activities Association to participate. It was finally granted and the Riders joined teams from Alaska, California, District of Columbia, Oregon, Washington and Canada.

Roosevelt won its first three

games in the tourney. To do so the Riders survived a 55-53 scare in the quarterfinals when Krista Orsack hit a late 3-point shot to beat Springfield, Ore.



Fred Tibbetts

Awaiting the Riders in the finals was Buena High School of Ventura, Calif., the highly regarded No. 11 rated team in the country. Roosevelt prevailed over the Bulldogs 55-52.

Some were surprised that a team from South Dakota came out on top against such a high-powered field. Tibbetts and his players, however, had fully expected to do well. They were accustomed to it.

The five-peat began when Roosevelt beat Pierre 49-45 in the title game of the state tournament in 1997 to finish the season 22-1. Donni Luecke, a 5-foot-9 senior, was the Riders' leader and was joined on the all-state first team by sophomore teammate Mandy Kappel.

Orsack and Kappel then sparked the drive to the 1998 crown and both were named all-state. Roosevelt established a tournament record for most points in a championship game when it raced past Sturgis 86-31.

In the 1999 tournament, a few days before the team traveled to Oregon, it was again Sturgis which opposed Roosevelt in the finals. The Riders emerged 57-40 and the 5-7 Kappel and 5-10 Orsack, then seniors, were again all-state. Kappel was chosen the state's Miss Basketball to conclude her five years as a starter. She went on to play in the Missouri Valley Conference for Drake University.

All-state seniors Courtney Farrell, a 5-10 center, and Erin Case, a 5-5 guard, powered Roosevelt to the 2000 championship. The Riders downed Mitchell 75-49 in the title game. Farrell then starred at the University of Sioux Falls and became the school's career leader in points (2,433) and rebounds (1,168).

The fifth consecutive championship, earned in 2001 with a 36-29 win over O'Gorman, featured all-staters Lindsay Thomas and Renae Luecke. They were seniors who did not lose a single game in their four years of high school.

Thomas was chosen Miss Basketball after averaging 19 points, nine rebounds and 2.4 blocks per game while shooting a remarkable 69 percent from the field. She then had a decorated career at Colorado State University where the 6-3 center was an all-Mountain West Conference player and totaled 1,187 career points for the Rams.

Roosevelt's winning streak ended early the following season when Lincoln edged the Riders 45-44.

South Dakota had switched from a fall to winter season and Mitchell replaced Roosevelt atop Class AA. The Kernels downed Aberdeen Central 71-40 to win the championship behind twins Jeana and Jenna Hoffman, future all-North Central Conference performers at the University of South Dakota.

Tibbetts was a native of De Smet and graduate of Dakota State University. He retired after the 2005 season. In his 11 years guiding Roosevelt, the Rough Riders won 89 percent of their games (227-28).

- A:** Amy Allard-Carmody, Jefferson '82: 2016
Carla Allard-Watson, Bennett County '87: 2015
Robin Anderson-Thormodsgaard, Clear Lake '80: 2010
Rich Andrzejewski, Arlington '69: 2014
Joe Ashley, Pierre '79: 2017
Dick Authier, Woonsocket '67: 2014
- B:** Bruce Bad Moccasin, Pierre '67: 2010
JoElle Byre-Benson, Washington '82: 2011
Ron Bertsch, St. Lawrence '61: 2017
SuAnne Big Crow, Pine Ridge '92: 2017
Scott Bosanko, Aberdeen '77: 2013
Steve Brown, Hamlin '74: 2010
G.E. Buenning, Parkston '66: 2014
Jerry Buri, Hazel '60: 2017
Amy Burnett, Huron '91: 2015
Elton Byre, Reliance '56: 2016
- C:** Harry Carleton, Washington '43: 2011
Lee Colburn, Brookings '69: 2015
Conrad Collin, Huron '30: 2016
Cathy Coyle-Grubb, Belle Fourche '79: 2011
- D:** Terry DuPris, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte '76: 2011
Katie Dailey, Jefferson '81: 2015
Chris Divich, Doland '52: 2013
Jim Dyer, Willow Lake '60: 2015
- E:** John Eidsness, Canton '66: 2015
Kriss Edwards, Watertown '77: 2017
Gary Evjen, Washington '68: 2017
- F:** Mike Freier, Tripp '67: 2015
Roger Faber, Canistota '58: 2016
Randy Fletcher, Reliance '65: 2012
Becky Flynn-Jensen, Wakonda '92: 2010
Gordon Fosness, Presho '53: 2011
Bart Friedrich, Mitchell '85: 2014
Carol Freeman-Galbraith, Canova '79: 2013
- G:** Barry Glanzer, Armour '78: 2012
Max Gonzenbach, Milbank '54: 2010
DuWayne Groos, Sisseton '62: 2014
- H:** Diane Hiemstra-Gabriel, Yankton '80: 2011
Clyde Hagen, Webster '66: 2013
Dale Hall, Ravinia '54: 2016
Ray Hamann, Yankton '31: 2015
Steve Hammer, Pierpont '69: 2014
Becky Hammon, Stevens '95: 2010
Greg Hansen, Hurley '70: 2012
Maury Haugland, Murdo '54: 2016
Julie Harmacek-Bridge, Avon '83: 2014

Hall of Fame Members



- H:** Fred Hecker, Washington '57: 2016
Garney Henley, Hayti '55: 2013
Luther Hippe, Washington '83: 2014
Kris Holwerda-Woerner, Brookings '81: 2014
Kent Hyde, Onida '54: 2013
- I:** Jim Iverson, Platte '48: 2010
Chuck Iverson, Vermillion '69: 2015
- J:** Don Jacobsen, Lake Norden '57: 2010
Steve Jansa, O'Gorman '64: 2016
Randy Jencks, De Smet '71: 2012
Julie Jensen-Rozell, Langford '91: 2015
Matt Jones, Alpena '01: 2016
Terry Jordre, Corona '57: 2017
- K:** Eric Kline, Aberdeen '91: 2012
Mandy Koupal, Wagner '99: 2014
- L:** Jim Lovley, Elkton '20: 2015
John Lillibridge, Burke '58: 2017
Lance Luitjens, Custer '92: 2010
Jerry Lund, Belle Fourche '57: 2013
- M:** Guy Mackner, Sisseton '65: 2017
Tom McGrann, Watertown '59: 2010
Tom Malchow, Aberdeen '61: 2011
Bob Marske, Andover '44: 2016
Lien Marso, Harrold '51: 2014
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
Chris Miller, Stickney '71: 2016
Mike Miller, Mitchell '98: 2013
Jim Mitchell, S.D. Deaf '54: 2015
Myron Moen, Sisseton '63: 2012
Colleen Moran, Stickney '79: 2014
Scott Morgan, Mitchell '89: 2016
Josh Mueller, West Central '01: 2016
Donna Muir, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte '78: 2017
- N:** Dana Nielsen-Honner, Armour '88: 2012
Rick Nissen, Miller '72: 2011
- N:** Chad Nelson, Yankton '74: 2013
Roger Nelson, Brookings '54: 2011
- O:** Melissa Olson-Guebert, Lincoln '83: 2016
Tom Orton, Madison '65: 2012
- P:** Harley Petersen, Hayti '54: 2011
Ann Pancoast, Washington '81: 2017
- R:** Marv Rasmussen, Claremont '55: 2015
Wayne Rasmussen, Howard '60: 2016
Renee Ruesink, Castlewood '84: 2013
- S:** Renae Sallquist, Brookings '86: 2011
Jim Schlekeway, Britton '64: 2013
Jim Schmidt, Dell Rapids St. Mary '41: 2017
Mike Sisk, Miller '57: 2017
John Sivesind, Roosevelt '96: 2015
Holly Sivesind-Borchers, Roosevelt '93: 2016
Terry Slattery, Salem St. Mary's '56: 2011
Gene Smith, Watertown '47: 2010
Rudy Soderquist, Rapid City '37: 2016
Taran Stapp, Newell '96: 2012
Courtney Stapp-Pool, Newell '94: 2012
Lolly Steele, Pine Ridge '84: 2016
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:** Denver TenBroek, McIntosh '99: 2014
Jim Tays, Gettysburg '50: 2015
Kim Templeton, Miller '72: 2011
Mark Tetzlaff, Hamlin '81: 2014
Jack Theeler, Sisseton '63: 2012
John Thomas, Alexandria '65: 2010
Harold Thune, Murdo '37: 2010
LaMoine Torgerson, Forestburg '59: 2012
- V:** Lisa Van Goor, Yankton '80: 2010
- W:** Lori Wohlleber-O'Farrell, Summit '86: 2014
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
- Z:** Harley Zepher, Dupree '55: 2016
- To learn more about the Hall of Fame members go to our website at www.sdbbhof.com and read their bios.**

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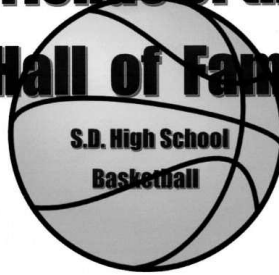
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A Look at the Past



Trish Swanhorst Photo

Membership in the South Dakota High School Basketball Hall of Fame is now 130. Among the many highlights of each induction banquet are memorabilia displays of the inductees. Each display offers an intimate look at memorable moments from the past. Shown above is the display of 2017 inductee Mike Sisk, a 1957 graduate of Miller High School, at the banquet March 25 at the Ramkota Hotel in Sioux Falls.
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