

## 2017 Fall Newsletter

# 'South Dakota 5' led Jacks to Glory in '61

By Greg Hansen

**W**hich college basketball team has been the best in history utilizing a starting five comprised entirely of South Dakotans?

There can be no definitive answer of course. But one team that must be featured prominently in any such discussion is South Dakota State University of 1961.

Don Jacobsen. Terry Slattery. Mike Sisk. Bob Shelden. Denny Busch.

Individually they were outstanding players. Collectively they combined to power one of the most successful teams in state collegiate history. They were all South Dakota boys who bought into the vision of Coach Jim Iverson and joined forces at what was then called South Dakota State College.

The Jackrabbits won the North Central Conference. Then in the championship game of the Midwest Regional they upset the nation's No. 1 team. That sent them to the NCAA College Division National Tournament.

Leading the charge was Jacobsen, a smooth senior forward/guard. He averaged 23.6 points per game that season and was Most Valuable Player of the NCC. Earlier, while at Lake Norden High School, the 6-foot-2 Jacobsen had scored 2,825 career points to set a state prep record that stood for 51 years.

"Jake was a complete player," remembers Slattery. "He was a good passer and was very unselfish. And he defended so well."

Slattery, a 6-6 center, followed Jacobsen in scoring with 15.1 points per game and also averaged 14.3



SDSU Photo

The 1961 Jackrabbits, third in the national tournament, were, from left, front, Bob Yackley (Onida), LaMoine Torgerson (Forestburg), Denny Busch (Huron), Bob Shelden (Brookings), Larry Thirstrup (Sioux Falls). Middle, Assistant Coach Jim Marking, Mike Sisk (Miller), Don Jacobsen (Lake Norden), Coach Jim Iverson. Back, manager Craig Stanwyck, Terry Slattery (Salem), Dick Cronberg (Luverne, Minn.), Les Hansen (Tyler, Minn.) and Leon Crossman (Miller).

### In this Issue:

Memory Road .....	4-5
Early Rivalry .....	6-7
A Life too Short.....	10

rebounds. In high school at Salem St. Mary's he had totaled 2,074 career points.

Before the 1961 season tipped off there was some uncertainty.

"Jake was the only starter back and we had two untested sophomore guards," says Slattery. "We had high hopes, but there were questions, too."

Sisk was a 6-3 senior forward from Miller who scored 12.4 points per game. Shelden and Busch were the sophomore guards, both 6-1. Shelden was a Brookings product and averaged 10.5 points while Busch was from Huron and contributed 7.5.

The five starters had all been all-state players before arriving at SDSU. So had LaMoine Torgerson, a 6-2 sophomore guard who was valuable off the bench. While at Forestburg he had amassed 2,381 career points.

The regional was in Brookings in an era before Frost Arena. The Jacks' home court at that time was

*Continued on Page 2*

# ‘South Dakota 5’ led Jacks to Glory in ‘61

the State College Fieldhouse, reverently referred to as the Barn.

“The Barn gave us a number of home-court advantages,” says Slattery. “Our crowds there were always so alive and so loud.”

SDSU opened by topping Cornell (Iowa). That set up a title game against Prairie View A&M (Texas), which had downed Wisconsin-Superior. Prairie View was 25-1 and atop the national poll. SDSU was unranked and faced the prospect of dealing with Panthers center Zelmo Beaty. He was an All-American with lofty averages of 27.3 points and 22.4 rebounds per game. Beaty was destined for a 12-year career in the NBA and ABA.

In the last 1:03 of the game, Sheldon and Jacobsen converted free throws to open a six-point lead for the Jackrabbits. Beaty then scored at :05 to bring Prairie View within the final margin of 88-84.

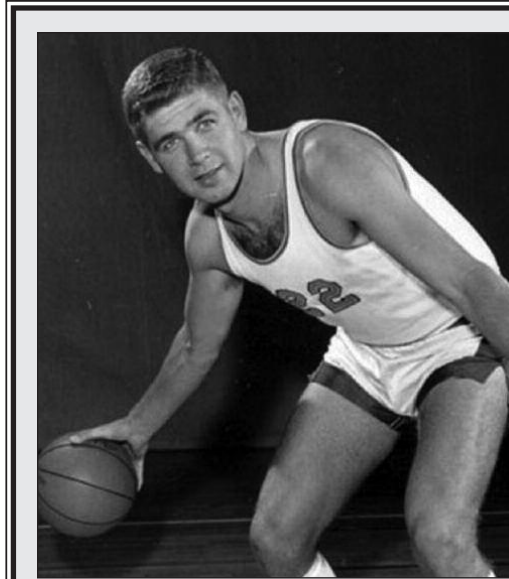
“Zelmo was good,” says Slattery, whose defense held the 6-8 Beaty to 19 points, eight below his average. “Our forwards helped me a lot by crowding in on him.”

Jacobsen’s 34 points included a school record 22 of 28 from the free throw line. Busch added 18 points and Sheldon 10.

After beating such a respected opponent, SDSU’s confidence was understandably high heading to Evansville, Ind. Iverson expressed belief in his Jackrabbits as well as respect for the other teams in the Elite 8.

“We’re going in with one objective,” he said on the eve of the tournament. Iverson was a Platte native who had been an all-Big Seven Conference guard at Kansas State.

“None of us ever doubted Coach Iverson,” says Slattery. “He



**“Jake was the only starter back and we had two untested sophomore guards. We had high hopes, but there were questions, too.”**

**Jackrabbits center  
Terry Slattery**

was a great coach and had our complete respect.”

In the quarterfinals Jacobsen notched 23 points as the Jackrabbits beat California-Santa Barbara. Sheldon had 19, Slattery 18 and Sisk 13.

Southeast Missouri State defeated SDSU in the semifinals, but the Jackrabbits bounced back in the third-place game.

Jacobsen exploded for 38 points in a 77-76 win over Mount St. Mary’s (Md.). His assist in the final seconds set up Slattery for the winning 10-foot shot from inside the circle. Jacobsen earned the Most Outstanding Player Award while the all-tourney team also included Slattery.

Wittenberg (Ohio) topped Southeast Missouri State 42-38 for the title. The champion Tigers were coached by Ray Mears, who later spent 15 years at the University of Tennessee in the Southeastern Conference.

SDSU’s win over Mount St. Mary’s settled its record at 21-6 and was a dramatic finish to a

season that began with a heartbreaking loss. The Jackrabbits had opened against Iowa. SDSU threw a scare at their Big Ten Conference foe before the Hawkeyes escaped 77-75. The Jackrabbits also dropped an early road game at Utah State despite Slattery’s 31 points.

NCC play was competitive. The Jackrabbits triumphed with a 10-2 conference record. Northern Iowa followed at 9-3. Augustana was third at 8-4 and it was the Vikings who handed SDSU its two league losses, 77-72 at the Sioux Falls Coliseum and 72-63 at the Barn.

The experience gained in that 1961 season paid major dividends just two years later when the Jackrabbits earned their way back to Evansville and this time won the championship. They defeated Wittenberg 44-42 in the title game. SDSU’s path to that 1963 national championship was paved by three stalwarts: Wayne Rasmussen of Howard; Tom Black of La Crosse, Wis.; and Sid Bostic of Pipestone, Minn.

# Jaycee Benefit built Momentum for Classics

South Dakota's basketball calendar is filled with an assortment of doubleheaders and classics which players and fans look forward to each winter.

Such events have become so popular across the state that it is difficult to imagine a time when the concept was relatively new.

Perhaps the first to draw statewide attention was the Jaycee Benefit Doubleheader staged in Sioux Falls.

In 1953, during the inaugural game of the benefit, Dell Rapids defeated Spencer 61-53. Jim Riley scored 28 points for the winning Quarriers, who were coached by Virg Sandvig. Don Bentien had 35 for the Cardinals of Coach Verne Olson.

That game was the beginning of something special. Each year the committee which selected the teams to play in the benefit waited until the season was a few games old before making decisions and extending invitations.

That assured that each doubleheader featured strong teams with outstanding records. Often the participants were highly rated in the Class B poll. Fans appreciated the quality and soon large crowds were the norm.

Teams from across the state were anxious to be invited. Playing in the event was a source of pride. Therefore some of South Dakota's finest players performed in the benefit which was first held at the Coliseum and later moved when the Arena was built. Here are some examples:

- Dupree edged Menno 53-49 in the third annual benefit in 1955. Sparking the Tigers with 25 points was Harley Zephier.

- Jerry Wingen produced 35 points to set the pace for Canova as the Eagles earned a 67-60 victory over Colman in 1956.

- Lake Norden turned back White 76-46 in 1957 with Don Jacobsen leading the way for the Bluejays with 26 points.

- Phil Miedema notched 31 points for Hitchcock to power the Bluejays past Volin 57-35 in the 1958 doubleheader.

- The Howard Tigers used the 28-point scoring of Wayne Rasmussen to get past Chamberlain 70-58 in 1960.

In an especially memorable game in the history of the benefit, Alexandria's Beavers outlasted Cresbard 58-57 in 1957 despite 35 points from Bob Swanhorst of the Comets.

Alexandria remained undefeated until reaching the state tournament and falling in the semifinals to Corona. One night later, in the championship game, Cresbard beat Corona 62-57. The Comets finished the season with a 38-1 record. Their only loss came in the Jaycee event.

During the first 10 years that the benefit was held, 33 different schools participated. Only four made more than one appearance: Colman in 1955 and 1956; Dell Rapids in 1953 and 1962; Hurley in 1956, 1960 and 1961; and Lake Norden in 1954 and 1957.

The benefit entered its second decade when the 11th annual event in 1963 featured eventual state champion Alexandria. By then the event had become so highly anticipated each winter that advanced tickets were sold at seven different business locations across Sioux Falls. The cost? \$1.25 for adults and 75 cents for students.

A few years later the benefit was discontinued. During its existence it provided a snapshot of what was to come in South Dakota basketball.

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# Lifetime Memories are Blowing in the Wind

By **Bob Swanhorst**

**T**he wind blew long and strong in North Central South Dakota during the 40s and 50s and winters seemed to overlap with the other seasons. There was little activity to help pass those long winters and those long nights. Yes, life was so simple in those days. One thing always stood out however, and that was the activities at the local high schools. And there were more high schools, many more, during those decades. Most of the schools had attendance in the high school that ranged from 15 to 40 per class and all numbers below and over that average. The normal presentations to the school's patrons surely included music, drama, speech, and sports. It's a crucial part of our DNA as parents to live through our offspring so attendance was never lacking. Those high schools served as the cultural and social moorings of the communities. Many young boys and girls grew up in communities from the size of Aberdeen to the size of Orient and, of course, all sizes in between.

Times change and memories linger, but the fact that life continues to move forward brings out a certain nostalgia with a twinge of melancholy regarding the past. Each and every person must sooner or later ponder what is to be remembered and what is to be forgotten from their existence here on earth. Teen age years can certainly make lasting impressions and some of those memories just won't go away. If you were an aspiring athlete there was a mystical, preexisting challenge for you. Since winters were long and activities limited, an indoor game like basketball claimed an inordinate amount of attention and challenge.

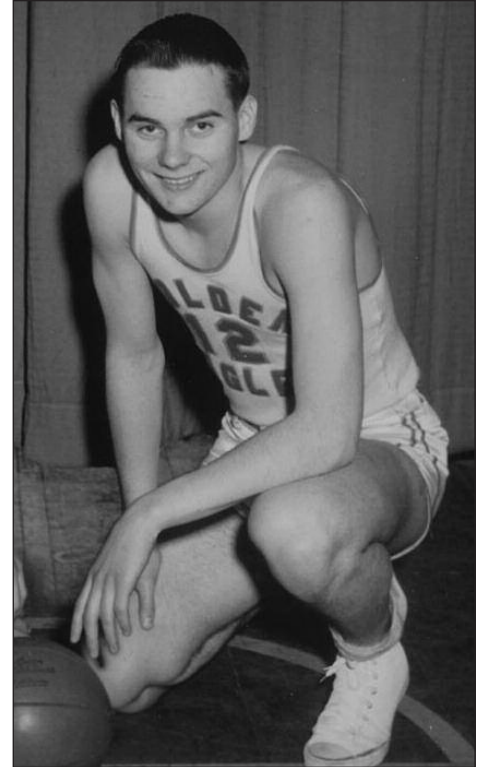


**Jim Tays**

It was all so inviting, a district tournament of eight teams, a regional tournament of four teams, and eight teams in the final state-wide tournament. However, there were many names and teams between that first game and that final state championship game whose site was rotated among Aberdeen, Huron, Mitchell or Sioux Falls.

One thing was sorely lacking however, and that was a state-wide championship play-off for girls sanctioned by the South Dakota Athletic Association. Although many schools sponsored girls teams it lacked the glamour of the state sanction and the publicity that goes with it.

Who were those players and teams that could be found along the way? If you matured during those years and attended school in North Central South Dakota you probably belonged to District I through VIII



**Bob Stewart**

and Region I or II. There were stories, including legendary games and players, to be heard and talked about. There was an immense intrigue about it all, but above all there was pride, pride in your team, district and regional. And to think it was probably that way all across the state and the other seven regions. It was a big, challenging world and it was all right here in South Dakota. Those long winters weren't so bad after all.

Names floated about and some became something of legend. Every community seemed to have a number of players that stood out. Who can remember them all? Keep in mind there wasn't an overall All-State team until the middle 50s. If you didn't make the state tournament you likely were a forgotten player. Here are some excellent players who never made the state tourney from the area.

Leola had Jim Rath who later

# Lifetime Memories are Blowing in the Wind

starred at USD playing at a guard position for the Coyotes. His teammate in high school was a big center by the name of Harry Hauffe. Hauffe also starred at USD but became a football standout. Then there was Gary Hepperle who would go on to Northern and play for Bob Wachs and the Wolves. As a team the Leola Pirates, coached by Lefty Turnwall, were always formidable. Their district and regional battles with Eureka, Ipswich and Bowdle were always noteworthy games.

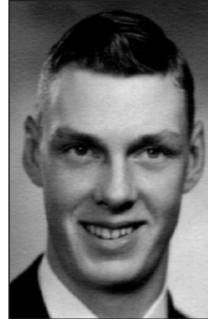
Roscoe and Hosmer had players from that era that stood out. Milbert Vogeles and Roman Guthmiller were mainstays in all sports at Roscoe. Melvin Imberry and Clarence Dewald anchored some capable teams at Hosmer. Gary Osborne, Marvin White, and John Swanhorst kept Cresbard a top team in District V. Faulkton boasted the names of Wyman Ketterling and Doyle Dieter as top players.

Bowdle, with Marv McPhee an ordained priest as coach, had some great teams that included Delbert Aldinger, Gary Shipley, and Bert Leidholt. Leidholt once made 22 free throws in a single game. John Wolff of Eureka along with Agar standouts Terry Pexa and Jim Wiedeman plus the Schreiber brothers, Marion and Bob, never made the state tournament. Steve Hammer of Pierpont, Lefty Watson of Redfield, Mel Maxon of McLaughlin, Ken Heier and Tom Bartholomew of Lemmon and Arlen Amundson of Frankfort were all worthy players who never made the big show.

There were also many notable players from the area who did make the tourney. Way back in 1931 Waubay and Wakpala had a number of Native American players in the



**Steve Hammer**



**Bob Marske**

state tourney played in Mitchell. Waubay's Lofty Humbracht, six foot seven inch center, and Wakpala's Jimmie Distribute stole the show. The *Mitchell Evening Republican* wrote:

"The cleverest ball handler of the tournament was Distribute. His antics threw the opposition off guard for his passes might go anywhere. He was proficient with either hand and on bounce passes used 'English' to place the ball where he wanted it. His defensive play was good."

Distribute was selected to the all-state tournament team. Humbracht's Waubay team went on to beat Wakpala 21 to 17. Yankton eventually won the state that year beating Lead 39-17. Distribute died soon after high school of tuberculosis. He was playing amateur baseball for Mobridge during that summer of his death.

Also making the big show were Eureka's Willis Mehlhaff and Leslie Neuharth. Mobridge, which won back to back tournaments in 1943 and '44, had Dick Baun, Pat Morrison and later placed Mahlon Baer and Eugene Schmaltz on the all-tourney team. Webster featured the great Lefty Engebretson and Harvey Hanson. In 1944 the state was first introduced to Andover's great Bob Marske. He would be drafted by the NBA at age 26 after

never playing collegiately.

Ipswich loaded up with three all-tournament players in Leo and Harvey Hammrich and Roger Mohr. McLaughlin had Carol Heier and Ted Ankle while Gettysburg featured Jim Tays and Bob Houck. Harrold also put three players on the all-state team which included Marty Steifel, DeWayne Misterek and Lien Marso. Columbia had Jermitt Krage, Jan Hanson and the Buntrocks. Claremont had Marv Rasmussen and Gus Perkins and Selby had Pepper Martin and Darwin Sulzle. Onida topped honors having four all-tourney players in '53: Jim Sutton, Quentin Youngberg, Ronnie Lawrence, and Kent Hyde.

The Aberdeen Golden Eagles had a long list of all-tourney players during those decades. Included on that list are Bob Stewart, Forrest Zimmerman, Dallas Hoff, Gerald Hansen, Wayne Fix, Rich Nelson, Don Peterson, and Dave Wolsky.

No one involved can ever forget the lively and, to be sure, sometimes bitter rivalries of that area. Onida and Agar seemed locked in a perpetual struggle. The McLaughlin and Mobridge rivalry could be classified as borderline bitter, Eureka and Leola staged some great games and there were many more.

The state basketball tournaments grew in popularity and were regarded as the state's biggest sports attraction during those decades. Time changed all that and today many other sports attractions have moved up in attendance and interest. But, for many, those old days and memories just will not go away. The wind still blows a little harder in North Central South Dakota and many of those names and memories are going along with it.

# Rivalry added Drama as Girls Tipped Off

When girls basketball began in South Dakota, it didn't take long for the first major rivalry to emerge.

In the southern part of the state Yankton High School entered the new era with some players of all-state caliber and an experienced coach who had already won a state championship on the boys level.

To the north Watertown High School was led by a heavily recruited guard and was guided by a knowledgeable young coach who was destined to eventually become a success in NCAA Division I.

The first Class A State Tournament was held in 1975 at the Aberdeen Civic Arena. To the surprise of no one, Yankton and Watertown both won their way into the championship game.

The Gazelles of Coach Bob Winter defeated Winner in the quarterfinals and Brandon Valley in the semifinals. Meanwhile, Watertown, coached by Pat Dobratz, advanced to the finals by downing Rapid City Stevens and Mitchell.

Yankton was led by 5-foot-9 seniors Beth Barnes and Sue Termansen. After an even first half in the championship game, the Gazelles went on a 10-2 run during a third-quarter surge to go up by 11 points at 29-18.

The Arrows narrowed the deficit behind the play of Kriss Edwards, a 5-3 junior, and 5-7 sophomore Kay Stormo. But their rally came up short.

With 4:16 left Yankton was up 30-27. Barnes then hit four free throws and the Gazelles secured the championship with a 39-34 victory.

Barnes scored 15 points for Yankton while Termansen had 13



*UNO Photo*  
A key player in the first two Class A girls state championship games, Watertown guard Kriss Edwards was named first team all-state two times before moving on to star at Nebraska-Omaha.

points and 17 rebounds. Watertown was paced by Edwards with 14 points and Stormo with 10.

The excellence of the Gazelles and Arrows was recognized when the all-state team was announced a few days later. Barnes and Edwards were named first team. Termansen and Stormo were selected to the second team.

Disappointment from the championship game remained in the memory of the Arrows. They wanted a different outcome the following season.

The Corn Palace in Mitchell was the site of the 1976 state tournament. Watertown entered

with only one loss. Yankton had topped the Arrows by a single basket in a regular-season game that decided the ESD crown.

In the quarterfinals Lead presented a challenge before Watertown emerged 58-51 behind Edwards' 20 points. Then the Arrows turned their attention to a semifinal matchup against defending champion Yankton.

This time Watertown prevailed. Edwards notched 14 points and the skilled guard's ball handling in the final minutes preserved a 50-42 victory. The next night the Arrows raced past Stevens 73-49 in the title game.

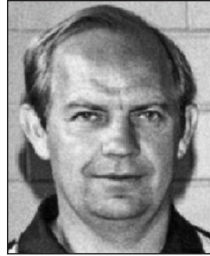


## Rivalry added Drama as Girls Tipped Off

Once again all-state was dominated by Watertown and the Gazelles. Edwards repeated on the first team, Stormo made second team and 5-6 senior Lynn Bretsch was third team for the Arrows. Yankton placed 5-10 senior Lori Burkhardt on the first team, 5-9 junior Dona Ray on the second and 5-7 junior Patti Bierle on the third.

Dobratz was a Sioux Falls Lincoln graduate and a star player at South Dakota State University. In three years at Watertown her Arrows were 51-4. Dobratz later served as head coach at the University of Idaho from 1981-86. There her Vandals achieved a 142-39 record.

Winter was from Wessington Springs and graduated from



Bob Winter

Yankton College. He had coached Yankton's Bucks to a state boys title in 1974. Guiding the Gazelles from 1975-91, Winter's teams went 319-53. They followed their 1975 triumph with titles in 1977, 1978, 1979, 1983, 1986, 1987 and 1988.

The two players in the initial state championship game who earned first team all-state honors went on to distinguish themselves collegiately.

Barnes became a four-year starter at Northern State University. She totaled 1,287 career points for the Wolves.

Edwards was an all-time University of Nebraska-Omaha great. While scoring 1,090 career points for the Mavericks of the North Central Conference she also set UNO career records with 460 assists and 331 steals.

Stormo made her mark in college, too, concentrating on track. Before leaving the University of Iowa she became a four-time Big Ten Conference champion and set Hawkeyes records in the 600 meters; 800; 1,000; and 1,500.

Outstanding coaches, talented players, and a shared competitiveness helped Yankton and Watertown tip off girls basketball in South Dakota in grand style.

## In Solemn Remembrance and Tribute

**Delbert Gillam**, 82, of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, died April 19, 2017. He set the state single game record when he scored 72 points for Argonne in 1953 against Canova. A veteran of the U.S. Army, he served in Korea and Vietnam. He was awarded two Purple Heart Medals.

**Bernie Duffy**, 88, of Fort Pierre died May 25, 2017. A standout as a prep at Fort Pierre, he then played at the University of Sioux Falls. He coached at Fort Pierre and also spent time as a basketball official. He was a former Stanley County State's Attorney.

**John Egan**, 86, of Sun City, Ariz., died July 9, 2017. The Minneapolis native graduated from Augustana University, where he played basketball. He was an award-winning sports journalist during 34 years spent at the *Argus Leader*. He was a U.S. Army veteran.

**Dan Moran**, 79, of Madison died Aug. 5, 2017. A U.S. Marine Corps veteran, he was a graduate of Woonsocket and Dakota Wesleyan. A successful basketball coach (458-198 career record), he took Stickney to the Class B state championship in 1981.

**Bernie Barnes**, 75, of Mitchell died Aug. 5, 2017. As former sports editor of *The Daily Republic*, he covered Mitchell Kernels and Wesleyan Tigers basketball. A graduate of Mitchell Notre Dame, where he played basketball, he earned his college degree at DWU.

**Roger McKellips**, 94, of Alcester died Aug. 18, 2017. He helped the Cubs win the Class B state title as a senior in 1941. He was a U.S. Air Force veteran, a University of Kansas graduate and a prominent leader during his time in the South Dakota Legislature.

**Brian Jones**, 67, of Avon died Sept. 22, 2017. He was a two year all-state player at Langford and earned a University of South Dakota degree. He coached in South Dakota and Minnesota, guiding some outstanding girls teams at Tripp-Delmont.

**Carla Allard-Watson**, 48, of Rapid City died Oct. 20, 2017. She scored 2,835 career points at Bennett County and was co-Miss Basketball in 1986. She starred collegiately at National American University and she was inducted into the SDBBHOF in 2015.

- 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 Zephier, Dupree '55: 2016

To learn more about the Hall of Fame members go to our website at [www.sdbbhof.com](http://www.sdbbhof.com) and read their bios.



## ≡ 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 please visit our website at [www.sdbbhof.com](http://www.sdbbhof.com).



*Sanford Photo*

**Jay Marksman:** Pierre's Zach Hanson ended his Creighton career last season as the second most accurate field goal shooter in Bluejays history. He shot 62.8 percent.

**Giant Steps:** The 6-6 Krista Rabenberg is featured in the new season of "My Giant Life," a TLC reality series about exceptionally tall women. She was all-state at Mobridge.

**SD Return:** Sisseton Wahpeton College's new coach, Jerry Kassin, is a Hitchcock native recently at Western Oklahoma State. He guided Onida to the Class B state title in 1969.

**NFL Prospect:** Cedrick Lang, an O'Gorman basketball standout, was signed to the Minnesota Vikings practice squad. The 269-pound offensive tackle played basketball and football at Texas-El Paso.

**Softball Hall:** Lon Andersen, an all-state basketball player at Hurley, was inducted into the North America Fastpitch Association's Hall of Fame during the NAFA World Series in August.

**Valley Leader:** A former West Central player, Vanessa Keeler-Johnson, is the new women's coach at Valley City State (N.D.). The USF graduate formerly coached at Detroit Lakes, Minn.

**National Champ:** The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater won last season's national men's collegiate wheelchair basketball title by beating Alabama 73-55 in the finals. Dylan Fischbach of Vermillion plays for the Warhawks. This year's tourney is March 7-10 in Marshall, Minn.

## Help us Decide on Future of Newsletter

The South Dakota High School Basketball Hall of Fame has been publishing bi-annual newsletters for four years. This is our seventh edition. We explore a wide array of the topics which have made basketball in our state so special to so many.

We mail copies to about 1,000 friends of the Hall of Fame in 33 states: from California in the west to Massachusetts in the east and from North Dakota in the north to Texas in the south. Many others read the newsletters on our website.

We appreciate the many positive comments we have received from readers. As we plan for the future, we want to know your opinions

about the newsletters. Do you look forward to them and spend time reading the various stories?

Which stories have you most enjoyed? What type of content would you like to see moving forward? Do you like receiving a hard copy by mail? Or would you prefer to have the newsletters only available on our website?

A link has been set up to help us gather your views. Go to [www.sdbbhof.com](http://www.sdbbhof.com) and click on Contact. Provide your name, email address, and share any thoughts you have concerning past newsletters and what you would like to see in future editions. Then hit Submit Comment.

Your name and comments will remain confidential and will not be published. They will only be used to help us decide whether to continue to publish the free newsletters and if so in what format. We appreciate your help.

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# A Player who Should Never be Forgotten

By Greg Hansen

**S**ixty years ago a tragic car accident six miles west of Wall saddened basketball fans across the state.

Don Jongewaard had left his home in Hurley on a West River deer hunting trip when he was killed in a two-vehicle crash on Nov. 1, 1957.

During the 1956 basketball season Jongewaard had concluded his career at the University of South Dakota. He was named the all-North Central Conference center and led the league in scoring with 20.7 points per game.

Jongewaard was one of the state's first true big men. He was 6-foot-7 and 240 pounds in an era when such size was rare. His combination of strength and agility made him a favorite among fans of the Coyotes.

As a prep Jongewaard anchored strong Hurley High School teams that played in the Big Six Conference.

The Bulldogs had won a district title back in 1946. That season Hurley reached the championship game of the State Class B Tournament before falling to Lefty Engebretson and the Webster Bearcats.

Five years later the Bulldogs were in position to win another district title when Jongewaard was a senior in 1951.

During the regular season the Bulldogs faced Parker four times. Hurley won each game by scores of 49-39, 54-53, 47-37 and 50-38.

The neighboring Turner County schools met for a fifth time in the championship game of the District 19 Tournament at the Sioux Falls Coliseum.

Scheduling back then required teams to play two games on the



Don Jongewaard

tourney's final day. The Bulldogs beat Beresford 57-27 while Parker downed Canton 48-36 in the afternoon semifinals. The title game was played that night before a crowd the Argus Leader described as over 2,000.

With time expiring Hurley clung to a one-point lead. But then Dale Ferguson scored from the side to give Parker a 40-39 victory. The Pheasants were led by 6-1 center Lyle Lund with 17 points. Jongewaard had 22 for the Bulldogs. Parker advanced to the Region 5 Tournament that was won by Centerville.

It was a disappointing end to a season in which Hurley compiled a 21-5 record, won the Big Six, and posted a 53-48 victory over the eventual state champion Harrold Cardinals.



USD Photo  
Don Jongewaard totaled 574 rebounds during his career with the University of South Dakota.

Jongewaard was joined on the all-Big Six team by three other Bulldogs: senior Don Benson and juniors Lorry Benson and Don Elliott.

Hurley also featured sophomore Dennis Nelson. Twenty-three years later his son Chad would power Yankton to the 1974 Class A state championship before playing collegiately for Minnesota and Drake.

Jongewaard began his USD career on the freshman team in 1952. He was a reserve on the varsity as a sophomore and then took a year off before returning to the Coyotes as a starter in the 1955 and 1956 seasons.

As a junior and senior Jongewaard played for Dwane Clodfelter, who was beginning a 13-year run as coach at USD. The Coyotes were 8-13 in 1955 and 12-10 in 1956. Jongewaard finished with 1,005 career points.

Among his friends at USD was Ordell Braase, a Mitchell product who played football and basketball for the Coyotes. Braase went on to be part of three NFL championship teams as a Baltimore Colts defensive end.

Jongewaard also had a connection to the world of professional baseball. His cousin, Roger Jongewaard, became vice president of scouting and player development for the Seattle Mariners. Born in South Dakota but raised in California, he was instrumental in Seattle drafting and signing such stars as Ken Griffey Jr. and Alex Rodriguez.

The funeral of Don Jongewaard was held at the American Legion Hall in Hurley on Nov. 5, 1957. Among mourners were many of his teammates from Hurley and USD. Jongewaard was 24.

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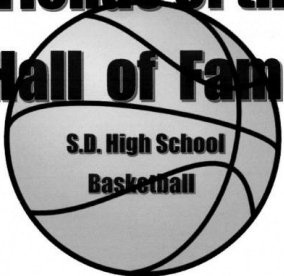
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The growth of the South Dakota High School Basketball Hall of Fame is directly linked to the generosity of those who share our love for the game and believe in our mission to honor and preserve its history.

'Friends of the Hall of Fame' is a group of businesses, institutions and individuals who have provided valuable support with tax-deductible financial gifts.

Those donations allow the non-profit Hall of Fame to expand its outreach and to pursue projects such as this newsletter which amplify the significance of basketball history in our state.

To join our 'Friends' send your gift to SDBBHOF, 2210 W. Pentagon Place, Sioux Falls, SD 57107.

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• This page denotes gifts received during the past year prior to Oct. 28.





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



## Exhibit to honor Tradition



*SDBBHOF Photo*

As symbols of pride and school spirit, letter jackets have been worn by generations of players in our state. The South Dakota High School Basketball Hall of Fame will honor that tradition with an exhibit at the Sanford Pentagon. Currently in the collection are jackets from the 1930s (Doland); 1950s (Cresbard, Fedora); 1960s (Aberdeen, Reliance, Willow Lake); 1970s (Cheyenne-Eagle Butte, Yankton); 1980s (Avon, Huron, Washington); and 1990s (Warner). Needed are jackets from the 1910s, 1920s, 1940s, 2000s and 2010s. If you have a letter jacket from one of the missing decades that you are willing to loan to the Hall of Fame please email Executive Director Dave Wagner at [dlwagner@tnics.com](mailto:dlwagner@tnics.com).