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2018 Spring Newsletter

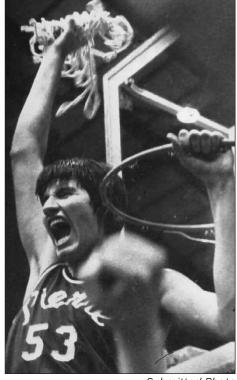
Evolution of State Tournament is Endless

By Bob Swanhorst

ow in the world do you decide on how to run a statewide basketball tournament for high school boys and girls? That problem has been a vexing one in South Dakota ever since the first one was held in the old Daum Opera House in Huron in 1912. Oh my, has it ever changed and evolved. This article will dwell on the factors that supposedly should or could be considered when making these multiple decisions. We will mention but not focus on the make-up of who actually makes these decisions. This article is strictly subjective and contains no mathematical absolutes unless you consider the power of money an absolute.

A broad definition of the South Dakota High School Activities Association says it governs sports and activities in the state. It was founded in 1905 and has been a member of the National Federation of State High School Associations since 1923. It also has a statement that deals with providing equitable participation opportunities and positive recognition to students. This is to be accomplished by working with all schools for the achievement of desired educational goals. There are advisory committees and a Board of Directors. Dr. Dan Swartos is the Executive Director and his staff includes nine titled assistants. Their role, of course, is to carry out the desires of the member schools and the Board of Directors. Membership for 2016-17 listed 180 schools and their enrollment (grades 9-11) for calculation purposes.

Around 1950 the number one sports attraction in South Dakota by attendance and interest was the



Submitted Photo

The jubilation of cutting down the nets after winning a state tournament is exemplified by Pierre Governors star Joe Ashley in 1979.

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State B Basketball Tournament. It remained so for decades. Recently the South Dakota Magazine listed the top seven sporting events to experience in the state. The tournament did not make the list nor did it make the Honorable Mention list of five. Several of the longtime sports journalists (whoops that is an oxymoron) were quizzed and to be fair the question was about assembling a list of sporting

events that all South Dakotans should experience.

The nitty-gritty now becomes how should we best carry out the broader goals of education along with some vital character development by having a state-wide basketball tournament for high school boys and girls. Let's talk numbers first.

South Dakota has a demography cycle going on that reveals the population of schools trending toward an ever-increasing disparity. SF Roosevelt, Washington and Lincoln along with RC Central and Stevens swell and remain constant. On the other end of the scale Summit, Hoven, Rutland, Doland and Grant-Duel are all below 25 students (9-11). It is certain that these schools cannot compete in a meaningful way in any team sport. Combining sports programs with other schools becomes necessary. With 180 school districts, where and on what basis do we draw lines for equality of numbers?

During the first decades of the tournament, like everything in the it seemed a lot less past. complicated. Anyone could go to the tournament if they thought they were worthy and filled out an entrance and eligibility form. There were years when as high as 26 schools would simply enter. To win the championship, teams could be playing two to three games on the final day of the tournament, and remember teams were permitted to carry more than eight players. That began to change and districts and regional tourneys developed to eliminate the teams down to eight for a state tourney. By the middle '30s there was continual

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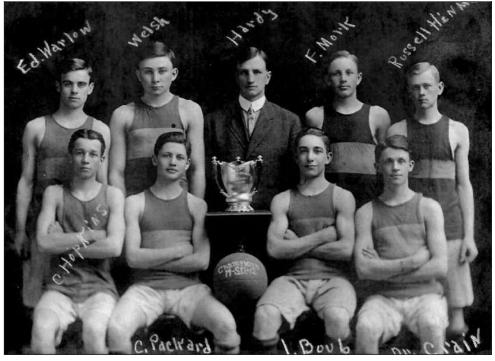
Evolution of State Tournament is Endless

talk about having two classes. In 1935 any school over 300 in high school was A and all the rest were B. For years the top 16 schools by high school enrollment were A and then something that proved very popular took place. During the early '50s the 32 largest schools were A and all the rest were B. That lasted until 1985 when the three class system was initiated.

Popularity had long been established 1985 by and attendance was whatever the site could hold. Who can forget the 1979 championship game when Armour bested Beresford 55-51 in overtime? Attendance at that game was over 11,000. And let's not forget Title IX had been established nation-wide in the '70s and the girls tourneys were coming into their own.

Many basketball enthusiasts today feel that the three class system was the beginning of a slow but gradual decline for the tournament. Interest attendance are not necessarily the goals of the activities association membership. Let's look at some factors that are not only controversial but seemingly at odds with the high school association and many high school basketball fans.

We have attempted to cover the numbers game, but high school basketball is not always primarily about numbers. Programs that are supported in the lower grades and summer programs have a lot to do with success in today's world. Another larger is generally reserve varsity play for Juniors or Seniors because of such large numbers thus smaller schools are more likely to offer



South Dakota's storied history of state basketball tournaments began with Redfield winning the inaugural tourney in 1912. Team members were, from left, front, Carl Hopkins, Clayton Packard, Ivan Boub, Carroll Crain. Back, Edward Warlow, Dana Welsh, Coach Herbert Hardy, Fred Mork and Russell Hinman. Redfield beat Lake Preston 33-25 in the finals.

prospective players years of varsity experience. Then there is something I call the talent cycle phenomenon. Yankton in the '20s, Webster in the '40s, Hayti in the '50s, Sisseton in the '60s, Armour around the '70s, and you could go on and on, but it seems during certain years talent seems to pool for years at certain times and success follows.

Many other factors come into the mix. To some seeding is extremely important. To others random drawing makes for unpredictability and excitement. geographic Then there is representation. To some areas of the state a seeded sweet sixteen means they will never or hardly ever have state tourney representation.

One of the most difficult factors to understand is the David vs.

Goliath factor. A good illustration is Edgerton, Minnesota. When Minnesota selected their all time high school team in 2018 it was tiny Edgerton, a team that won the single class tournament in the early '60s. One of South Dakota's favorite teams is the 1972 Miller team. Just a handful of students less would have made them a Class B School. They beat SF Washington, RC Stevens, and Yankton to win the big class championship. It made for a great tourney and Miller became a darling. It is obvious why.

On the other side we find numerous member schools wanting а more reasonable chance for their students to experience a state tourney. The more classes the better it will be for the students. Others would sav

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it is a subtle way toward entitlement and it takes away the challenges we will all face later as adults.

Many fans feel a state tourney experience should be about the best of the best and not primarily about participation. Playing a difficult and grueling play-off route, like four or six games just to get to the tournament, would enhance and create a more memorable life time experience. Contrast that to winning a state championship for some classes today where four wins could make you a state champ and you would be playing against teams with much the same enrollment. Returning to a two class system would make that thinking more of a reality.

Then there is also the tournament site to consider. Should the venue be the one with the largest potential attendance? Does that make for a more memorable experience for the participants?

Indeed life has always seemed to be so much simpler in the past. There is the story by the late

Andy Kleinsasser, a well known Huron assistant coach in multiple sports, told about R.M. "Bus" Walseth. Mr. Walseth was Executive Secretary of the association for 35 years. When he first took over the positon in 1937 he purchased a brand new basketball for the tournament. After the tournament he locked the ball in a coat closet for the next year and the next year and so on. So it was with one or two or three class systems. The past problems seem so trivial compared to the present. A big problem was whether there should be ten rather than the eight players on a tournament squad. When the ESD teams revolted it was changed to ten after a two year hiatus. I am convinced in 75 years today's challenges will seem just as trivial as the challenges of the past do to us in the present time. The tournament will go on with the one certainty, the format will always change and there will never be total agreement.

Hall of Fame gains Insight from Responses

In the 2017 Fall Newsletter we asked readers for their opinions concerning our newsletters and for their suggestions regarding future content and direction.

We received many responses which provided us with valuable insight. The South Dakota High School Basketball Hall of Fame sincerely appreciates all of our readers who offered their points of view.

It has always been our belief that South Dakotans genuinely love basketball. And that those people who grew up here but now live in other states cherish their South Dakota basketball memories and heritage. That was confirmed by the large number of readers who responded to our inquiry.

We thank you all. We are glad you enjoy our newsletters and we

are grateful for your interest in the Hall of Fame.

It is our objective to cover a wide array of topics. The 2018 Spring Newsletter is our eighth edition. We hope the subjects addressed in this issue will cause thought and rekindle memories.

Basketball in South Dakota is special. We are glad that our readers are experiencing its tradition with us.

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Legacy of Twins is Grand in South Dakota

The presence of talented twins in the South Dakota high school basketball spotlight has existed as long as the game has been played.

In practically every gym in the state, crowds have cheered the tandem splendor of look-alike standouts.

Nearly every school has, at least once in its basketball history, featured a set of twins. Prominent among the many notable examples are the Prendergasts of Milbank.

Harry and Tom starred for the Bulldogs before graduating in 1943. Their exploits on the basketball court was matched by their excellence on the football field, where they led Milbank to the Northeast Conference championship in 1942.

Following graduation the Prendergasts served in the U.S. Marine Corps. They then returned to South Dakota and later, choosing to remain together, enrolled at what was then Huron College.

Harry and Tom were basketball and football starters for the Scalpers (later the Tribe and then Screaming Eagles). They helped Huron become such a dominant basketball force that it won four consecutive South Dakota Intercollegiate Conference titles from 1949 to 1952.

The Prendergasts then embarked on long, successful careers in education. Both were teachers and coaches at a number of high schools while Tom also spent 1960-66 as coach at the University of Sioux Falls.

South Dakota basketball has been blessed with many terrific twins. Following is a synopsis of five sets of twins, in chronological order, who made their marks in high school and continued their careers together in college - Chad and Scott Boekelheide, Trent and Travis Traphagen, Kory and Kevin Petoske, Jeana and Jenna Hoffman, and



Jergens Photography Photo

Summit High School products Presley (35) and Logan O'Farrell confer during an Augustana University game at the Elmen Center. The twins ended their outstanding Vikings careers in 2018 and combined to score 2,316 points as collegians.

Logan and Preslev O'Farrell.

• THE BOEKELHEIDES: Chad and Scott graduated in 1991 after pacing Northwestern to Class B state championships as sophomores and seniors. Each was all-state two years.

In their senior season the 5-foot-11 Chad scored 27 points per game and the 6-foot Scott averaged 19. Chad ended his Wildcats career with 1,633 points while Scott had 1,466.

Northern State University finished as runner-up in the NAIA National Tournament twice with the Boekelheides on the roster. Scott was named to the all-Northern Intercollegiate Conference team in 1995 and totaled 1,039 career points for the Wolves.

• THE TRAPHAGENS: Four-year Groton starters, Trent and Travis demonstrated refined shooting skills early on. During their sophomore season Trent converted 88 percent of his free throws and Travis made seven 3-point goals in a game.

Both averaged 20 points per game as juniors. As seniors Trent, who was 6-6, and the 6-4 Travis led the Tigers to the 1995 Class A state tournament and were both all-state. Trent had 1,267 career points.

While at Black Hills State
University, the Traphagens helped
the Yellow Jackets to three South
Dakota-lowa Conference
championships while earning allconference honors. Travis just
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Legacy of Twins is Grand in South Dakota

concluded his 10th season as women's coach at USF where his Cougars have gone 194-103.

 THE PETOSKES: Kory was 6-4 and was all-state three years. He scored 2,048 career points for Midland. In the Class B state tournament of 2000, during his senior season, Kory displayed his impressive versatility with 20 points, 22 rebounds and nine assists against Harding County.

The 6-3 Kevin was all-state as a senior. He teamed with Kory to spark the Vikings to three Class B state tournaments. Midland's best showing was second in the Petoskes sophomore season when the Vikings finished 24-1.

Kory and Kevin went on to play for Dakota Wesleyan University. Kory accumulated 1,102 career points as a Tiger.

 THE HOFFMANS: Mitchell was Class AA state champion when the Hoffmans were juniors. Jeana and Jenna joined the Kernels varsity as seventh-graders and combined for six appearances on the all-state team.

Jeana was 5-8 and notched 1,565 career points, a Mitchell record at the time of her 2004 graduation. Jenna, 5-9, followed closely with 1,497.

The Hoffmans were starters at Texas State. After transferring to the University of South Dakota, each was all-North Central Conference. As seniors the Hoffmans led the Coyotes to the title game of the NCAA Division II National Tournament in 2008 where USD fell to Northern Kentucky 63-58. Jeana was MVP of the conference and an all-American.

• **THE O'FARRELLS:** A pair of Class B state championships were earned by Summit with the O'Farrells in the lineup. The Eagles reigned when Logan and Presley were sophomores and juniors.

Logan netted 17 points per game as a senior in 2013 while Presley averaged 13. Career totals were 1,219 for Logan and 951 for Presley. Both were chosen all-state twice as the Eagles went 93-8 during their high school years. Their mother, Lori (Wohlleber) O'Farrell, also starred at Summit and is a member of the SDBBHOF.

The O'Farrells concluded their Augustana University careers in March. Both 5-11, they were instrumental in the Vikings reaching the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Division II Tournament. Augustana wound up 29-4 to move Dave Krauth's record to 606-258 in 29 seasons guiding the Vikings. Logan and Presley were both all-Northern Sun Conference.

Readers Viewpoint

To the Editor:

Greg, thank you for the great article in the 2017 Fall Newsletter about the '61 Jackrabbits being South Dakota boys. I've heard from most of the players and all are very appreciative. I would like to add a little more to the story if time and space permit.

Bob Sheldon was diagnosed with a type Hodgkin's disease in November of that year and never played again. He died just a few months later in the spring of 1962. The athletic fields at Brookings High School are named in memory of his short life.

Denny Busch played on the National Championship team in 1963, graduated that spring, and was killed in a work related



accident that same summer.

The coaches, Jim Iverson and Jim Marking, were also natives of the state. Iverson from Platte and Marking from Parkston were starting guards on their high school teams and played against each other four times. I had the privilege of having lunch with them just a few months before coach Marking died. I sat quietly while coaches two great their reminisced lives discussed the history of basketball in South Dakota, from their playing days up to that day. It was a great couple of hours, and wish I could have recorded it. Coach Iverson is living near his daughter Nancy in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and all other teammates are alive and rooting for the Jacks.

Thanks for the memories!

Terry Slattery





Class of 2018 expands Membership to 143

The South Dakota High School Basketball Hall of Fame was proud to welcome 13 new members during its ninth annual induction banquet March 24 at the Ramkota Hotel Exhibit Hall in Sioux Falls.

There are now 143 former stalwarts in the Hall of Fame. Their playing credentials are impressive and their names are familiar to all who have followed basketball in our state.

Here is a capsule look at the Class of 2018. To read full bios of all inductees go to our website at www.sdbbhof.com:

- **Dick Baun** (Mobridge '44): The late Baun led Mobridge to Class B state championships in 1943 and 1944. He was Most Outstanding Player in the tournament both years. He was a standout at Yankton College.
- John Bertolero, Corvallis, Mont. (Lead '56): As a senior Bertolero averaged 25 points per game. He was a three-year starter at both Lead and the University of Wyoming.
- Howie Bich, Sioux Falls (Yale '58): Bich sparked Yale to records of 28-5 in 1957 and 24-7 in 1958. He averaged 24 points per game as a senior. He continued his career at Augustana University.
- Frank Brost, Sioux Falls (Murdo '55): A four-year starter, Brost scored more than 1,500 career points. Murdo was 30-2 in 1954 with Brost netting 21 per game. As a senior he averaged 25 on a 24-3 team.
- John Diefendorf (Irene '46): The late Diefendorf was named South Dakota's greatest player for the first half of the 20th century. He starred at Irene and was all-North Central Conference three years for the University of South Dakota.



John Simko Photo

The Hall of Fame Class of 2018 is comprised of, from left, front, Frank Brost, Lisa (Kurtenbach) Glanzer, Jared Reiner, Mandy Kappel, Harvey Schaefer. Back, Howie Bich, Dona Ray-Reed, Cary Hornaman, Misty Tyon representing her father Louis Tyon, and Tom Diefendorf representing his late father John Diefendorf. Also inducted were John Bertolero, Chad Greenway and the late Dick Baun.

- Lisa (Kurtenbach) Glanzer, Lakewood, Colo. (Brookings '85): Brookings won the Class A title in 1984 when Glanzer was the state's Miss Basketball. She started 114 games at South Dakota State University.
- Chad Greenway, Wayzata, Minn. (Mount Vernon '01): Greenway set the Mount Vernon career record of 1,450 points. He averaged 20 per game as a sophomore, 23 as a junior and 26 as a senior. He starred at linebacker for the University of lowa and Minnesota Vikings.
- Cary Hornaman, Valrico, Fla. (Aberdeen Roncalli '75): Hornaman helped Roncalli to the Class A state title in 1975 and netted a school career record 1,314 points. He played at Northern State University.
- Mandy Kappel, Sioux Falls (Roosevelt '00): Miss Basketball as a senior, Kappel was a fiveyear starter. She played on teams that were 112-4 and won three Class AA state titles. She played at Drake.

- Dona Ray-Reed, Pierce, Neb. (Yankton '78): Ray-Reed helped start a Yankton tradition of excellence. She scored 17 points per game as a senior on an undefeated team. She also was a standout at Yankton College.
- Jared Reiner, Edina, Minn. (Tripp-Delmont '00): Tripp-Delmont was Class B state champion during Reiner's senior season when he averaged 23 points, 12 rebounds and six blocks per game. He played at the University of Iowa and saw action in the NBA for Chicago and Milwaukee.
- Harvey Schaefer, Milbank (Hayti '54): Schaefer helped Hayti to the Class B state title in 1954. He was all-South Dakota Intercollegiate Conference three times at Dakota Wesleyan University.
- Louis Tyon, Park City, Utah (Pine Ridge '63): Tyon's 20-point per game scoring helped Pine Ridge reach Class B title games in 1962 and 1963. The Thorpes won when he was a junior and were second in 1963.





- A: Amy Allard-Carmody,
 Jefferson '82: 2016
 Carla Allard-Watson,
 Bennett County '87: 2015
 Rich Andrzejewski, Arlington '69: 2014
 Robin Anderson-Thormodsgaard,
 Clear Lake '80: 2010
 Joe Ashley, Pierre '79: 2017
- Dick Authier, Woonsocket '67: 2014 **B:** Bruce Bad Moccasin, Pierre '67: 2010

 Dick Baun, Mobridge '44: 2018

 JoElle Byre-Benson,

Washington '82: 2011
Ron Bertsch, St. Lawrence '61: 2017
John Bertolero, Lead '56: 2018
SuAnne Big Crow, Pine Ridge '92: 2017
Howie Bich, Yale '58: 2018
Scott Bosanko, Aberdeen '77: 2013
Frank Brost, Murdo '55: 2018
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: Katie Dailey, Jefferson '81: 2015 John Diefendorf, Irene '46: 2018 Chris Divich, Doland '52: 2013 Terry DuPris,

> Cheyenne-Eagle Butte '76: 2011 Jim Dyer, Willow Lake '60: 2015

- E: Kriss Edwards, Watertown '77: 2017 John Eidsness, Canton '66: 2015 Gary Evjen, Washington '68: 2017
- F: Roger Faber, Canistota '58: 2016 Randy Fletcher, Reliance '65: 2012 Becky Flynn-Jensen,

Wakonda '92: 2010 Gordon Fosness, Presho '53: 2011 Bart Friedrick, Mitchell '85: 2014 Mike Freier, Tripp '67: 2015 Carol Freeman-Goldanth,

Canova '79: 2013

- **G:** Barry Glanzer, Armour '78: 2012 Max Gonzenbach, Milbank '54: 2010 DuWayne Groos, Sisseton '62: 2014 Chad Greenway, Mt. Vernon '01: 2018
- H: 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
 Diane Hiemstra-Gabriel,
 Yankton '80: 2011
 Luther Hippe, Washington '83: 2014
 Kris Holwerda-Woerner,
 Brookings '81: 2014
 Cary Hornaman, Roncalli '75: 2018
 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 Lisa Kurtenbach-Glanzer, Brookings '85: 2018
 - Mandy Kappel, Roosevelt '00: 2018
- L: John Lillibridge, Burke '58: 2017 Jimmy Lovley, Elkton '20: 2015 Lance Luitjens, Custer '92: 2010 Jerry Lund, Belle Fourche '57: 2013
- M: Guy Mackner, Sisseton '65: 2017 Tom Malchow, Aberdeen '61: 2011 Bob Marske, Andover '44: 2016 Lien Marso, Harrold '51: 2014 Tom McGrann, Watertown '59: 2010 Jesse Mendoza,

Cheyenne-Eagle Butte '71: 2012 Rod Merriam, Huron '80: 2010 Phil Miedema, Hitchcock '58: 2014 Amy Mickelson, Brookings '86: 2013 Alan Miller, Stickney '81: 2011 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: Chad Nelson, Yankton '74: 2013 Roger Nelson, Brookings '54: 2011 Dana Nielsen-Honner, Armour '88: 2012 Rick Nissen, Miller '72: 2011
- **O:** Melissa Olson-Guebert, Lincoln '83: 2016

Tom Orton, Madison '65: 2012

- **P:** Ann Pancoast, Washington '81: 2017 Harley Petersen, Hayti '54: 2011
- R: Marv Rasmussen, Claremont '55: 2015 Wayne Rasmussen, Howard '60: 2016 Dona Ray-Reed, Yankton '78: 2018 Jared Reiner, Tripp-Delmont '00: 2018 Renee Ruesink, Castlewood '84: 2013
- **S:** Renae Sallquist, Brookings '86: 2011 Jim Schlekeway, Britton '64: 2013 Jim Schmidt,

Dell Rapids St. Mary '41: 2017 Harvey Schaefer, Hayti '54: 2018 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

T: Jim Tays, Gettysburg '50: 2015 Kim Templeton, Miller '72: 2011 Denver TenBroek, McIntosh '99: 2014 Mark Tetzlaff, Hamlin '81: 2014 Jack Theeler, Sisseton '63: 2012 John Thomas, Alexandria '65: 2010 Harold Thune, Murdo '37: 2010 LaMoine Torgerson,

Bob Swanhorst, Cresbard '57: 2010

Rex Swett, Huron '58: 2010

Wendy Swanhorst, Cresbard '78: 2013

Forestburg '59: 2012 Louis Tyon, Pine Ridge '63: 2018

- V: Lisa Van Goor, Yankton '80: 2010
- W: Marty Waukazoo, Rapid City '67: 2013 Chuck Welke, Warner '94: 2013 Vince Whipple, Rapid City '56: 2015 Willie White, Pine Ridge '87: 2014 Jerry Wingen, Canova '56: 2011 Lori Wohlleber-O'Farrell, Summit '86: 2014
- Z: Harley Zephier, Dupree '55: 2016





Gyms of the 1950s had Character and Charm

story in the 2017 Fall Newsletter referenced players and high schools in north-central South Dakota during the 1950s. The following article describes some of the area's gyms and playing conditions the writers experienced while attending high school during that time.

By Marvin White & John Swanhorst

Perhaps the most bizarre gym was in Ashton. Not only was the ceiling rather low, eliminating long field goals; it also had two poles in the center of the court, effectively allowing for a seven-man zone defense. This was not all; in the corner of the gym was a red-hot operating furnace. If memory serves us right a player could go around the furnace and not be out of bounds. On really cold winter nights a ball deflected onto the furnace could become non-playable -- even worse, explode.

Mellette's gym provided players with a unique challenge. On one end of the gym was a two-foot high stage. A player driving for a layup had to pull his feet up and sail into a net effectively catching him, throwing him back on the floor preventing serious injury.

Frankfort's gym had a balcony protruding over one side of the floor which prevented shot attempts from underneath. This gym also had wire cages covering the light bulbs which deflected passes and goal attempts. A ball hitting these cages was considered out of bounds.

Games at Redfield were played on the stage in their auditorium. This was one of the larger gyms in the area. Needless to say basketballs were often, sometimes intentionally, thrown into the orchestra pit where the band was seated. Because the court was a stage, there were times when the audience couldn't see some of the action on the ends of the court.

Faulkton did not have bleachers. The gym was basically a room with balconies on three sides. Fans had to lean out of what were basically windows without glass to see the game. The gym floor was two or three steps down from the main floor. As with most courts during this time, chairs were set up along the edge of the court right up against the out of bounds line. Consequently many a player (and officials) got tripped going down the sidelines. It seemed like the home team never had this problem, however.

Because most of the gyms were not very large a player did not really have to be in good condition. In fact, for most gyms the center jump-up circle over lapped the free throw line circles. Consequently, if a school had a larger gym, such as Ipswich and Redfield, tournaments were played there; providing a distinct home court advantage both because of court size and player conditioning.

Teams used to playing on larger courts often experienced difficulty adjusting to the smaller courts creating some very interesting contests.

Not all gyms were equipped with shower facilities. Visitor dressing rooms were often in classrooms. For our conference, Northville had the best gym which included locker rooms with showers.

During the first couple years of the '50s, some schools owned the basketball shoes (Converse) so the shoes got passed on to whomever they fit. Of course, most shoes didn't fit causing blisters to form. Tuff Skin, a dark, foul smelling application somewhat "cured" this problem. Because most schools did not have laundry facilities, players were expected to keep their uniforms clean. When the sweat started it didn't take long to know who had been remiss in doing so.

All in all, it was a wonderful, memorable experience to play at these places against some really fine players.

(Marvin White and John Swanhorst were teammates at Cresbard High School)

Archives open Door to State's Basketball Past

The South Dakota High School Basketball Hall of Fame reminds its followers that all former newsletters can be accessed on our website at www.sdbbhof.com.

Go to 'Newsletter Archives' and read or print any edition. Here are some examples of the history explored in back issues:

- The bold decision made in 1985 that changed the course of basketball in South Dakota.
- A special December tournament that for 41 years has

- embodied culture and tradition.
- How the talent of a freshman prodigy had the state abuzz during the winter of 1964.
- A team from South Dakota that traveled to Chicago and earned national acclaim in 1927.
- The rivalry that helped girls basketball get off to a memorable start in the state in the 1970s.
- The manner in which one school exerted its dominance in the one-class era from 1912-35.





= 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. Exhibits are on display in the main Hall of Fame area on the ground floor with additional items on the second floor. 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.

Long Running: The 50th edition of the Jones County Invitational was staged in Murdo during January. Tyson lyotte, a 6-1 sophomore at White River who was chosen the tournament's Most Valuable Player, led the Tigers to the championship. Jones County, White River and Stanley County have each participated in all 50 of the tournaments.

500 Milestone: A 62-61 win in two overtimes over Lower Brule in January gave Coach Paul Raasch of Langford Area his 500th career victory. He is a Castlewood native and South Dakota State graduate. The South Dakota boys leaders in wins are Larry Luitjens (748), Gary Munsen (672), Burnell Glanzer (617) and Gayle Hoover (577).

Texas Honor: The San Antonio Sports Hall of Fame inducted Becky Hammon during a ceremony on Jan. 27. The Rapid City and Colorado State University product, a SDBBHOF member, was a longtime standout player for the San Antonio Stars of the WNBA and has been an assistant coach for the San Antonio Spurs of the NBA.



Sanford Photo

Ramblin' Man: Loyola surprised the collegiate basketball world by advancing to the Final Four of the 2018 NCAA Tournament. Carson Shanks, a 7-foot center from Apple Valley, Minn., was a member of the Ramblers. His dad Mike was an all-state player at Huron in 1982.

East Coach: McLaughlin native Dawn Seiler, longtime successful girls coach of the Aberdeen Central Golden Eagles, guided the East squad as it fell to the West 82-79 in the annual McDonald's All-American Girls Game that was staged in Atlanta on March 28.

NAIA King: Craig Doty coached Graceland University (lowa) to the 2018 NAIA Division I men's championship. His Yellowjackets finished with a 29-10 record. He was an all-state player at Alcester-Hudson during the 2004 season. Doty is a graduate of Morningside College.

Chasing Eric: SDBBHOF member Eric Kline is the Class AA career scoring leader. The 1991 graduate of Aberdeen Central totaled 2,025 points. Yankton's 6-7 Matthew Mors, after his freshman season, already has 1,173. Mors averaged 24.4 points per game this season.

Career Change: Mike Miller has joined Penny Hardaway's coaching staff at the University of Memphis. The native of Mitchell and SDBBHOF member had a 17-year NBA career after playing at the University of Florida. Miller totaled 10.973 points in the NBA.

New Hall: The new Minnesota High School Basketball Hall of Fame inducted its inaugural class, including the 1960 state champion Edgerton team, on March 26 at Target Center in Minneapolis. Among inductees were Minnesota legends Kevin McHale and Lindsey Whalen.





In Solemn Remembrance and Tribute

Tom Black, 76, of Ovando, Mont., died Sept. 9, 2017. The La Crosse, Wis., native led South Dakota State to the NCAA College Division championship in 1963. A 6-foot-10 center, he spent time in the NBA with the Seattle SuperSonics and Cincinnati Royals.

Randy Moen, 60, of Dallas, Texas, died Oct. 26, 2017. He was an all-state player at Sisseton. After retiring from the Arizona Department of Corrections, he worked in the golf industry in a variety of locations, including at Edgebrook Golf Course in Brookings.

Jim Graber, 68, of Parker died Nov. 3, 2017. A graduate of Bethel College (Kan.), he served as the basketball coach at Freeman Academy. Earlier he had been an all-state player for the Bobcats.

Ron Erickson, 85, of Scottsdale, Ariz., died Nov. 5, 2017. After helping Brookings to the State Class A Tournament in 1949 and 1951, he played at SDSU. He was an educator in Minnesota and South Dakota.

Dennis Nelson, 83, of Watertown died Nov. 13, 2017. An elite basketball player at Hurley, he won four Class B state discus titles. The University of South Dakota graduate served at schools in Nebraska and South Dakota. He was Waubay superintendent for 20 years.

Ron Eastman, 83, of Coalinga, Calif., died Nov. 16, 2017. A graduate of Sioux Falls Cathedral, he played basketball at Coalinga College and served in the U.S. Army. He coached at West Hills College (Calif.).

Wayne Stone, 95, of Mitchell died Nov. 21, 2017. He starred as Mitchell won the Class A state title in 1940 and later coached Emery to the Class B championship in 1950. A U.S. Army veteran, he was a Dakota Wesleyan standout and a SDBBHOF inductee.

Dick Fuller, 85, of Armour died Nov. 22, 2017. A key player on Mitchell's state champion Class A team in 1950, he served in the U.S. Army and played football at USD and DWU. He was superintendent at Armour from 1969-94.

Pat Morrison, 92, of Mobridge died Dec. 4, 2017. He helped Mobridge to Class B state titles in 1943 and 1944. A standout pitcher at the University of Michigan, he was a U.S. Army veteran. He was a basketball referee for 35 years and a longtime radio sports broadcaster.

John Wollman, 89, of Sioux Falls died Dec. 9, 2017. A U.S. Army veteran, he was involved with Huron University basketball from 1960-2000 as NAIA faculty athletic representative. He graduated from Bridgewater and DWU.

Bob Aamlid, 80, of Brandon died Dec. 20, 2017. The first year South Dakota selected an all-state basketball team was 1955 when Aamlid was a senior at Bridgewater. He was chosen to the team after averaging 24 points per game. He was a graduate of SDSU.

Loren Kambestad, 65, of Rapid City died Jan. 18, 2018. He was the former girls coach at Lead. He graduated from Bristol and Northern. An elite runner, he held state records in the 1,600 (4:13.7) and 3,200 (9:11.5).

Georgie Ellenbecker, 99, of Rochester, Minn., died Jan. 21, 2018. She was a standout during the first stage of girls basketball in South Dakota. She played at Alpena and Huron University. She lived many years in Sioux Falls.

Doug Dohrer, 69, of Milbank died Feb. 13, 2018. He was a senior starter as Milbank won the Class A title in 1967. He led the Bulldogs in scoring with 47 points in the tourney. He graduated from SDSU.

Milo Dailey, 72, of Belle Fourche died Feb. 18, 2018. A longtime journalist, he was a native of Des Moines, Iowa. He was a reporter and editor who often wrote about sports. He spent most of his career in South Dakota.

Gus Kolb, 93, of McAllen, Texas, died March 1, 2018. The Cheyenne Indian Agency Braves had a 28-3 record and claimed the Class B championship during the 1959 season behind the coaching of Kolb. He was a native of Leola and graduated from SDSU.

Dean Minder, 90, of Mitchell died March 8, 2018. He was a graduate of Wilmot and Northern as well as a veteran of both the U.S. Army and the U.S. Navy. He covered Mitchell and DWU basketball for The Daily Republic.

Gene Alwin, 87, of Sisseton died March 17, 2018. He helped Webster win Class B state championships in 1946, 1947 and 1948. He was a graduate of Northern and spent most of his career as a teacher and coach at Sisseton.

Jack Pennington, 95, of Rapid City died April 7, 2018. He coached some outstanding Selby teams, taking the Lions to the Class B tournament in 1954 and 1955. He was a Redfield and DWU grad who served in World War II.





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The South Dakota High School Basketball Hall of Fame is making plans for its 10th annual induction banquet next spring.

'Friends of the Hall of Fame' is a group of generous donors whose financial gifts have allowed the Hall of Fame to grow and prosper since its beginning in 2009.

Donations allow the non-profit Hall of Fame to expand its outreach in a variety of ways that amplify the significance of basketball history in South Dakota. One example is this newsletter. We publish twice yearly and the newsletters are distributed free.

To become a 'Friend' send your taxdeductible gift to SDBBHOF, 2210 W. Pentagon Place, Sioux Falls, SD 57107.

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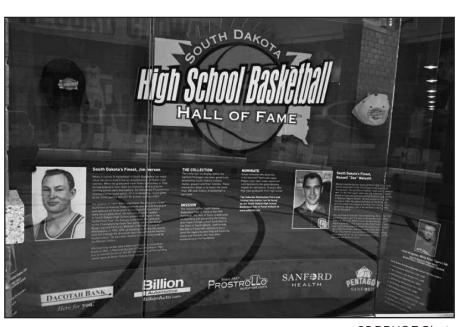
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A Tribute to a pair of State's Best



SDBBHOF Photo

South Dakota basketball immortals Jim Iverson and Russell "Sox" Walseth are being recognized in a new display that has been added to the South Dakota High School Basketball Hall of Fame at the Sanford Pentagon. Iverson starred at Platte before graduating in 1948. While at Kansas State University, he was a starting guard for the Wildcats. Iverson coached South Dakota State University to the NCAA College Division national championship in 1963. Walseth led Pierre to the Class A state championship as a senior in 1944. He was then a starting guard for the University of Colorado. He coached SDSU and then had stints coaching both the men and women at Colorado.