

2018 Fall Newsletter

Tragedy caused Heartbreak for Small Town

By Bob Swanhorst

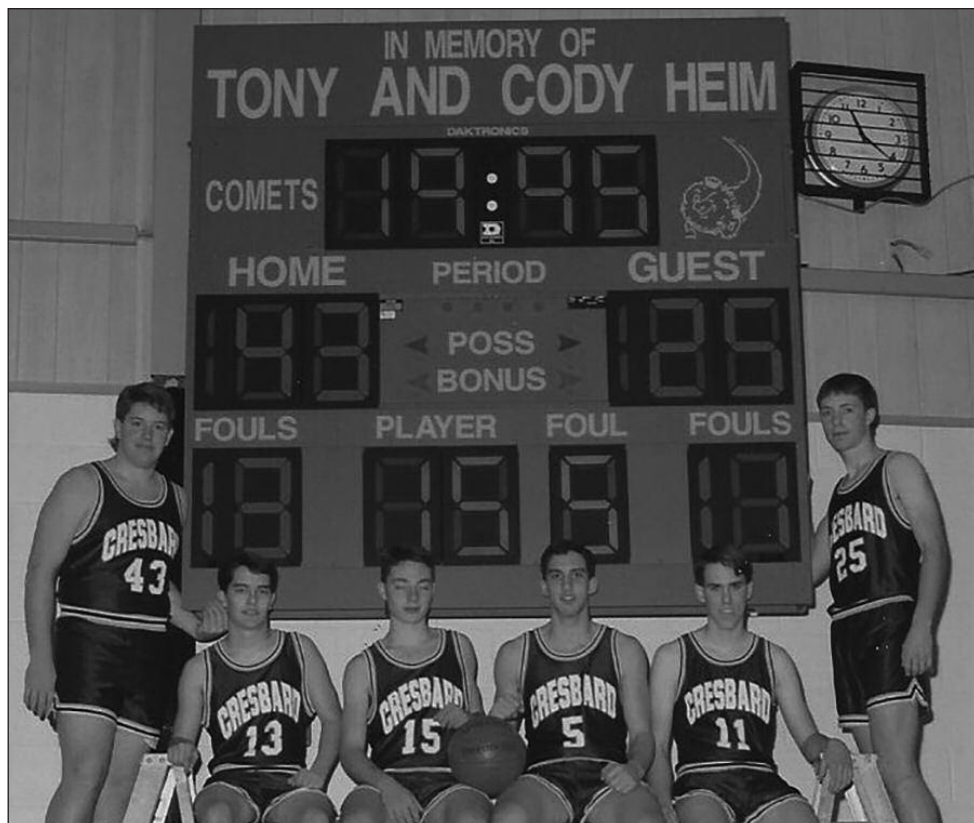
In the spring of 1994 Cody Heim graduated from Cresbard High School. His four years of high school experiences and accomplishments as a student reflected that Cody was a talented and well-liked young man.

First and foremost he was an honor student and graduated as the class salutatorian. Cody was the Cresbard High School Homecoming King and Sweetheart King. Athletically he was selected to the 1994 all-conference basketball team, as well as the conference all-tournament team. Along with his basketball honors for conference and district play, he was regarded as a team player. High school basketball was a big part of his young life.

Cody was the eldest son of Evie and Tony Heim. The family also included siblings Chad, Tonya, Shannon and Michael. Evie and Tony owned and operated a buffalo ranch. Tony was considered a world leader in the buffalo industry. Being a member of the National Bison Association, he was instrumental in establishing the National Bison Stock Show in Denver. Further evidence of his leadership in the buffalo industry was the National Bison Association awarding him the Golden Trophy Award posthumously in 1995.

On June 9, 1994, Cody and his father, Tony, were bringing home a load of buffalo from Saskatchewan, Canada. They were involved in a fatal vehicle-train accident. One can only imagine the devastation experienced by the family.

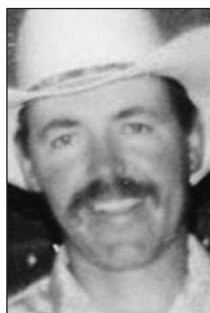
The Cresbard community and the many buffalo related friends made the incident a shared tragedy. The community businesses and many



Submitted Photo
 Cresbard players in 1995 show the memorial scoreboard that honors the memory of Tony and Cody Heim. The Comets dedicated their season to Cody. From left are Kory Holt, Mike Holdren, Weston Holt, Chris Larsen, Anthony Meier and Cody's younger brother Chad Heim.



Cody Heim



Tony Heim

friends unified their donations to purchase a scoreboard as a memorial to Cody and Tony. It was placed in the school gymnasium. Jill Fix, another sports mom, was instrumental in mounting the school fight song on a banner which was placed prominently

alongside the scoreboard. Community, basketball, tragedy, and the human spirit all found a way to come together and continue with life's challenges and joys.

The scoreboard and banner had stood as a constant memorial not only to Cody's family, but to the entire community even though the school has been closed for several years. The South Dakota High School Basketball Hall of Fame is proud to present a story that is more than winning or losing, but delves deeply into the human spirit of kindness.

(Rob Howe and the family of Cody Heim contributed information for this story)

Murdo Gym signaled March toward New Era

By Greg Hansen

As the 1940s gave way to the 1950s, many high school basketball teams in South Dakota still played in antiquated gymnasiums that lacked even the most basic of modern features.

Some had exposed heating elements that subjected players to potential burns. Others lacked proper locker room and shower facilities. Most were without adequate seating to accommodate spectators.

It was in that setting when forward-thinking school and civic officials recognized the importance of basketball in relation to a town's identity and pride. Decisions were made to improve the experience for players and fans alike.

In central South Dakota, a trendsetter was Murdo.

A community-wide vision in that Jones County town resulted in the construction of the Murdo City Auditorium before the Coyotes opened the 1954-55 season. Frank Brost was then a Murdo High School senior and an all-state guard who averaged 25 points per game.

Brost is now 81. He is a retired attorney and rancher who lives in Sioux Falls. He still remembers the stairway leading down to the old gym, a relic which had been the home of the Coyotes before the new gym was built.

"The old gym was in the basement of the high school that had been built way back in the early 1920s," says Brost. "There was very, very limited seating. Right behind the out-of-bounds lines on both ends of the court were concrete walls. It was by far the poorest gym in the area."



Dee Brost Photo

Fans filled the new Murdo Civic Auditorium during the 1954-55 season as Coyotes senior guard Frank Brost scored against White River. The gym had an arched ceiling. Seating for about 1,400 fans included a full set of bleachers on the stage located behind the basket.

That fact was not lost on Lowell Bell, who arrived in Murdo in 1951 as the new coach of the Coyotes.

"Murdo had some good teams in the 1930s during the Harold Thune era," says Brost. Thune graduated in 1937 and then played at the University of Minnesota.

"Bell could see that we were going to have good teams in the 1950s, too, and it had gotten to the point where opposing schools did not want to come to Murdo to play. So before my sophomore season Bell said we were not even going to practice - let alone play games - in that gym anymore."

The nearby town of Draper was willing to share its gym. That was Murdo's home court during the 1953-54 season when Maury Haugland, a senior and future University of South Dakota star, teamed with Brost, then a junior, to lead a 30-2 team.

The Coyotes cruised through the regular season, won a district

championship, and then claimed Murdo's first region title in 17 years. The State Class B Tournament was held at the Aberdeen Civic Arena and the Coyotes finished fifth.

"We played all our home games at Draper that season and we had developed a good following. The crowds at our games got bigger and bigger," says Brost.

"By the time we got back from the state tournament our fan base was all fired up. That was a motivating factor in the community deciding our gym situation had to be fixed."

A.J. Geisler was mayor of Murdo, a railroad town of about 1,000 residents. He supported a building project. So did former mayor Bill Kuhrt.

"We had a progressive city council and that helped a bond issue get passed. The bond issue was important, but more help was needed," says Brost. "A lot of

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Murdo Gym signaled March toward New Era

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labor had to be donated by a lot of people.”

The project became a mission of civic goodwill.

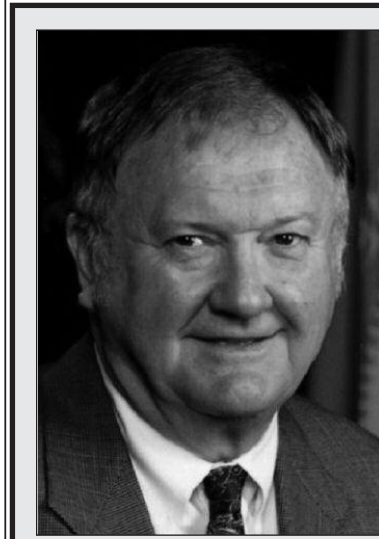
A local contractor, Jerry Miller, was hired. Wayne Sanderson volunteered to do the earth-moving work. Brost’s father, Herman, donated the necessary gravel. And many townspeople, such as Thune, devoted months of work on the emerging free-standing structure that featured an arched ceiling and seating for around 1,400.

“The project brought the town together,” says Brost. “It was a great example of people uniting to get something done that was important to the community.”

Work that had begun the previous spring was finished by December. Gann Valley was the first opponent to visit the new Murdo City Auditorium. The Buffaloes were a quality team, coached by Q.C. Miles and led by all-stater Marvin Speck and flashy guard Ray Deloria.

Brost was joined in the Murdo starting lineup by his cousin Dave Brost, Dick Daum, Pete Kerns and Jim Anshutz. Top reserves were Ken Poppe and Jerry Anshutz.

The Coyotes made sure their



“The project brought the town together. It was a great example of people uniting to get something done that was important to the community.”

Frank Brost

debut in their new home was a success. “We beat Gann Valley by 27 points that night,” remembers Brost, who paced Murdo to a 24-3 record that season.

The facility was, as intended, much more than simply a basketball venue.

“It was the best gym in the area and it became the dominant building in town where everything happened,” says Brost. “Band events, dances, concerts, conferences, 4-H, civic organizations, everything.”

Others took notice. Before long new gyms sprang up in a number of neighboring West

River towns.

“Many of those communities got their gyms built by using the same methodology as Murdo had used,” says Brost. In high school basketball in South Dakota, a new era was dawning.

As years passed Murdo High School became Jones County High School. And the Murdo City Auditorium was renamed the Harold Thune Auditorium.

Last winter Murdo staged the 50th annual Jones County Invitational. More memories were made in the now venerable gym that has served its community proudly since 1954.

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Players in 1912 Tourney were Trailblazers

For every revered sports tradition there is both a place and a time of origin. In the case of the popular state high school basketball tournaments in South Dakota, that place was the old Daum Opera House in Huron and the time was the winter of 1912.

The Daum Opera House was used for a wide variety of events such as roller skating, dances, stage shows and conventions. It was there where the first state tourney was sponsored by Huron College.

Later in the evolution of state tournaments in South Dakota a team needed to qualify by first winning district and region or section titles. But in 1912 entry was open to any school that wished to participate. Eight did.

Arlington, Centerville, Lake Preston, Madison, Miller, Pierre, Redfield and Salem competed for the silver Loving Cup which Huron College would present to the first state champion in history.

Redfield, known as the Redmen before later becoming the Pheasants, reached the title game



*RHS Photo
Pictured is the silver Loving Cup earned by Redfield in 1912 when it won the first state basketball tournament in South Dakota.*

by defeating Miller and Arlington. In the other bracket Lake Preston advanced by beating Salem and Madison.

The championship game was played before a capacity crowd on March 16. Lake Preston led 22-11 at halftime. But the second half belonged to Redfield. The Redmen went on a dominating

run to win 33-25.

A local newspaper, the *Huron Herald*, described Redfield's comeback as, "One of the grandest uphill battles ever witnessed on a basketball floor."

The Redmen were coached by Herbert Hardy and captained by guard Ed Worilow. Clayton Packard, the other guard, was the leading scorer during the tournament. Redfield's other starters were center Dana Walsh and forwards Carl Hopkins and Carroll Crain.

It would be 30 years before Redfield won another state title. Lloyd Dobratz's basket near the final horn lifted the Pheasants past Armour 28-26 at the Corn Palace in the finals of 1942. By then South Dakota crowned a Class A and a Class B champion each season and Redfield reigned in Class B.

State tournaments have now captivated fans across South Dakota for more than 100 years. The tradition started in an historic facility in Huron in 1912.

Classic Rematch coming to Sanford Pentagon

People across the state were initially unsure what to think about the basketball tournament that was played at Huron in March of 1912.

It was the first state tourney, a single-class event, and Redfield and Lake Preston squared off in the championship game. South Dakotans wondered if this bold new endeavor would catch on.

Well, yes, it did. In a very big way. Fans enthusiastically supported the tournament and an enduring tradition was begun.

The South Dakota High School Basketball Hall of Fame will mark its 10th anniversary in 2019. In observance of that milestone, a special Hall of Fame Game will be hosted by the organization on Jan. 5 at the Sanford Pentagon.

Tipoff will be 5 p.m. in a rematch between Redfield/Doland and Lake Preston, 106 years after Redfield defeated Lake Preston 33-25 in that historic game at the old Daum Opera House in Huron.

Dave Wagner, the Executive Director of the SDBBHOF, has scheduled visits to Redfield and Lake Preston to deliver presentations about the evolution of the state tournament and the important role played by those communities.

Plan to attend the Hall of Fame Game and spend some time before and after the game enjoying the varied Hall of Fame displays at the Pentagon. Courtesy coffee and cookies will be provided in the Hall of Fame Room 2110.

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 visit our website at www.sdbbhof.com.

Diamond Ace: Rapid City Post 22 won the American Legion state baseball title this summer and had a record of 57-12. First-year manager Kelvin Torve was a basketball first team all-stater for Rapid City Stevens in 1978 and played baseball for the Minnesota Twins and New York Mets. Torve was in the majors during the 1988, 1990 and 1991 seasons.

Top Prospect: Yankton star sophomore Matthew Mors has already been offered scholarships by a number of NCAA Division I schools, including Big Ten Conference programs Iowa, Nebraska and Wisconsin. The 6-7 forward averaged 24.4 points per game last season and also has offers from South Dakota State, South Dakota, Creighton and Texas Christian.

National Honor: Rob Van Laecken won 595 games during 37 seasons as Parkston girls coach before retiring in 2014. A member of the SDBBHOF board of directors, he was inducted into the National High School Athletic Coaches Association's Hall of Fame during a banquet that was held in Sioux Falls on June 26.



Sanford Photo

Bison Traveler: Deng Geu, a Sioux Falls Washington product, played on the Ugandan National Team in the African FIBA World Cup qualifying tournament last summer in Nigeria where he averaged 13.3 points and 11.3 rebounds. Geu is a 6-8 junior forward for North Dakota State's Bison.

Final Run: The Tri-Valley Conference has ceased operations after many decades. In its final event, the TVC Track Meet held at Gayville last May, competing teams were Alcester-Hudson, Baltic, Centerville, Freeman Academy-Marion, Gayville-Volin, Irene-Wakonda and Viborg-Hurley.

LNI Alum: Many elite players have performed in the Lakota Nation Invitational in Rapid City. Starring in 2015 was David Wingett of Winnebago, Neb. He is now a 6-7 freshman at the University of Memphis and was a prize in Coach Penny Hardaway's first recruiting class with the Tigers.

Baseball Hall: Lee Stoddard was inducted into the South Dakota Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame on Sept. 29. He batted over .350 during his long amateur career. Stoddard is a member of the SDBBHOF board of directors and also was a basketball standout at Parker and Dakota State.

PGA Caddie: A former Mitchell resident and Augustana athlete, Casey Kellogg, is a veteran caddie who works on the PGA Tour for Ryan Armour. During the 2018 golf season Armour won \$2.5 million.

Highest Level: South Dakota prep products Duane Ticknor and Nate Tibbetts are assistant coaches in the NBA. Ticknor is on the staff of the Sacramento Kings. He played at Vermillion and then for the USD-Springfield Pointers. Tibbetts, who played at Sioux Falls Roosevelt and the University of South Dakota, is on the bench of the Portland Trail Blazers.

Dobratz set Shining Example for S.D. girls

Pat Dobratz was a true basketball pioneer. As a player and then a coach, she expertly charted a course for others in South Dakota to follow.

During the time Dobratz attended Lincoln High School in Sioux Falls the athletic opportunities for girls were limited to only intramural teams. Dobratz graduated in 1970 and the first state girls basketball tournaments were not held until 1975.

But the lack of official competition as a prep did not deter Dobratz from acquiring and developing the necessary skills to make a significant impact in college basketball.

The arrival of Dobratz at South Dakota State University coincided with the 1971 founding of the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women. The AIAW was the new governing body of college women's sports.

Dobratz led the Jackrabbits to four consecutive AIAW state championships. She was the SDSU scoring leader each season. She netted 12.8 points per game as a freshman and then averaged 22.1 as a sophomore, 19.3 as a junior and 20.5 as a senior.

The Jackrabbits had a combined record of 57-14 during those four seasons. Dobratz graduated in 1974 after totaling 1,334 points. Her career average of 18.8 per game remains an SDSU record 44 years later.

Lessons learned at Lincoln and SDSU served Dobratz well as she became coach at Watertown. In three seasons she led the Arrows



Idaho Photo
Coach Pat Dobratz (back left) and the Idaho Vandals of 1986 display their trophies, including the WNIT championship trophy. Sioux Falls native Dobratz spent six seasons guiding Idaho with her Vandals winning 78.5 percent of their games. Dobratz had been a star 5-foot-10 forward at South Dakota State.



Pat Dobratz

to a 51-4 record and a Class A state title in 1976. Dobratz went on to become a graduate assistant at Kansas State. She then spent time at the University of Washington, and served as the Huskies interim head coach in 1980.

After that season Dobratz took control of the program at the University of Idaho. Her Vandals accomplished big things: a Mountain West Conference title, the first appearance in the NCAA Division I Tournament in school history, and a WNIT championship. Dobratz spent six seasons at Idaho. During that span from 1981-86 the Vandals were 142-39.

Idaho was rated as high as No. 15 in the nation during the 1985

season. The Vandals won the Mountain West and reached the NCAA Tournament where they lost to Southern California and its All-America star Cheryl Miller. Idaho finished 28-2.

Then in her final season as coach, Dobratz took the Vandals to a 26-5 record in 1986. The team's run to the WNIT title featured wins over Fresno State and Notre Dame before a title-game victory over Northwest Louisiana.

At that point Dobratz was only in her 30s. She made the decision to leave collegiate coaching and moved to Seattle where she became a swimming and water-survival instructor. Following was a career in education as both a high school and elementary teacher.

The basketball career of Pat Dobratz, as a player and as a coach, has been an inspiration to girls in South Dakota.

Hall of Fame Members



- 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 Friedrich, Mitchell '85: 2014
Mike Freier, Tripp '67: 2015
Carol Freeman-Galbraith, 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
- 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
Bob Swanhorst, Cresbard '57: 2010
Wendy Swanhorst, Cresbard '78: 2013
Rex Swett, Huron '58: 2010
- T:** Jim Tays, Gettysburg '50: 2015
Kim Templeton, Miller '72: 2011
Denver 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, 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

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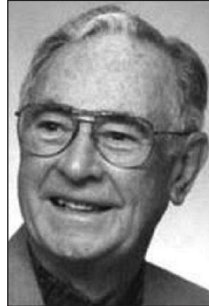
Work of Referees Makes the Games Possible

By Marvin White

All of us who have played a game in which referees are involved have favorite referees or situations involving referees we remember fondly, and in some cases not so fondly.

Barney Clemens, a high school referee during the 1950s, is whom I most remember. Clemens was a good looking, dark haired guy from Northville. When Clemens was refereeing everyone knew he was on the court. He was a showman who occasionally put on a better show than the game he was officiating. He blew his whistle loud and called infractions loud enough for everyone to hear what it was he was calling. He enjoyed himself and what he was doing and he was good at it. Seemingly, he officiated nearly all the home games for the four years I played. There were enough games so that during my senior year, when I made some silly play or foul he would say to me "you know better."

Howard Connors, known as the Dean of South Dakota Officials, was the official's official. Connors perhaps officiated more sports events than any other South Dakota official. It was at the University of South Dakota where I first met him. I was working in the Research Bureau of the School of Business with Vince Montgomery, who was also a very good official. Connors, Vince and Jack Montgomery, Vince's brother who worked for a bank, were a team who officiated football games in SE South Dakota and NW Iowa. Vince convinced me to study to be an official. At the time all one needed to do was get a book of rules from the state officials association, pass their test and you are certified. I did this and became a football and basketball referee. I never played



Howard Connors

football and knew little or nothing of the game.

My first experience as an official was with Connors and Vince (Jack couldn't make the game). I don't remember where the game was

played but I do remember I was given the supposedly easiest officiating position - line official. I had my black pants, my striped shirt, my red flag and my certification. I was ready. Everything was going just fine. I was running the sideline, taking care of the first down chains feeling pretty important until there was an off-side infraction which was my responsibility as the line official. One of the teams was on the seven-yard line and a lineman went offside. In my enthusiasm of detecting this infraction I threw my red flag AND blew my whistle. Now, anyone who has played the game knows that when the whistle blows the play is over, even if it shouldn't be, which of course, is what this situation was. Connors inquired of me what the infraction was that caused me to blow my whistle and I told him "off-sides on so and so lineman." Connors in a very stern, yet low voice informed me that "to blow my whistle was not appropriate for this situation and for the rest of the game to please put my whistle in my pocket." The good part of the story is Connors forgave me and I continued to be a part of his team whenever he needed someone to fill in.

My second most early officiating embarrassment came at Elk Point. Since I was an "experienced" official, I had worked with Howard Connors

for goodness sake, I was designated Umpire. I had misgivings, but what the heck all I had to do is get in the backfield, watch for holding, get the ball back to the referee and keep the time on the field as there was no scoreboard. What's to worry? This time I had my black pants, my striped shirt, my red flag, and my whistle and stopwatch. Everything seemed to be going along just fine until a big, sweating lineman came up to me and inquired as to how much time was left in the quarter? Oops! I had not started my stop watch. We had probably played 20 minutes or more for a 12 minute quarter. I pulled out my stop watch and said "15 seconds." Amazingly the second quarter seemed to go by really fast!

Don Anderson from Yankton was a very fine official who occasionally needed a substitute for his crew. I became that substitute a few times, enough times to know Don's idiosyncrasies. One of these was he had to be the official who tossed the ball to start a basketball game. Anderson was a bit of a showman and part of his routine was to bounce the ball three times and blow his whistle to get the game started. During one season a new training aid had been introduced - the no bounce basketball. I couldn't resist. After we had checked the "game ball" I arranged with the home team coach to switch the game ball to the no bounce ball and place it on the scorer's table. Anderson grabbed this ball and took his customary two paces onto the court to bounce the ball and blow his whistle. Needless to say, the ball didn't bounce. He tried twice before it dawned on him what had happened and of course the crowd was going nuts laughing. He had a couple choice words for me

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Work of Referees Makes the Games Possible

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and I can't remember if I ever worked with him again.

After a couple years I was good enough to officiate JV college games. One of these occasions was at USD. It was the annual football game between South Dakota State and the University. State had a really fine freshman player named Wayne Rasmussen (at this time freshman couldn't play varsity). Connors asked me to substitute for Vince Montgomery who was always Connors' umpire when they officiated. Late in the second quarter State was driving for a goal.

Rasmussen was handed the ball and cut through a hole in the line and was coming right at me. There was a player on my left and a player on my right and I couldn't get out of the way. Rasmussen barreled right into me and I caused him to trip and fall in what was going to be a touchdown run. State coaches and players didn't appreciate my "tackle." Some twenty years later I was invited to hunt geese on the Missouri River. I was staying in cabins with other hunters, one of whom was Rasmussen, who by then had played with the Detroit Lions. Out of curiosity I asked him if

he remembered my causing him not to score during the aforementioned game. He did, and he was still put out about it, although we eventually did laugh about how hard he had hit me.

I moved away from Vermillion after three years, hung up my black pants (which had split in a very inappropriate place during a basketball game at Scotland), hung up my striped shirt, put my red flag in a pocket, placed my whistle and stopwatch in a drawer, never to officiate again.

(Marvin White graduated from Cresbard High School in 1953)

'A' Title was Deadwood's Destiny in 1954

By Dick Dunwiddie

The 1954 Deadwood High School Bears basketball team was an "orphan" school/team that won the State Class A championship. They are a deserving South Dakota High School Basketball Hall of Fame "Team of Excellence" and I nominate them for this prestigious award.

Starting seniors Ed Morris (center), Reece Palmer (guard), Dave Klein (guard) and Bill Jones (forward) were the DHS "Fabulous Four." The fill-in forward position alternated between Woody Williamson, Gene Whitelock and Tom Gorder. Reserves were Hank Frawley, Richard Sears, Chuck Crotty, Don James and Larry Mitchell.

The "Fabulous Four" grew up together and played all sports. They excelled at basketball. The DHS basketball coach was South Dakota Sports Hall Fame member Stewart Ferguson. He recognized their unique talent.

In 1953, Ferguson also recognized he had cancer of the lungs. So he brought in Glenn Burgess from Black Hills Teachers College to take charge. Burgess quickly bonded with the "Fabulous Four." Burgess started a new strategy of zone defense with quick change to man-to-man. Opponents, at the time, were thrown off balance.

Burgess demanded consistency and perfected Morris' center playing and Palmer's set up and jump shots. Ed and Reece were rebound twins. Klein perfected his famous long shots. Jones was a natural forward, amazing at fast break, play interception, and play setup. The "Fabulous Four" thought and played as one unit.

It is interesting that Al Neuharth (founder of USA Today) reported in his SoDak Sports publication that Deadwood would be the state "A" champion and against all odds they were exactly that.

As a side note, I was the 1954 team manager. My primary

function was to keep shooting, results and statistics. I feel these statistics helped Burgess develop consistency. I too grew up with the "Fabulous Four."

As I write this, the team has three players, three cheerleaders and three managers still alive. It is sad to note DHS ceased to exist in 1971 when Deadwood School was merged into the Lead Deadwood School District.

The Bears' trophies for their Class B state championships in 1939 and 1940, and their "A" title in 1954 exist in a small obscure unlocked trophy case at Lead High School. Ferguson, Burgess, Jones and the 1954 basketball team are recognized in the Lead Deadwood School Hall of Fame. Earlier standouts Rollie Furois and Dint Furois and the 1939/1940 champions are also in the Hall of Fame.

(In the 1954 state tourney, Deadwood beat Sioux Falls 47-44, Huron 52-48 and Parkston 52-38. The Bears were 23-4.)

In Solemn Remembrance and Tribute

Jim Dedrackson, 87, of Venice, Fla., died March 22, 2018. He helped Webster make its record-setting Class B championship run in the 1940s. The Bearcats won titles in 1946, 1947 and 1948. He attended Northern State.

John Fuglsang, 77, of Huron died April 22, 2018. A starting guard for Huron in 1958, he and the Tigers won the Class A state championship and finished undefeated at 22-0. He was a graduate of Huron University.

Myron “Dutch” Edleman, 74, of Watertown died April 27, 2018. He was a standout as Willow Lake took second in the 1960 Class B state tourney. The Pirates lost to Harrisburg 59-55 in the championship game. The next season he was chosen to the all-state team as a senior.

Roger Kasa, 83, of Huron died May 25, 2018. The longtime respected journalist was from Northfield, Minn., and was a graduate of Augustana. He had a love of sports and spent many years in a variety of positions at the *Huron Plainsman*.

Harlyn Threadgold, 81, of Brandon died May 26, 2018. While at Fedora he starred in basketball for the Tigers. He then played football at Dakota Wesleyan and later graduated from South Dakota State.

Q.C. Miles, 96, of Watertown died June 20, 2018. The veteran of the U.S. Army was a native of Turton. He spent over 50 years in education as a teacher, coach and superintendent. He guided Gann Valley and Forestburg to the Class B state tourney. He was a longtime member of the Board of Control of the South Dakota High School Activities Association.

David Kranz, 72, of Watertown died June 23, 2018. Known as an ultimate authority on South Dakota political history, he also was a master of sports history. He grew up at Kranzburg, graduated from South Dakota State and served as editor of *The Daily Republic* and *Argus Leader*.

Jim Johnson, 81, of Sioux Falls died July 24, 2018. He scored a Sioux Falls Washington record 47 points in a game during his senior season in 1955. In addition to basketball, he was a stalwart in track for the Warriors.

Jack Pickart, 84, of Chancellor died Aug. 10, 2018. As a prep he was a standout for Harrisburg. After a stint serving in the U.S. Army he continued his basketball career playing at the University of Sioux Falls. He taught at Colman and Marion.

Richard Petersen, 89, of Sioux Falls died Aug. 21, 2018. In 30 years at Augustana, he filled many roles including chaplain, dean of students, assistant football coach and assistant athletic director. Known as “Pastor Pete,” the Minneapolis native and Augsburg graduate was a tireless advocate of Vikings athletics.

John Lillibridge, 79, of Burke died Aug. 30, 2018. He was an all-state basketball player at Burke and then became an All-American discus thrower at the University of South Dakota. The SDBBHOF member had a long distinguished banking career.

Marty Rud, 94, of Minnetonka, Minn., died Aug. 30, 2018. Captain of the Augustana basketball team during his senior season in 1948, he also was a tennis standout during his time with the Vikings. The graduate of Sioux Falls Washington served in the U.S. Army.

Paul Jordre, 81, of Aberdeen died Sept. 18, 2018. A longtime educator in South Dakota, he coached for 17 years at Wilmot, Edgemont, Arlington, Faulkton and Selby. He was a graduate of Corona and Northern.

Don Culhane, 92, of Oro Valley, Ariz., died Oct. 18, 2018. He grew up in Mitchell and was a graduate of the University of Kansas where he played basketball for the Jayhawks. He was a military veteran.

Learn about a Proving Ground in 2019 Spring Newsletter

South Dakota has never been known as a haven for outdoor basketball, largely because of our long spells of cold weather and the unrelenting winds that are so prevalent here.

So naturally South Dakota hasn't produced playground legends like some other warmer-climate states have. But there was a place where South Dakota's top players would gather to test their skills against one another.

The best went there to play against the best. Read about this decades-long proving ground in the 2019 Spring Newsletter that the South Dakota High School Basketball Hall of Fame will publish next May.

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We hope that our ‘Friends’ realize how important they are to the mission and continued success of the South Dakota High School Basketball Hall of Fame.

As a non-profit organization, the Hall of Fame depends on the support and generosity of those who share our commitment to preserving our state’s basketball history.

The Hall of Fame will enter its 10th year of existence in 2019 with hope and confidence about the future and with gratitude to those ‘Friends’ who are making this journey with us.

If you would like to help send your tax-deductible gift to SDBBHOF, 2210 W. Pentagon Place, Sioux Falls, SD 57107.

• *This page denotes gifts received during the past year prior to Nov. 1.*

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A Genuine Love of the Game



The importance of basketball in South Dakota is everlasting. Seventy-three years ago Henry Park Jr. starred in the State Class B Tournament of 1945. In a low-scoring era, Park meshed 31 points for Chester in a single tourney game. Dave Wagner, the Executive Director of the South Dakota High School Basketball Hall of Fame, recently visited Park at his home near Chester to talk about basketball history and to share some basketball-themed cupcakes. Park is now 91. He still loves the game and he remains an avid follower of basketball in South Dakota. (Submitted Photo)