

2021 Spring Newsletter

How Basketball has Evolved in Time

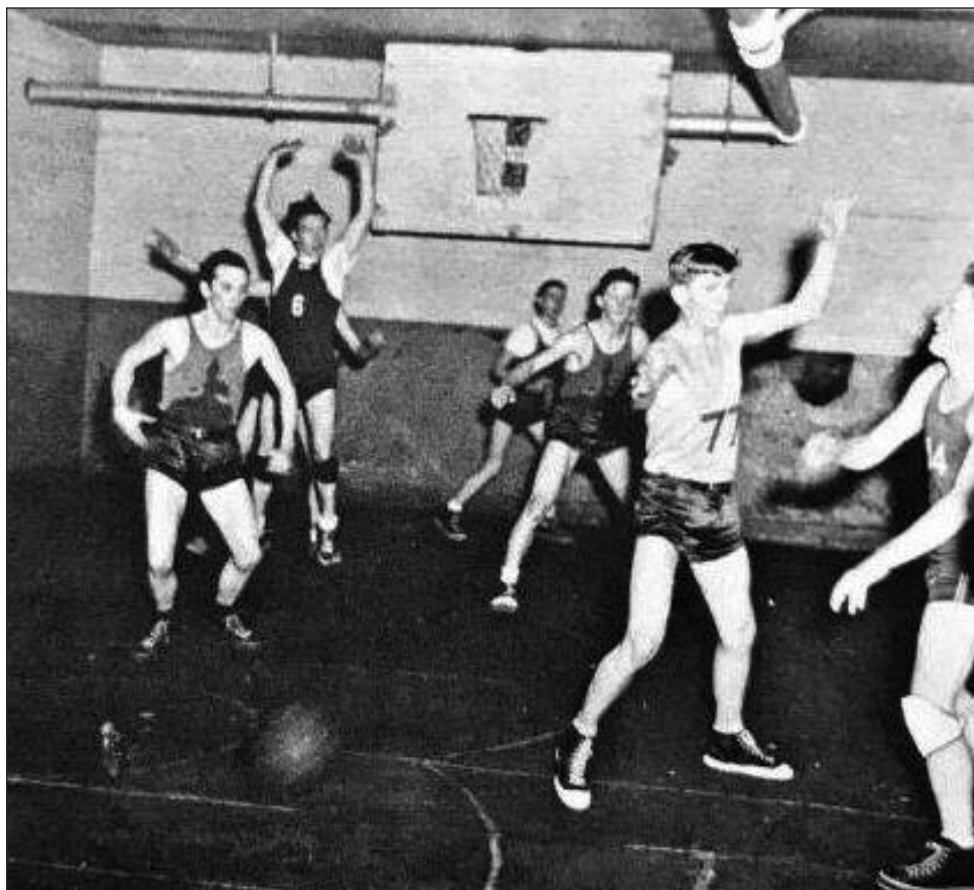
By Bob Swanhorst

Anyone who played or watched high school basketball in the 40s and 50s will probably tell you about some of the old, so-called gyms of those times. In every corner of the state these old gyms were generally referred to as comical and some as THE most unusual. Let's examine a gym that certainly made the list as one of the most unusual of all time, not only for its quaintness but for who played there and what developed from that player's offspring.

Located in Okaton, South Dakota, is a garage that once was a high school gym. The vertical dimensions of the gym make one realize this gym is really, really different. The ceiling height is ten feet six inches. The rim height is eight feet seven inches as are pipes running under the ceiling. Yes, high school basketball in South Dakota was played on a hoop that was below the standard ten feet. The playing floor area, concrete, was 20 X 30 with a stage for the fans at one end.

Constructed around 1924, the building with its gym, today's garage, was below four classrooms and a smaller office for the superintendent. Today that upstairs level is a comfortable living area for Scott and Monica Oldenkamp. Scott, a 1979 graduate of Murdo (Jones County High School), and Monica have remodeled the building that once was an entire grade and high school. It has become an attractive and pleasant home.

If this seems unusual or interesting, it is only the beginning.



OHS Photo
 Okaton, about 10 miles west of Murdo in Jones County, had one of the country's rarest gyms. With a rim height of only 8 feet 7 inches, the Bulldogs battled Wood in this 1950 game.

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Playing on that floor in the early 50s was a young lad identified in the school's annual as Junior Daum and his brother Dick. Junior was part of a family of ten siblings. Nicholas Daum, called Junior in high school, was not named after

his father. Junior was named after an older brother, Nicky or Nicholas, who had drowned in a cloud burst while in the country. The rushing water swept him away in a stream leading into the White River. His body was never found. The mother, pregnant at the time, named the new baby after his older brother, Nicholas.

Okaton High School was closed by 1951 and Nick transferred to Murdo High School for his final high school years; 1951-52 and 1952-53. While at Murdo, Nick

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played sports with two future South Dakota High School Basketball Hall of Famers, Frank Brost and Maury Haugland. All indications show that he was an outstanding football and basketball player while at Murdo.

After a year at SDSU, his football talent led Nick to Huron College where he blossomed during the Jim Long and Gil Peterson coaching era. Huron College won the SDIC twice while Nick played. As a player he was twice first team all-conference in the SDIC. Nick played both ways as a defensive end and on offense as a tight end. You played both ways in those days. In the backfield was a true South Dakota sports legend; Garney Henley, also a High School Basketball Hall of Famer. Other stellar players on offense were LeRoy "Tuby" Gunderson, Gary Wiren, Ken Heier, Bob LaPour, and Pat Keating to name a few.

Nick graduated from Huron College in 1959 and was married to Pat Kaiser in 1961. At that point Nick embarked on a teaching/ coaching career with stops at Quinn, Hill City, Belvidere and finally Murdo. Belvidere High School soon closed, but Nick has always remembered two outstanding basketball players from Belvidere by the names of LeRoy Ghost and Bill Pier.

By the early 1970s Nick took up farming at Dix, Nebraska. Nick and Pat had two sons, Mark and Mitch, who had started their school days in Murdo. They both were outstanding athletes in multiple sports. Mark played eight-man football at Dix High School and was a celebrated walk-on at Nebraska. In 1979 Mark had an opportunity to stay with his Uncle John and play basketball with his old schoolmates at Murdo. That team included John



SDBBHOF Photo
Scott and Monica Oldenkamp renovated the old Okaton School into a modern home. Scott displays the rim in the former gym that now is the Oldenkamp's garage.

Thune and Scott Oldenkamp. Mark returned to Dix and matured into a 6-3 and 235-pound linebacker. As a walk-on, he made the All-Big Eight 2nd team as a linebacker for Coach Tom Osborne and the Nebraska Cornhuskers. The Huskers were winning Orange Bowls and national championships in those days.

Mitch played his high school football at Kimball High School in Nebraska. His talent landed him at the University of Wyoming. As fate would have it Nebraska and Wyoming squared off, Nebraska

won, and the bragging rights went to Mark. Mitch excelled to such a degree that his ability was recognized by NFL scouts. Mitch had brief stints with the Seattle Seahawks and Houston Oilers. It was 1986-87 and the NFL players strike and a hand injury curtailed and eventually dampened his NFL career.

Mitch's football promise not only merited him NFL attention, but also the attention of an outstanding women's basketball player by the name of Michele Hoppes. Michele ranks as one of the all-time best basketball players to ever play at Wyoming. Upon graduation she was Wyoming's all-time scoring and rebounding leader. Mitch, at 6-5 and 250 pounds, and Michele, at 6-2, married and continued their lives at Dix, Nebraska. They started a family that included Mike and Danika.

Mike and Danika were exceptional high school athletes. Mike in football and basketball and Danika in basketball and volleyball. After attending Western Nebraska Community College, Danika transferred to Henderson State University in Arkansas. At Henderson she was a 5-11 setter on the volleyball team.

Mike Daum, grandson of Pat and Nick, showed exceptional football and basketball promise at Kimball. His growth spurt put his frame well above the 6 foot plus level while in high school. He showed ability as a quarterback but basketball became something of an obsession. With the advantage of top notch athletic experiences by both his parents he learned and developed an attitude necessary to excel in basketball and mature as a teenager to an adult. He played AAU basketball during the off season, but his parents were

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careful not to over extend his time and above all avoid any signs of burnout. Any indication of arrogance was also corrected. An important aspect for our society.

With both parents being such standout athletes at Wyoming, and Laramie only 100 miles down the road, it was a natural that Mike would become a Wyoming Cowboy. A spleen injury during his junior year in high school forced him to miss half the season. Wyoming seemed to hesitate on a commitment to Mike. It was SDSU in Brookings that committed to Mike. A nine-hour drive from Dix, Mike liked what he experienced on a campus visit in Brookings and became a Jackrabbit.

Mike was redshirted as a freshman and played varsity from 2015-19. His statistics during those four years were staggering. He scored 3,067 points in 137 games for a 22.4 average. He holds the Summit League scoring record and ended up with the seventh most points scored in Division I basketball. His name is on the list in scoring with the best in college basketball history including Pete Maravich and Oscar Robertson to name just two household names.



SDBBHOF Photo

This historic building, constructed around 1924, served many years as the school in the town of Okaton. Today it has been remodeled and is home to Scott and Monica Oldenkamp.

As of today, in 2021, Mike is playing professionally in Spain.

When you recall that eight-foot seven-inch rim at Okaton, and his grandfather Nick playing in that gym as a high school player, 72 years and three generations sure can put the world in a different frame. The gyms, the players, the rules and attitudes constantly are

in a state of change. Three generations of the Daums certainly epitomize what dynamics are at play in the world of basketball, football and sports in general. Professional level athletes were coming from cracker box gyms, eight-man football and NAIA teams. Let's salute Pat and Nick Daum. Can it get any better?

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Tour in '72 took S.D. basketball to Europe

It was the summer of 1972 when fans in Europe got their first close-up look at the quality of basketball developed in South Dakota.

Seven players who had concluded outstanding high school and college careers in the state formed the core of a team called the South Dakota All-Stars. They introduced South Dakota basketball to an entirely new international audience.

John Thomas served as player/coach. At that time the 1965 Alexandria graduate and former South Dakota State star was an assistant coach at Augustana. The squad was sponsored by trucking executive Ralph Macy of Rapid City. Thomas and Macy assembled the roster.

Along with Thomas in the front line were Dick Authier (Woonsocket '67) of the University of South Dakota, John Janssen (Emery '68) of SDSU and Gary Evjen (Sioux Falls Washington '68) of Northern State.

Backcourt play was provided by Jim Schlekeway (Britton '64) of Northern, Dennis Womeldorf (Wessington Springs '66) of SDSU and Jim Martin (Chamberlain '68) of Dakota Wesleyan.

Each brought a strong winning background to the team. All had been first team all-state with Schlekeway one of only a handful of players in South Dakota history to earn that distinction three years.

Three of the All-Stars had been Most Valuable Player in the North Central Conference – Thomas in 1969, Womeldorf in 1970 and Authier in 1972. All seven had won championships as collegians.

Womeldorf was part of three NCC title teams as a Jackrabbit while Thomas and Janssen both



Submitted Photo

The South Dakota All-Stars played 16 games during their tour in 1972. Team members were, from left, kneeling, Jim Martin, Jim Schlekeway, Dennis Womeldorf and Jim Sutherland. Standing, John Thomas, Dick Authier, Gus Chatmon, John Janssen and Gary Evjen.

played on two. Authier led the Coyotes to one NCC crown. Martin helped the Tigers to a pair of South Dakota Intercollegiate Conference titles. Schlekeway was on two SDIC championship teams with the Wolves and Evjen one.

Jim Sutherland, a guard from Westmar College (Iowa), and big man Gus Chatmon of Weber State (Utah) completed the roster.

During their tour in Europe the All-Stars compiled a 13-3 record. Opponents included teams from United States military bases.

The All-Stars also faced professional squads from Germany and bordering countries, as well as the team that represented Germany in the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich.

A highlight for the All-Stars was winning the Rosenheim

Sommerfestival, a prestigious tournament in Rosenheim, Germany.

Thomas was the only member of the group who had experience in international rules, which vary from those which govern American basketball. Two months before the team flew out of Denver to begin its tour, Thomas visited Europe to finalize travel and scheduling plans.

Since the All-Stars blazed a trail, other South Dakota teams have followed and played on foreign soil. Macy, a Vermillion native, sponsored another squad four years later that returned to Europe in 1976 for games in France, Italy, the Soviet Union and Sweden.

But it was the All-Stars of 1972 who got the ball rolling. They did so in impressive fashion.

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
Scott Beckstrand, Lincoln '89: 2019
Mike Begeman, Parker '75: 2019

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-EB '76: 2011
Jim Dyer, Willow Lake '60: 2015

E: Kriss Edwards, Watertown '77: 2017
John Eidsness, Canton '66: 2015
Gary Evjen, Washington '68: 2017
Lefty Engebretson, Webster '46: 2019

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
Dave Fischer, Wall '61: 2019
Rollie Furois, Deadwood '40: 2019

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

H: Julie Harmacek-Bridge, Avon '83: 2014
Fred Hecker, Washington '57: 2016
Garney Henley, Hayti '55: 2013
Kent Hyde, Onida '54: 2013
Diane Hiemstra-Gabriel, Yankton '80: 2011
Luther Hippe, Washington '83: 2014
Kris Holwerda-Woerner, Brookings '81: 2014
Cary Hornaman, Roncalli '75: 2018

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
Freddie Knife, Cheyenne '59: 2019

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-EB '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-EB '78: 2017
Megan Mahoney, Sturgis '01: 2019

N: Chad Nelson, Yankton '74: 2013
Roger Nelson, Brookings '54: 2011

N: Dana Nielsen-Honner, Armour '88: 2012
Rick Nissen, Miller '72: 2011
Alan Nissen, Miller '68: 2019

O: Tom Orton, Madison '65: 2012
Melissa Olson-Guebert, Lincoln '83: 2016

P: Ann Pancoast, Washington '81: 2017
Harley Petersen, Hayti '54: 2011
Henry Park, Chester '45: 2019
Doug Peterson, Watertown '60: 2019
Jodi Pipes-Altenburg, Armour '88: 2019

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
Shannon Schlagel-Huber, Clark '01: 2019
Cregg Skarin, Hitchcock '70: 2019

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
Lindsay Thomas, Roosevelt '02: 2019

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
Sox Walseth, Pierre '44: 2019

Z: Harley Zephier, Dupree '55: 2016

To read bios go to www.sdbbhof.com

The Journey of a record shattering Scorer

By Greg Hansen

Since the mid-1990s, scoreboards flash at a dazzling pace when Grinnell College is on the court. Deploying a tireless attack, the Pioneers place maximum importance on short possessions that usually end with 3-point shots.

Sports Illustrated and *ESPN* are among media which have taken notice of how a small school in Iowa has ignored the offensive norms that exist in college basketball. Tales of the prolific Pioneers have been recounted across the country in newspapers, magazines and television broadcasts.

Leading the way at the beginning of Grinnell's high-octane era was a sharpshooting 6-foot-4 forward from Yankton. Steve Diekmann scored 34.4 points per game for the Pioneers as a junior in 1994. The next season he boosted that average to an NCAA Division III national record 37.3 as part of a team that averaged 115.

Diekmann had single-game outbursts of 69, 60 and 59 points while setting a host of school, Midwest Conference and Division III records. Grinnell was 13-8 when he was a junior and 14-7 during his senior season. Those were the first winning records for the Pioneers in nearly 30 years.

"Grinnell has stringent academic requirements and that made recruiting difficult. So our teams were always under-sized. To compensate we pressed and tried to create chaos," remembers Diekmann.

Pioneers coach David Arseneault did not believe in wasting time. He made sure his players understood that premise.

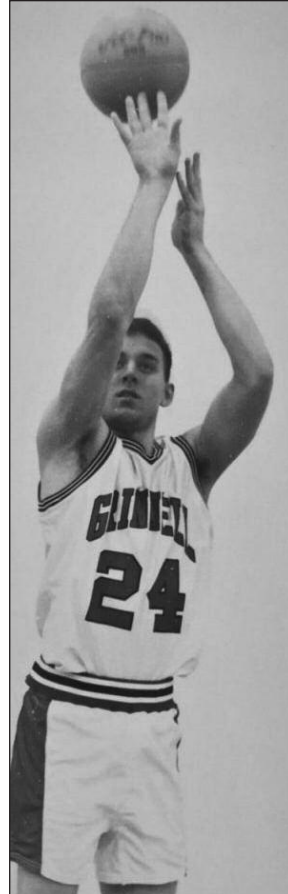
"At practice, during scrimmages, when the ball went through the net Coach Arseneault would start counting," says Diekmann. "If he got to 12, and there was no shot at the other end yet, he'd stop practice and make us run."

Diekmann is now 48 and lives in Danville, Calif. His journey started in Yankton. "I was about 11 or 12 when I fell in love with basketball," he says.

By the time Diekmann moved into the Bucks lineup as a junior, he was an all-state talent and averaged 20 points per game.

A senior in 1991, he led Yankton to sixth place in the State Class AA Tournament. The Bucks of Coach Dave Hofer had a rotation of Diekmann, Mark Ryken, Chad Schramm, Jason Saul, Lance Wipf and Roger Nolan.

Diekmann put up 23 points per game that season and was named all-state a second time. He set six school records in a Yankton program with a rich basketball history.



Grinnell Photo
Steve Diekmann had 1,468 points in only 41 games as a junior and senior at Grinnell.

Among those records was most points in a season, 531, which stood until broken by 2021 graduate and University of Wisconsin recruit Matthew Mors. Diekmann reached double figures in 42 of 43 career games. He also excelled in the classroom, graduating with a perfect 4.0 grade-point average.

While looking for a college, Diekmann found much to like at Grinnell, a school his close friend and former Bucks teammate Steve Gilmore was already attending.

"I wanted a college that had strong academics and where I felt I could play early," says Diekmann. "I liked the fact that Grinnell was a little bit different place. A new environment. Away from home but not too far from home."

The school is located in the city of Grinnell, which has a population of about 9,000. It is just over 300 miles southeast of Yankton, halfway

between Des Moines and Iowa City.

"After playing in the ESD (Conference) in high school, it was evident to me pretty quickly after I got to Grinnell that I could compete with those guys," says Diekmann.

So well in fact that he was named to the all-conference team after each of his four seasons as a Pioneer. During that time he was part of a unique basketball experience.

National media took to calling the way Arseneault's teams played "The System." One publication described it thusly: "The System emphasizes a torrid pace of play where offensive possessions last about five seconds and typically end with a 3-pointer."

The mention of 'five seconds' was obviously an exaggeration. But not by much. And fans couldn't get enough of the run-and-gun Pioneers.

"Our gym would be so full that you couldn't

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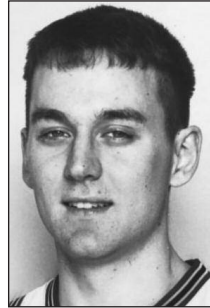
The Journey of a record shattering Scorer

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squeeze another person in,” says Diekmann. “The crowd noise got so loud that us players would have to use hand signals to communicate.”

Grinnell’s breakneck pace provided opportunities for its opponents, too. When the Pioneers’ press was broken, layups were there to be had. Sometimes a lot of layups. Like during Diekmann’s senior season when Simpson College (Iowa) outlasted Grinnell by the unreal score of 167-148.

Diekmann was chosen to the All-America team in Division III as both a junior and senior. He set a school single-season record for 3-point accuracy at 52 percent and was a career 82 percent shooter on free throws.



In 1995



Today

Steve Diekmann

After graduating with a major in economics Diekmann went on to earn a master’s degree from the University of Chicago. He has had a career in finance and also has coached youth basketball.

Diekmann lived in Illinois for several years. He moved to California in 2005 and found

himself back on the court. He became part of a team that regularly visited the notorious San Quentin State Prison near San Francisco.

“That was a rewarding experience,” says Diekmann. “It was a Christian outreach program. We played games against the San Quentin inmates and then shared with them through devotions. It was important to show them that people cared about them and their rehabilitation.”

The goal was to reach out to the inmates and influence them in a positive way by communicating in a manner they understood - through the commonality of basketball. It’s a language Steve Diekmann knows well.

Nation took notice of Upset bid by Coyotes

On the night of Dec. 14, 1964, a game was played in West Lafayette, Ind., that nearly sent shockwaves through the college basketball world.

Purdue University was a competitive member of the Big Ten Conference and boasted one of the country’s premier players in All-America guard Dave Schellhase, a future NBA first-round draft pick of the Chicago Bulls.

The Boilermakers were coached by Ray Eddy, a 15-year veteran of NCAA Division I basketball. Purdue was playing on its home court, Lambert Fieldhouse, and was an overwhelming favorite.

Purdue’s opponent that night was a winless Division II team with an 0-6 record. But the Boilermakers discovered there was no quit in the University of South Dakota Coyotes.

USD featured former prep all-stars Bill Bruns of Sioux Falls Washington, Jay Hennies of Wagner and Roger Schaffer of Ramona.

In a stunning near-upset of major proportion that was reported the next day in newspapers across the nation, the Coyotes had Purdue in serious trouble as a partisan crowd of 6,845 looked on.

The Boilermakers led by 17 with five minutes left in the first half. USD then stormed back with a 10-0 run. The Coyotes eventually took the lead midway through the second half.

Schellhase, who had scored 29 points, fouled out with 1:13 left and Purdue trailing 77-76. Bruns, a 6-foot-4 senior forward, led USD with 20 points and had also fouled out.

So the decisive final minute was played with the top scorer of each team on the bench. That’s when Purdue guard Bob Purkhiser took over.

A 20-foot jump shot by Purkhiser at :42 gave the Boilermakers a 78-77 lead. He then hit two free throws at :03 and Purdue escaped 80-77.

The narrow loss against a highly regarded opponent helped USD get on track. After starting 0-7, the Coyotes of Coach Dwane Clodfelter won six of their next nine and went on to take third in the North Central Conference.

That season Purdue earned victories over, among other teams, Ohio State, Notre Dame, Wisconsin, Indiana and Iowa. None of those wins came harder for the Boilermakers than their victory over the Coyotes.

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.

NCAA Clash: NBA immortal Elgin Baylor died at age 86 on March 22. In the 1958 NCAA Tourney he faced SDBBHOF member John Bertolero of Lead. Baylor had 26 points as Seattle beat Wyoming. Bertolero led the Cowboys with 22. Seattle reached the finals where it lost to Kentucky. Baylor then was all-NBA 11 times for the Lakers.

'88 Opinion: The Argus Leader formed a panel of statewide basketball experts in 1988 to rate the greatest teams in history. Coming in at No. 1 was Miller '72. Rustlers stalwarts were Rick Nissen, Kim Templeton and Jeff Wilber. Huron '58 was second. Rounding out the Top 5 were Sisseton '63, Mitchell '85 and Rapid City '69.

Making Marks: Dru Gylten of Utah averaged 5.2 assists per game this season, most by any woman in the Pac-12 Conference. She is a 5-11 junior from St. Thomas More. Creighton freshman Emma Ronsiek, a 6-1 forward from Sioux Falls O'Gorman, averaged 11.6 points per game and was among top newcomers in the Big East.



Sanford Photo

Major Leaguer: Fifty years ago Dave Collins, a Rapid City Stevens senior in 1971, made his second appearance on the Class A first team all-state basketball team. Collins later hit .272 in 16 big league seasons, including seven with the Cincinnati Reds.

Family Tradition: Nora O'Malley hit 1,000 career points this season as an Irene-Wakonda junior to join five siblings. Kieran (2,599), Seamus (1,554) and Rory (1,333) played at Centerville; Shannon (2,154) at Centerville and I-W; and Malloy (1,412) at I-W.

New Award: The Northern Sun Conference's new award, the Bob Olson Outstanding Senior, honors the Aberdeen Central grad and former Northern State player, coach and AD. The first winner was NSU guard Andrew Kallman of Chaska, Minn.

Holiday Magic: Presho native Gordon Fosness coached Dakota Wesleyan from 1962-83. The Tigers participated in a holiday classic during each of those 22 seasons, winning 16 titles. Fosness' overall record in those holiday tournaments was 43-8.

Hawkeye Hitter: Seth Benson, linebacker from Sioux Falls Washington, had 47 tackles last season for Iowa. His mother, SDBBHOF member JoElle, starred in basketball at SFW and South Dakota State. His father Chuck was a standout SDSU fullback.

On Target: The 1955 season produced two of the state's finest prep scoring averages, made more impressive with no 3-point goal. Harry Marske netted 35 points per game for Andover and Merlyn Smith 31 for Avon. Marske starred at NSU and Smith at SDSU.

In Solemn Remembrance and Tribute

Virgil Riley, 86, of Des Moines, Iowa, died July 25, 2020. A product of Dell Rapids, he starred in basketball at South Dakota State and was named the MVP of the North Central Conference in 1956. He served in the U.S. Air Force.

George Birger, 91, of Tucson, Ariz., died Oct. 10, 2020. The Winner native was a Southern graduate. He coached Menno and Columbia before a career in Canada as a coach and AD.

Frank Odens, 84, of Springfield died Nov. 3, 2020. He graduated from Springfield and Southern. Among the several schools that he served was Kimball, where he coached some outstanding basketball teams.

Mo Mack, 91, of Aberdeen died Nov. 6, 2020. A veteran of the U.S. Army, he was a product of Aberdeen Central who played basketball for four seasons at Northern State.

Duane Brunick, 90, of Vermillion died Nov. 10, 2020. He was a basketball player at the University of South Dakota. The Vermillion native served in the Army.

Bob Reimers, 85, of Canton died Nov. 15, 2020. After starting his basketball career at the University of Iowa, the Inwood, Iowa, native then was a standout at Morningside.

Buck Timmins, 72, of Mitchell died Nov. 16, 2020. All-state at Mitchell, he played at Dakota Wesleyan. He coached at Avon and Parkston, and was a longtime official.

Don Blumenberg, 86, of Fulton died Nov. 17, 2020. The Army veteran graduated from Fulton. During his career at DWU he was a starter in every game for four seasons.

Jim Lewis, 77, of Bullhead City, Ariz., died Nov. 30, 2020. After graduating from Washington he continued his basketball career at USD. He was a trucking executive.

Gordon Fosness, 85, of Sioux Falls died Dec. 15, 2020. A star player at Presho and DWU, he coached DWU to 351 wins and 10 South Dakota Intercollegiate Conference titles. He was a SDBBHOF member and served on the board of directors.

Jon Wubben, 65, of Spencer died Dec. 15, 2020. After being an all-state player at Spencer, he attended USD-Springfield and was a standout in the SDIC for the Pointers.

Max Hawk, 87, of Yankton died Jan. 22, 2021. Executive director of the High School Coaches Association, he was a Wessington Springs native, Northern graduate and Army veteran. The longtime football coach at Yankton was 284-78-2 in his career.

Manny Christopher, 23, of Sioux Falls died Jan. 24, 2021. A native of Kenya, his family came to the U.S. in 2000. He was a standout at Roosevelt, playing basketball and football, and then went on to play football at DWU.

Dick Wold, 86, of Sioux Falls died Jan. 26, 2021. As a prep he helped Washington to two trips to the State Class A Tourney. A stellar player at USD, he was a longtime banker.

John Pierson, 89, of Sioux Falls died Jan. 28, 2021. A fine athlete at Mitchell and DWU, the Army veteran taught and coached in South Dakota, Iowa and Wyoming. He spent a number of years at Brandon Valley.

Mitch Monette, 66, of Sioux Falls died Jan. 29, 2021. The graduate of Ramona was an all-stater for the Rockets. He played at Dakota State and later served in the Air Force.

Mel Antonen, 64, of Washington, D.C., died Jan. 30, 2021. He was a graduate of Hamlin and Augustana and a sportswriter at the Argus Leader and USA TODAY.

Bud Brown, 79, of Brooklyn Center, Minn., died Feb. 2, 2021. From Hawarden, Iowa, the USD graduate was a Watertown Public Opinion sportswriter and SID at USD.

Bruce Mueller, 86, of Sioux Falls died Feb. 9, 2021. A four-sport athlete at Bethel College (Kan.), he coached at Hurley before returning to his alma mater, Freeman Academy.

Wayne Allen, 86, of Brandon died Feb. 18, 2021. An Army veteran and Mitchell and DWU grad, he served schools at Howard, Ethan, Centerville and Brandon Valley.

Kevin Graesser, 59, of Dallas, S.D., died Feb. 23, 2021. Playing for Colome, he had 64 points in a game for one of the highest totals in state history. He was an SDSU graduate.

Butch Quail, 75, of Worland, Wyo., died Feb. 23, 2021. He graduated from Arlington and Dakota State. He coached Andes Central and Spearfish to state tourneys.

Elmer Goetz, 88, of Sioux Falls died March 5, 2021. An all-SDIC player while at Northern, he was a graduate of Roscoe. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Bill Lynch, 97, of Yankton died March 6, 2021. A standout in basketball, football and track, he earned 10 varsity letters at Yankton. He was a veteran of the Army.

Jerry Sour, 82, of Watertown died March 12, 2021. He helped Hayti to a Class B state title in 1954 and runner-up finish in 1955. The SDSU graduate served in the Army.

Eric Oyen, 52, of Colton died April 14, 2021. An all-state player at Tri-Valley, he went on to Sioux Falls College where he participated in basketball and football for the Cougars.

Marv McCune, 66, of De Smet died April 18, 2021. A fine player at De Smet and Huron College, he was a state-champion coach in basketball and football at De Smet.

A life of Courage and a Love of the Game

Dean Lee was only 6 years old in 1940 when he left his home in Forestburg and traveled alone by bus to Sioux Falls. He spent 12 years at the South Dakota School for the Deaf receiving his education.

After graduating in 1952, Dean returned home to Sanborn County and the farm life he treasured. Unable to hear or speak, Dean met each day with courage and optimism. With an always present pen and notebook, he communicated fluently and was a friend to many.

Dean played basketball at School for the Deaf. His teammates included Jim Mitchell, a South Dakota High School Basketball Hall of Fame member. Jim was the United States Deaf Basketball Player of the Year in 1954 after averaging 27.6 points per game.

School for the Deaf was founded in 1880. The Pheasants joined the South Dakota High School Activities Association in 1941 and participated in basketball until declining enrollment intervened in the late 1980s.

An especially rewarding season occurred in 1949. Dean was a freshman whose play helped the Pheasants win the District 18 title by defeating Hartford, Brandon and Garretson.

Dean's time on the court fostered in him a genuine love of the game that never diminished. He was a supporter



SDBBHOF Photo

South Dakota High School Basketball Hall of Fame officers LaMoine Torgerson (left) and Bob Swanhorst (right) accept a check for \$25,000 from the estate of the late Dean Lee. Also on hand for the presentation at the Sanford Pentagon was South Dakota School for the Deaf all-time great Jim Mitchell. Dean and Jim were teammates at School for the Deaf.



Dean Lee at SDSD

of Sanborn Central High School and for decades he attended Dakota Wesleyan games at the Corn Palace cheering silently for the Tigers. In retirement Dean moved to Mitchell. After a brief illness, he died at age 86 on Sept. 27, 2020.

Dean was a loyal follower of the Hall of Fame. In his will he bequeathed \$25,000 to the organization. Dean specified that his donation be used to strengthen the Hall of Fame's endowment to help preserve the legacy of the School for the Deaf.

"We are very grateful for Dean's friendship and generosity," said Hall of Fame executive director Dave Wagner. "Dean believed in the importance of preserving basketball history in South Dakota. His gift will help the Hall of Fame in service of that mission."

Banquet set for Aug. 28

The South Dakota High School Basketball Hall of Fame has been anxiously looking forward to the time when circumstances involving COVID-19 would allow our 11th induction banquet. The wait has been regrettable but necessary due to the pandemic.

After consideration of safety concerns and protocol guidelines, the Hall of Fame will induct its Class of 2020 on Aug. 28. The banquet is at 1 p.m. at the Sioux Falls Ramkota Hotel.

The class includes Janel Birrenkott, Jerry Even, Jayne (Even) Gust, Austin Hansen, Joe Krabbenhoft, Sarah Mannes Homstad, Arlo Mogck, Bob Pidde, Dave Thomas and Dennis Womeldorf. Inducted posthumously will be Sam Perrin, Loren Thornton and Stanton Uhler. The Team of Excellence is the 1980 Sioux Falls Washington girls.

An inductee reception is from 4-6 p.m. on Aug. 27.

To see complete details, including ticket information, go to the 'Banquet' post on our www.sdbbhof.com website.

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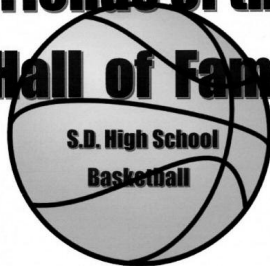
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All of the financial gifts received by the South Dakota High School Basketball Hall of Fame during the past year prior to April 21 are listed on this page.

The success and continued growth of the Hall of Fame depends on the generosity of those who support us as we strive to keep memories alive of the past.

We thank our 'Friends' for your donations and for your belief in our mission to preserve South Dakota basketball history.

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

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Sanford Pentagon
2210 W. Pentagon Place
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2,000 Point Club

Players who have scored a documented 2,000 points comprise a cross section of South Dakota high school basketball.

They come from all corners of the state. Graduations range from 1951 to 2021. At least one played seven seasons, joining the varsity in sixth grade, others from four to six seasons.

And some benefitted from the 3-point goal introduced in South Dakota before the 1986-87 season.

The 2,000-point displays shown at right in a SDBBHOF photo are posted at the Sanford Pentagon. The photo was taken before updating the boards after the 2021 season. For an updated list click on 'Records' on our www.sdbbhof.com website.

