

2024 Spring Newsletter

Where have all the S.D. high schools Gone

By Bob Swanhorst

Since the first South Dakota High School Boys Basketball Tournament in 1912, the number of participating schools gradually and then rapidly climbed upward. However, over time, many changes occurred, and the rapid climb upward reversed. State records show that Huron College staged the first tourney in 1912 and in 1916 the South Dakota Athletic Association took over. Membership in SDHSAA began to increase, although the Catholic and other private schools were held out of membership and participation in the state-wide basketball tournaments. The Catholic schools held their own tournaments from 1937 until 1964.

The SDHSAA has gone through numerous growing pains from 1912 to the present. A one-class system from 1912 to 1935, a two-class system from 1936 to 1985 and a three-class system from 1986 to the present. Along the way a district and regional play-off system developed that always ended in an eight-team state tournament. The lone exception was during the two-class system tournaments in 1939-40-41 when the 'A' had only four teams.

A rift developed between the Eastern South Dakota Conference and the association. There were a variety of reasons, but the primary cause regarded the number of players a team could dress for the state tourney, which previously had been limited.

On July 1, 1961, the association had its name changed to the South Dakota High School Activities



John Simko Photo

This marker denotes the site where the Franklin School once stood in Lake County.

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Association. The name change forced a new mission not only for basketball, but for all the extra-curricular activities of schools across the state. The Catholic schools and a handful of other parochial schools would eventually have their day in court. Lobbyist Jeremiah Murphy, attorney Richard Sabers, and a ruling from Circuit Judge Fred J. Nichol changed the issue. Murphy and Sabers, among many others, took up the cause and eventually on April 8, 1966, all accredited high schools were

eligible for membership in the High School Activities Association.

Back in 1926 the association's membership numbers had swollen to 252 schools. It is difficult to determine an exact figure, but sometime after WWII the association membership must have been around the 275 to 300 range at which point the downward trend began. In 2024 the association shows that 157 boys and girls teams competed for the three-class basketball championships. Seventy-three teams were 'B,' 65 were 'A' and 19 were 'AA.' Where have all the high schools gone?

It's little known, but in the early 20th century, high schools in South Dakota were accredited and non-accredited and held very different classifications. For instance, there

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Where have all the S.D. high schools Gone

Continued from Page 1

were one-, two- and three-year accredited high schools. There were schools accredited for Normal Training, some received federal aid for Vocational Agriculture and some received aid for Vocational Home Economics. Of course, many were accredited four-year schools meeting standards set by the North Central Association. In 1917-18 there were 81 accredited four-year high schools and 69 non-accredited four-year high schools.

Once a high school was accredited and the state tournament was functioning, basketball teams were off and running. With long winters and an inexpensive sport, a school only needed basketballs and uniforms. The game was popular and a team represented the high school and also the community.

Unfortunately for the girls, things did not develop quite as nicely as they did for the boys. Unlike the boys, the association did not sponsor a state-wide tournament. In the 1920s three state-wide invitational tournaments were held. The first 24 schools to apply made up the first tournament held in 1924 at the Corn Palace. Java beat Lake Andes 20-17 for the 1924 championship. In 1925, for the tournament held at Lake Andes, only 16 teams competed and in the championship Lake Andes beat Scotland 16-11. Java did not compete in 1925. In 1926, the tourney went back to the Corn Palace and, again, 16 teams competed. Java entered the tournament with a 56-game winning streak accumulated over six years. Howard tripped up Java and went on to lose the tourney to Wagner 22-20.

See a Registry of the Old Schools on Page 3

The registry of old schools and their mascots on Page 3 illustrates the changing times in South Dakota. School closures and consolidations have caused major restructuring of the basketball landscape.

Many schools listed have now joined with neighboring towns to create new districts. Some other schools on the list were in towns so small that they no longer exist.

But a common thread connects all the old schools. Each had its own history with cherished memories of coaches, players and fans who brought excitement and pride to the school and community.

(The list of old schools also appears on our website. It has been assembled through research and by information provided by our readers. Please go to www.sdbbhof.com and click on 'Viewpoint' to report any additions or corrections.)

The next state-wide girls tournament wasn't held until Dec. 4-5-6, 1975, at the Huron Arena. Although some schools sponsored girls teams before Title IX, participation in high school basketball for all students, because of gender equality, almost doubled.

To discover where all the high schools have gone, one must go to the countryside where almost all the high school closing occurred. In 1935 there were 83,303 farms in South Dakota. In 1954 there were 62,520 farms, and in 2024 there are 28,300. There are too many factors to list here as to why the countryside and agriculture in general changed to such a degree. It was a revolution. Primarily small farms morphed into ever-increasingly larger farms, methods of production changed drastically, and small towns with their high schools found fewer and fewer students in the countryside.

One of the peak years in school closings was 1966: Bath, Peever, Brentford, Columbia, Belvidere, Trent, Fedora, Garden City, Toronto, Amherst and Franklin (Madison)

faced closure of a common school or district as some consolidated or reorganized. This was occurring all across South Dakota basically from 1950 and before. The trend didn't subside until 2018. From 2018 until 2024, co-opting and combining for sports has decreased.

The impact of the many school closings can be seen in the number of players who will not experience playing time and will not be on the starting five. Fewer schools mean fewer teams and fewer teammates. The experiences offered to small school teams and communities are gone for those like Java's girls teams of 1924 and 1926, and Harrold's boys teams of 1951 and 1992, and tiny Franklin's boys team in 1953. Gone also are the many schools with single digit size classes. Also gone for so many is the comradery among teammates; an intangible relationship that could last a lifetime.

As is so often said, "Change is the only constant." That certainly has been true of high school basketball in South Dakota. Where have all the high schools gone? Long time ago.

- A:** Agar Hi-Pointers
Akaska Raiders
Alexandria Beavers
Alpena Wildcats
Amherst Wildcats
Andover Gorillas
Ardmore Rattlers
Argonne Arrows
Artesian Rams
Ashton Cardinals
Astoria Comets
Athol Arrows
- B:** Bancroft Eagles
Barnard Bears
Bath Warriors
Belvidere Comets
Big Stone City Lions
Blunt Monarchs
Bonesteel Tigers
Bonilla Eagles
Bradley Orioles/Bombers
Brandt Bulldogs
Brentford Braves
Bridgewater Wildcats
Bristol Pirates
Bruce Bees
Bryant Scotties
Buffalo Gap Buffaloes
Burbank Owls
Burke Bulldogs
Butler Panthers
- C:** Camp Crook Woolies
Canning Coyotes
Canova Eagles
Canton Augustana Academy Knights
Carthage Eagles
Cavour Cougars
Chancellor Wildcats
Chester Maroons
Cheyenne Agency Braves
Claire City Comets
Claremont Honkers
Clark Comets
Colman Wildcats
Colton Panthers
Conde Spartans
Corona Midgets
Corsica Comets
Cottonwood Coyotes
Columbia Comets
Cresbard Comets
- D:** Dallas Coyotes
Dante Gophers
Davis Bulldogs
Deadwood Bears
Delmont Wildcats
Doland Wheelers
Draper Bulldogs
- E:** Eagle Butte Warriors
East Lyman Broncos
Egan Bluejays
Elk Point Pointers
Elkton St. Mary Saints
Emery Eagles
Erwin Arrows
- F:** Fairburn Cubs
Fairfax Broncos
Farmer Orioles
Fedora Tigers
Ferne Pheasants
Florence Flyers
Forestburg Buccaneers
Frankfort Falcons
Franklin Flyers
Frederick Vikings
Fort Pierre Buffaloes
Fort Thompson Panthers
Fulton Pirates
- G:** Gann Valley Buffaloes
Garden City Dragons
Gary Tigers
Gayville Orioles
Geddes Rams
Glenham Eagles
Goodwin Eagles
Grenville Catholic
- H:** Harrold Cardinals
Hartford Pirates
Hayti Redbirds
Hazel Mustangs
Hecla Rockets
Henry Owls
Hetland Broncos
Hitchcock Bluejays
Holabird Cardinals
Hosmer Tigers
Howard St. Agatha Agates
Hudson Trojans
Humboldt Eagles
Hurley Bulldogs
- I:** Interior Cubs
Irene Cardinals
Isabel Wildcats
- J:** Java Panthers
Jefferson Blackhawks
- K:** Kadoka Kougars
Kennebec Kanaries
Keystone Dynamiters
Kidder Tigers
Kimball Kiotes
- L:** Lake Andes Eagles
Lake City Golden Eagles
Lake Norden Bluejays
Lane Trojans
Lead St. Patrick Fighting Irish
Lebanon Bulldogs
Leola Pirates
Lesterville Tigers
Letcher Tigers
Lily Wildcats
Logan Arrows
Loyalton Lions
Lyons Lions
- M:** Madison Eastern Yellowjackets
Madison General Beadle Bluejays
Madison St. Thomas Shamrocks
Martin Warriors
Marty Mission Braves
Meckling Panthers
Melette Terriers
Midland Vikings
Mission Hill Eagles
Mitchell Notre Dame Comets
Monroe Wooden Shoed Canaries
Montrose Irish
Moody County Comets
Mount Vernon Mustangs
- N:** New Effington Tigers
Nisland Beattoppers/Mustangs
Northville Panthers
Northwestern Academy Wildcats
- O:** Oacoma Hawks
Oglala Indians
Okaton Bulldogs
Oldham Dragons
Olivet Eagles
Onaka Pirates
Onida Warriors
Orient Hawks
Orland Eagles
- P:** Peever Panthers
Pickstown Engineers
Piedmont Hawks
Pierpont Panthers
Pine Ridge Holy Rosary Crusaders
Plankinton Pirates
- Plano Panthers
Pollock Bulldogs
Polo Bears
Presho Wolves
Provo Rattlers
Pukwana Wildcats
- Q:** Quinn Quintuplets
- R:** Ramona Rockets
Rapid City Cathedral Gaels
Rapid City St. Martin Kenmars
Ravinia Bears
Raymond Redwings
Ree Heights Warriors
Reliance Longhorns
Rockham Trojans
Roscoe Hornets
Roslyn Vikings
Rutland Ramblers
- S:** Salem Cubs
Salem St. Mary Falcons
Seneca Bluejays
Sherman Tigers
Sinai Rebels
Sioux Falls Cathedral Irish
Spencer Cardinals
SD School for the Deaf Pheasants
SD Training School Lincoln Loggers
South Shore Comets
Springfield Trojans
Springfield St. Mary Saints
Stephan Mission Chieftains
Stickney Raiders
St. Francis Mission Scarlet Warriors
St. Lawrence Wolves
St. Onge Jackrabbits
Strandburg Tigers
Stratford Vikings
Sturgis St. Martin Ravens
Summit Eagles
- T:** Tabor Cardinals
Thomas Tigers
Thorpe Wolves
Trent Warriors
Toronto Vikings
Tripp Wildcats
Tulare Chieftains
Turton Frogs
Tyndall Panthers
- V:** Vale Beetdiggers
Valley Springs Wolverines
Veblen Cardinals
Vermillion University Cubs
Viborg Vikings
Vienna Black Panthers
Virgil Pirates
Vivian Bearcats
Volga Cossacks
Volin Bluejays
- W:** Wakonda Warriors
Wallace Bulldogs
Ward Academy Lodmeils
Wasta Flyers
Waubay Dragons
Waverly Woodchucks
Wentworth Warriors
Wessington Warriors
Wessington Springs Academy Hornets
West Lyman Raiders
White Wildcats
White Lake Indians/Wolverines
Winfred Warriors
Willow Lake Pirates
Witten Wildcats
Wolsey Cardinals
Wood Bulldogs
Worthing Eagles
- Y:** Yale Trojans

First team All-State: the Best of the Best

By Greg Hansen

Fans were not sure what to make of the first official all-state team announced by the South Dakota Sportswriters Association on April 6, 1955.

Never before had all-state been a part of high school basketball in South Dakota. So it was natural some doubt existed. Is this new concept merely a passing fad or could it be the start of a treasured tradition?

That question didn't linger long. All-state was soon embraced as a proper means to honor deserving players from all parts of South Dakota at the conclusion of every season.

Two all-state teams, Class B and Class A, were chosen annually from 1955-1985. The number grew to three when Class AA was added in 1986. So during the 70 seasons that boys all-state has existed in South Dakota there have been a total of 179 all-state teams.

Composition of each all-state team has evolved. Back in 1955 it consisted of only two units with 10 players on the prestigious first team and 10 on the second team. In some later years each all-state team included as many as five units and 40 players.

In different eras the all-state first team has varied from a high of 11 players to as few as five. There can be no definitive answer as to which first team in history was the most talented and memorable. But the South Dakota High School Basketball Hall of Fame would like to know your opinion.

Following are some of the many first teams that featured dynamic players who had outstanding careers. Go to our website to cast a vote for the first team from 1955 through 2024 you consider the most special. It could be one of those listed here, or any other that



*Submitted Photo
In the two-class era Chad Nelson of Yankton was all-state four times, including three years on the first team. Here he shoots for Drake against Larry Bird of Indiana State.*

you admired.

Click on Viewpoint, tell us which all-state first team stands out in your memory, then hit Submit Comment. We will write a story in a future newsletter about the team which receives the most votes.

Here are 10 exceptional first teams to consider:

1957 'A' - John Bertolero, Lead; Rex Swett, Huron; Fred Hecker, Washington; Jerry Lund, Belle Fourche; Mike Sisk, Miller; Bob Appelwick, Madison; Bill Whisler, Yankton; John Simko, Washington; Lynn Broadhurst, Belle Fourche; Rich Kosier, Watertown; Irv Majeske,

Webster.

1967 'B' - Mike Freier, Tripp; Dick Authier, Woonsocket; Tom Miller, Stickney; Jim Hall, Spencer; Dennis Smith, Glenham; Lee Wilson, Frederick; Gale Bruns, New Underwood; Tom Mackey, Mitchell Notre Dame.

1969 'A' - John Dutton, Rapid City; Lee Colburn, Brookings; Dale Nickelson, Belle Fourche; Dennis Sherbon, Lead; Chuck Iverson, Vermillion; Jim Drake, Huron; Bill Meehan, Madison; Dennis DeJong, Mitchell.

1972 'A' - Chad Nelson, Yankton; Rick Nissen, Miller; Kim Templeton, Miller; Ralph Overton, Stevens; Dwight Iverson, Vermillion; Bob Utecht, Aberdeen; Mark Graham, Mitchell; Tom Schmidt, Roncalli.

1980 'B' - Mark Tetzlaff, Hamlin; Kevin King, Lyman; Dan Freidel, Armour; Keith Larson, Beresford; Juan Howell, Crow Creek; Rocky Johnston, Artesian; Mark Jacobsen, Lake Preston; Ross Baumeister, McLaughlin.

1989 'AA' - Eric Kline, Aberdeen; Eric Piatkowski, Stevens; Scott Beckstrand, Lincoln; Scott Morgan, Mitchell; Tim Ahartz, Brookings.

1996 'AA' - Mike Miller, Mitchell; John Sivesind, Roosevelt; Brent Cantalope, Aberdeen; Ryan Johnson, Washington; Nate Tibbetts, Roosevelt.

1999 'B' - Jared Reiner, Tripp-Delmont; Denver TenBroek, McIntosh; Kory Petoske, Midland; Ryan Sikkink, Castlewood; Mike Bevers, Henry.

2001 'A' - Matt Jones, Alpena-Wessington Springs; Josh Mueller, West Central; Paige Paulsen, Custer; DJ Fischer, Gettysburg; Adam Nelson, Chamberlain.

2005 'AA' - Joe Krabbenhoft, Roosevelt; Michael Tveidt, Pierre; Adam Templeton, RC Central; Mitch Begeman, O'Gorman; Ryan Krome, Mitchell.

Pierre, O’Gorman girls Defied odds in ‘90s

In our 2023 Spring Newsletter the South Dakota High School Basketball Hall of Fame asked its readers to tell us about their most memorable upsets in prep basketball. Here are two that were mentioned.

Late season Run propelled Lady Govs

Pierre ended the regular season with an 8-11 record in 1991.

The Lady Governors then lost to Huron in district action. But the trajectory of their season was about to change dramatically.

In the cross-section regional Pierre soundly defeated Rapid City Central 52-34 to advance to the State Class AA Tournament.

It was an uphill journey for Coach Don Shields and his Lady Govs at the Corn Palace. They entered the eight-team tourney as the seventh seed.

A quarterfinal victory over second seed Yankton 34-31 provided Pierre with a dose of confidence. Momentum was on the side of the Lady Govs as they earned a semifinal win over Sioux Falls Lincoln 40-39 in two overtimes.

Championship night matched Pierre against heavily favored Mitchell. The Kernels entered the title game on their home court at 17-4.

Neither team was able to create separation. Pierre led 9-7 after one quarter, Mitchell was up 26-24 at halftime, and the third quarter ended with the two teams locked in a 34-34 tie.

The Lady Govs forged a two-point lead with only seconds remaining. Mitchell missed a late shot and an attempted tip-in. The final horn sounded and Pierre had won 47-45.

Tobiann VanderPol led the balanced Lady Govs with 12 points. Johanna Herrin added nine, Michelle Reinke seven and Kara Oehlerking six.

Pierre finished the season with a 12-12 record. And with a state championship.



Jayne (Even) Gust

Knights kept the Faith to reach Goal

O’Gorman saw its record fall to 7-12 after suffering a 45-23 loss to Watertown in 1995. The Knights would not lose again.

Jayne Even was dominant through the postseason as the Knights earned their way to the State Class AA Tournament by

beating Brookings 50-29 and Brandon Valley 55-46. Even scored 27 points against the Bobcats and 33 against the Lynx.

Yankton was the pre-tourney favorite and earned the top seed. The Knights of Coach Gregg Talcott were seeded eighth. In the quarterfinals O’Gorman used 24 points from Even to top Yankton 50-34.

In the semifinals O’Gorman got a rematch against Watertown. This time the Knights hung on to edge the Arrows 37-36.

The drama continued in the finals. Mitchell had won the tournament the previous year and was making its sixth consecutive appearance in the title game. The Knights had never been there before.

The game went into overtime. Even took over late, netting the final four points, and the Knights prevailed 44-41. Even had 27 points and 16 rebounds. Mandy Lewis added 12 points. The other Knights to score were Jana Weeg with three points and Carmen Morrison with two.

O’Gorman claimed the championship and finished 12-12. The Knights proved once again that in basketball nothing can be taken for granted.

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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 plan to visit our website often at www.sdbbhof.com.

Ivy Standouts: Among the most accomplished Ivy League players from South Dakota were Paula Kenefick (Brookings '86) and Zach Finley (St. Thomas More '06). Kenefick ranks among Yale women's career leaders with 253 assists. The 6-9 Finley played 113 games for Princeton's men and once had seven blocks in a game.

Braveheart Title: Halin Bad Bear, a former Pine Ridge all-stater, was MVP for Oglala Lakota College as it won the 2024 American Indian Higher Education Consortium Division II National Tournament in St. Paul, Minn. It was the first title in the event for the Bravehearts since 1983. Oglala Lakota College is located in Kyle.

'B'/'A' Success: Star guard Baltus Fritzmeier led Mount Vernon to the Class B state tourney in 1940. The Mustangs lost in the semis 33-32 to eventual champ Deadwood. Thirty-one years later Fritzmeier coached Sioux Falls Washington to the Class A state title in 1971. His Warriors beat Mitchell 68-61 in the championship game.



Sanford Photo

Viborg Gem: The Arkansas Gems was a popular traveling women's basketball team that toured across the U.S. from 1973 until it ceased operation in 1988. Jane Jorgensen played several seasons for the Gems. She was a 1975 graduate of Viborg.

NBA Veteran: During the past 13 seasons Tre Maddox has officiated more than 650 games in the NBA. He played at Dakota State, graduating in 1991. The product of Kansas City, Kan., spent four years as an NBA G League ref before being promoted to the NBA.

Minimal Points: For an example of the low scoring era that existed in bygone days, consider the 1939 season. Clark native Glenn Draisey of Dakota Wesleyan was SDIC scoring champion with 11.6 points per game. The league runner-up averaged 9.7.

Ice Ace: Minnesota Wild defenseman Brock Faber has surpassed 40 points in his first NHL season, with more than 35 assists. The product of Maple Grove, Minn., and the University of Minnesota is a grandson of Canistota native and SDBBHOF member Roger Faber.

Power 5: Marcus Phillips and Jack Radel, former Sioux Falls Roosevelt basketball standouts, play baseball at Power 5 Conference schools. Phillips is a pitcher for Tennessee of the SEC. Radel pitches for Notre Dame, a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Coming Soon: The Hall of Fame will soon announce members of its Class of 2024. Fourteen former greats will be inducted during our 14th annual banquet Aug. 24 at the Sioux Falls Ramkota Hotel. Watch for details on our website and in statewide media.

Test your Memory of past HOF Newsletters

Since it began publishing its biannual newsletters, the South Dakota High School Basketball Hall of Fame has delved into state basketball history to share stories of players, coaches and teams from years gone by.

You are reading our 20th newsletter. To commemorate that milestone we have compiled a trivia quiz consisting of 20 questions. All answers were contained in stories that appeared in our previous 19 newsletters.

Answers are on page 10.

(1) - Which high school during the single class era achieved the first prep basketball dynasty in South Dakota, winning seven state championships in 10 seasons between 1922 and 1931?

(2) - What year did the Sioux Falls Roosevelt girls follow their Class AA state title by traveling to Oregon and winning the prestigious Northwest Holiday Hoopfest?

(3) - The 1968 all-state Class A and Class B basketball first teams included three members who later played in the National Football League. Who were they?

(4) - Which two schools from Kingsbury County were involved in the state's first documented six overtime game in 1963?

(5) - Who were the two Armour girls head coaches when the Packers became the first South Dakota program to win five consecutive state titles?

(6) - A South Dakotan coached Jefferson High School to five Los Angeles city boys championships between 1951 and 1972. Before moving to California he coached at Aberdeen, Gettysburg and Alexandria. Who was he?

(7) - What was the name of

2020 Spring Newsletter

Thorpes made 'B' fans believe in Miracles

By Greg Hansen

On the following day - March 8, 1963 - a newspaper report proclaimed it: "The Greatest Comeback in The History Of The State Basketball Tournament."

The previous night, before a sold-out Sioux Falls Arena crowd, the never-surrender duo of Louis Tyon and Marvin Red Elk won a crucial game for the Pine Ridge Thorpes that nearly everyone believed was already lost.

Pine Ridge's opponent, Monroe, was talented and big. The uniquely named Wooden Shoeed Canaries were led by 6-foot-5 center Ivan Friese and brought a sparkling 22-1 record to the State Class B Tournament.

In the quarterfinals the Thorpes trailed Monroe by a seemingly insurmountable 20 points at 43-23 late in the third quarter. It was an era before the 3-point goal became a late-game equalizer. So spectators were already updating their brackets and moving Monroe into the semifinals.

But then Pine Ridge unleashed some desperate defensive pressure. Tyon is now 74 years old and he still remembers the sense of urgency that gripped he and his teammates.

"We started getting some steals and the momentum really turned," says Tyon. "We weren't very big. I was our tallest guy at about 5-8. So we full-court pressed and we ran as much as we could."

Baskets after steals by Tyon and Red Elk spurred the comeback.

"Marvin was a good outside shooter and in that last quarter

him," says Tyon. "Whenever we really needed a basket the rest of us didn't want to even touch the ball. We wanted Marvin to take the shot."

So it was no surprise, in a game dripping with drama, that the 5-9 Red Elk had the ball as the final seconds ticked off the clock. When he pulled up, still 20 feet from the basket, and hit the game-winning jump shot it climaxed a resounding 28-6 run that gave the Thorpes a stunning 33-40 victory.

Red Elk finished with 22 points and Tyon had 18. Friese scored 15, Phil Helgesgaard 13 and Ron Nugtoren 12 for the Canaries of Coach Larry Gritman.

Pine Ridge beat Irons in the semifinals and then lost to Alexandria in the championship game. Monroe topped Agar in the consolation round and went on to Irene in the fifth-place game.

Fifty-seven years later memories of the Pine Ridge-Monroe classic remain vivid for those who watched in person or on statewide television.

"People still bring it up," says Tyon. "That game has kind of lived on."

But the Miracle at the Arena was only one compelling chapter in the story of the Thorpes during the 1962 and 1963 seasons. Chuck Gustafson coached Pine Ridge. He was a native of Bryant and graduate of Northern State. Gustafson provided guidance and direction, says Tyon, but "he gave us the freedom to play the way that came natural to us."

Tyon and Red Elk were juniors in 1962 when the Thorpes went

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SDBBHOF Photo
The 2020 Spring Newsletter was our 12th edition and featured stories that contain answers to three of the trivia questions.

the touring team from South Dakota, comprised of outstanding Indigenous players, that competed across the U.S. during the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s?

(8) - Who was the player who had 40 points and 18 rebounds for the Sioux Falls Washington girls as they defeated Jefferson in a 1980 showdown between unbeaten Class A and Class B powers?

(9) - Four players from Class B schools in South Dakota each won a scoring championship in the old collegiate North Central Conference from 1961 to 1964. Who were they?

(10) - What school finished second in the girls State Class B Tournament seven times between 1991 and 2005?

(11) - In the 1953 NBA Draft the Philadelphia Warriors selected a South Dakotan who had been a high school standout but had never played in college. Who was he?

(12) - The first State Catholic

Tournament in 1937 was won by St. Francis. Which school won the last Catholic tourney in 1964?

(13) - What popular lake was the scene of a Native American conference in 1896 that helped introduce the recently invented sport of basketball to South Dakota?

(14) - Who was the Parkston graduate who was a featured member of the famous women's traveling team the All American Red Heads?

(15) - All-state forward Freddie Knife and Cheyenne Agency won the Class B state title in 1959. Because of problems with the floor in their gym, the Braves played home games in which two towns?

(16) - South Dakota had 157 schools playing basketball in 2016. There were 92 different mascots. Which was used by the most schools?

(17) - Who were the twins who starred for Millbank in the early 1940s, served in the Marine Corps during World War II, then returned to South Dakota to become basketball and football standouts at Huron College?

(18) - In the Class B state tourney quarterfinals in 1963, Pine Ridge trailed by 20 points at 43-23 late in the third quarter. The Thorpes then went on a 28-6 run to win 51-49. Who was Pine Ridge's opponent?

(19) - Who was the South Dakotan who played basketball at Kansas, then was coach of the Jayhawks freshman team in 1956 that featured future NBA star Wilt Chamberlain?

(20) - When and where was the first South Dakota state high school basketball tournament held?

Lake Andes star had Eagles soaring in 1951

By Greg Hansen

South Dakota's leading career scorers were outstanding high school basketball players. More than skill alone is needed, however, to gain membership in the 2,000 point club.

It takes prolonged consistency, the ability to perform at a high level over a sustained period of several seasons.

Durability is essential. A player must be able to overcome nagging minor injuries to remain on the court and continue to produce ... game after game, season after season.

Forty-six boys have been documented as having surpassed 2,000 points in South Dakota. Of that group 22 percent graduated in the 1950s. The majority of 2,000 point scorers - 59 percent - played after the introduction of the 3-point goal in 1987.

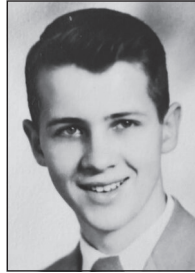
In the early years many schools did not compile complete statistics. Those which did often did not preserve those statistics. Because of a lack of accurate records there may be some players from the past who approached 2,000 points but whose totals cannot be verified.

Players like former Lake Andes High School star Dick Padrnos.

After seeing some varsity action while in eighth grade, Padrnos moved into the starting lineup for the Eagles as a freshman and became a productive four-year mainstay.

Lake Andes made its first trip to the State Class B Tournament when Padrnos was a senior in 1951 after he had games of 24 and 21 points to power the Eagles to the Region 7 championship.

Mitchell was the site of the state



Dick Padrnos

tournament. Lake Andes arrived at the Corn Palace unbeaten and rated No. 1 in the statewide poll.

The Eagles survived a stern test against Flandreau in the quarterfinals to advance 53-51 behind 23 points from Padrnos. Eventual champion Harrold then topped Lake Andes in the semifinal round 51-40.

In the third place game Ethan led the Eagles by a single point with time running out. Padrnos responded by hitting a game-winning shot from the corner to give Lake Andes a dramatic 56-55 victory over the Rustlers.

Padrnos scored 31 points

against Ethan. He represented Lake Andes on the all-tournament team after netting a total of 69 points in the tourney. There was no all-state team selected in South Dakota at that time.

Despite being only about 6-foot, Padrnos played center for the Eagles. His older brother, George, was the coach. Other starters who helped Lake Andes to its 30-1 record were Wayne Stedronsky and Bob Brooks at forward and Don Tomic and Maurice Nielsen at guard.

During his career Padrnos had a high game of 40 points against Armour. He averaged 19 points per game as a junior and then 23 when he was a senior.

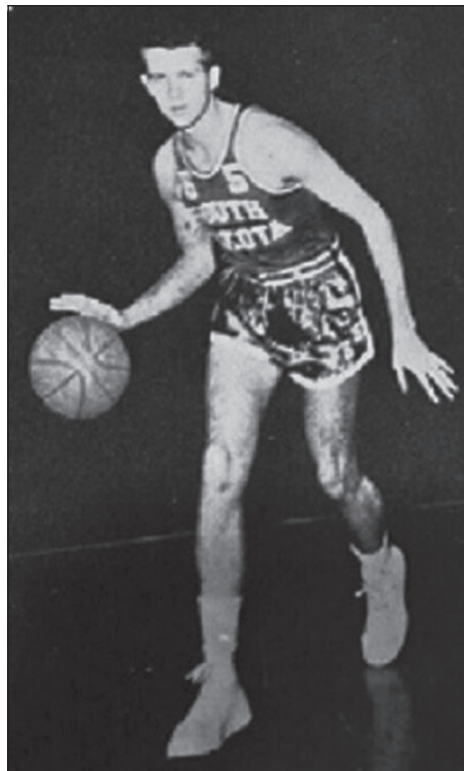
It has not been possible to conclusively tabulate Padrnos' game-by-game scoring totals from his five varsity seasons because not all scorebooks have been available. But his career total was well over 1,700 points.

Padrnos went on to play for Coach Rube Hoy at the University of South Dakota. Among his Coyotes teammates were Ordell Braase of Mitchell, Dick Black of Reliance, Don Jongewaard of Hurley and Jim Tays of Gettysburg.

Following his USD graduation Padrnos earned a medical degree from Tulane University in New Orleans. He then served four years in the U.S. Air Force stationed in England and California.

After leaving the military Padrnos settled in Colorado where he was an ear, nose and throat surgeon.

Padrnos is 91. He and his wife, the former Dona Blaseg of Parkston, met while both were students at USD. They have been married 67 years and reside at Boulder.



USD Photo
Dick Padrnos and the Coyotes finished third in the North Central Conference in 1953.

In Solemn Remembrance and Tribute

Virg Bechtold, 87, of Florence, Ore., died March 27, 2023. He was all-state in basketball as White River won the Class B state championship in 1955. He attended Augustana and had a career in logging and construction.

John Peckham, 89, of Sioux Falls died Oct. 6, 2023. A star athlete at Sioux Falls Washington, he competed in basketball, football and track. He played football at the University of Michigan, served in the U.S. Air Force and worked in the banking and medical fields.

Iggie Magbuhat, 91, of Rapid City died Oct. 20, 2023. The recipient of many awards for officiating, he worked basketball and several other sports. He was a native of San Pedro, Calif., and an Air Force veteran.

Wayne Gustafson, 87, of Rapid City died Nov. 27, 2023. He played basketball and football at Sioux Falls Washington, earning a football scholarship to attend Northwestern University (Ill.). He had a career in the construction industry.

Ken Tiefenthaler, 81, of Wagner died Dec. 8, 2023. A fine basketball player at Lake Andes, he was a successful youth baseball coach at Armour and later served the Wagner Police Department for over 20 years.

Dennis Jons, 80, of Sioux Falls died Dec. 9, 2023. He was a standout at Bonesteel and continued his basketball career at Southern State. He spent time in education then had a career at John Morrell & Co.

Harvey Naasz, 84, of Winner died Dec. 10, 2023. An outstanding football and basketball player at Mobridge, he was a University of South Dakota graduate who coached at Gettysburg, Custer, Gregory and Winner. His football teams had an overall record of 169-58-3 in 24 seasons, including 17 at Winner.

Ed Majeske, 94, of Webster died Dec. 30, 2023. He was part of the Webster dynasty that won Class B state titles in 1946, 1947 and 1948. A veteran of the U.S. Navy, he had a career with the U.S. Postal Service.

Andy Gerlach, 57, of Pierre died near Jan. 3, 2024. The all-state basketball player while at Armour was a graduate of Northern State. He worked for many years in South Dakota state government.

Carl Pierson, 47, of Waconia, Minn., died Jan. 26, 2024. He played basketball at Mitchell, graduated from Northern, and was a successful girls basketball coach in Minnesota. He was an author and noted speaker.

Don Screes, 87, of Tucson, Ariz., died Feb. 8, 2024. The Indianapolis native scored 1,008 points at Dakota Wesleyan. His involvement with Tiger basketball continued as director of admissions.

Lori (Fossum) McCormick, 46, of Salem died Feb. 9, 2024. Outstanding in basketball and volleyball at Canton, she went on to earn all-North Central Conference honors in volleyball at Augustana.

Harley Zephier Sr., 88, of Aberdeen died Feb. 10, 2024. A star player at Mission and Dupree, he later was all-Tri State Conference for Yankton College. The SDBBHOF member spent time as a coach and also had a long career with the federal government.

Bob Bartling, 97, of Brookings died Feb. 24, 2024. The graduate of Brookings competed in basketball, football and track at South Dakota State. He was an Air Force veteran, businessman and Jackrabbit supporter.

Dick Baysinger, 83, of Mitchell died Feb. 25, 2024. An all-state player for Forestburg, he graduated from Huron College and coached Hamlin to a state "B" championship in 1974. He was a businessman and also was involved in the insurance industry.

Verlyn Stotz, 90, of Rapid City died Feb. 25, 2024. An all-around athlete at Bowdle, he graduated from Northern and served schools at Howard and Huron. He was an official who worked prep and college basketball.

Brent Deckert, 55, of Brandon died March 13, 2024. He coached Brandon Valley for 21 years and led the Lynx to the 2019 "AA" boys title. He was a product of Henning, Minn., and Moorhead State (Minn.).

Dave Gunther, 86, of Grand Forks, N.D., died March 16, 2024. A noted player at LeMars, Iowa, and the University of Iowa, he was 332-177 as University of North Dakota coach. He also coached Wayne State (Neb.), Buena Vista (Iowa) and Bemidji State (Minn.).

Dave Pastian, 73, of Madison died March 18, 2024. A basketball and football standout at Gregory, he was an NAIA All-America running back for Northern. He had a long career as an orthopedic trauma consultant.

Robert Harum, 98, of Westwood, Calif., died April 3, 2024. After starring at Sioux Falls Washington he was all-NCC in basketball three years for Augustana. He had a career with International Harvester.

Jacks, USD bested future Baseball Immortal

One of the most dominant pitchers in major league baseball history made a two-night stop in South Dakota during the winter of 1956.

Fans came to the Barn in Brookings on Jan. 6 and to the Armory in Vermillion on Jan. 7 to watch basketball. They had no idea they were in the presence of a young athlete so gifted that he would eventually be a first ballot selection to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Bob Gibson pitched for the St. Louis Cardinals from 1959-75. He led them to championships in 1964 and 1967, earning the World Series MVP Award both years.

But in 1956 he was only 21 years old and a 6-foot-1 junior who averaged 22 points per game for the Creighton University basketball team. Things did not go well for the Bluejays on their trip to South Dakota.

South Dakota State had little



Virg Riley

State was led by 6-4 senior forward Virg Riley (Dell Rapids). He averaged 16 points per game and was MVP of the North Central Conference. Riley became the first Jackrabbit to surpass 1,000 points when he finished his career that season with 1,008.

Several other in-state products helped State to the NCC title with a 10-2 league record. Included were Deane Antoine (Flandreau), Dal Eisenbraun (Delmont), Kent Hyde (Onida), Nig Johnson (Brookings), Harley Petersen (Hayti) and Jim Sutton (Onida).

After traveling some 115 miles

trouble in beating Creighton 93-76. The Jackrabbits went on to go 17-7 in their final season under Sox Walseth before the Pierre native moved on to coach Colorado.

south, things did not get any better for Creighton. Dwane Clodfelter was coach at the University of South Dakota and his Coyotes beat the Bluejays 83-71. USD wound up 12-10 overall.

The Coyotes also had several former in-state players in their rotation: Dick Hagerty (Doland), Maury Haugland (Murdo), Don Jongewaard (Hurley), Clayton Kiewel (Rapid City), Bob Middleton (Watertown) and Roger Nelson (Brookings).

Shortly after his 1957 graduation Gibson signed with St. Louis. He was National League MVP in 1968. He won nine Gold Glove Awards, two Cy Young Awards, and was chosen to nine All-Star Games.

Gibson's greatest season was 1968. He went 22-9 with 13 shutouts and an incredible 1.12 ERA that has not been matched by any pitcher in the last 55 years. Gibson died in Omaha on Oct. 2, 2020.

Trivia Answers

(1) - Yankton won titles in 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1928, 1929 and 1931. **(2)** - It was 1999 when the Rough Riders beat Buena High of Ventura, Calif., in the finals 55-52. **(3)** - John Dutton of Rapid City Cathedral, Neil Graff of Sioux Falls Lincoln and Larry Jacobson of Sioux Falls O'Gorman.

(4) - Bancroft defeated Iroquois 70-68. **(5)** - Jerry Altenburg coached Armour to the Class B title in 1983. Ron Weber then guided the Packers to titles in 1984-87. **(6)** - Lawrence "Larry" Hanson, a Vermillion native who graduated from the University of South Dakota in 1933.

(7) - The Sioux Travelers. **(8)** - JoElle (Byre) Benson. Washington won 88-78. **(9)** - Don Jacobsen (23.6 points per game) of Lake Norden and South Dakota State in 1961; Roger Faber (23.1) of Canistota and USD in 1962; Dave McCracken (20.8) of Flandreau and Augustana in 1963; and Jim Dyer (23.1) of Willow Lake and USD in 1964.

(10) - Willow Lake was runner-up in 1991, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2004 and 2005. **(11)** - Bob Marske, a 1944 graduate of Andover. **(12)** - O'Gorman defeated Mitchell Notre Dame 54-50 in the finals.

(13) - Big Stone Lake. Basketball instruction was provided at the conference by Henry Kallenberg of Iowa City. He was a former associate of James Naismith, who invented the sport in 1891. **(14)** - Allegra Winter, who graduated from Parkston in 1941. **(15)** - Cheyenne played home games at Gettysburg and Mobridge.

(16) - Eleven schools had Tigers as their mascot. **(17)** - Harry and Tom Prendergast. **(18)** - The Monroe Wooden Shoed Canaries.

(19) - Chris Divich, a 1952 graduate of Doland. **(20)** - In 1912 eight teams gathered in Huron to determine a single class state champion in an open-entry tourney. Action took place at the old Daum Opera House. Redfield topped Lake Preston 33-25 in the title game on March 16.

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Brent Kallestad in honor of the 100th birthday of Miller coach Bob Schroeder



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Plaque at Custer Offers lasting Tribute

This plaque in the Custer Armory/Gymnasium lobby honors the memory of Derek Paulsen. It was presented to the school by grandparents Don and Dorothy Paulsen and their family.

The all-state guard had completed his junior year at Custer when he lost his life in a car accident July 30, 1999.

Paulsen was 17. He was inducted posthumously into the SDBBHOF in 2023.

(Submitted Photo)

