



Honoring the Past to Inspire the Future

Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame Foundation
Newsletter — Summer 2009

Gathering, organizing

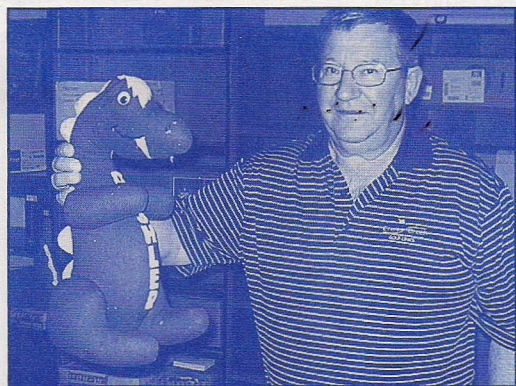
Members of the Hall of Fame's Board of Directors gathered June 18 at the Hall of Fame room in the NSAA office building in Lincoln to begin collecting and organizing items that will be part of the Hall of Fame.



"We accomplished much, organized a lot, and even had fun sifting through and reading articles dating back 60 and 70 years," board president Bob Whitehouse said. "Some of the artifacts got us excited thinking about the possibilities."



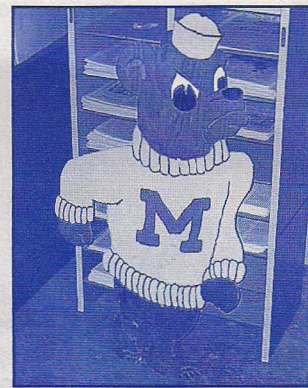
Executive Director Dick Beechner points out details in a photo of the 1930 state basketball tournament to board member Dan Moore.



Del Schoenfish hoists a Deshler Dragon.



Examining the original plaques.



A Marquette Bear guards our papers

Hall of Fame ready for 16th induction class

The Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame Foundation will be adding 11 athletes, five coaches, two contributors and a referee to the hall at its annual induction ceremony Sunday, Sept. 27, at the Lied Center in Lincoln.

This will be the Hall's 16th induction ceremony. Tickets

Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony Sept. 27, 2009, Lied Center, Lincoln

Tickets: \$25 for adults, \$10 students
For tickets, call the Nebraska Sports Council
(800) 304-2637 or (402) 471-2544

are available by contacting the Nebraska Sports Council at P.O. Box 29366, Lincoln, NE., 68529, or by calling 1-402-

471-2544 or, in Nebraska, 1-800-304-2637. Ticket prices are: \$25 for adults and \$10 for high school and elementary

students. Preschool children are admitted free. Doors open at noon with the program beginning at 1:30 p.m.

In addition to the inductees, the Hall of Fame will honor two Golden Anniversary and two Silver Anniversary teams as well as the Fischer Family

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Induction Class

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Award winners and the Ron Gustafson Inspiration Award winner.

New this year will be a Dominant Dynasties award, presented to a team that sustained unequalled success over a long period of time.

This year's inductees are:

ATHLETES

Tom Ernst, Columbus, 1959: A four-year starter in football and basketball and a three-year letterman in track, he earned all-state football honors and tied for the Class A gold medal in the shot put.

Sarah (Fredstrom) Secrest, Omaha Burke, (1994): A four-time state doubles champion in tennis, she earned all-state honors in softball and basketball and went on to set many softball records at Colorado State University.

Kelli (Benson) Jeffries, Grand Island, 1980: A high school All-American basketball player, she was all-state in volleyball and state champion in high jump.

Pat Hodges, Lexington, 1974: He set a state record making 47 consecutive free throws, and set a state record in the 880-yard run, winning four gold medals at the state track meet his senior year. He was a two-way starter on Lexington's state champion football teams of 1972 and '73.

Andy Meyer, Superior, 1989: A two-time state champion and a state record-holder in the discus, he went on to become a three-time All-American and a Big 8 Conference discus and shot put champion.

Jim "Squat" Myers, York, 1942: An all-state halfback on York's undefeated football

team of 1942, he was named to the all-state basketball tournament team and won the gold medal in the pole vault.

Rich Osentowski, Ord, 1965: All-state in football and a starter in basketball, he was the 1965 Class B state golf champion.

Laura Tietjen, Byron, 1976: She led Byron to a 14-0 season in 1976, averaging 38 points per game. Her 58 points in one game, currently ranks second in state history.

Larry Tomlinson, O'Neill St. Mary's, 1959: All-state in football and basketball, he set school scoring records in basketball and was a receiver on the St. Mary state champion team of 1958. He had five second-place finishes at the

state track meet to lead O'Neill St. Mary to the state title.

Jim White, Hastings, 1968: An all-state basketball player who led the Tigers to the state tournament setting school single-game and single-season scoring records, White made his reputation in golf, winning the 1969 state tournament with a record-tying 70.

Zach Wiegert, Fremont Bergen, 1990: A three-sport standout at Bergen, Wiegert anchored Nebraska's "Pipeline," starting 37 straight games. The Outland Trophy winner in 1994, he played 11 years in the NFL.

COACHES

Curlee Alexander, Omaha North: He coached more than 50 individual champions in his

career. He led Tech to the state championship in 1978 and Omaha North to the state title six times.

Roy Bassett, Hastings: In a 40-year career, Bassett worked as head football, basketball, track and cross country coach. He coached numerous top 10 football teams, the state runner-up basketball team of 1949 and the state runner-up track teams of 1963 and 1971.

Jerry Eickhoff, Hampton: Nebraska's all-time winningest basketball coach with 670 wins, Eickhoff's career spanned 40 years and included three state championships, three runner-up trophies.

George O'Boyle, Lincoln Pius X: He coached 17 cross country championship teams and two track championship teams in a 40-year career.

Keith Staehr, Kimball: He averaged six wins per year over a 32-year career, playing mostly against larger schools.

OFFICIAL

Dale Butler is estimated to have worked more than 2,100 games. He has officiated at the state basketball and baseball tournaments and the state football playoffs.

CONTRIBUTORS

Roger Barry, Schuyler: A driving force in promoting wrestling and girls athletics, Barry started the wrestling programs at Neligh and Schuyler and was the first girls track coach at Schuyler.

Ray Ehlers, Lexington: The AD and assistant principal at Lexington High School for nearly 30 years, Ehlers also coached at Fullerton and Blair High Schools. He was an organizer of the Nebraska School Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association.

Our Honorees:

FISCHER FAMILY AWARD

Sam and Edward Schwartzkopf families of Lincoln: Sam, a former mayor of Lincoln, and Edward, a former University of Nebraska regent, were football standouts at Lincoln High and the University of Nebraska, playing as teammates on the Husker team of 1939. Sam's wife, Dorothy, and daughter, Christie, were founders of the Nebraska Women's Amateur Golf Association and have won a combined 11 state amateur championships.

RON GUSTAFSON INSPIRATION AWARD

Alex Gouldie, St. Paul: An amputee who lost her lower leg when she was 2 years old, Gouldie has played first base on the high school softball team and volleyball for the U.S. Paralympic team.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY TEAMS

Omaha South boys basketball of 1959-60: Coach Cornie Collins' 21-0 state championship team of 1960 was the only undefeated team in Class A in a 29-year period.

Central City baseball of 1959-60: The Class B state championship of 1960 culminated a magic run by the Bison, who lost only two games in district and state competition from 1956-60.

SILVER ANNIVERSARY TEAMS:

Hayes Center girls of 1984-85: Hayes Center won its second Class D state track championship in 1985 and claimed the Class D-2 state championship in basketball and state runner-up trophy in volleyball.

Columbus Scotus football of 1984: The first Class B team to go 13-0. They allowed only 55 points all season.

DOMINANT DYNASTY

Minden boys basketball teams of the 1950s: Coached by Hall of Fame coach Aldie Johnson, the Whippets posted a record of 171-33 in the 1950s, winning three state championship and two runner-up trophies in Class B. The 1950 and 1952 teams went 22-1 with the 1952 team ranked No. 1 in all classes.

Need to know more about our Hall?

Want to know more about the Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame Foundation.

We would like to get our story out and you can help.

Our board of directors would be happy to talk to you or your organization about the Hall of Fame and its activities.

Give us a call and set up a speaker.

Alliance — Sandy Piffold, 308-762-5490.

Alma — Hoppy McCue, 308-928-2570.

Ansley — Dan Moore, 308-935-1337.

Bellevue — Steve Joekel, 402-292-2310.

Cambridge — Del Schoenfish, 308-697-4638.

Central City — Bob Jensen, 308-946-5127.

Chadron — Buck Edwards, 308-432-2433.

Davey — Bob Martin, 402-785-3225.

Eagle — Wally McNaught, 402-780-6883.

Fremont — Sue Wilcoxson, 402-727-5211.

Kearney — Dick Beechner, 308-236-9471.

Kearney — Buck Mahoney, 308-236-9112.

Lexington — Ray Ehlers, 308-324-3187.

Lincoln — Ken Fischer, 402-486-4729.

Lincoln — Aldie Johnson, 402-489-2516.

Lincoln — Charlie Meyer, 402-474-2255.

Lincoln — Al Papik, 402-423-1717.

Omaha — Bob Danenhauer, 402-554-2800.

Omaha — Jo Dusatko, 402-493-2488.

Omaha — Duane Haith, 402-393-8512.

Omaha — Gene Haynes, 402-496-2536.

Omaha — Pat Salerno, 402-553-7414.

Omaha — Dave Van Metre, 402-551-1817.

Panama — Kathi Wieskamp, 402-788-2714.

Papillion — Bob Whitehouse, 402-339-5515.

Papillion — Dennis Smith, 402-331-7631.

Papillion — Jerry Stine, 308-991-2983.

Schuyler — Roger Barry, 402-352-2634.

Seward — Steve Borer, 402-649-4368.

Waverly — Jack Guggenmos, 402-432-2185.

Wayne — Jim Paige, 402-375-3279.

York — Randy Cordes, 402-362-7099.

Selection process on-going

Know of someone who should be considered for the Hall of Fame?

The selection committee would like to hear from you.

Throughout the year, the 11 members of the selection committee constantly have their eyes and ears open, searching for the handful of people who will be inducted.

The Hall of Fame Foundation's induction ceremony culminates their efforts, but even before this year's inductees are introduced, the selection committee has started to work on next year's class, trying to identify the athletes, coaches, officials, and contributors worthy of induction.

Subcommittees meet throughout the year with the entire committee meeting in early February make its final recommendation to the Board of Directors.

To maintain the integrity of the honor, the Hall's bylaws limit each induction class to 12 athletes and five coaches. That small group comes from a list of more than 600 possible inductees the committee has gathered over the years.

Not every one of those has a completed nomination form. Some are just a name with a brief note about that person.

"We're soliciting people's help in finding who those great athletes are or who those great coaches are," selection committee chairman Randy Cordes said.

One thing that would be beneficial to the selection committee would be if someone in every community in

Nebraska would search their mind and decide, "Who's the best athlete or who's the best coach, who went through here. Then gather a nomination form and submit whatever they can find," Cordes added.

Nomination forms are available online at the Hall's Web site, www.nebhalloffame.org, or by contacting Cordes or the Hall of Fame Board's Executive Director, Dick Beechner.

Pages from high school annuals are a good place to start gathering information. Scrap books are one of the best.

"One of the biggest things is (getting) as many details about that person's career as possible — letters, statistics, honors earned, letters of recommendation — as much information as possible to describe that athlete or coach's career," Cordes said.

Selection committee members review those nomination forms annually, often finding new and exciting information that sparks their interest and brings overlooked people to the committee's attention.

"Being exposed to athletes and coaches that maybe you were not aware of that had outstanding careers at some point in the past" is one of the perks of being on the selection committee, Cordes said.

Perhaps the epitome of the little-known gem was Willard

Schmidt, a basketball player from the small town of Swanton, who played for the first gold-medal-winning U.S. Olympic team in 1936. The Hall inducted Schmidt in 2005.

Cordes said people often ask him if they need to re-nominate someone they nominated but wasn't selected. That's not the case.

"Once an individual is nominated, they remain nominated. They don't have to be

renominated again," Cordes said.

The other nominations the selection committee reviews are the Fischer Family Award, the Gustafson Inspiration Award, the Dominant Dynasty Award and the Silver/Golden Anniversary teams. The anniversary team nominations are, by nature, time-sensitive as they honor teams from 25 and 50 years prior to the induction ceremony.

Because the induction ceremony is in September, it coincides with what would be the fall season of high school sports, so the 2009 induction ceremony will honor the teams from the 1959-60 and 1984-85 school years.

"It's a little confusing which ones are upcoming. We don't want anyone to nominate anyone and be a year late," Cordes said.

Next year's group would be the 1960-61 and 1985-86 school years.

Visit us on the Web at www.nebhalloffame.org

Give us a helping hand: We're missing photos of some of our inductees. If you check our Web page and don't see a photo of an inductee, we need one. If you have one, e-mail it to condesarget@charter.net. Your help would be appreciated.