



Honoring the Past to Inspire the Future

Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame Foundation
Newsletter — Winter 2006

Fifty years later, still talk of the town

Hall's honored teams find ceremony is golden opportunity to get together

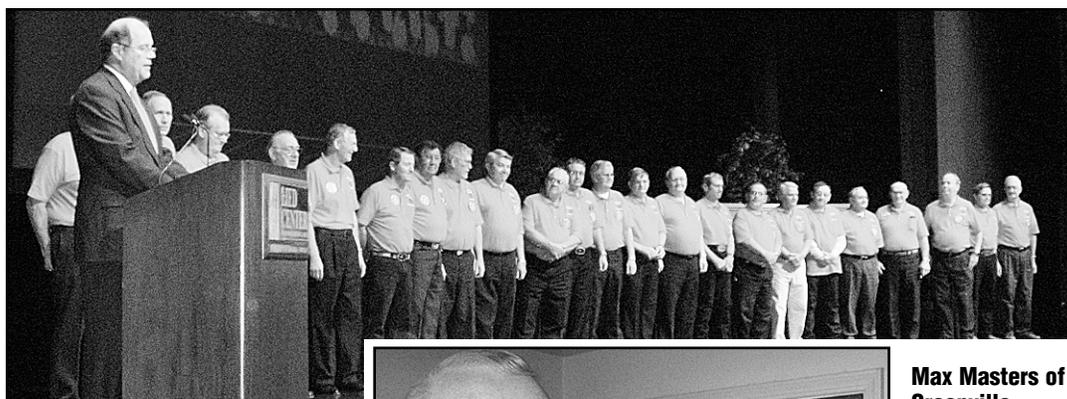
Let's see now, the Arcadia high school football team of 50 years ago didn't have a Heisman Trophy winner ... didn't have big-time college recruiters beating a path to their football field ... played in one of Nebraska's smaller classes ... had a lot of chores to do before and after practice.

Still, they made a lasting impression and turned into something special, a bunch of kids who wanted to play, who had a good coach, who worked hard to succeed, and success came.

In the process, they also developed a lifetime bond that was ever so evident in October at the Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame Foundation 2006 awards program.

Why else would 27 players from the 1956 Class C football team turn out to receive the Hall's Golden Anniversary Award in Lincoln. Their high school experience, their pride in their community, their respect for their coach — even after all these years — brought them back almost to the man.

"It was the first time we've all been together," said Max Masters, who traveled from Greenville, S.C., for the Hall of Fame festivities. "There have been class reunions but noth-

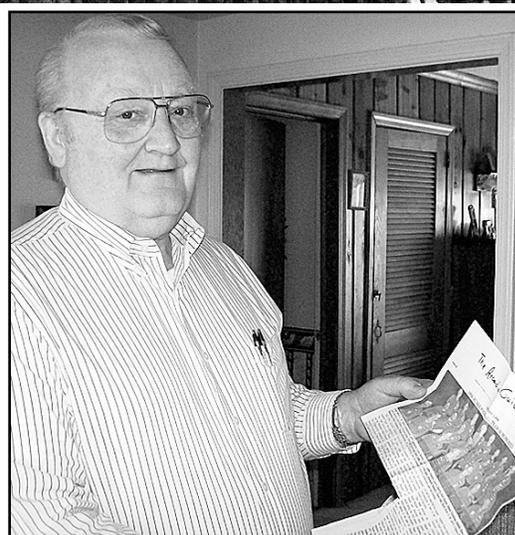


ing special just for the football team."

They were perhaps surprised a bit that they hadn't been forgotten. No way.

"This ended up being a community thing," said Masters, pointing to the Labor Day parade and community celebration in Arcadia this year where a float honoring the football team sort of had center stage. The Friday after the Hall of Fame honors, the team was honored at an Arcadia high school football game. They had a social gathering in one of the Memorial Stadium suites in Lincoln. Special shirts — in Arcadia High's red and white — were ordered for them and they wore them to the Hall of Fame program.

Truth is, they deserved all this. The 1956 team and the 1957 team were unbeaten



Max Masters of Greenville, S.C., a member of the Golden Anniversary Arcadia football team, looks over newspaper clippings from the team's reunion for the Hall of Fame ceremony. The Arcadia team filled the stage in matching red shirts while accepting their award.

and UNSCORED ON (Has any other school had back-to-back shutout seasons?). The 1958 team was unbeaten but the no-points streak ended. It was a great run.

The thrill for Masters was "just being a part of it," he said. "It's a small school and just a handful of boys didn't

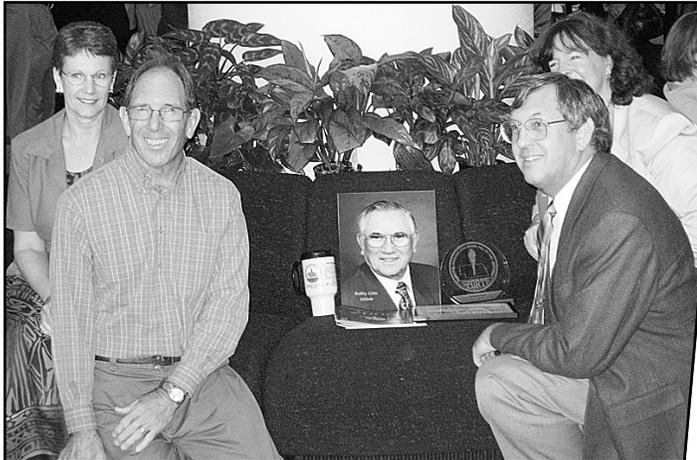
go out. I was pretty small, so I didn't make all that big a contribution toward all the team's success as the others, but I was happy to be a part of it."

Glen Vannier was their coach. "Being under Coach Vannier was something that

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Want a DVD of the September 2006 induction ceremony?

Contact Dick Beechner at golopers@aol.com or (308) 236-9471 — The cost is \$20 plus \$3 shipping and handling



Members of the Bobby Ginn family gather around his photo and trophy following the Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame's annual induction ceremony in September. The ceremony brings together family, friends, teammates and others to celebrate the joys of high school athletics.

Get-togethers

Continued from Page 1

made it worthwhile. He was a no nonsense coach, no shenanigans. During that Sunday at the program, you could see the rest of the team felt the same way about him, too."

The Hall of Fame's awards for teams started with the 1995 banquet. The idea is to honor teams of 50 years ago (Golden Anniversary) and 25 years ago (Silver Anniversary) each year.

The first teams honored were Gothenburg's 1945 football team (gold) and Lincoln East's 1970-71 basketball team (silver).

Similar indications that special bonds among teammates form during a high school sports season pop up rather regularly when dealing with the Silver and Gold Anniversary honorees. The following correspondence is a perfect example, going back to the 1999 banquet, which honored Omaha Central basketball in the Silver Anniversary category:

"My, my, what a wonderful day. I just received my letter informing me of the 1973-74 Omaha Central basketball teams being chosen for the Hall of Fame's Silver Anniversary award..... The thought of getting together with my teammates, and our friends and families is overwhelming. George Brett said at his induction into the (Baseball) Hall of Fame, 'We live with our friends, not our accomplishments.' I will always appreciate what you have done for my friends and me. May God bless you."— Kevin Van Buckner, Lanham, Maryland, member of the two basketball teams honored.

To nominate teams for future awards, see the Hall of Fame website (www.nebhalloffame.org) for nomination forms, or contact Selection Chairman Randy Cordes, 521 Iowa Ave., York, 68467.

— Story written by Hall of Fame board member Conde Sargent

A word from the President

As you know, the Nebraska School Activities Association is building a new headquarters in Lincoln's Haymarket Ballpark District. It was a realization of a dream when the NSAA invited the Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame Foundation to be an occupant in their new building. We are leasing approximately 7,700 square feet of space that will provide rooms for a viewing area, exhibit displays and our hall of honor.

The traditional ground-breaking ceremony occurred Sept. 28 at the site. The picture (on page 3) commemorates that event. Because of additional site studies being necessary, the actual breaking of ground has not begun yet in talking with Dr. Jim Tenopir, Executive Director of the NSAA.



Wally McNaught

Our capital fund-raising campaign is still in the planning stage. We do not want to begin before we have everything in order. We have learned that in a successfully run campaign, 80 percent of the credit goes to the planning. We are presently working with the architects on schematic plans that can be presented to our potential donor public, and along with the production of a campaign brochure, we can see launching our fund-raising efforts in January or February. This is a little later than we anticipated, but patience is necessary when there is a reliance on other contributing partners and their timetables.

We hope high school sports fans across the state will embrace and financially support our efforts. Our desired wish is that communities and schools, large and small, will feel a sense of ownership of our facility and its contents. Our wish is that the Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame will admirably reflect the pride of our whole state as displayed and expressed within its walls.

In closing, we would like to urge high school sports fans throughout the state to be on the lookout for memorabilia that might be appropriate for exhibit and display purposes. These artifacts, loaned or given to the Hall of Fame, would be insured and properly stored when not on display.

Thank you for whatever help you can lend to our mission and our desire to "Honor the Past to Inspire the Future" of our boys and girls.

Wally McNaught
President
Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame

Digging In



From left, Nebraska School Activities Association Executive Director Jim Tenopir, Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame Executive Director Dick Beechner, Hall of Fame Board of Directors President Wally McNaught and Nebraska Coaches Association Executive Director Steve Johnson man the shovels at the ground-breaking ceremony for the new building this summer in Lincoln. The building (inset), owned by the NSAA, will be jointly occupied by the three organizations.

Hall beginning to gather items for display

The Hall of Fame Board of Directors has selected Jerry Stine of Bertrand as chairman of a new committee to begin collecting and organizing memorabilia and artifacts for the Hall of Fame display. If you have any items you think the Hall would be interested in, contact Executive Director Dick Beechner at (308) 236-9471 or Stine at (308) 472-3766.

The Hall thanks you for your support

The Hall of Fame would like to thank the following for their generous donations to the Hall of Fame between Feb. 16 and Dec. 4, 2006:

Jack Hallstrom
 Gene and Ruth Kruger
 Al and Pat Bahe
 Duane Schmidt
 Ken and Betty Fischer
 Larry and Carol Seitz
 Patrick DiBiase
 Dennis and Shirley Edwards
 Wally and Joann McNaught in memory of Neil McNaught and
 Lennis Lind
 Reuben Schleifer
 Ray and Pat Ehlers

Dennis and Deanna Smith
 Bill McNaught in memory of Neil McNaught
 Aquinas High School
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 Dave Oman — Central Nebraska All-Star Basketball Classic
 Jeff and Robin Smith
 Fred and Sandra Bessler
 Swedish Basketball Classic (Dewaine Gahan)
 Bob Whitehouse
 Bob Moderow
 Bernard Phillips
 Del and Veronica Schoenfish, in memory of Bill Lewis

Donation Form

The Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame is a non-profit, tax-exempt (IRC Section 501(c)(3)) organization that relies on contributions from individuals, organizations, foundations, etc. Please consider making a contribution. You can copy this form or simply send your donation to:

Sports Hall of Fame
1123 Delmar Street
Papillion, NE 68046

Make checks payable to the Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame Foundation

Contribution enclosed for \$ _____

Name: _____

Street: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Telephone _____

Our mission:

The purpose of the Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame Foundation is to honor:

- Athletes for outstanding high school careers.
- Administrators, coaches, officials and community members who have made significant contributions to high school athletics.
- Athletes who have had a significant impact on their chosen field or in our society following completion of their high school careers.

Our Goals:

1. Establish a Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame facility that will preserve the rich heritage of Nebraska high school athletics and serve as a repository for all memorabilia acquired.
2. Develop and implement programs and services consistent with the intent and purpose of the Hall of Fame.

Please share this newsletter with as many high school sports fans as possible by placing it in an accessible area.

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