

I had the opportunity this winter to visit Triton High School for a wrestling match and a couple of basketball games. While I was there, I saw the Triton Hall of Fame (HOF) plaque display. You can see the plaque pictures at the bottom of this column. [They are not the best pictures as I used my phone and I was looking through the display case plexiglass.] They've been inducting former athletes, coaches and supporters into the HOF since 2012. It was fun to look at the names on the plaques as I played with or against several of the inductees. You see, there are members from West Concord, Dodge Center and Claremont, the three schools that are now Triton. Among those who were in the first Triton HOF class of 2012 was a student-athlete from Claremont that I wrote about in this column back in April of last year.

Craig Busch was a Claremont graduate in 1969. He was an outstanding athlete whose best sport may have been baseball. Craig played semi-pro baseball after high school including with the Owatonna Aces. I wrote about in my April, 2017 column how I was in a high school game in May 1969 in Claremont when Craig struck out 6 batters in one inning. No one thought much about it at the time but that was a national record that is not in the record books. If we can find written proof it happened, like an old scorebook or even a newspaper account, it could and should be one for the record books. Whether that will ever happen, I don't know but I do know it happened because I saw it from the third base dugout and I saw the sixth strikeout from the on deck circle. Craig is very deserving of being in Triton's HOF.

Lorry Gunhus was inducted into the Triton HOF the next year as a coach. Lorry was at the Minnesota Vikings summer camp in 1961 and a broken elbow kept him from continuing to play that year and he decided teaching and coaching would be less dangerous. That was West Concord's gain. Lorry coached a lot of years of football, basketball and track. He was my basketball coach all through high school. He was there when to his amazement and mine, I had a career that put me in the scoring books for 3 Wasioja conference teams while yet only attending West Concord High School. It seems that I shot at the wrong end of the court in two different games so I am in the scoring annals of Byron, Pine Island and West Concord. Fortunately most of my points were for West Concord. I have told this story many times as an emcee for various events. People would ask why I shot at the wrong end. My short answer was I was open and the guards on the team would never throw me the ball when I was that wide open. Lucky for me, we won those two particular games. I digress. Lorry is very deserving of his place in the Hall of Fame. I believe Lorry and son Erik, inducted in 2012, are one of two father/son members of the HOF. Craig Busch's son Tim (1995) is also a member. Tim was inducted in 2013, as was Richard Raddatz, WC grad of 1954. Richard, son of Boots and Louise, was a multi-sport athlete but maybe football was his best sport. He kicked and punted for South Dakota State and was offered an opportunity to punt for the Baltimore Colts. This was in 1958 and a punter made about \$6000 a year. Compare that to what they're paying some of these players today. Well Richard could make a lot more money elsewhere so he turned down that offer.

Scott Streiff (1985) was inducted in the HOF class of 2013. He walked on at the University of Minnesota and played for Coach Lou Holtz during his short tenure as the Gophers head coach. Jodi Callister (1992) and Bob Rundquist (1939) were also inducted in 2013.

One inductee in the HOF class of 2016 was a teammate of mine, Mike Doty (1970). Mike was an outstanding four sport athlete at West Concord. The now dentist went on to play football at South Dakota State. In the first basketball tournament game his sophomore season, West Concord was a decided underdog against Zumbrota. They had a very good team. But their coach had filled out his scorebook with wrong numbers for his team. Back in those days, home uniforms would have even numbers and the road uniforms would have odd numbers. Well the coach, understandably, got confused. When the players took the court and the game got underway, the scorekeepers called the refs over and it was 5 technical fouls against Zumbrota for having the wrong numbers for the players. Mike Doty made all five free throws. West Concord took a 9-0 lead in the game and never gave it up to pull a big upset in sub-district action.

I'm not sure who decides or when they decide to induct more into the HOF but there are more that are deserving. Two West Concord athletes come to mind for me. One is Dave Tengwall (1965). Dave was a big 6'5" center in high school that could score almost every time he touched the ball. And of course he was a great rebounder with his size. Dave went on to play three sports; football, basketball and golf at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga. Dave told me a few years ago that he enjoyed golf the most because that kept him out of spring football. It's no use getting beat up more than you have too. He told me the one story of his college basketball career. His team had to go up against future NBA star Dave Bing. Tengwall said he had to guard him for about 10 minutes and in that short amount of time, Bing 'only' got 20 points.

The other WC athlete I think should get HOF recognition is Wayne Miller (1973). Wayne was also a multi-sport athlete who ended up playing football at Hamline University. I was part of a basketball game in 1971 where the super sophomore Miller scored a school record that will always stand, 41 of West Concord's 91 points against Dodge Center on their home court. I remember throwing an inbound pass right before the half and Wayne made it from half court at the buzzer. Now of course that was Dodge Center's old court which was not full size. So a half-court shot on that floor was kind of like a three point shot today. At least that's what I tell Wayne. But regardless, it was still from half court.

See pictures of the plaques from 2012 - 2016 below.

TRITON ATHLETIC

Class of 2012

Athletes

Everett Gerths - 1955
Dwayne Matti - 1958
Gary Leeper - 1960
Craig Busch - 1969
Mark Hanson - 1978
Eric Gunhus - 1982
Traci Rasmussen-Cook - 1994
Kirk Midthun - 1996

Coach

Wally Hitt

Supporter

Lenny Schmoll

Class of 2013

Athletes

David Myers - 1953
Dick Raddatz - 1954
Jerry Behne - 1959
Greg Head - 1985
Scott Streiff - 1985
Tracy Petersohn - 1988
Jodi Callister - 1992
Tim Busch - 1995

Coach

Lorry Gunhus

Supporter

Bob Rundquist

Class of 2014

Athletes

Dick Osborn - 1952
Dave Vrieze - 1956
Gerald Head - 1959
Dr. Pat Smith - 1966
Deb "Thompson" Heacox - 1973
Dr. Doug Stangl - 1973
Gunnar Gossard - 1991
Anne "Hutton" Lehmkuhl - 1991



Supporter

Dr. David Agerter - 1971

Class of 2014

Athletes

Dick Osborn - 1952
Dave Vrieze - 1956
Gerald Head - 1959
Dr. Pat Smith - 1966
Deb "Thompson" Heacox - 1973
Dr. Doug Stangl - 1973
Gunnar Gossard - 1991
Anne "Hutton" Lehmkuhl - 1991



Supporter

Dr. David Agerter - 1971

Class of 2015

Athletes

Philip Schuster - 1958
Guy Finne - 1985
Chad Gossard - 1985
Travis Petersohn - 1990
Kris "Wright" Dambach - 1992
Scott Pitzenberger - 1996

Class of 2016

Athletes

Mike Doty - 1970
Mike Justice - 1971
Wendy "Olson" Myer - 1989
Holly Berg - 1994
Cory Mergen - 1997



Coach

Dennis Midthun

Supporter

Harold Long