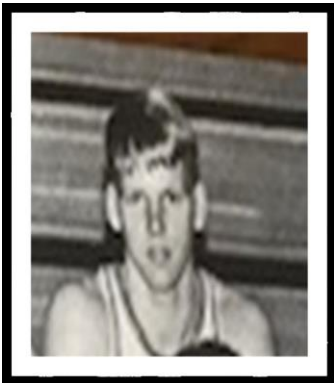


On October 5th 2018, I drove the team bus for the Cannon Falls High School football team to Dodge Center to play Triton. It turned out to be kind of 'old home week' for me as it was the night they introduced the 2018 class for Triton's Hall of Fame(HOF). I knew most of the inductees and I knew a lot of the people attending the game. I had mentioned in a previous column that there are two father/son members of the Triton HOF; Lorry and Erik Gunhus and Craig and Tim Busch. Well now there is a father/son/daughter combination which has been honored as members of the HOF. Anne Hutton Lehmkuhl, a 1991 Triton graduate, was inducted into the HOF in 2014. This year, both her dad, Dan and her brother Tom were inducted.

I had a nice visit with Dan as he came off the field after a halftime introduction of all the new inductees. Dan is a 1967 graduate of West Concord. He was a four sport letterman as he played football, basketball, baseball and track. Dan played football for two years at Rochester Community College and then played one year at Division one Weber State in Ogden, Utah. Dan explained to me that he had a scholarship there but his wife, Judy Keil Hutton (WCHS Class of 67), was paying out of state tuition so it was hard to justify the money being spent. So they came back to Minnesota where Dan finished his college degree at St Cloud State. He did a



lot of coaching at West Concord and Triton. I told him how coach Lorry Gunhus would tell me that the best rebounder he ever had on a basketball team was Dan Hutton. I never forgot that. I wanted to be like Dan. Dan is actually in the HOF twice because in 2013, the 1965-66 WCHS football team was honored. Dan was a member of that team which was the first team coached by Minnesota Coaches HOF member Roger Lipelt. Dr. Pat Smith (WCHS Class of 66) was also on that team. Smith was inducted to the Triton HOF in 2014

To complete the trifecta of the father/son/daughter combo, Tom Hutton was inducted this year as well. Tom is a 2000 graduate of Triton. I think Tom learned a lot in his younger years hanging around the field and court while his dad coached. Tom played football, basketball and baseball at Triton. He was all-conference in basketball and baseball.

Baseball may have been his best sport. Tom graduated Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter with a degree in health and physical education and a minor in coaching. Tom was a 4-year letter winter on the Golden Gustie baseball team as a pitcher. Tom earned a Master's degree in Occupational Therapy from St. Catherine University and today is an Assistant Professor in their Department of Occupational Therapy. And he's a Little League coach where his team won the Northfield Youth Championship in his first year of coaching them.





Two other inductees to this year's Triton HOF that I had the chance to visit with were Dave and Ruth Hanson. Dave was the County Agent for many years. Officially the title I think now is University of Minnesota Extension Educator. It was probably the official title then too but we just called him the County Agent. I remember attending many winter meetings that Dave would preside over. And of course he was a fixture at the Dodge County fair for many years. Dave and Ruth were honored for being Hall of Fame

Supporters and Fans of Triton. They were longtime fans of the Dodge Center Dodgers long before the Triton Cobras.



Gordon Zimmerman

Other inductees into this year's Triton HOF include Gordon Zimmerman. He was a coach and teacher for 41 years having coached over 1400 games in various sports at Claremont and Triton. Gordon and his wife Gloria are now retired and live in Owatonna. Also inducted this year was Tracy Berge Head, a 1985 Triton graduate and Tracy Busch Munnikhuyson, a 1999 Triton grad. The Triton 1997-1999 Wrestling team was also honored by the HOF.

We lost a Triton Hall of Fame member recently. Dave Vrieze (WCHS Class of 1956) passed away on October 29th, 2018. Dave was inducted into the HOF in 2014. That same year, the 1955 WCHS football team, which Dave was a member, was also honored. Dave will be missed. I wrote a short note on Facebook about Dave after his passing. He would always greet you with a big hello and a smile, whether it was just last week you saw him, or it was 15 years ago. Dave was a good athlete in his high school days. And if the Minnesota Dairy industry had a HOF, he'd be a member of that too. It was kind of sad the other day when I drove into West Concord and looked at the barn on the east end of Main Street that had the Vrieze name up there. Dave was indeed a West Concord Hall of Famer.

