

Banquet

FROM PAGE 1

Among Brown's best athletes were four who became outstanding USD stars, including Tony Glass, Gary Kipling, Mike Schurrer and Greg Erickson, all, along with their high school coach, now members of the USD Coyote Sports Hall-of-Fame. Brown was awarded the SDHSA distinguished service award and inducted into the South Dakota Hall of Fame in 2001.

CHUCK IVERSON CLASS OF 1969



Chuck
IVERSON

Iverson was an all-sport standout for Tangers during the late 60s. He participated in track, lettered in football three times, lettered in basketball three years and served as captain of both the football and basketball teams his senior year.

Iverson, who received his Bachelor of Science in Education from USD in 1973, went on to add a Masters of Arts degree in health, Physical Education and Recreation in 1987.

However, it was basketball where Iverson would receive the most recognition.

According to the South Dakota Basketball Hall of Fame, if a shot was taken and missed, when the basketball came off the rim Iverson believed it belonged to him.

That determination helped make the 6-foot-9 center one of the greatest rebounders in state history. He dominated the backboards as a prep at Vermillion and as a collegian at his hometown University of South Dakota.

But it wasn't only his ability to rebound that made Iverson a special player. He was also an adept scorer and an intimidating force defensively.

Iverson played for Coach Marion Brink at Vermillion. The Tangers finished seventh in the Class A state tournament when he was a junior in 1968. The following year as a senior, Iverson was all-state when he averaged 18.8 points and 20 rebounds per game. He was also an outstanding football player for the Tangers where he was a three-year starter.

USD won the North Central Conference title in 1972 with Iverson a fixture in the middle for Coach Bob Mulcahy. He was chosen to the all-NCC team in 1971, 1972 and 1973.

Iverson scored 1,536 points during his time as a Coyote. And on the backboards he established school records for rebounds in a game (36), season (448) and career (1,241).

The Seattle SuperSonics selected Iverson with their pick in the fifth round of the National Basketball Association draft in 1973. Memphis chose him in the 10th round of the American Basketball Association draft.

Following his pro career, Iverson would return to South Dakota where he was a long-time successful coach of the Mount Marty Lancers in Yankton. He currently serves as MMC Athletic Director.

He is a member of the USD, MMC and SDHSB hall of fames.

JAY HENNIES COACH



Jay
HENNIES

The longtime Tangers coach started his career in Platte. He spent six years there before becoming Vermillion's head boys' basketball coach in 1973 and held the post until 1991, compiling more than 200 wins.

A highlight of Hennies' career was in the late 1980's when he coached a group of kids who were committed to winning a state title.

That team didn't win a state title — they won two — as Hennies guided the squad to back-to-back state titles in 1988 and 1989.

Most recently he came out of retirement to become an assistant coach on Chad Lavin's University of South Dakota Women's Basketball staff.

He graduated from USD and played for the Coyotes from 1962-1966.

He was inducted into the SD Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame in 2010.

MARK MANNING CLASS OF 1980



Mark
MANNING

The name Mark Manning is synonymous with wrestling success in Vermillion. A high school standout, he was a three-time state champion at 126, 138 and 145 lbs.

Manning wrestled collegiately at Nebraska for one year, before transferring to the University of Nebraska-Omaha where he would go on to become a two-time NCAA Division II national champion and three-time All-American under Coach Mike Denney. Manning posted a 121-23 record for the Mavericks, while capturing titles at 150 pounds in 1983 and 1985. Manning helped UNO earn a third-place team finish in 1983 and runner-up honors in 1985. While competing for the Mavericks, he was the leader of UNO's chapter of Fellowship of Christian Athletes for four years. Manning was inducted into the NCAA Division II Hall of Fame for his accomplishments as a

wrestler and coach in 1999.

Manning's competitive career extended beyond the collegiate ranks. He was a member of the U.S. freestyle team from 1986 to 1989. He won a silver medal at the 1989 Pan American Games.

He received his bachelor's degree in physical education from Nebraska-Omaha in 1985, with a specialization in exercise science. Manning was the recipient of an NCAA postgraduate scholarship following his graduation from UNO and earned his master's degree in sports administration from North Carolina in 1989.

For the past 15 years he has been the head coach of the Nebraska Cornhuskers (NU) wrestling program, establishing himself as one of the top wrestling coaches in the nation.

The NU record book is a testament to Manning's accomplishments in Lincoln. In his 15 years at the helm, he has coached 39 of Nebraska's 98 All-Americans. He has led the Huskers to five top-eight finishes at the NCAA Championships. He became the winningest coach in school history on Feb. 21, 2015 when he picked up his 200th win at Nebraska. Manning holds a 201-74-3 record at NU, and a 224-98-5 mark overall. He won back-to-back Big 12 Coach-of-the-Year awards (2008 and 2009) after guiding Nebraska to a share of the conference crown in 2009 and a runner-up finish in 2008. NU went on to finish fourth at the NCAA Championships both seasons with nine Huskers earning All-America honors, and Jordan Burroughs capturing the 157-pound national title with a perfect 35-0 record in 2009.

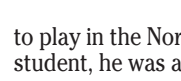
Manning earned one of the top coaching honors in the entire sport when he was named the 2011 FILA Freestyle Coach of the Year after helping Burroughs capture the gold medal at the World Championships in Istanbul, Turkey. Burroughs also captured gold at the 2012 London Olympics, where Manning served as a volunteer coach for the U.S. Freestyle Team.

BEN LEBER CLASS OF 1997

A three-sport athlete at VHS, Leber's passion was football.

A three year letterman, his senior year he led the Tanager's to the '95 state football championship.

Lining up primarily at running back, Leber was named to several high school All-America teams at Vermillion High School. As a junior, he rushed for 1,404 yards and 18 touchdowns and notched 1,350 yards in his senior year. That season, he was declared a Parade Magazine All-America (the only South Dakotan so honored in 1997), an honorable mention All-USA by USA Today, and was selected to play in the North-South Dakota All-Star game. An excellent student, he was also an Academic All-State selection.



Ben
LEBER

Following high school, Leber earned a full-ride scholarship to Kansas State University. At Kansas State, Leber made the switch to full-time linebacker. A two-time All-Big 12 selection, he finished his college career with 216 tackles, 46 tackles for loss, and 13.5 sacks. His 216 career tackles were the fifth most in Kansas State history. As a junior, he earned second team all-conference honors. His senior year, he was an All-America third-team selection by the Associated Press, a consensus All-Big 12 Conference first-team choice and a team captain. He received a degree in business-general management in 2002.

In 2002, Leber was selected in the third-round of the NFL draft by the San Diego Chargers, eventually playing for the Chargers, the Minnesota Vikings and the St. Louis Rams. He retired in 2011 with career totals of 496 tackles, 24 sacks and five interceptions.

LONNA (LARSON) THELEN CLASS OF 1998



Lonna
THELEN

Lonna Thelen was a three-sport star at Vermillion High School, participating in track, volleyball and basketball.

In her high school track career she set several records including high jump: 5'7", which still stands as the fourth best in state history; the 400m dash record of 59.3 seconds, and was a member of the record setting 4x400m relay team, which set the record of 4:06 minutes.

Thelen was also a stand out at the volleyball net, being honored for her achievements by being named Miss Volleyball, by the South Dakota Volleyball Coaches Association in 1998. She was named to the All-State team in both 1997 and 1998; and led the Tangers to the Volleyball state championship in her senior year.

She was named to the all-state third team in basketball in 1996.

In 1998 she was named one of the Elite 15 Outstanding Female Athletes by the SDHSA.

Thelen went on to play basketball for four years at Augustana College in Sioux Falls.

Currently, Thelen serves as the principal planner for the City of Colorado Springs, Colorado, where she works as an urban planner in the land use review office.

Her civic activities include serving as a ride leader of the Women's Mountain Bike Association from 2011-2015. She is also a community volunteer for Kids on Bikes and assists with racing events.

Please watch upcoming issues of the Plain Talk for extended stories on this year's inductees.

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SHAUNA MARLETTE/FOR THE PLAIN TALK
Dr. Chales Yelverton explains how helmets can protect them in a fall, to the second grade students of Vermillion.

Helmets

FROM PAGE 1

(Matthew) Krell's station, we are showing the trauma that happens if you fall off your bike: head trauma, wrist trauma, x-rays."

He said the event is something that he looks forward to participating in each year.

"We want kids to be safe, we don't want accidents," he said. "Get outside, enjoy riding your bike, but be safe. These helmets are cool looking, fun to wear and will protect you if you fall."

Electric

FROM PAGE 3

Week opportunity for area students," says Gors. "This is a joint effort with other East River member cooperatives and KSFY. A student is chosen from the entire pool each week and at the end of

the program they become eligible for a \$1000 scholarship. This year Clay-Union had two scholars of the week and one of them won the \$1000 drawing."

Since Clay-Union's humble beginnings, it has come a long way from being a member-oriented organization, and has worked to strengthen its ties to the local community.