

WALTER

KEENER



A member of the Southeastern Michigan Officials Association, Walt Keener grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and started officiating in the early 1950's. He came to Michigan in 1968 and officiated throughout the suburban Detroit area, the Catholic League and the Public School League for many years.

Keener officiated high school athletics for 33 years. He had the opportunity to officiate the State Football Finals and the State Softball Finals.

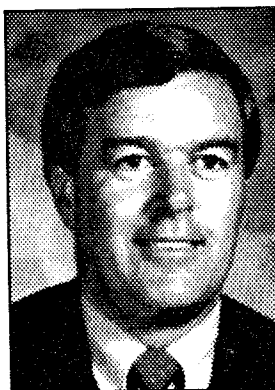
He was recognized amongst his peers as being very knowledgeable and was often contacted to help his fellow officials with rules of the game.

His seven children are sons, Walter Jr., Kevin, Kurt, Ken, Kyle, Kerry and daughter, Karen. His wife is Roseann.

Walt passed away in 1992.

DENNIS

KNOILA



Dennis Knoila has been officiating for 31 years and is a member of the Fruit Belt Officials Association. He serves on the Michigan High School Athletic Association Representative Council and the National Baseball Rules committee. He has officiated the Quarterfinals in basketball and 1990 State Finals in baseball.

A graduate of Western Michigan University, he is currently a junior high school principal in the Lakeshore School system.

Dennis and his wife, Sherry, have four children, Mike, Nancy, Dan and Kathy.

KARL

NEWINGHAM



Karl Newingham has been an active official for 30 years and is a member of the Bay Metro Officials Association where he serves as secretary overseeing 18 counties and 35 high schools. He is also the secretary of the 16 member Tri Valley Athletic League since its conception in 1979. Newingham recruits and trains new officials and conducts rules meetings.

In 1985 and 1986, Newingham officiated the Girls' State Finals. Also, in 1986, he worked the Boys' State Finals and the High School All Star Game between Michigan and Iowa. In 1990 he worked the State Finals again.

Karl and his wife, Dorothy, have one son, Jeffrey and a daughter Traci. Traci and her husband have a daughter, four years old, Linsey.

ROBERT

WILLIAMS



Robert Williams has been an official for 23 years and is the founder of the Metro Athletic Officials Association. He is an active member involved in recruiting and training new officials. He is also a member of the Catholic League Officials Hall of Fame.

In 1977 and 1991, Williams officiated the Football Finals, also, in 1977 he umpired the Baseball Finals. He officiated the Basketball Final in 1986 and that same year the BCAM All Star Festival. In 1991 he again worked the Basketball Finals.

Bob and his wife, Karen, have a five year old son, Sean.

GERALD

ALWARDT



Gerald Alwardt graduated from Valparaiso University with a B.S. degree in physical education. Upon graduation, he was drafted into the United States Army for two years. In 1964 he started his teaching and coaching career at Seminole Junior High School in Mt. Clemens.

Alwardt's first basketball coaching experience was with the seventh and eighth grade teams. While at Seminole School, he met Walt Koepke, varsity coach at Mt. Clemens High. He spent many hours observing Walt's practices and he had great influence on his coaching career.

After four years in junior high, he coached the high school freshman basketball team for two years and then became Walt's junior varsity coach. When Walt left, Al Snyder took over and Alwardt has been his assistant since 1971.

At Valparaiso, my student teacher supervisor was Mr. Virgil Sweet, head basketball coach at Valparaiso High School. The most important thing he taught me was that it's not what level you coach at but that you enjoy coaching basketball. He said, "Find a level you enjoy working with and have fun." Those words have always stayed with Alwardt. "I truly have enjoyed working with the junior varsity players."

CLELAND

DAME



Cleland Dame taught in the public schools for thirty-four years.

Starting February of 1953 until retiring January 1st, 1987, he taught and coached in schools at Unionville, Clinton, Richmond, Marysville, Yale and Sterling Heights Stevenson. Dame then retired after 14 years of teaching and coaching 9th grade boys and girls basketball at Malow Junior High in the Utica Community Schools.

Dame was assistant coach in football, basketball, baseball and track. He was also head coach in basketball, track, golf and coached ninth grade boys and girls basketball. His boys' basketball record was 278-251. His girls' basketball record was 76-17.

DON

RENNHACK



Don Rennhack has spent his entire teaching and coaching career at Buchanan Community Schools. He came to Buchanan fresh out of college at Western Michigan University in September of 1959. He started as a math teacher, 9th grade football, 9th grade basketball and assistant baseball coach all for the grand total of \$4,400.

Since that time, he has coached all three levels of boys' basketball, girls' junior varsity basketball, 9th grade football, varsity track and started the cross country program in 1966 and coached for six seasons.

In 1988, after having retired from coaching basketball several times, Bill Weaver asked him to take the girls' junior varsity basketball the year he became varsity coach. Rennhack said he'd do it for a year to help him out and ended up doing it for five years.

"I really have enjoyed working with the girls and will miss them next year."

RICHARD

HAFNER



Richard F. Haffner's father was a basketball coach in the state of Indiana. He was raised in Michigan, but was brought up listening to WOWO, Ft. Wayne, Indiana during March Madness. From the time he can remember, his father would tell stories of the great sports legends and of Hoosier basketball. During his high school days at Plainwell, he was very fortunate to play for two great coaches, Jack Striecl and Harley Pierce.

In 1960, after graduating from Western Michigan University, he started coaching varsity basketball and assistant football at class "C" Frankenmuth High School. It was his good fortune to work with former basketball coach and athletic director, Marco Marcel. He learned a great deal while coaching there for four years. The next four years were spent at class "B" Vassar High School in the old "Thumb B" League coaching varsity basketball, track and assistant football. In the eight years in the "Thumb B", his teams compiled 58 wins and 82 losses.

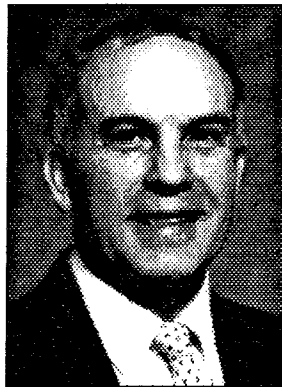
Haffner's next coaching assignment was at Lowell Junior High School in the Flint Public Schools. He and Joe Alessie coached the eighth and ninth grade boys alternating classes. The boys program was cut to one team in 1976-1977 and he coached the girls team for one year. His record with the boys and girls teams was 56-47.

The next two years were spent at Flint Open School. There he coached both the junior varsity (18-14) and varsity teams (20-15) while trying to build a program. The Open School was due to be closed so he moved to Central High School in 1979.

At Central, he was an assistant football coach and girls track coach. He got back into basketball in 1981 as an assistant to Stan Gooch. He first coached the freshmen team, then varsity assistant and finally the junior varsity team. Since he has been at Central, his teams have won 135 while losing 73. The principal, Dean Ludwig, athletic director, Fred Ireland, and the rest of the coaching staff at Flint Central are very helpful and supportive. Haffner feels truly blessed to be able to coach basketball and associate with some of the best teachers in the world, the basketball coaches of Michigan.

DENNIS

DAINING



Dennis Daining began his teaching and coaching career in 1961 at Grand Rapids Creston High School. Bob Johnson asked me to be the junior varsity boys' coach and assist him. He stayed at Creston through the 1969 season. He also coached the cross-country team for five years.

From 1970 through the 1975 season, he moved to Grand Rapids Central High School to coach the boys' varsity. They won one district title.

Beginning in 1977, Daining coached the girls' junior varsity team and from 1978-'81 coached the girls' varsity team. Then in 1981 and '82, he coached the boys' freshman teams and continued to assist Tom Clinkscales as the boys' junior varsity coach in 1983.

From 1984 through the '89 season, he assisted Gene Paxton at G.R.J.C. (now G.R.C.C.). Then they both retired.

Since 1989, he has kept clock for Grand Rapids Central's girls and boys freshmen, junior varsity and varsity home games (enjoying the court-side seat).

During his career, he has been a past treasurer, vice-president and president of the Grand Rapids Coaches' Association and also a multi-year member of BCAM and the Indiana Basketball Coaches Association.

Daining is in his 32nd year of teaching high school social studies classes which has given him the opportunity to coach or assist with 29 teams during 27 seasons.

ELDON (PETE)

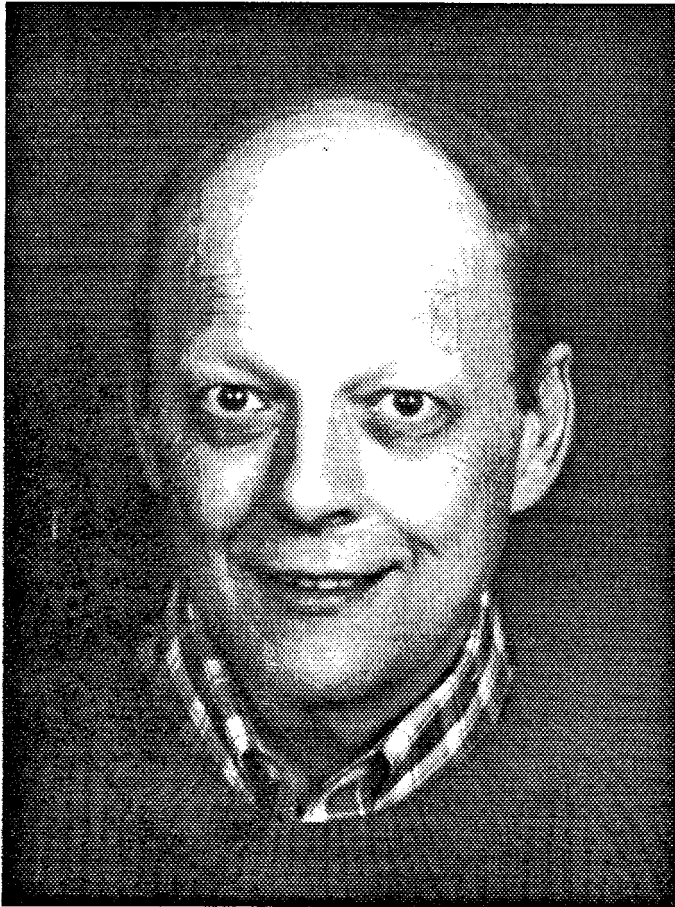
MOSS



When Eldon F. Moss was going to Michigan State University, he was asked many times if he was interested in coaching and he always said no because he would be 35 years old at graduation in 1963 and he had three small sons. Moss felt he did not have the time for both family and coaching and was too old.

His home town school, Benzie Central, offered him a contract for teaching and another hundred dollars for coaching basketball and he jumped at the chance to coach. Moss took his three sons to practices and in time they became managers and each in time would play on one of his ten undefeated teams.

"Will Lynch, head basketball coach, was a great coach to work with. We practiced together, we scrimmaged against each other every day, and we were a team on both benches during our games. These are the real reasons I finished my career with a record of 356 wins and 134 losses. I also was blessed by many talented young men."



BOB SHERMAN

Bob Sherman began his radio play-by-play broadcasts of high school basketball in 1954 in Ohio and West Virginia. among the players whose exploits he chronicled: Jerry West, "The Kid of Cabin Creek", Jerry Lucas, John Havlicek and Mel Nowell and Ohio State's great National Championship and NCAA/runner-up teams of the early 60's.

In 1967, he settled in Michigan where he aired radio coverage of Lansing area teams for the next 10 years. He called the contest of Magic Johnson, games coached by Paul Cook, George Fox, Stan Stolz, Dan Ashdowne and other players and coaches in the various leagues in the Capital area.

Beginning in the late 70's, Sherman moved to Battle Creek where he was play-by-play announcer for the Battle Creek Central Bearcats and other squads in the Cereal City.

He has also broadcast Ohio State football and basketball (1960-67), Michigan State football and basketball (1967-87) as well as serving as "voice" of the Michigan Panthers - USFL Football Champions in 1983-84.

Sherman is a two-time winner of the Associated Press "Play-by-Play" Sportscaster of the Year award (1982-83) and presently airs daily sportscasts on four west Michigan radio stations - while continuing to handle occasional play-by-play of Battle Creek Central and other southwest Michigan high school games.

He notes that he has described the beginning stages of the careers of players from West to Lucas and Havlicek to "Magic" and Michigan Mr. Basketball Kenyon Murray.

A broadcast career that has spanned almost 40 years and counting.

WNWN/Kalamazoo-Battle Creek WFAT/Kalamazoo WHEZ/Kalamazoo WTVB/Coldwater

JACK MOSS

Jack Moss has been involved in basketball as a player or writer since he started playing the game in fifth grade at Oakwood Elementary School in suburban Kalamazoo.

He played in junior high at Oakwood, in high school at Kalamazoo State High and was on the Western Michigan University freshman team where his lack of talent became evident to the coaching staff.

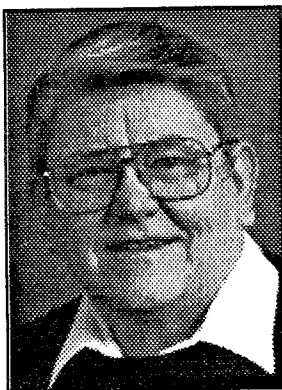
While in high school, Moss also wrote the stories of State High games played out of town. It was 1945 and gas rationing was in effect, making it difficult for the Kalamazoo Gazette to cover the out-of-town games. "I had a favorable press," says Moss, "at least for out-of-town games."

He has covered high school, collegiate and professional basketball since 1945, including a 45-year full-time sports writer career at The Kalamazoo Gazette.

Moss is married (wife Janet) and has three children, John of San Diego and Tom and Barbara, both living in New Orleans. Tom and John both played basketball in junior high and high school, but were involved in other varsity sports in college.

RUTH

COBB



Ruth E. Cobb came to Marcellus in September of 1950 from North Central College, Naperville, Illinois. Cobb heard the basketball coach say "I wish I could find someone to regularly score the games." She replied, "You haven't asked me yet." That was the beginning of her score-keeping career. Cobb had a woman teacher in high school whom she admired a great deal and she kept score and she always thought she'd like to do that.

Cobb finds it interesting to see players from the many teams become coaches and officials.

In addition to scoring basketball games for the past 43 years, she now serves as secretary of the Three Rivers Women's Bowling Association, organist and treasurer of the Marcellus United Methodist Church.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed the hundreds of games, the many contacts with other schools, score-keepers, players and officials."

Dick

KISHPAUGH



Encouraged by his journalism teacher at Battle Creek High School, Richard "Dick" Kishpaugh received his start in sports reporting as a stringer for the Battle Creek Enquirer News in the fall of 1942. Following graduation, he made the short journey west to Kalamazoo to attend Western Michigan College. While at Western, Kishpaugh served as a sports editor of both the campus newspaper, The Herald, and the college annual, the Brown and Gold.

Joined by high school cohort, Nick Vista, (future Sports Information Director for Michigan State University), Kishpaugh traveled to East Lansing for the 1944 Michigan High School Athletic Association boy's basketball finals. The finals had to be moved to the Lansing Vocational School because of military activities in Michigan State College's Jenison Fieldhouse. Using a press pass obtained from the Enquirer News, Kishpaugh met Charlie Forsythe, the longtime director of MHSAA, and learned that no records existed on past tournaments. With Forsythe's blessing, the pair went to work collecting the missing information. By the spring of 1945, they had prepared a first draft of the tournament history.

It was the beginning of a long association with the MHSAA. By 1950, Kishpaugh was heavily involved in feature writing and record keeping, serving as the state's unofficial historian for high school athletics. In 1955, Kishpaugh began a 20-year association as publicist and statistician for the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association.

The 1993 MHSAA boy's basketball tournament marks Kishpaugh's fiftieth consecutive trip to the state championships. Throughout the years, his stories on the history of the prep football and basketball have been presented to the MHSAA playoff programs. His research has been featured in numerous Michigan newspapers and used by many members of the media.

Retired, Kishpaugh devotes much of his time to writing about the history and philosophy of college football for the NCAA, as well as for a variety of college football publications. An active member of the Football Writers' Association, and the College Football Research Society, his work has led to honorary membership of both the Michigan high school football and basketball coaches associations.

Married 43 years to the former Shirley Oster, they are the parents of two daughters, Janet and Carol, and one son, Jack.

Joe

MAHAN



Joe Mahan is a retired school principal who served for 25 years as the baseball commissioner for his hometown of Ferndale while refereeing in football and basketball and umpiring baseball in the state of Michigan.

Joe was a charter inductee into the Ferndale Sports Hall of Fame in 1982, and he was the Citizen of the Year in 1986 for his work with the youth of Ferndale. He has served his community in a variety of ways, and this includes a shared authorship on a history of Ferndale. Joe has also served as the President of his church congregation.

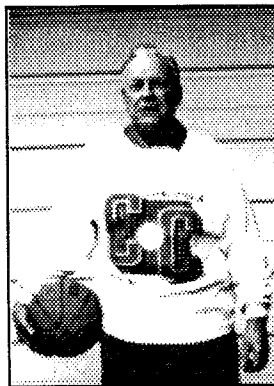
Joe is now in his 45th year as the "Voice of the Eagles", announcing football and girls' and boys' basketball games, while also acting as the timer in football and scorer in basketball in both home and away games. Many feel that this 45 years is probably longer than anyone else in the state of Michigan or throughout America for that matter. In all those 45 years, he has only missed 3 games in basketball - one time due to a snow storm in Oklahoma, one time due to illness and one time when his daughter got married.

Since retirement as a school principal in 1989, Joe and his wife Barbara have done a drug prevention program for lower elementary age school children. This work with children and adults has taken them to many parts of our country to do their presentations. They are especially proud of this important work notable because they are able to share together in the effort.

Joe and Barbara have been married for 42 years and have two sons, Mark and Peter, a daughter, Traci, and five lovely grandchildren, Peter, Teresa, Ann, Matthew and Michelle.

WILLARD

RATHE



Willard Rathe, 76, is a native Nebraskan. He lettered twice in basketball in high school and three years in college at Concordia, Seward, Nebraska, the last two years as captain. Concordia, at that time, was a three year college. In 1937 he was chosen on the all-tournament team at the first all Concordia tournament ever held.

In those years, team scores were usually in the 20's and 30's. There was still a center jump after each basket.

Rathe came to Michigan in 1946. He served as teacher and principal at Trinity Lutheran School in Mt. Clemens until 1982 when he retired, also the year in which his alma mater honored him with the Master Teacher Award.

He was always an interested spectator of high school basketball. His son, Bill, still holds the career scoring record at Lutheran High School East in Harper Woods. Bill also played four years at Olivet College. Rathe also followed closely the career of Larry Sorenson at Trinity, L'Anse Creuse High, and Michigan University.

Rathe's twin daughters played high school sports at Mt. Clemens Lutheran High North. Two of his granddaughters played high school basketball at Lutheran Northwest in Rochester Hills, one now presently at Albion College.

So, overall, he has followed and supported Michigan high school basketball for the past 47 years, and is still an avid fan.

Willard and Ruth, his dear wife of 51 years, were blessed with six children and thoroughly enjoy 15 grandchildren. They have been residents of Mt. Clemens since 1946.

GENE

SCHUTZ



Gene C. Schutz has been teaching for 42 years at Brighton High School. This is also his 42nd year of timing the boy's junior varsity and varsity home basketball games. He also times some of the freshman boy's and girl's junior varsity and varsity games.

Schutz really enjoys timing games. Because he grew up in northern Wisconsin, basketball was his sport. "I have the best seat in the house — except when the coaches get so excited and stand up." Timing games has also made a significant difference in his contact and relationship with the students. They became much closer and appreciated by each other.

BILL

SELLES



Bill Selles taught high school physics, chemistry, and math from 1950-1989 in four different Michigan schools. Selles began keeping time at basketball games in 1950 at Harrison High School. Selles went to Muskegon Christian in 1952 and continued as timekeeper there for 3 years. Then he went to South Christian in Grand Rapids, where he worked the clock for 4 years, and kept the scorebook for 5 more. Selles then moved to Kalamazoo Christian in 1964, where he has kept score for 29 years, and is still working at almost all of the games.

In those 29 years, he has missed only about 10 ball games. This adds up to 42 years at the scorers' table.

Selles has also kept statistics at football games since the sport began at Kalamazoo Christian in 1973.

The greatest thrill was winning the Class C state basketball championship in 1983. His ambition is to score one more state finals game before he retires.

"It's been great working for nine different varsity coaches. I would also like to credit my wife, who has attended every game with me in the last 28 years."

CLETUS & MARYBETH

SUPINGER



Clete Supinger passed away in January of 1992 and Marybeth died in November of that same year. They have left a void at Midland High School that will never be filled. They were the Chemic "Super Fans" for the last 45 years of their lives. Not only did they attend over 1800 varsity and junior varsity games, they rarely missed any football or baseball games home or away.

Clete continued to drive to the away games up until just before his death. They made many trips to Alpena, Traverse City, and Pontiac which are all over 2 hours away from Midland. Many of those trips were through some very bad weather. At many of the away games, the Supingers were waiting at the gym when the team bus got there. They were a welcome sight to the coaches and the players. Marybeth thought all of the players as "my boys". They could do no wrong in her eyes, win or lose.

During the game, Clete would keep stats and Marybeth would knit. He had boxes full of games stats dating back to the 1940's and she supplied many family members and friends with garments knitted during basketball games.

The Chemic Booster Club had a memorial plaque made and dedicated to the Supingers during this past season. The seats in the Chemic gym where they sat for all these years are painted blue and designated as the "Supinger Memorial Seats" and will be used by the Supinger family when they attend athletic events.

The Supingers were special people to many people in Midland for many years. Their induction into the BCAM Hall of Fame is a special tribute to these great fans of basketball and they truly symbolize the meaning of "Friends of Basketball".

DARRELL

VAN VLEET



Darrell Van Vleet has been official scorekeeper for Battle Creek Pennfield for 35 years. He has been scorekeeper in over 1600 basketball games (varsity, junior varsity and junior high). Van Vleet has been to every varsity game since 1957 which was the first graduating class at Pennfield.

Pennfield holds the longest running continuous Junior High Basketball Tournament in the state. Van Vleet has been in charge of scorekeepers at this tournament for 23 years. The first ten years of the tournament, Van Vleet scored every game (approximately 24 games a week).

Van Vleet has worked for seven varsity coaches and says the best part about scorekeeping is being around the game he

loves, the young people and especially, the basketball coaches. They not only teach basketball skills, but are positive role models for all of our young people.

Highlights for Van Vleet include keeping scorebook for 1972 Pennfield Quarterfinal game and keeping score when his son Mike was playing.

Van Vleet lives in Pennfield with his wife, Marcia. His son Mike recently graduated from Albion College and his daughter Amy attends Western Michigan University. Van Vleet is also in his nineteenth year as a member of the Pennfield School Board.

Van Vleet would like to thank the Friends of Basketball Hall of Fame Nominating committee and the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan for selecting him to this great honor.