

## ELDON MCNABB

Eldon was born in Rapid City in 1949. He attended Garfield Elementary, North Junior High, and Rapid City High School. Eldon began his football journey playing football at North Junior High and was a starter for three years at Rapid City High School. At RC High he was voted Top Cobbler in 1966 and the Sioux Falls Argus Leader named him one of the top forty-five football players in South Dakota. Eldon went to Black Hills State where he played football for 4 years. At BHSC the team was Conference Co-Champions in 1970 and he was selected All Conference his senior year.

After graduation from Black Hills State in the summer of 1971, his high school football coach, Howard Naasz, hired him to teach and coach football and basketball at West Junior High School. In 1972, Eldon moved with the ninth-grade class to Stevens High School. At Stevens, Carold Heier, the Athletic Director hired Eldon to be a football coach. The football field wasn't finished so the team worked out at Fitzgerald Stadium. He went on to assist as a SHS football coach for the next thirty-seven years. He coached under seven different head coaches during these 37 years. There were many great coaches he had the privilege of working with. These are a few of the coaches: Rick Heard, Darryl Parker, Jim Heinitz, Joel Hybertson, Ron Estacion, Tony Smith, Paul Ferdinand, Doc Michel, John Sterner, Paul Miller, Dick James, Doug Cogan, Mick Wysuph, Ethan Hanks, and Curt Voight. In 1974, one of his fondest coaching memories was working with his 1974 interior lineman. They graduated and 4 linemen became doctors and one an EE. Two of these played for the Nebraska Cornhuskers and 1 was a co-captain and 1st team Kodak All American (Randy Schleusener). This same line was a part of the mythical State Championship Team - the reason being South Dakota didn't have a playoff system yet. They were rated number 1, so they were deemed State Champions. In 1987, the Raiders again became South Dakota's State Football Champions. In 1994, the Raiders lost in double overtime in the championship game. Eldon's son Monty was a part of that Raider team.

Eldon also coached wrestling from 1973-1983. During this time Eldon coached with Tom Long, winning 3 State Team Championships, 4 Runners Up and a few more 3rd place teams while working with several individual state champions. Four of his wrestlers went on to greater success: Randy Lewis Olympic gold medalist, Jay Swanson All American SDSU, Greg Herman All American, and Steve Ensor Big Ten Wisconsin.

During all his years of coaching, it was his great honor to work with some of the best athletes and coaches in the history of South Dakota. Three of them were his sons Monty, Jason and Kyle. His son Monty was born early while Eldon was coaching a football game in Sioux Falls. Fortunately Barb decided not to go, which was unusual because she was his biggest fan. They got married on Saturday in Buffalo SD and Eldon was at practice on Sunday. Eldon and Barb have been married for 51 years and have a daughter Kayla along with the 3 boys.

I really appreciate this honor and want to thank all of you for being here today. **Inducted 2023**