

Dale Eldon Shock

Born: June 26, 1909, Syracuse, Indiana

Died: July 2, 1998, Cliff, New Mexico

High School: Syracuse High School, Syracuse, Indiana 1927

College: New Mexico State Teacher's College now known as Western New Mexico - 1933

The growth of basketball in the southwest region of New Mexico can be due to the dedication Coach Dale Shock had during his 40 years of coaching at Cliff High School. Although his many years of coaching basketball, baseball and track are impressive, his legacy at Cliff Schools, the community and southern New Mexico is as the humble, caring man that devoted his life to his athletes and students.

Dale, his son, Pete and grandson, Brian have coached high school basketball for 101 years, which is the longest coaching family in the history of New Mexico basketball.

High School

- 1926 - Junior year, he led his basketball team to the Sweet Sixteen of the Indiana State Tournament. There was only a single class at that time. It was an amazing feat for a small school based in a farming community to get this far. Although they didn't meet in the tournament, John Wooden 's high school team also made it to this level. Although they had never met, later in life they became friends.
- 1927, he was offered basketball scholarships from Indiana State, Notre Dame, the University of Alabama, as well as others. A high school friend and teammate from the previous year of 1926, upon graduation had moved to Deming, New Mexico to live with an aunt and uncle. He convinced Dale that he needed to come west and play for New Mexico State Teacher's College in Silver City, New Mexico.

College

- Played basketball, football, baseball, and track for four years.
- He was one of the first Indiana high school players to play at New Mexico State Teacher's College. Many great players followed like Hall of Fame coach, Marv Sanders.
- 1931 and 1932 Voted the top college basketball player in New Mexico and the conference.
- Player-coach in the 1932-33 basketball season.
- 1933 he became player-coach, and he reduced his own playing time unless his playing services were needed to win. He coached the New Mexico Normal team again the next year before starting his high school coaching career. It was during this time that the Chicago Cubs offered him a tryout as a second baseman which he declined.

Professional

- 1933-1934 First coaching job was for one year at New Mexico State Teacher's College
- 1934-1974 Coached basketball at Cliff High School
 - In the early years, he had only 7 or 8 players. Several years he coached both the varsity and junior varsity for many years.
 - 1953 Many of the school's sports records were destroyed in a fire. Dale may have won more games. The school can document at least 30 years, his record was 422 -345. His teams may have won over 500 wins.
 - Six trips to the state basketball tournament – 1942, 1955, 1957, 1961, 1968, and 1971. In 1971 was state runner-up losing to Eunice 64-59.
 - Five district championships.
 - Never received a technical.
 - Most of the authenticated 767 games were played during eras that it was much more difficult for small schools to compete. During his 40-year career, his teams played under the following classification standards.
 - The first 19 years of his career there was only a single class. Cliff was in a district with schools such as Las Cruces, Alamogordo, Deming, etc.
 - The next 10 years there were only two classes, which still left the smallest of schools at a distinct disadvantage.
 - His final 11 years there were three classes.
 - In contrast to today's classification of schools, during his career it was much more difficult to accumulate wins, district titles and state titles.
 - At the end of his career, the big names in New Mexico basketball coaching circles were Jim Hulsman, Ralph Tasker among others, yet around the state he was "unofficially" known as the "Dean of Coaches".
- Coached track and field for 30 years and baseball for 17 years.
- Missed one year when he enlisted in the Army in 1945-1946.
- Players that went on to coach high school basketball
 - Bill Stailey at Aztec High School
 - Jerry Lee at Weed High School
 - Chuck Dinwiddle at Reserve High School
 - Pete Shock, his son, took over the Cliff High School program. Pete is currently the 2nd winningest coach in New Mexico. He also was inducted in the New Mexico Sports Hall of Fame.
 - 1976 All four took their teams to the state basketball tournament.
- Norman Patton, former player coached junior college basketball.

Honors

- 1976 Cliff High School gym is named after Coach Dale Shock.
- 1977 Inducted into the New Mexico Activities Association Hall of Fame.
- 1978 Inducted into the New Mexico Coaches Association Hall of Honor.
- 1987 Inducted into the Western New Mexico Sports Hall of Fame.

Community

- Member of the American Legion and Masons

Family

- Wife, Alyce ... married June 6, 1936, ... for 62 years, she died three weeks before Dale on June 11, 1998
- Athletic legacy of Dale's descendants:
 - 3 daughters, Kay Ann Lewis, Sharon Rooks, and Linda Nichols.
 - Son, Pete, who is NMSHOF inductee and second winningest coach in New Mexico.
 - Grandchildren:
 - Brian Shock: Basketball 1st Team All-State, Class A Player-of-the Year; State in 1998; State track Medalist. Played on State title teams in 1996 and 1997; Coaching: State Titles in 2015 and 2016 and Assistant Coach of State title team in 2013.
 - Heather (Shock) Bird: Basketball 1st Team All-State 2001; Played on State Title teams 2000 and 2001; State Track Medalist; Coaching: Assistant Coach on Cliff basketball State title teams in 2008 and 2010.
 - Nicole (Shock) Griffin: Member of State Cheer Team Champions in 1994
 - Sheree (Lewis) Richins: Coached State Cheer Championship Teams in 1994, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2002
 - Casey Lewis: Member of first State Championship team in Cliff High history in 1981 Track & Field; Coaching: Arizona State Volleyball Champions 2007, Arizona A.D. Of-The-Year 2000
 - Keven McCauley: Member of State Basketball Title teams 1983 & 1985; First Team All-State Basketball in 1986; National High School Rodeo Finalist in 1985; State Track Medalist
 - Other 4 grandchildren also were multi-sport lettermen.
 - Great Grandchildren:
 - 3 have been All-State Basketball players in New Mexico.
 - 1 All-State Volleyball player in Arizona
 - 1 All-State football player in Arizona
 - 1 All-State Football Player in Texas
 - 1 State Pole Vault medalist in Texas
 - Multiple Individual State Track Event Champions in New Mexico
 - All great grandchildren have been or are currently athletes and simply has been a way of life for what Dale Shock started.