

CHARLIE RENFRO

The hand of Charlie Renfro can be seen daily in the Albuquerque Public Schools — in physical education, driver education and safety patrol. And his impact on coaches and players in Albuquerque and New Mexico is witnessed at every high school sports event.

The quiet, 79-year-young gent, who is a member of New Mexico Activities Assn. Hall of Fame, came to New Mexico in 1921, was a three-sport letterman at Albuquerque High (football, basketball, track), then attended UNM and lettered in all three sports four straight years! Coach Roy Johnson named Charlie his team captain on UNM's all-time football team a few years back. He has both BA and MA degrees from UNM.



He started his teaching and coaching career in 1931 at Melrose, moved to Carlsbad, then returned to AHS to become F.M. Wilson's chief aide in football and basketball as well as head track coach. His cinder squads won six State championships in 11 years before Charlie turned to the administrative side of APS.

In 1945 he headed the Physical Education and Recreation Dept., of APS, coordinating the PE training for all elementary, junior high and senior students until his retirement in June, 1970. The summer recreation programs and basketball leagues were developed under his leadership which today are operated by the City Parks-Recreation Dept.

Charlie can proudly boast that the driver education program at APS graduated more than 8,000 drivers and the APs safety patrol program today is one of the finest in the country!

Both city, state and national accolades have been bestowed upon Charlie for contributions in Physical Education and Recreation, including the United Nations Certificate Award for Human Rights.

Charlie and wife, Vella, are the parents of Lavella, Bill and Janice.

BOB KING



Credit for the lofty status of Lobo basketball today rests with one man – the 22nd inductee into the Sports Hall of Fame, BOB KING.

The 58-year-old coach, now an Albuquerque resident after eight years as athletic director-basketball coach at Indiana State University (1979-80 NCAA finalist), inherited a raggedy cage program here at UNM in 1962 and promptly turned it into a bonanza. He retired here after the 1971-72 season, and became assistant athletic director under Pete McDavid.

In 10 years as head Lobo skipper King's clubs compiled a 175-89 won/lost record for a .663 percentage – third best among UNM coaches boasting better than 50 wins. His products read like a 'Who's Who' in UNM basketball history – Ira Harge . . . Mel Daniels . . . Ron Nelson . . . Boo Ellis . . . Ben Monroe . . . Skip Kruzich . . . Claude Williams . . . Mike Lucero . . . Willie Long . . . Stretch Howard . . . Petie Gibson . . . Ron Becker . . . Tommy Roberts, to name a few.

Perhaps the greatest name of all came from Indiana State in 6'9 All-American and now Boston Celtic standout – Larry Bird. Sir Robert was unable to coach ISU in 1979-80, however, as a heart attack and later brain surgery forced him to relinquish the job to his assistant, Bill Hodges.

In Bob's 10 seasons at UNM, he coached his clubs to three appearances in the celebrated NIT in Madison Square Garden, reaching the finals in 1964 and the semis a year later. The 1967-68 (23-5) Lobos won the WAC and moved into the NCAA Western Regional here, losing to Santa Clara. His 23-6 1963-64 club shared the WAC crown with Arizona State.

Because of the hardcourt success that became 'Lobo Mania', the 7100-seat Johnson Gym facility couldn't hold the fans and then – 14,800-seat University Arena (The Pit) was built in 1966. The Pit couldn't hold 'em, so seating was increased by 2500 (17,300) in 1975 when King's assistant, Norm Ellenberger, was at the helm.

Bob is a University of Iowa graduate (1947), and holds a Masters from Drake (1957). His 12-year high school coaching record in Iowa and Illinois was 205-75 before joining Iowa's staff, later coming here.

Bob and his wife, Sharel, and their three children, Diane, Brad and Randy are getting settled in their new home in Albuquerque. Bob's two sons, Gary and Larry, living in Utah and Grady, N.M., and his daughter Chris, living in Las Cruces, hope to be at the banquet.