

★ DAVE BARNEY ★

Tonight the Albuquerque Sports Hall of Fame welcomes Dave Barney as its 57th inductee, one of a select renaissance men in sports.

He'll be remembered not only among multi-sports athletes and the finest of swimming coaches, but as a scholar, educator, published author, historian and poet.

Barney still participates in such recreational sports as sailing, backpacking, kayaking, racquetball, cross-country skiing and tennis, yet has an aesthetic taste in soft classical music, ballet, opera and the symphony.

Barney, 64, the boys and girls swimming coach at the Albuquerque Academy, received one of his highest honors ever last July. The National Federation of Interscholastic Athletics bestowed its National Swim Coach of the Year award on Barney at its annual convention in Washington, D.C.

He earlier was named the New Mexico Coaches Association's swim Coach of the Year on several occasions.

Barney has coached six girls' and six boys' state high school championship teams at the Academy. Since he became head coach in 1983, Barney's dual meet swimming record is 207-24 for girls; 127-9 for boys. On a national level, he's coached 130 academic All-American swimmers.

Barney is the researcher and author of a scientific study examining the effects of altitude on swimming performance. That study eventually established a table of factors that aids high school swimmers when applying for All-American consideration in such mountain states as New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah and Nevada. He has made significant contributions to the youth and sports community during nearly 40 years of service to aquatics in the state of New Mexico. It's estimated that Barney has taught more than 25,000 children to swim.

He helped pioneer water polo as a sport in the state. He also was the founder and first President of the Sundance Aquatic Association, the state's largest swimming organization with 1,500 members. Sundance encompasses independent clubs in Albuquerque, Los Lunas, Belen, Socorro and Rio Rancho which participate in summer-long meets. He has either coached or

directed 17 Sundance championship teams.

Barney, a twin brother Robert and younger brother, the late Peter Barney, grew up in New England during the Depression years. The brothers attended 14 schools in 17 years while their father, Col. Robert S. Barney, pursued a military career. Dave Barney starred in football and baseball in high school while residing in the Panama Canal Zone.

He and his twin Robert came to the University of New Mexico in 1950 on a football scholarship. Dave Barney played briefly, then served as an aerial gunner and atomic weapons armorer in the Air Force during the Korean War.

Ice hockey became a big sport for Barney and his twin, Robert. Both were all-star selections for Air Force Base and later with the New Mexico Lobos.

When he returned to UNM, Barney was a varsity swimmer and played with the Lobo baseball team for three years. He received his degree in health and physical education at UNM in 1959 and his master's degree in school administration in 1961. Four years later received a degree in Dialogue in American Poetry at Wayne State, Mich.

Barney was a graduate assistant and instructor of physical education at UNM in 1959-61. He was hired by Cranbrook School, Bloomfield, Mich., in 1961-67 where he served as assistant athletic director, varsity baseball and hockey coach and assistant football coach.

He's been at the Albuquerque Academy since 1967; first as head of the senior school and varsity track coach, then as Director of Development, English master and now as swimming and diving coach.

"My greatest legacy for Albuquerque and New Mexico," Barney said, "is in teaching youngsters how to swim."

He is currently director of aquatics for the Del Norte Sports and Wellness Club, the Sierra Vista/Showdown/Highpoint Swim and Racquet Club and the Midtown Athletic Club.

Barney was named Region 8 Coach of the Year in 1995 and was finalist for the National Federation for Interscholastic Athletics national Coach of the Year in 1990. The region includes Arizona, California, Nevada, Hawaii, Utah and New Mexico.