

JOHN "J.D." KAILER

John was raised in Pennsylvania. In 1943 he graduated with a BA degree from the University of Illinois. In 1943 he went into the Army and served until 1946. In 1947 he received his Journalism degree from the University of Missouri.

J.D. came to New Mexico in 1947 where he worked for the Roswell Dispatch. After a couple of years he came to Albuquerque where he became the Sports Editor of the Albuquerque Journal. He was on the NCAA Rocky Mountain Association Press Selection Committee for Basketball and Football. He moved on to KDEF Radio and KOAT-TV covering sports as a reporter and announcer.

Later on he became a Free-Lance sports writer and announcer for Radio and TV. He returned to KDEF and KOAT-TV as sports director. During his radio-TV tenure he interviewed Willie Mays, Ernie Banks, Ted Williams, Al Lopez, Leo Durocher, Bobby Thomson and Mohammed Ali, in addition to the Albuquerque and New Mexico coaches, players and officials.

In 1971, he became the Executive Director of the UNM Lobo Club. The major duty being to raise funds for the UNM Athletic Department and increase club membership. During his tenure, he raised over a million dollars and increased the membership from 300 to 1700. He introduced youth (knot-hole) and women's membership to the Lobo Club.

In 1978, he established the first and only official APS football and basketball program (Independent Sports Publications). The 32-page program features team photos, individual game photos, current statistics and round-up stories of all 11 high schools. J.D. founded the Male and Female Athlete of the Week and the Month Award in the program — awards that continue today and provide two \$2,000 scholarships to annual award recipients. APS program sales went to the school booster groups. Mr. Kailer's sole income was from advertising. He helped George Maloof establish Maloof Scholarship Award in 1978. Following Mr. Maloof's death in 1980, J.D. served as award coordinator until 1995 and remains a member of the judges committee.

In 1973, he was one of the founders of the Albuquerque Sports Hall of Fame, his services included, two-term president (1983-87), secretary 10 years and publicity chairman for 27 years before he retired from the board in 1999.

Since 1994, J.D. has written more than 90 stories of New Mexico and Albuquerque sports history, for the Albuquerque Journal.

J.D. and his wife Pat are retired. They have a son David who is a teacher at Albuquerque High, a daughter Ann a housewife in Roswell, and a son John who is a banker in Pittsburg, PA.