

MAXIE ANDERSON.....

The three Albuquerque aeronauts — Ben Abruzzo, Maxie Anderson and Larry Newman, who made the most famous balloon flight of all time in August, 1978, become the 25th, 26th and 27th inductees into the Albuquerque Sports Hall of Fame tonight.

Their famed Double Eagle II Atlantic crossing not only commanded worldwide attention, but also set the stage for later record breaking flights by the same men. The feat has often been compared to such triumphs as Lindbergh's flight and the conquest of Everest.

The successful transatlantic crossing had its genesis in the Double Eagle flight of the prior year — September, 1977 — when Maxie and Ben launched from near Boston and flew almost 3,000 miles before being forced down in heavy seas off the coast of Iceland.

Measured along track, their 2,950 mile, 65½ hour flight was the longest and fastest in ballooning's nearly 200-year history.

Plucked out of their water-logged gondola by an Air Force helicopter, Ben and Maxie were soon planning another transatlantic adventure, this time with Larry Newman, an Albuquerque hang glider manufacturer.

Planning for the second flight was considerably more rigorous than the first, which had a seat-of-the-pants flair to it.

The three planned to launch in August, 1978 from Presque Isle, Maine, but the flight came perilously close to not occurring. A two-man British team got the jump, launching from Newfoundland July 26. But just 110 miles off France's coast they ditched into the Atlantic.

The Double Eagle II flight, begun August 11, was generally thought to be the 18th such crossing attempt dating back to 1873. Five persons had lost their lives.

The DEII flight began inauspiciously. Because of a misunderstanding, an inadequate supply of helium was delivered, depriving the balloon

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.