

★ MICKEY MILLER ★

Mickey Miller, tonight's Albuquerque Sports Hall of Fame's 54th inductee, savors a host of sentimental memories in athletics.

He was a gifted athlete who went on to excel as a coach. He then directed his expertise in administration until his retirement.

Miller was an outstanding athlete who earned nine varsity letters in three sports at both the University of New Mexico and at Albuquerque High; football, basketball and baseball.

He holds the distinction of being the only person through the years to play, coach and officiate in the annual New Mexico State High School basketball tournament.

He was inducted into the New Mexico High School Coaches Association Hall of Honor in 1981 and into the University of New Mexico Hall of Honor a year ago.

"There are far too many great events in sports in my life to single out any of them," said Miller, 73, who retired in 1990 after 44 years as a coach, teacher and administrator for the Albuquerque Public Schools.

"Working with young people and having a positive effect on their lives is what I remember most.

"We need more dedicated young people involved in the right atmosphere . . . academics, athletics and in outside activities, to keep them focused and out of trouble."

An Albuquerque native, Miller began his athletic career at Washington Junior High School.

He was coached by two of the first three inductees into the Albuquerque Sports Hall of Fame, the late F.M. Wilson at Albuquerque High and the late Roy Johnson at UNM.

After his graduation from UNM in 1939, Miller served as a Navy

drill officer at Bainbridge, Md. He trained future cadets for the Naval Academy at Annapolis.

While he was there, Miller also played football for the famed Bainbridge Bluejackets, regarded as one of the top armed service teams of World War II.

After the war he returned to Albuquerque where he coached all sports in 1946-49 at Jefferson Junior High School.

During that time Miller also earned his master's degree in administration of athletics in 1949 at Columbia University.

John Milne, superintendent of schools, hired Miller and Hugh Hackett as co-coaches of Highland High School two years before the school opened in 1949.

Miller was hired as baseball and basketball coach at Highland; Hackett as head coach in football and track. Hackett was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1981.

Miller's Highland baseball teams won two state high school titles and had a 249-102 record in 15 seasons.

He compiled a 344-113 mark as head basketball coach at Highland. His teams played in the state tournament 14 times, taking one second place, two thirds and two fourths.

Miller was Highland's assistant principal for several years, then served as physical education specialist and later athletics coordinator for APS from 1970 until he retired in 1990.

He served as president of the New Mexico High School Coaches Association, the N.M. Officials Association and for three years was on the national board of the Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.