

## ★ MIKE ROBERTS ★

A rare personality, Mike Roberts, veteran award-winning Albuquerque sportscaster didn't let a heart attack interfere with his career, and he admits to having started his illustrious career in the most unorthodox manner.

"I started broadcasting while I was actually playing baseball," he says, recalling the games he played at second base for his Carthage (Mo.) High School.

"I would mumble the plays while I was on the field. It was great practice."

Roberts, 60, the KOB voice of the New Mexico Lobos and the Albuquerque Dukes, is the 50th member of the Albuquerque Sports Hall of Fame and the second member of the Duke City media to have been inducted into the Hall. Carlos Salazar, retired former sports editor of the Albuquerque Tribune, was inducted in 1987.

Roberts is in his 27th year broadcasting Lobo basketball (including 3 on television), and has broadcast Lobo football for 26 years and the Albuquerque Dukes for 12 years.

He was hired as co-an announcer with Jim Lawwill as the voice of the Albuquerque Dukes in the spring of 1982.

He says scheduling of his football-basketball-baseball assignments have interfered only once when he missed a Lobo exhibition basketball game here the same day the Lobos played a football game in Texas.

His fans remember Roberts for his dogged battle to return to a microphone after he suffered a heart attack Aug. 23, 1992, in Colorado Springs, Colo. He and Lawwill were covering the Dukes on the road at the time.

Roberts underwent double bypass heart surgery in Colorado Springs and missed the team's road series in Las Vegas. Within 10 days he was broadcasting on a limited basis, and by the time the Lobos opened their football season on Sept. 5 against TCU, Roberts was back on the job.

"Broadcasting Lobo sports was the job I always wanted since I started broadcasting in New Mexico 30 years ago at Station KENN in Farmington," he said.

A familiar fixture before the microphone, Roberts missed only the 1972 Lobo football season at KOB when he was lured to Station KIRO in Seattle, Wash., to become the voice of the University of Washington Huskies.

Today, Roberts and his wife, Mila, enjoy a leisurely life raising 70 head of purebred cattle on their two ranches at Punta De Agua, located near Mountainair.

"I do my sports show early in the morning from my home," Roberts said. "It gives me a chance to stay near my Chaingus and Longhorn cattle."

Through the years the dean of New Mexico sportscasters has been showered with honors by his peers.

Roberts was named the New Mexico Sportscaster of the Year 13 times and in 1989 was selected New Mexico Broadcaster of the Year.

Also in 1989, the Albuquerque Sports Hall of Fame bestowed it prestigious Award of Distinction on him.

Roberts was born and reared in Carthage. He attended the Pathfinder Broadcasting School in Kansas City in 1951, and that fall was hired as a disc jockey by Radio Station WATM-AM, a daytime station, in Atmore, Ala.

Roberts served in the Air Force from 1952 to 1956 as an airborne radio operator. His tours of duty included Dharam Air Force Base in Saudi Arabia, plus air bases in Ethiopia, Egypt, Iran and Iraq.

Roberts resumed his broadcasting career after the war in Longview, Texas. He later worked at Key West Fla., Laramie, Wyo., and at Scottsbluff, Neb., before being hired at Farmington 1963.

In 1966 he joined Frank Joyce at Radio Station KOB as color man doing Lobo sports. He became the station's sports director in 1967.

Roberts did Lobo basketball on KOB-TV in 1967-68, and replaced the late Tom Doyle as the station's 10 o'clock anchor in 1970 when Doyle became ill. He still did Lobo football and basketball games on radio.

Roberts has two sons, two daughters, 13 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.