

## PAUL (PETE) MC DAVID

When one considers that he is credited with the establishment of UNM's South Campus athletic complex, the founding of the Western Athletic Conference (WAC) and an originator of the New Mexico High School Coaches & Officials Assn., it's little wonder that Pete McDavid ranks as the finest athletic director in UNM history. But the 62-year-old Albuquerquean is equally known for one of the best combined prep coaching records in the State at Santa Fe, then Albuq. High School.

McDavid appeared on the UNM football scene in 1935, playing as a halfback for Gwinn Henry and Ted Shipkey (1935, '36, '37). His 97-yard TD fumble recovery in 1936 is still tops in the recordbook. Following graduation, McDavid coached a year at Albuquerque Indian School before heading to Santa Fe High as headmaster of football, basketball and track. In seven years in the Capitol City, his teams compiled the following marks: football – 42 wins, 13 losses, 3 ties and 1 state championship (1943); basketball – 118 wins, 34 losses and two state runnerup spots (1940, '41).

McDavid moved onto Albuquerque High in 1945, becoming head coach in football and track a year later. His Bulldog pigskin crews won 65, lost 15, tied none, twice won the Western Division football title and were state champs twice (1947, '49). In track, AHS won two State crowns and nine district titles.

Lured to UNM in 1955 by the late Tom L. Popejoy, McDavid was named athletic director a year later and held the post until his retirement Jan. 1, 1974. In 18 years, the former Sullivan, Illinois native joined forces with Pres. Popejoy and assistant John Dolzadelli (Hall of Fame 1976–77) in the development of UNM's South Campus athletic plant. Through the trio's efforts, the 30,000-seat University football stadium was built (1960), University Arena (14,800 seats) in 1966, the Athletic Department Building (1971) and the baseball fields plus spacious paved parking facilities. It was McDavid who brought Bob King from Iowa in 1962, providing the necessary spark to make Lobo basketball what it is today. And it was McDavid who hired Dick Clausen in December, 1955, as Lobo football started its climb back up the ladder under Clausen, Marv Levy and Bill Weeks. When the old Skyline Conference showed sign of wear, McDavid and Arizona AD Clausen mapped the Western Athletic Conference, drawing together the strongest members of the Skyline and Border Conferences. The WAC got underway in 1962 as a six-team circuit, adding Colorado State and UT–EP in 1968.

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