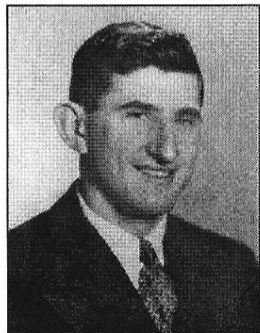


James F. Sweeney

Sports



James Sweeney was born in Buffalo Gap, S.D. on Nov. 21, 1925 and lived on a farm. He became hard of hearing when he was about one year old. He was then sent to the South Dakota School for the Deaf (SDSD) and went on to graduate in 1947.

He was like *David against Goliath* when his school team participated in the **state high school track meet** in Huron, S.D. in 1945. Sweeney faced other opponents from bigger schools, but he won a title in the broad jump and tied for third place in the shot put. His older, hearing brother won a state title for the Hot Springs team in the pole vault at that time.

In addition to his participation in sports, he was also class vice president and a member of the YMCA Club, Literary Society, Ringnecks Club, basketball team, hobby club, War Savings Committee and the Boy Scouts.

Sweeney was one of the greatest athletes in SDSD history. After graduation, he moved to southern California, where he has been residing with his wife and children for many years.