

Leonard R. Ortman

Sports



Leonard Ortman spent 1935–39 at SDSU (first through fifth grade). He attended Canistota public school for sixth grade (1939–40) until his family moved to Mission, Texas in 1940. There, he went through grades 7–10. While in Texas, Ortman played basketball for the A team and helped Mission High School take second place in both his 9th- and 10th-grade years. When Ortman was a freshman, Tom Landry, the former Dallas Cowboys coach, was a senior.

Ortman returned to SDSU for grades 11–12 and played basketball from 1946–48 on the A team. As a senior, he was named to The Silent Worker Deaf All American team in 1948.

Ortman was mostly self-taught in sports and involved with different ones all his life — such as basketball, bowling and softball (career .345 batting average) — and played for the first Chat and Nibble club and Sioux Falls Club of the Deaf (SFCD). *He was well known as an aggressive athlete.* While playing baseball for Canistota, he hit a grand slam homerun against the Salem team. In swimming, Ortman made a 33-foot dive into the pool at Mission Texas. He twice won second place at the Salem golf invitational and won two billiards tournaments in the seniors league in Las Vegas in 1991.

Ortman served as the president for SFCD for four years and was secretary for the SDAD. He was also the tourney chairman for the 1962 Midwest Athletic Association of the Deaf (MAAD) and was inducted into the MAAD Hall of Fame in 1970.