

## LYLE C. GRATE

An excerpt from the 1980 Centennial Tabloid of the SDSD read: "In the short 100 year history of the South Dakota School for the Deaf, two fine young athletes probably did more for bringing local, state and nationwide recognition to the school than any other person." The two athletes referred to herewith are Norman White Shirt and Lyle Grate, the latter the subject of this page.



That Lyle was a superstar athlete during his time is indisputable. You have only to go to his Sioux Falls home to look at the four walls in the den room predominantly filled with gold medals to be convinced that Lyle is definitely one of the greatest athletes to have ever donned a Pheasant uniform. Due to limited space, a few of his endless list of athletic achievements are outlined herewith for your perusal:

- 1) To this day, the SDSD records in his name for 100-yard dash, 220-yard dash and pole vault still stand. NOTE: He won the state class B pole vault event as a freshman and, in his sophomore year, placed second and third in the 220 and 440, respectively.
- 2) Participation in the Pan American Games for the Deaf in Venezuela, 1975. Four medals (Three golds and one silver).
- 3) 1976 American Athletic Association of the Deaf Athlete of the Year Award for outstanding year in cross country, basketball and track.
- 4) 1977 National Fraternal Society of the Deaf All-American Basketball Team.
- 5) Established a new world record in the men's decathlon during Pre-World Games for the Deaf Tryouts, dethroning Finland's E. Surrikoski, 6,212 points to 6,186.
- 6) Decathlon silver medalist at the 1977 World Games for the Deaf in Romania, losing to Russia's Alexander Potopalski, 6,309 to 6,237.

No question about this: Lyle at his prime was a superstar SDSD athlete. Today, he is a superstar ASL teacher at the Southeast Technical Institute, a superstar husband, and a superstar father of four superstar children.