

## JOHN E. DYKSTRA

John Edward Dykstra, a 1946-1959 student at the South Dakota School for the Deaf, was born and reared in Garretson, South Dakota. He is being recognized for induction into the 2000 SDAD Hall of Fame for his stardom on the basketball court during the late 1950s, continuing the legacy of another giant of SDSD basketball, Jim "Deadshot" Mitchell.



Much like the legendary Jim, John was a consistently effective double-digit scorer and shrewd playmaker whose strategic leadership commanded the respect and positive response from the other players. They held John in high regard as "their man in charge on the floor." He pulled them together, to cooperate, to pitch in, to contribute, and to stay together which the internal building of a winning basketball team is all about. The SDSD teams during his days lacked the depth of the previous teams, yet they managed to register a commendable record after another, largely on the strength of the "never-say-die" spirit and team-oriented approach generated by Captain Dykstra.

The 1957 team coached by Clyde Ketchum reached the District 18 championship final, losing to Brandon, a perennial powerhouse. The 1958 season highlighted, among other things, the selection of John to the *Silent News* All-American second team which he justly deserved. The 1959 team brought home a fourth place trophy from the District 18 tournament. John became the second SDSD player to be honored as a member of the *Silent News* All-American first team, a crowning glory of his spectacular basketball career. He amassed a total of 440 points that year for an average of 23.2 points per game, the third best among the schools and programs for the deaf in the United States of America.

Currently, John and his wife, Ruth, are residents of Rincon, Georgia. They have been in touch with their friends back home and are still as much South Dakotans as ever!