

Luther College Hall of Fame Members

1920-1929

Christian M. Ravndal - 1920 - Inducted - 1975

- Played halfback on first football team after intercollegiate football was resumed in 1919
- Leading ground gainer and also did the kicking
- Helped win 12 of 14 games with other colleges in Iowa and Minnesota
- Played center for basketball team
- Played two years on tennis team
- Won in both singles and doubles against rival Upper Iowa

Arne R. Sorlien, Sr. - 1921 - Inducted - 1974

- Was one of nine farm boys all of whom played baseball, six of them at Luther
- Served his country in France during World War I
- He and two younger brothers, Olvin "Salty" and Leon enrolled at Luther in 1914 and played together for seven years in the Preparatory Department (high school) and college
- Won 10 letters in baseball, basketball and football
- Usually struck out 15 or 16 batters each game
- Turned down professional offers from Cardinals, White Sox and Tigers
- Hard driving fullback and defensive back, he was a star and key man on the 1920 team (5-1-1) that stamped Luther as a football power
- Youth work was his lifetime interest serving as a teacher and coach at Augustana Academy, Canton, South Dakota and his hometown of Bode, Iowa

Leon C. Sorlien - 1921 - Inducted - 1976

- Earned four letter in both baseball and basketball
- Served as captain of the basketball team his junior year
- Played third base in a memorable game in 1915, a game which featured the nine Sorlien brothers
- During his last three years of competition Luther lost only seven baseball games
- Director of choral and instrumental music for 38 years, principally in Fargo, North Dakota

Roy O. Storvick - 1921 - Inducted - 1976

- Captain of 1920 football team
- Outstanding offensive and defensive tackle
- Led Luther to 13-10 victory over undefeated Dubuque in 1920
- Also played basketball and baseball
- Earned B.S and M.S. degrees from Iowa State and served as Associate Professor of Dairy Science
- General manager of Northern Cooperatives of Wadena, Minn., from 1944 until retirement
- Luther Board of Regents from 1944-56

Syver Olvin Sorlien - 1922 - Inducted - 1977

- Four-year letterman as a catcher on the baseball team
- Also lettered in basketball
- Was quarterback and end on 1920 football team
- Captain for both baseball and football teams
- Catcher in memorable baseball game in 1915 featuring nine Sorlien brothers versus Luther
- Taught high school and also coached
- Parish Pastor for 39 years
- Navy Chaplain during World War II

Edward S. Hovden - 1923 - Inducted - 1974

- Earned nine letters competing in football, basketball and baseball
- Known as one of Luther's all-time pitching greats
- As a junior he averaged 16.5 strikeouts in six complete games
- Twice that same year he struck out 19 batters
- As a senior, he won eight games with an average of 12 strikeouts per game
- That same year, sharing the pitching duties with Ossie Orwell, Luther defeated Iowa State Teachers 15-0, pitching the first no-hit, no-run game on Luther's diamond since 1909
- The summer after he graduated he had a 31-win season for Eldora, Iowa
- Taught and coached in high school before becoming an enterprising farmer on the ancestral farm in Ridgeway, Iowa

Edgar N. Nordgaard, Sr. - 1923 - Inducted - 1978

- Four-year letter winner in football and served as captain his senior year
- Three-year letter winner in basketball as a forward
- Two-year letter winner in the Mile and Two-Mile events in track
- Key member of 1920 championship football team
- M.A. degree in Education from University of Minnesota - 1942
- Retired after 42 years coaching, teaching and as an administrator at Glenwood, Minn.

Oswald C. "Ossie" Orwell - 1925 - Inducted - 1974

- Earned 14 letters playing four years of basketball and baseball and three years in football and track
- Four-sport letter winner as a freshman
- Became a legend on the baseball field as a pitcher, first baseman, outfielder and hitter
- His efforts on the field were a major factor during Luther's 22 wins without a loss from the middle of his freshman year to the midway point of his junior year
- Had a career record of 25-7 and pitched two no hitters as a senior
- Played professional baseball with the Milwaukee Brewers of the American Association
- In 1928 the Philadelphia Athletics purchased his contract and he posted victories over the Boston Red Sox and New York Yankees
- He also played with Portland, Minneapolis and Des Moines, following his major league years

Erling S. Byrkeland - 1926 - Inducted - 1976

- Earned nine letters in football, basketball, and baseball
- First-team catcher for four years during which Luther had a record of 39-8 and 3 ties
- Team captain his senior year
- Handled 89 chances without an error his senior year
- Taught and coached in Iowa and South Dakota
- Later farmed and was Register of Deeds of Yankton County, South Dakota

William B. Olson - 1926 - Inducted - 1976

- Played football, basketball and tennis
- Member of conference champions tennis teams - 1925, 1926
- Captain and top scorer on basketball team his senior year
- Scored on drop kicks of 45 and 47 yards in 20-0 win over La Crosse
- Scored 18 times on drop kicks during his career
- Spent 44 years teaching and coaching including 34 years at Shorewood High School, Milwaukee, Wis.
- His football teams had an unbeaten string of 39 games
- Led his basketball team to the Wisconsin State Championship in 1942

Johannes N. "Nick" Otte - 1926 - Inducted - 1978

- Four-year letter winner in football, basketball and track
- Named to Iowa All-State second team as a punter and quarterback - 1925
- Served as captain of the track team
- Spent 49 years in the ministry as a pastor and missionary to the Zulu people in his native Zululand

Clifford O. Olson - 1927 - Inducted - 1974

- Letter winner in football, basketball and track
- Played both halfback and fullback
- Named all-conference fullback as a senior
- Served as captain in senior year
- Athletic Director and coach at Spokane College - 1928-29
- Athletic Director and coach at Pacific Lutheran College - 192-1944 and is referred to as the "Father of PLU sports"

Leonard A. "Lefty" Olson - 1927 - Inducted - 1977

- Four-year letter winner in both football and basketball
- Served as captain of the basketball team
- One of seven Olson regulars on the 1926 football team
- M.S. in physical education, University of Wisconsin - 1954
- Taught and coached at Waldorf College and Augustana College, Sioux Falls, S.D.
- Built Augustana into football and athletic powerhouse
- Charter member of North Central Hall of Fame
- Member of South Dakota Coaches Hall of Fame

George B. Kjome - 1929 - Inducted - 1987

- Multi-year letter winner in football and track
- Established school records in 120-yard high hurdles and 220-yard low hurdles
- Member of record setting half-mile and mile relay teams
- Coached 12 Iowa state championship teams
- Elected to Iowa Track and Field Hall of Fame in 1973
- Received Coaches Achievement Award from Iowa High School Athletic Association in 1968

Richard "Dick" Lybeck - 1929 - Inducted - 1976

- Four-year starter on football at end and tackle
- Named MVP by teammates as a senior
- All-conference tackle and honorable mention all-state as a senior
- Served as Luther's line coach for 1930 football team
- M.A. from Northwestern University (IL)
- Coached and taught at Riverside-Brookfield High School (IL) for 16 years
- Also served as Principal for 22 years at Independence, Iowa

Art Olson - 1929 - Inducted - 1979

- Three-year letter winner in football
- Served as captain as a senior
- His dynamic leadership led the Norsemen to a record of six wins during the 1928 season, moving them from the cellar to second place in the Iowa Conference
- Two-year letter winner in basketball
- Teacher, coach and Superintendent of Schools in Wall Lake, Iowa
- Retired in 1972 from private business in Glenwood, Minn.

Ernest W. Olson - 1929 - Inducted - 1979

- Four-year letter winner in baseball as a shortstop
- Selected captain of 1929 Iowa Conference championship team
- Voted team MVP
- Was also a letter winner in football as a halfback and forward on the basketball team
- Played professionally after graduation. Player and manager in the Northern League and the Quebec Provincial League. Completed his career with Montreal and Buffalo of the International League
- Served in U. S. Army 1942-45 and played on the championship battalion baseball team at Camp Barkley, Texas

Melvin N. Tatley - 1929 - Inducted - 1984

- Four-year letter winner in track who served as team captain as a junior and senior
- Never lost a race in the mile run in dual meet competition
- Lowered the mile record almost everytime he ran
- Attended Luther Theological Seminary
- For 35 years he served a number of Midwestern pastorates
- In 1979 at the age of 73 he bicycled from Northfield, Minn. to Decorah for Luther Homecoming