



# This is Cowboy Basketball

*"What it means to me to put on a Cowboy uniform and play in the Arena-Auditorium is kind of indescribable. To play at the only Division I university in the entire state, and not only that but to play at the same place both of my parents played, is amazing. I get goose bumps just walking into the Arena-Auditorium for practice, not even a game. I can't tell you how great I feel about putting on the Brown and Gold and having the opportunity to be a Cowboy. It is truly amazing and I thank God everyday that I get to be a part of something bigger than me."*

**Adam Waddell, Cody, Wyo.**

*Sophomore Center*



The 1943 NCAA Champion Wyoming Cowboys.

# WINNING TRADITION

**C**owboy Basketball tradition is a rich one, including an NCAA National Championship team, a former coach who is a member of the Basketball Hall of Fame, an All-American who is credited with one of the greatest innovations in the history of the game and one of the most memorable players in NCAA history.

In 1943, the University of Wyoming was led to the NCAA Championship by legendary coach Everett Shelton. Shelton's 1943 Cowboy squad defeated Georgetown in the NCAA Championship game in Madison Square Garden. Two nights later, also in Madison Square Garden, the Cowboys earned the right to call themselves undisputed National Champions as they defeated that year's NIT Champion, St. John's University, in a game benefitting the Red Cross.

In 1982, Coach Shelton's memory was immortalized with the highest honor in basketball — induction into the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass.

The '43 Cowboys featured All-American Kenny Sailors, who dazzled fans with an innovation that would change the way basketball would be played forever — the jump shot.

Another Wyoming great that college basketball fans across the country still remember is Fennis Dembo. Dembo led the Pokes to the Sweet 16 of the 1987 NCAA Tournament and the next season graced the cover of *Sports Illustrated* magazine's College Basketball Preview issue.

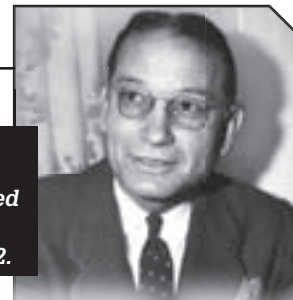
Today, fans can watch another former Cowboy who has made a name for himself as one of the most exciting players in the NBA — Theo Ratliff. Ratliff, who played for the Cowboys from 1992 through 1995, still ranks as one of the greatest shot-blockers in NCAA history. Ratliff was inducted into the University of Wyoming Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Fame in the fall of 2005, and was named to the Wyoming All-Century team.

Cowboy basketball enters its eleventh season as a member of one of the nation's finest collegiate basketball leagues, the Mountain West Conference. In addition to the Pokes, Air Force, Brigham Young, Colorado State, New Mexico, TCU, San Diego State, UNLV and Utah are members of the MWC.



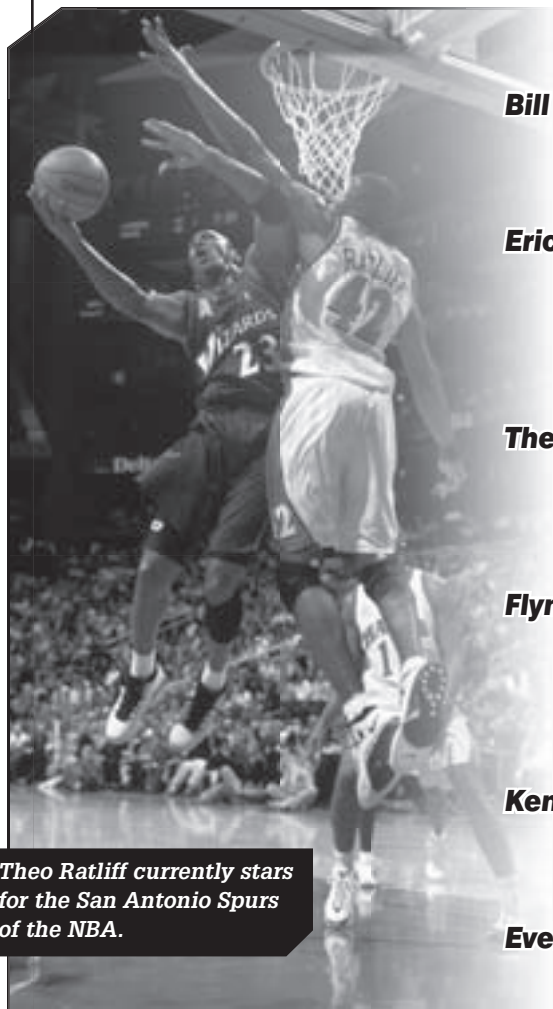
Fennis Dembo was featured on the cover of the 1987-88 Sports Illustrated College Basketball Preview Issue.

Former Wyoming head coach Everett Shelton was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 1982.



# WINNING TRADITION

## Cowboy Greats Who Helped Build the Wyoming Tradition



Theo Ratliff currently stars for the San Antonio Spurs of the NBA.

### Fennis Dembo

- ★ Led Wyoming to the Sweet 16 of the 1987 NCAA Tournament and the First Round of the 1988 NAAs
- ★ Featured on the cover of the 1987-88 Sports Illustrated College Basketball preview issue
- ★ Wyoming's all-time leading scorer, 2,311 career points
- ★ A member of the 1989 NBA Champion Detroit Pistons

### Bill Garnett

- ★ A 1982 First Team All-American
- ★ 1982 Western Athletic Conference Player of the Year
- ★ Drafted No. 4 overall in the 1982 NBA Draft by the Dallas Mavericks

### Eric Leckner

- ★ Led Wyoming to the Sweet 16 of the 1987 NCAA Tournament and the First Round of the 1988 NAAs
- ★ The only three-time MVP of the Western Athletic Conference Tournament
- ★ Drafted by the Utah Jazz in 1988 and played nine seasons in the NBA

### Theo Ratliff

- ★ Ended his career ranked in the Top Five of the NCAA in career blocked shots (425)
- ★ Selected in the first round of the 1995 NBA Draft by the Detroit Pistons
- ★ Currently a member of the San Antonio Spurs

### Flynn Robinson

- ★ A First Team All-American in 1965
- ★ Still holds the Wyoming school record for career scoring average (26.3 points per game)
- ★ A member of the 1972 NBA Champion Los Angeles Lakers, who posted the longest winning streak in NBA history—33 games.

### Kenny Sailors

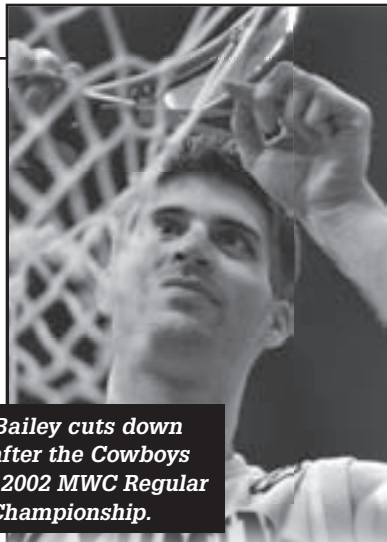
- ★ Inventor of the jump shot
- ★ An All-American on Wyoming's 1943 NCAA Championship Team
- ★ Named the 1943 & 1946 College Player of the Year

### Everett Shelton

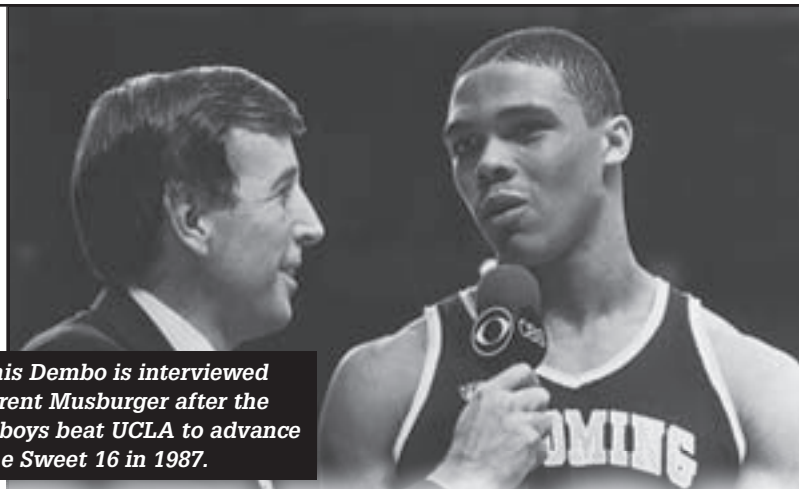
- ★ Wyoming's all-time winningest coach with 328 victories
- ★ Led Wyoming to the 1943 NCAA Championship
- ★ Inducted posthumously into the National Basketball Hall of Fame in 1982

### Reginald Slater

- ★ Wyoming's all-time leading rebounder, 1,197 rebounds
- ★ The '92 Western Athletic Conference Player of the Year
- ★ A seven-year NBA veteran



*Marcus Bailey cuts down the net after the Cowboys won the 2002 MWC Regular Season Championship.*



*Fennis Dembo is interviewed by Brent Musburger after the Cowboys beat UCLA to advance to the Sweet 16 in 1987.*

# POSTSEASON PLAY

The Wyoming Cowboy basketball program is no stranger to postseason play. In fact, the Cowboys have played in the postseason 23 times. They have played in the NCAA Tournament 14 times, the National Invitation Tournament eight times and the College Basketball Invitational once. The Cowboy basketball team has captured one NCAA Championship, during 1942-43. That year, the Pokes were led by head coach Everett Shelton and star players Kenny Sailors and Milo Komenich.

The 1986-87 season was another special postseason for the Cowboys. Led by the tandem of Fennis Dembo and Eric Leckner, the Cowboys advanced all the way to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament. In UW's second round game, the Cowboys beat UCLA and, their star at the time, Reggie Miller. Dembo led all scorers in the game with 41 points.

Most recently, the Cowboys advanced to the Second Round of the 2002 NCAA Tournament. In the first round, the 11th seeded Cowboys met Gonzaga, who was ranked sixth in the country at the time. The Cowboys upset the Bulldogs 73-66.

Of Wyoming's eight appearances in the NIT, the Cowboys have advanced to at least the second round four times. Their best NIT run came at the end of the 1985-86 season when the Cowboys advanced to the championship game, which was played at Madison Square Garden.

The 2009-10 season marked the Pokes' first appearance in the CBI.



*Uche Nsonwu-Amadi plays at North Carolina in the 2003 NIT.*

*Ugo Udezue shoots a jump shot against USC in the 1999 NIT. The Cowboys won the game 81-77.*



*Josh Davis celebrates after Wyoming won the 2002 MWC Regular Season Championship.*



Pictured left to right are nine of the ten Cowboys voted by Cowboy fans to the Wyoming All-Century Team: Charles "Tub" Bradley, Marcus Bailey, Bill Garnett, Kenny Sailors, Reggie Slater, Flynn Robinson, Eric Leckner, Tony Windis and Fennis Dembo. The only member of the team who was unable to attend the ceremony was Theo Ratliff, who played for the Portland Trailblazers of the NBA at the time.

# WYOMING'S

# ALL-CENTURY

# TEAM

In one of the greatest, most meaningful weekends in Cowboy basketball history, the University of Wyoming celebrated 100 years of hoops with a reunion of lettermen, and an honoring of its All-Century team on January 15, 2005

Included in the weekend celebration was a ceremony unveiling a permanent display for the 1943 national championship trophy housed in the Arena-Auditorium.

At halftime of Wyoming's game with Utah, the All-Century team was introduced. Its 10 members were chosen in late November during balloting by UW fans. The team spans more than 60 years of Cowboy basketball, from Kenny Sailors to Marcus Bailey.

All 10 players chosen scored at least 1,000 points, and each is known for some aspect of his career. The all-time scorer (Fennis Dembo), rebounder (Reginald Slater) and shot blocker (Theo Ratliff) are included on the team.

Nine of the 10 members—Ratliff could not make the celebration because his Portland Trailblazers were in the midst of their NBA schedule—were honored at halftime. It was a tremendous day and one that Cowboy fans will never forget.

### The 10 members of the team:

**Marcus Bailey** (Cheyenne, Wyo., 2000-03): Bailey scored in double figures in 72 of 101 career games, and led the Cowboys to two consecutive Mountain West Conference titles, and to the second round of the 2002 NCAA Tournament.

**Charles Bradley** (Edgewood, Md, 1978-81): Bradley ranked as one of the greatest players in Western Athletic Conference history. He guided the Cowboys to the 1981 WAC title and into the NCAA Tournament. He finished his career as the second-leading scorer, and was a three-time first-team All-WAC selection.

**Fennis Dembo** (San Antonio, Texas, 1985-88): A three-time All-WAC pick, Dembo was the league's Player of the Year in 1987. He is Wyoming's all-time leading scorer. He led the Cowboys to the finals of the 1986 NIT, and the 1987 and 1988 NCAA Tournaments.

**Bill Garnett** (Denver, Colo., 1979-82): Garnett was a four-year starter who helped the Pokes to two NCAA Tournament appearances. He was a WAC Player of the Year, and earned All-American honors.

**Eric Leckner** (Manhattan Beach, Calif., 1985-88): As a four-year starter at center for the Cowboys, Leckner played a huge role in Wyoming's 1986 NIT runner-up team as well as the 1987 and 1988 NCAA Tournament teams. A two-time first-team selection, he ranks third on Wyoming's scoring list.

**Theo Ratliff** (Demopolis, Ala., 1992-95): UW's all-time leading shot blocker. He was an All-WAC first-team selection for two years in a row. Not only does he own all the shot-blocking records, but he finished in the top 15 in scoring and rebounding.

**Flynn Robinson** (Elgin, Ill., 1963-65): In three seasons as a Cowboy, Flynn Robinson broke every major UW record except rebounding. He became the 20th collegian nationally to break the 2,000-point barrier.

**Kenneth Sailors** (Hillsdale, Wyo., 1941-43, '46): The only basketball player in UW history to earn All-American honors three times. He was the unanimous selection for college basketball Player of the Year in 1943. He led the Cowboys to the 1943 NCAA Championship. He is credited with inventing the modern jump shot.

**Reginald Slater** (Houston, Texas, 1989-92): UW's all-time leading rebounder, Slater was the first player in WAC history to lead the league in rebounding for three straight seasons. He was the 1992 WAC Player of the Year.

**Tony Windis** (Long Island, N.Y., 1957-59): Windis was one of the finest pure shooters ever to play at Wyoming. He is second all-time in scoring average for a career, averaging 21.2 points per game. He averaged 24.4 points per game during the 1958-59 season, his senior year.



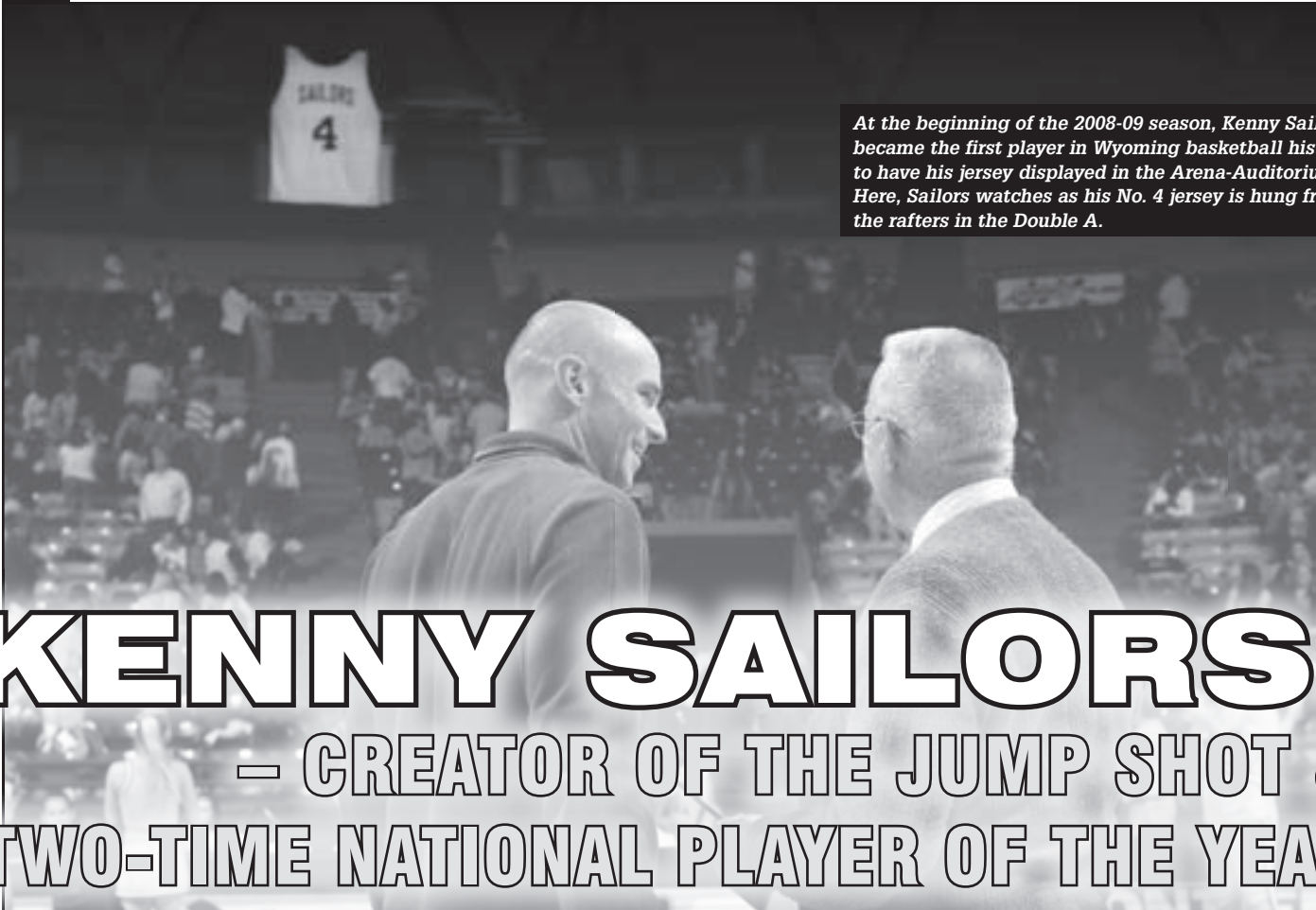
Kenny Sailors



Fennis Dembo

Pictures of The All-Century Team are displayed in the concourse of the Arena-Auditorium.





*At the beginning of the 2008-09 season, Kenny Sailors became the first player in Wyoming basketball history to have his jersey displayed in the Arena-Auditorium. Here, Sailors watches as his No. 4 jersey is hung from the rafters in the Double A.*

# KENNY SAILORS

## — CREATOR OF THE JUMP SHOT & TWO-TIME NATIONAL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

One of the most distinctive aspects of the modern game of basketball is the graceful athletic abilities basketball players display while in the air. But the game of basketball was not always played that way. It was played with both feet on the ground — that is until a college player from Wyoming changed the game forever with an innovative new technique — the jump shot.

Kenny Sailors grew up in Hillsdale and Laramie, Wyo. When Sailors was in junior high school, he and his older brother of three years, Bud, were playing a pickup game. In a Nov. 20, 1988, feature story in the Anchorage Alaska Daily News, the two brothers described the first jump shot.

“It was just a weapon that came naturally,” said Kenny. “Bud was big, and he was fast enough to stop my drive. I just did it (the jump shot) out of necessity.”

“We played quite a bit before he figured out he could dribble and get that one-handed shot on me,” said Bud. “That was the first time I’d run into it. I was almost six feet five already. I don’t care how tall you are, you’re either going to foul him or he’s going to make it. He was real accurate with it.”

The shot that Sailors is credited with inventing, the jump shot, is commonplace in today’s game, but was unheard of in the 1930’s and 40’s when Sailors perfected it at the high school and college level.

“If your feet left the floor,” said Sailors, “you were a freak. You were on the bench. It’s hard for people to believe.”

By the time Sailors entered his junior year at the University of Wyoming, he had become so proficient at his jump shot that he earned All-America honors while leading Wyoming to the 1943 NCAA Championship.

Sportswriters in New York were dazzled by Sailors’ shooting style as he led Wyoming to a 46-34 victory over Georgetown in the championship game in Madison Square Garden. Fittingly, he led both teams in scoring with 16 points. He was later presented the Chuck Taylor award, symbolic of being selected the outstanding college player in the nation.

In describing the championship game, the New York Times story read as follows, “Sailors was the key man. His ability to dribble through and around any type of defense was uncanny, just as was his electrifying one-handed shot.”

Joe Cummisky, Sports Editor of the New York newspaper PM, wrote, “This Sailors can do everything with a basketball but tie a seaman’s knot. And, given time, and a chance to dribble two steps, he’d probably be able to do that. Sailors was the hand who held the S.S. Wyoming together when everybody was figuring Georgetown was in. It’s enough to say that Sailors — also voted the most valuable player in the NCAA final as sort of an anti-climactic gesture — is quite a ballplayer. In closing, I wonder if Georgetown has ever heard of that old sea chanty entitled ‘Sailors Beware’?”

Following Wyoming’s national championship, Sailors enlisted in World War II where he served in the Marine Corps. Following the war, Sailors returned to Wyoming to finish his eligibility in 1946. Once again, he earned All-America honors, and was named the Helms Foundation College Player of the Year.

Sailors went on to play in the National Basketball Association (NBA), which was founded in 1946 — the year Sailors graduated from UW. He went on to play five seasons for the Cleveland Rebels, Providence Steamrollers, the original Denver Nuggets, the Boston Celtics and the Baltimore Bullets. His salary was a far cry from today’s multimillion dollar contracts — Sailors made about \$7,000 per season.

Kenny Sailors, who now lives in Laramie and can be seen in the stands at most Wyoming games and practices, will forever be remembered by Cowboy fans as one of the greatest Cowboy players, and he will be remembered in the history of the game as one of the pioneers who made basketball the exciting game it is today.





# ALL-AMERICANS



*Kenny Sailors*

**1934** — Ed McGinty, Art Haman, John Kimball, Haskell Leuty and Les Witte all were honored by being placed on the AAU All-America team following the national tournament in which Wyoming reached the finals at Kansas City before being defeated by the Diamond X Oilers of Tulsa, Okla. McGinty and Haman were selected to the first team by officials and sportswriters of the tournament.

**1941-1942-1943** — Bill Strannigan, an all-time Wyoming great and former Cowboy coach, was a Chuck Taylor first-team selection at Wyoming in 1941, and was twice selected AAU All-American on the Denver Legion and Denver Nuggets quintets of 1942 and '43.

**1943** — Kenny Sailors, Milo Komenich and Jim Weir, all members of Wyoming's NCAA and mythical world championship college team, were named to All-America first teams on various selections. Sailors was a unanimous choice and won the Chuck Taylor award presented to the outstanding college player in the nation. Sailors was also a first-team AAU All-American.



*Milo Komenich*

**1946** — Kenny Sailors was again chosen first team All-American both as a collegiate player and AAU star. Helms Foundation named him player of the year in college competition.

**1952** — Moe Radovich, Wyoming scoring leader for two seasons and former Cowboy coach, was named to the Helms All-America team.

**1956** — Joe Capua was Wyoming's all-time single-game scoring leader. He also set Skyline Conference season individual marks and both school and conference single-game records when he tallied 51 points against Montana in Memorial Fieldhouse in 1956. He was named to the United Press first-team little man's All-America team, to Helms All-America team, and many second and third choices elsewhere. He was player of the year in the Rocky Mountains and Ev Shelton's best small player since Kenny Sailors.



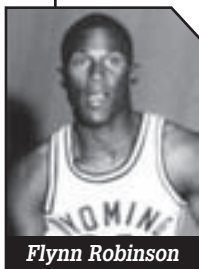
*Joe Capua*

**1959** — Tony Windis, whose 1,465 points in three years places him 12th on UW career scoring list, made many second and third team All-America selections as well as being named "Player of the Year" in the Rockies for two years running, 1958 and 1959. He was all-conference for three years.



*Tony Windis*

**1965** — Flynn Robinson is the second greatest scorer in the history of basketball at Wyoming with 2,049 points. Robinson was Helms Foundation All-American three years, Chuck Taylor All-American 1965, Look-U.S. Basketball Writers All-District team three years, and All-Western Athletic Conference first team three years.



*Flynn Robinson*

**1982** — Bill Garnett, Wyoming's All-American is sixth on the all-time rebounding list with 840 rebounds. Garnett was U.S. Basketball Writers Association All-American and Sporting News second-team All-American in 1982. He was named the 1982 Western Athletic Conference player of the year, and was a member of the all-WAC first team. After the 1982 season, Garnett was selected in the first round of the NBA draft by the Dallas Mavericks.

**2002** — Josh Davis was named an Associated Press Honorable Mention All-American for the 2001-02 season. He ended his Wyoming career ranked No. 13 in school history in scoring (1,439 points), No. 2 in career rebounding (956 rebounds), No. 2 in career blocked shots (173) and No. 4 in career steals (140). Davis was a three-time All-Conference selection, was twice selected First Team All-District 13 by the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) and was twice named All-District 8 by the United States Basketball Writers Association (USBWA).



*Josh Davis*

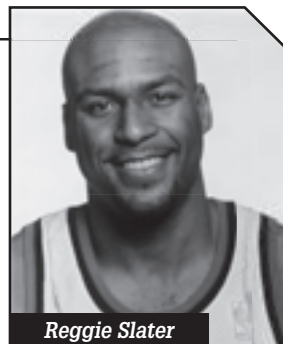


*Bill Garnett*

# POKES



## IN THE NBA



**Reggie Slater**

The University of Wyoming has had many outstanding basketball players in its history that went on to careers in professional basketball. Up through the beginning of the 2009-2010 National Basketball Association season, Wyoming has had **24 former Cowboys play professional basketball.**

Based on information from **The Official NBA Basketball Encyclopedia, Second Edition, Copyright 1994 by NBA Properties, Inc.,** the University of Wyoming had 19 players in professional basketball up through the beginning of the 1994-95 season.

Since the publication of **The Official NBA Basketball Encyclopedia, Second Edition,** the Cowboys have had five other players join the elite company of the NBA. Those former Cowboy greats are: **Tim Breaux, Reginald Slater, Theo Ratliff, Josh Davis,** and **Justin Williams.**

### Alphabetical Listing of Former Wyoming Cowboys in Professional Basketball

#### Player, Years

#### Lettered at Wyoming

**Charles Bradley,** 1978-81

**Tim Breaux,** 1989-92

**Leon Brown,** 1945-46

**John (Jack) Cotton,** 1948

**James Darden**

**Josh Davis,** 1999-2002

**Fennis Dembo,** 1985-88

**Chris Engler,** 1981-82

**Bill Garnett,** 1979-82

**Milo Komenich,** 1942-43, 46

**Eric Leckner,** 1985-88

**Ron Livingstone,** 1949

**George Nostrand,** 1945

**John Pilch,** 1947-49

**George (Moe) Radovich,** 1950-52

**Theo Ratliff,** 1992-95

**William Roberts,** 1946

**Flynn Robinson,** 1963-65

#### Professional Career

Boston, 1981-84

Houston, 1994-96; Vancouver, 1996-97  
Milwaukee, 1997

Cleveland, 1946-47

Denver, 1948-50

Denver, 1948-50

Chicago, 2003; Atlanta, 2004;  
Philadelphia, 2004; Milwaukee, 2005

Detroit, 1988-89

Golden State, 1982-84; New Jersey,  
Chicago, Milwaukee, 1984-85  
Portland, Milwaukee, New Jersey, 1986-87  
New Jersey, 1987-88

Dallas, 1982-84; Indiana, 1984-86

Fort Wayne, 1946-47  
Fort Wayne, Anderson, 1947-48  
Anderson, 1948-50

Utah, 1988-90; Sacramento, Charlotte, 1990-91;  
Charlotte, 1991-92; Philadelphia, 1993-94;  
Detroit, 1994-96; New York, 1996-97;  
Washington, 1997

Baltimore, Philadelphia, 1949-50  
Philadelphia, 1950-51

Toronto, Cleveland, 1946-47  
Providence, 1947-48  
Providence, Boston, 1948-49  
Boston, Tri-City, Chicago, 1949-50

Minneapolis, 1951-52

Philadelphia, 1952-53

Detroit, 1995-97; Philadelphia, 1998-2001;  
Atlanta, 2001-03; Portland, 2004-05;  
Boston, 2006-2007; Minnesota, 2007;  
Philadelphia, 2008; San Antonio, 2009-

Chicago, Boston, St. Louis, 1948-49  
St. Louis, 1949-50

Cincinnati, 1966-67; Cincinnati,  
Chicago, 1967-68; Chicago,  
Milwaukee, 1968-69; Milwaukee, 1969-70  
Cincinnati, 1970-71; Los Angeles, 1971-72  
Los Angeles, Baltimore, 1972-73  
San Diego, 1973-74

**Kenny Sailors,** 1941-43, 46

**Reginald Slater,** 1989-92

**Marko (Mike) Todorovich,** 1947

**Floyd Volker,** 1942-43, 47

**Justin Williams,** 2005-06

**Tony Windis,** 1957-59

Cleveland, 1946-47; Chicago, Philadelphia,  
Providence, 1947-48; Providence, 1948-49  
Denver, 1949-50; Boston, Baltimore, 1950-51

Denver, 1994-95; 1995-96  
Portland, 1995-96; Dallas, 1995-96  
Denver, 1996-97; Toronto, 1997-99  
Minnesota, 2000-03

Sheboygan, 1947-48 to 1948-49  
St. Louis, Tri-Cities, 1949-50  
Tri-Cities, 1950-51

Oshkosh, 1947-48 to 1948-49  
Indiana, Denver, 1949-50

Sacramento, 2006-2008; Houston, 2008-

Detroit, 1959-60

### COWBOYS IN THE DRAFT

#### Year

1949

1950

1950

1950

1950

1952

1952

1954

1955

1956

1959

1965

1966

1968

1969

1970

1971

1975

1981

1981

1982

1982

1983

1984

1988

1988

1995

#### Player/Round/Pick No./Team

Ron Livingstone — — Baltimore Bullets

John Pilch — — Baltimore Bullets

Jerry Reed — — Baltimore Bullets

Loy Doty — — Tri-Cities Blackhawks

Keith Bloom — — Tri-Cities Blackhawks

Dick Haag — — Minneapolis Lakers

Moe Robinson — — Philadelphia

Ron Rivers — — New York Knicks

Harry Jorgensen — — Rochester Royals

Ed Huse — — St. Louis Hawks

Tony Windis /5/32/ Detroit Pistons

Flynn Robinson /2/11/ Cincinnati Royals

Leon Clark /2/18/ Boston Celtics

Mike Eberle /16/195/ Los Angeles Lakers

Harry Hall /12/159/ Chicago Bulls

Carl Ashley /9/146/ Phoenix Suns

Willie Robinson /13/202/ Detroit Pistons

Stan Boyer /7/123/ Golden State Warriors

Charles Bradley /1/23/ Boston Celtics

Kenneth Ollie /9/188/ Utah Jazz

Bill Garnett /1/4/ Dallas Mavericks

Chris Engler /3/60/ Golden State Warriors

Mike Jackson /4/84/ Kansas City Kings

Tony Martin /6/123/ Golden State Warriors

Eric Leckner /1/17/ Utah Jazz

Fennis Dembo /2/30/ Detroit Pistons

Theo Ratliff /1/18/ Detroit Pistons



**Theo Ratliff**



**Justin Williams**



Jay Straight and Josh Davis celebrate Wyoming's 2002 Mountain West Conference Regular Season Championship

# CHAMPIONSHIP

# COWBOYS

The Cowboys enter the 2008-09 season having won two Mountain West titles in 2000-01 and 2001-02.

The 2001-02 championship marked the 16th regular-season title for the Cowboys in their hoop history. Including two Western Athletic Conference Tournament titles in 1987 and 1988, Wyoming has won 18 conference basketball championships.

The 2001-02 season ranked number two in school history in attendance. The Cowboys averaged 10,026 fans per outing during their 14 home dates, racing to a 13-1 record in the Double A. For conference games, that average jumped to 11,969. The caper was the final game of the regular season when a school-record 16,089 saw the Cowboys win the league championship over Utah.

Basketball Hall of Fame Coach Everett Shelton won the most conference titles for the Cowboys. Shelton captured eight league titles in his 19 seasons as head coach from the 1939-40 season through the 1958-59 campaign. Shelton also guided Wyoming to its one National Championship in 1943. Jim Brandenburg ranks next among Wyoming coaches with four conference titles in the 1980's. Bill Strannigan (1967 and 1969) and Steve McClain (2000 and 2001) won two titles. Benny Dees (1988) and Willard Witte (1932) each won one title.



## Wyoming's Conference Championship History

<u>Season</u>	<u>Conference</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Postseason Appearance</u>
2001-02	Mountain West	Steve McClain	NCAA Second Round
2000-01	Mountain West	Steve McClain	NIT First Round
1987-88	Western Athletic*	Benny Dees	NCAA First Round
1986-87	Western Athletic*	Jim Brandenburg	NCAA Sweet 16
1985-86	Western Athletic	Jim Brandenburg	NIT Runnerup
1981-82	Western Athletic	Jim Brandenburg	NCAA Second Round
1980-81	Western Athletic	Jim Brandenburg	NCAA Second Round
1968-69	Western Athletic	Bill Strannigan	NIT First Round
1966-67	Western Athletic	Bill Strannigan	NCAA Consolation Round
1957-58	Skyline	Everett Shelton	NCAA First Round
1952-53	Skyline	Everett Shelton	NCAA Consolation Round
1951-52	Skyline	Everett Shelton	NCAA Second Round
1948-49	Skyline	Everett Shelton	NCAA Consolation Round
1946-47	Skyline	Everett Shelton	NCAA Consolation Round
1945-46	Skyline	Everett Shelton	
1942-43	Skyline	Everett Shelton	NCAA Champions
1940-41	Skyline	Everett Shelton	NCAA Consolation Round
1931-32	Rocky Mountain Athletic	Willard Witte	

\*Indicates Western Athletic Conference Tournament Championships.  
The Skyline Conference's formal name was the Mountain States Athletic Conference.



# WYOMING AND THE NATIONAL

Wyoming Cowboy basketball is no stranger to the national media spotlight. In addition to playing several games on television each season, the Cowboys routinely do interviews with writers and broadcasters from numerous local and national media outlets.

This past season for example, Cowboy basketball player Adam Waddell and head coach Heath Schroyer were in-studio guests on "The Today Show" on NBC. Waddell also did phone interviews on ESPN's "First Take" and Fox News' morning show "Fox and Friends".

As a part of the Mountain West Conference's television package, the Cowboys routinely play on television. The MWC has a partnership with three television networks including VERSUS, CBS College Sports and The Mtn. The Mtn. is the first-ever super regional sports network dedicated exclusively to covering one conference—the Mountain West Conference. The Mtn. began broadcasting in the fall of 2006.

This regular season, the Cowboys are scheduled to play 16 games on television. Of those games, 13 will be televised by The Mtn., and one each will be on ESPN U, CBS College Sports and VERSUS.



**The Cowboys are scheduled to play 16 games on television in 2009-10.**



**CBS COLLEGE SPORTS**

**VS**

**VERSUS**  
THE COMPETITION IS ON

**the mtn.**



Adam Waddell and Heath Schroyer were live in-studio guests on NBC's "The Today Show" on March 24, 2009.



# NEW YORK POST

LATE CITY FINAL

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2008 / Cloudy, rain, 41-47 / Weather Page 16 • • • SUNDAY www.nypost.com \$1.25

72 Basketball  
nypost.com  
November 30, 2008

## URBAN COWBOYS

### N.Y. hoop stars find new home on the range

# SPOTLIGHT

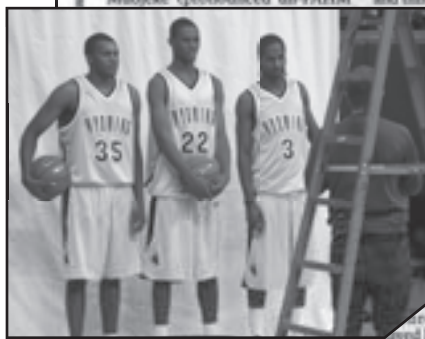
LARAMIE, Wyo. — Basketball is forever the City Game. From Rucker Park to Madison Square Garden, basketball has been a staple of New York City life. Now, two of the city's most talented young players, Afam Muojeke and Tyson Johnson, have found a new home on the range.

Mujojeke, 22, is a senior at the University of Maryland. Johnson, 20, is a senior at the University of Maryland. Both players were recruited by the University of Wyoming, where they will play for coach Heath Schroyer next season.

Both of them have had friends who have been shot and killed, they've seen a lot of stuff," Schroyer says of Muojeke and Johnson. "Out here, it's about school and about hoop."

Kevin Kernan, a former player and current coach at the University of Wyoming, says the players are "a lot of fun to watch."

Notes Johnson, "Where I grew up it was rough, a lot of bad things going on. It's a lot safer out here, more comfortable, like a big family."



Schroyer is from Maryland, and played his high school basketball at DeMatha under legendary coach Morgan Wooten, and understands the value of a New York ballplayer.

"I've always believed that East Coast guys when they go west, they really, really prosper," Schroyer says. "The hardest part is to get them on the plane. Once they come out here and

On this late-November day, though, the weather is surprisingly warm, around 50 degrees. When Muojeke first came here, a friend came to visit. Walking back from the hotel to the dorms, he had an unexpected visitor.

Eleven players have made it to the NBA, including Theo Ratliff, Bill Garnett and Fermin Dembos. This isn't about getting to the NBA; it's about making the most of an opportunity.

97-96 win over Texas State. One of his high school teammates went to North Carolina. Johnson eventually ended up in Wyoming after transferring from a junior college in Texas.

"I really hadn't even heard of Wyoming," Johnson admits.

"It's different; you have to find your fun here," notes Tyson Johnson. "It took a while to get used to the situation, but I love it now." On the days the wind is howling, he says, "If you're not careful, it

He smiles and adds, though, that he's never seen so

"We're very lucky to have both these kids," Schroyer says. "Guys that do come here find a home. Here, you can be a rock star. You have a chance to captivate the whole state."



(WAY) OUT-OF-TOWNERS: Tyson Johnson (left) from Great Neck, L.I., and Afam Muojeke of Jamaica, Queens, have brought a little bit of the Big Apple to Laramie, Wyo. Here, they pose in front of a statue of a cowboy riding a bucking horse named Steamboat, with the Dome of Doom in the background.



# WYOMING HEAD COACH HEATH SCHROYER IS... FIVE FOR FIVE

*Schroyer, an assistant coach at the time, watches the Cowboys celebrate their 2002 Mountain West Conference Regular Season Championship.*

In his coaching career, University of Wyoming head coach Heath Schroyer is now “Five for Five”, as he has led all five Division I teams that he has coached to a conference championship, the postseason or both.

As a head coach, Schroyer has led Wyoming to the 2009 College Basketball Invitational and Portland State to the 2005 Big Sky Conference Regular-Season Championship.

As an assistant coach, Schroyer helped lead Fresno State to the 2007 National Invitation Tournament, Wyoming to a 2002 Mountain West Conference Regular Season Championship and the Second Round of the NCAA Tournament, and BYU to the 2001 MWC Co-Regular Season and Tournament Championships as well as the 2001 NCAA Tournament and the 2000 NIT.

### **Head Coaching Positions**

Wyoming            2009 College Basketball Invitational  
Portland State    2005 Big Sky Conference Regular Season Championship

### **Assistant Coaching Positions**

Fresno State      2007 National Invitation Tournament  
Wyoming            2002 MWC Regular Season Championship and NCAA Second Round  
BYU                  2001 MWC Regular Season Co-Championship and tournament Championship,  
2001 NCAA Tournament and 2000 NIT

*As an assistant, Schroyer helped lead Fresno State to the 2007 NIT.*

*In his first head coaching position, Schroyer led Portland State to the 2005 Big Sky Conference Regular Season Championship.*

# SCHROYER'S PROS

One of Heath Schroyer's 46 eventual professional players is former Cowboy Josh Davis. Here, Davis is pictured as a member of the Atlanta Hawks.



Former Cowboy Tyson Johnson (2008-09) is currently playing professional basketball in Australia.

Former Cowboy Sean Ogirri (2009) is currently playing professional basketball in Spain.



Dominic McGuire of the Washington Wizards played for Coach Schroyer at Fresno State.



In his 15 -year college coaching career, University of Wyoming Head Coach Heath Schroyer has coached 46 players that have gone on to play professional basketball.

The school in which Schroyer has coached the most eventual professional players is Wyoming, where he has coached 15 pros. In his first stint with the Cowboys, as an assistant during the 2001-02 season, eight players ended up playing professionally. In his first two seasons as head coach at Wyoming, Schroyer has already coached seven professionals.

Following is a list of all the eventual professional players Schroyer has coached:

**Fresno City College (1995-97)**

Rafer Alston- NBA, New Jersey Nets  
Larry Abney-NBDL, Argentina  
Mike Garrett-IBL  
Corey Powell-IBL  
Ray Selleaze-Mexico

**BYU (1997-2001)**

Mark Bigelow-Spain  
Travis Hansen-NBA, Atlanta Hawks and Russia  
Mikeli Wesley-Portugal  
Terrell Lyday-Russia  
Eric Nielson-Spain  
Sylvester Rivers-Chile  
Trent Whiting-Italy  
David Bobik-Germany  
Jarko Ahlbom-Finland

**Wyoming (2001-02)**

Josh Davis-NBA, Atlanta Hawks and Russia  
Marcus Bailey-Germany  
Uche Nsonwu-Amadi-France  
Jay Straight-Israel  
Donta Richardson-Hungary  
Ronnell Mingo-IBL  
Alex Dunn-Poland  
Ugo Udezue-Sweden

**Portland State (2002-05)**

Jeb Ivey-Iceland  
Seth Scott-France  
Will Funn-British Columbia  
Antone Jarrell-ABA  
Blake Walker-Mexico  
Seamus Boxley-Holland  
Scott Morrison-Estonia  
Anthony Washington-NBDL, Mexico  
Paul Hafford-Romania

**Fresno State (2005-07)**

Dominic McGuire-NBA, Washington Wizards  
Quinton Hosley-Turkey  
Kevin Bell-Turkey  
Hector Hernandez-Mexico  
Eddie Miller-Poland  
Shawn Taylor-Japan  
Alex Blair-Mexico  
JaVance Coleman-ABA

**Wyoming (2007-pres.)**

Brad Jones-Czech Republic  
Joseph Taylor-Sweden  
Brandon Ewing-Israel  
Tyson Johnson-Australia  
Sean Ogirri-Spain  
Mikhail Linskens-Belgium  
Mahamoud Diakite-France

Ned Dishman/NBAE/Getty Images



# WYOMING HEAD COACH HEATH SCHROYER...

# WHAT PEOPLE

"Heath Schroyer is a dynamic young coach. He has great passion and energy for the game of basketball and his teaching of basketball skill sets, as well as his on the floor coaching, is outstanding. His personality and charisma allow him to make a great connection with his players, the university and the State of Wyoming. He is also creative, innovative and has a great basketball mind. The tradition of Cowboy Basketball is in great hands with Heath."

**-Former Wyoming Head Basketball Coach Jim Brandenburg**



"In my eyes, the only difference between Heath (Schroyer) and the top coaches in the country like Roy Williams and Mike Krzyzewski is that Heath lives in the 307 area code. It is only a matter of address that separates Heath from those elite coaches.

"Heath and I go a long ways back to when he was the head coach at Portland State and I was working for the Portland Trailblazers. I have known Heath a long time, and he is as good of a person as there is."

**-Mark Warkentien, Denver Nuggets Vice President of Basketball Operations**

"Wyoming has gotten one of the bright young stars in college basketball, and his style of play is going to bring some excitement to all Cowboy fans. Heath is a total class act, and will be a great ambassador for the University of Wyoming and the state of Wyoming."

**-Mike Brey, Head Coach at the University of Notre Dame**

Neal Dishman/NBAE/Getty Images



"Coach Schroyer is a great coach. The main thing is, he wants to win and he's really good at getting the best out of his players. He really taught defense and playing with a high motor, which is one of the reasons I made it here to the NBA. I really enjoyed playing for him."

**-Dominic McGuire, Washington Wizards, Played for Coach Schroyer at Fresno State**





"Heath Schroyer is one of the great young coaches in America. He will bring an exciting and winning style of basketball to the University of Wyoming. As a player, coach and human being, he has always been a champion. Buckle your seat belts--the University of Wyoming has hit the jackpot."

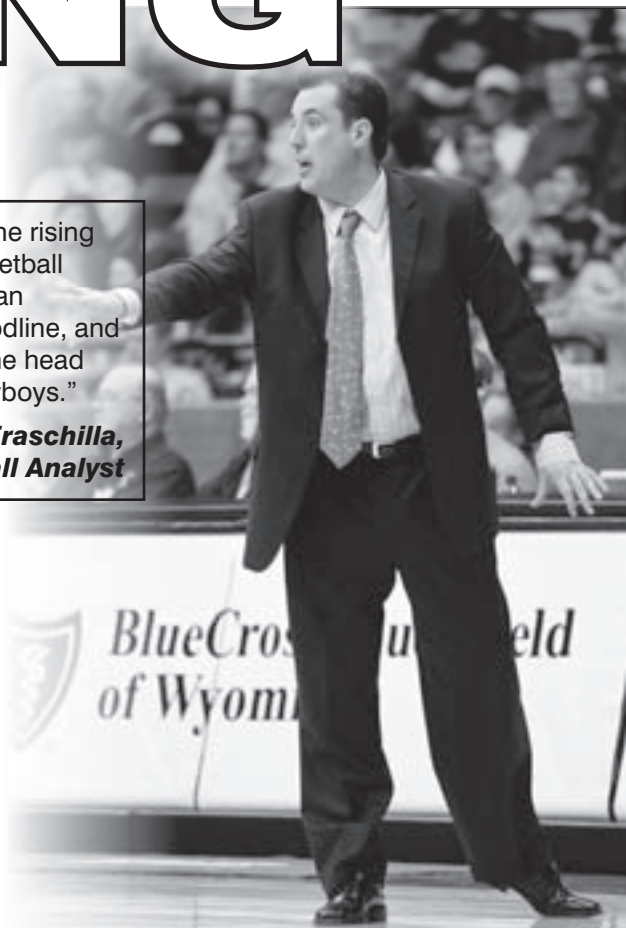
**-Morgan Wooten, 2000 Naismith National Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame Inductee**

# ARE SAYING



"Heath Schroyer is one of the rising young stars in college basketball coaching. He comes from an outstanding basketball bloodline, and that will serve him well as the head coach of the Wyoming Cowboys."

**-Fran Fraschilla, ESPN College Basketball Analyst**



"Heath Schroyer demonstrated his ability to build programs long before he came to Laramie. He made Portland State a winner and in just two seasons he has done the same at Wyoming. Heath is not only a fine teacher of the game, but he also knows where to find the players to implement his system of play. He knows exactly how to make the Cowboys a potent force in the always tough Mountain West Conference."

**-Dave Bollwinkel, Analyst for The Mtn. Network**



# COWBOY BASKETBALL

# FACILITIES



*The Cowboy Basketball Locker Room*





*The Cowboy Basketball Film Room*



# COWBOY BASKETBALL FACILITIES

*The Cowboy Basketball Team Room*





# STUDENT-ATHLETE HEALTH

The Gem City Bone & Joint Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation Center, located in Wyoming's Rochelle Athletics Center, contains 4,829 square feet.

The University of Wyoming athletic-training staff utilize the most current preventive and rehabilitative techniques in treating UW student-athletes.

A staff of five full-time, certified athletic trainers, two graduate assistants and approximately 30 student athletic trainers work to meet the needs of Wyoming's student-athletes.

The physicians of Gem City Bone & Joint are the team orthopaedic doctors for UW Athletics. Gem City Bone & Joint offers 10 surgeons who are on call for Wyoming sports injury management. Should injuries occur, the staff at Gem City also is able to provide expertise in treatment and rehabilitation through their clinic located in Laramie, Wyo.

As a demonstration of its support of UW Athletics, Gem City Bone & Joint made a major commitment of support to the Rochelle Athletics Center (RAC) at the University of Wyoming for a medical treatment facility. In recognition of that support, the medical area of the RAC is named the "Gem City Bone & Joint Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation Center." The financial arrangement with Gem City benefitted UW Athletics in the amount of \$750,000.



*Associate Head Athletics  
Trainer Joi Thomas*



Richard Southwell, M.D.



Michael Wasser, M.D.



Lawrence Jenkins, M.D.



Thomas Bienz, M.D.



Michael Kaplan, M.D.



Jay Carson, M.D.



Dan Levene, M.D.



Ryan A. Aukerman, M.D.



William S. Bodemer, M.D.



Bryan Scheer, M.D.



# STRENGTH & CONDITIONING



**Strength and Conditioning Notes:** During the summer of 2009, nearly the entire Cowboy basketball was in Laramie working out and preparing for the 2009-10 season. Following are some notes on the team's progress in the weight room:

*The following weight increases in numbers are from March '09 to July '09.*

**Team-** Eight guys on the team can bench press 225 lbs. or more, nine can front squat 225 lbs. or more and eight can hang clean 100 kg (220 lbs.) or more. As part of the NBA Pre-Draft Camp, six Cowboys can bench press 185 lbs. for 10 or more reps.

**Ryan Dermody-** Increased his front squat 15 lbs, hang clean 2.5 kg (5.5 lbs.) and his chin-up reps from nine to 14.

**Adam Waddell-** Waddell broke his own Cowboy basketball all-time record in the hang clean by increasing from 140 to 145 kgs. (308 lbs. to 319 lbs.). He also increased his front squat from 315 to 320 lbs., and his chin ups from 14 to 23 reps.

**Afam Muojeke-** Muojeke increased his bench press from 215 to 225 lbs., his hang clean from 92.5 kg to 102.5 kg (203 lbs. to 225 lbs.), and his chin ups from 20 to 26 reps. Finally, he increased his 185 lb. bench press reps from four to 10.

**Djibril Thiam-** Between May 1 and Aug. 20, he increased his lean body mass 10 lbs. He increased his front squat from 250 to 270 lbs., his bench press from 240 to 255 lbs., and his chin-up reps from 25 to 30.

**A.J. Davis-** Between May 1 and Aug. 20, he increased his lean body mass eight lbs. In the weight room, he increased his front squat from 225 to 270 lbs., his hang clean from 92.5 kg to 110 kg (203 lbs. to 242 lbs.), his 185 lb. bench press reps from 3 to 7 and his chin ups from 16 to 18.

**JayDee Luster-** Luster increased his back squat 90 lbs. and his hang clean 20 kg (44 lbs.).

**Arthur Bouëdo-** Bouëdo increased his lean body mass seven lbs. between May 1 and Aug. 20.

**Boubacar Sylla-** Sylla increased his bench press from 215 lbs. to 235 lbs. He has changed his body composition by losing approximately 15 lbs. of body fat and increasing his lean body mass by 20 lbs.

**Thomas Manzano-** Manzano increased his lean body mass 18 lbs. between May 1 and Aug. 20. He increased his bench press by 35 lbs., his hang clean by 20 kg (44 lbs.), and increased his front squat 25 lbs.



*"I really enjoy working with the men's basketball team as well as with such a tremendous coaching staff. Coach Schroyer has established a great program here at Wyoming and I am excited about the future. I look forward to contributing not only to the success on the floor but also to the physical and mental growth of the student-athletes off of the court."*

**-Cowboy Basketball Strength and Conditioning Coach Hunter Schurrer**



# ACADEMICS



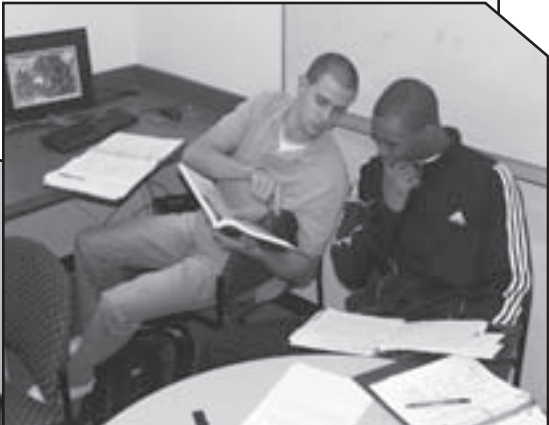
**The Cowboy basketball team achieved their highest Academic Progress Rate this past spring.**

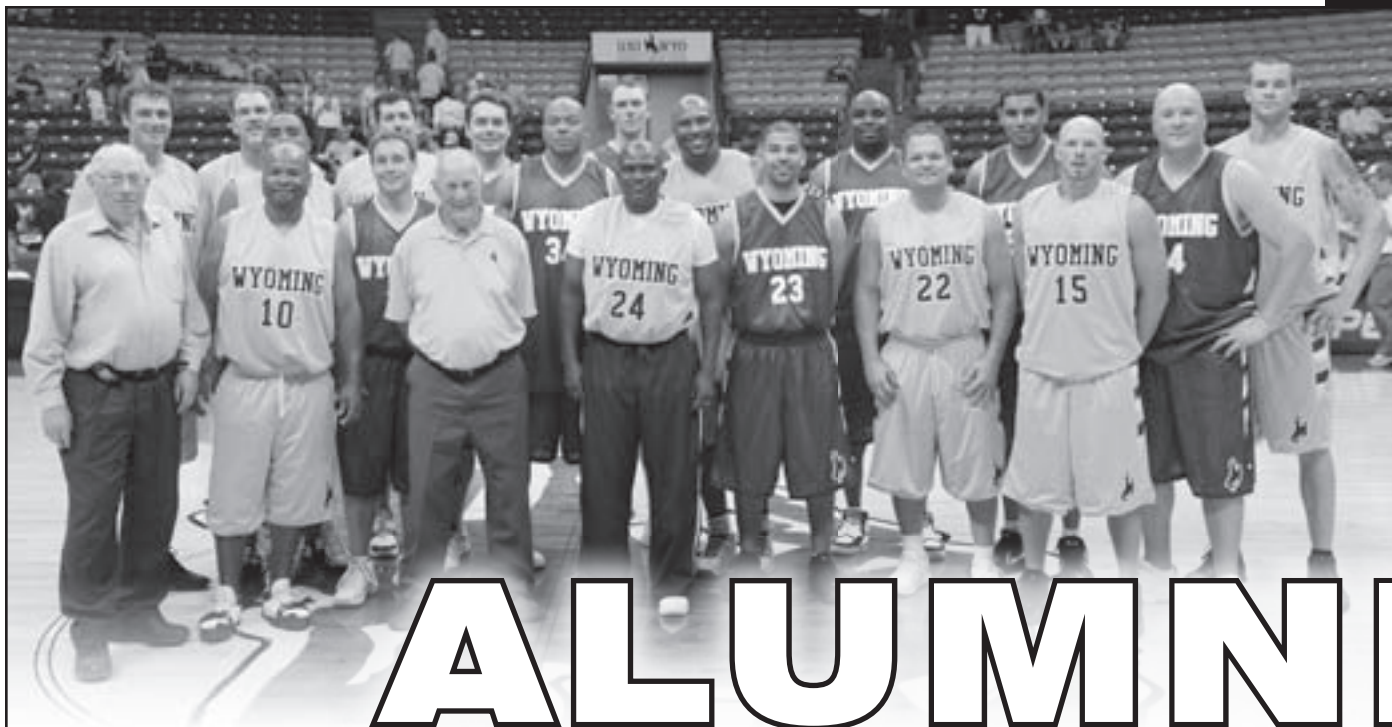


## **Wyoming Athletics Academic Center**

The Academic Center in the University of Wyoming Athletics Department contains 4,470 square feet, which is divided into a computer lab, study carols, tutoring and meeting rooms and academic counselors' offices. Shown here is the area containing the individual study carols, with academic counselors offices visible in the background.

**Charlie Hogan – Cowboy Basketball Academic Coordinator**  
*-Charlie Hogan joined the University of Wyoming Athletics Department in 2009 as the Academic Coordinator for Cowboy Basketball.*





# ALUMNI GAME

Over the past two years, the Wyoming Cowboy Basketball Family has begun a very special tradition. On one Saturday in the fall, former Cowboy greats have reunited for an Alumni Game. The games have been organized by former Cowboy great Reggie Slater, who played for the Pokes from 1989-92.



# ARENA-AUDITORIUM



The showcase of the Wyoming Basketball Tradition is the beautiful Arena-Auditorium. Opened at the end of the 1982 season, the Double A is one of the most beautiful basketball arenas in the country. It seats 15,000 fans and has seen Wyoming win 75.2 percent of its home games during its existence.



**Dome of Doom**

## ATTENDANCE IN THE ARENA-AUDITORIUM

Season	Games	Attendance	Per Game Average
1981-82	1	15,004	15,004
1982-83	13	96,613	7,432
1983-84	14	98,455	7,033
1984-85	16	100,099	6,256
1985-86	19	154,462	8,130
1986-87	14	135,139	9,653
1987-88	14	184,305	13,165
1988-89	16	108,848	6,803
1989-90	14	119,255	8,518
1990-91	18	163,416	9,079
1991-92	13	103,423	7,956
1992-93	13	86,092	6,622
1993-94	13	104,621	8,048
1994-95	14	117,175	8,370
1995-96	14	100,459	7,176
1996-97	11	59,045	5,368
1997-98	15	106,261	7,084
1998-99	14	93,841	6,703
1999-2000	13	91,154	7,012
2000-01	13	118,111	9,085
2001-02	14	140,370	10,026
2002-03	15	151,620	10,108
2003-04	15	123,017	8,201
2004-05	14	104,541	7,467
2005-06	17	96,420	5,672
2006-07	14	84,963	6,069
2007-08	14	73,673	5,262
2008-09	16	85,211	5,326
<b>Totals</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>3,015,593</b>	<b>7,596</b>

# ARENA-AUDITORIUM

The 2009-10 season will mark the 28th season that the Arena-Auditorium has been home to Wyoming Basketball. Whether you call it the Arena-Auditorium, the Double A or "The Dome of Doom," Wyoming fans have created an atmosphere that has helped Wyoming win 75.2 percent of its home games.

The Cowboys record in the Double A breaks down as follows:

<b>Overall Arena-Auditorium Record:</b>	<b>294-97 (.752)</b>
<b>Conference Record in AA:</b>	<b>143-70 (.671)</b>
<b>Non-conference Record in AA:</b>	<b>151-27 (.848)</b>

### Wins on National Television Since the 1995-96 Season

Feb. 21, 2005	69-65 Win over SDSU on <b>ESPN Big Monday</b>
Jan. 17, 2005	83-71 Win over BYU on <b>ESPN Big Monday</b>
March 3, 2003	69-66 Win over UNLV on <b>ESPN Big Monday</b>
Feb. 28, 2000	88-61 Win over Utah on <b>ESPN Big Monday</b>
Feb. 27, 1999	79-76 Win over UNLV on <b>ESPN</b>
Jan. 4, 1997	89-61 Win over BYU on <b>ESPN2</b>
Feb. 12, 1996	80-76 Win over Utah on <b>ESPN Big Monday</b>
Jan. 13, 1996	61-58 Win over New Mexico on <b>ESPN2</b>

### Wins Over Top 25 Ranked Teams Since the 1995-96 Season

Feb. 28, 2000	88-61 Win over No. 24 ranked Utah
Jan. 14, 1999	96-93 Win over No. 20 ranked TCU
Feb. 12, 1998	62-56 Win over No. 5 ranked Utah
Jan. 10, 1998	58-55 Win over No. 10 ranked New Mexico
Feb. 12, 1996	80-76 Win over No. 7 ranked Utah
Jan. 13, 1996	61-58 Win over No. 25 ranked New Mexico

### Wins Over Nationally-Prominent Coaches Since 1995-96

Feb. 18, 2009	77-68 Win over UNLV's Lon Kruger
Jan. 10, 2007	86-76 (1ot) Win over UNLV's Lon Kruger
March 2, 2002	57-56 Win over Utah's Rick Majerus
Feb. 28, 2000	88-61 Win over Utah's Rick Majerus
Feb. 12, 1998	62-56 Win over Utah's Rick Majerus
Feb. 12, 1996	80-76 Win over Utah's Rick Majerus
Jan. 19, 1995	63-56 Win over Utah's Rick Majerus
Feb. 5, 1994	60-55 Win over Utah's Rick Majerus
Jan. 14, 2009	83-79 Win over San Diego State's Steve Fisher
Feb. 17, 2007	80-71 Win over San Diego State's Steve Fisher
Feb. 21, 2005	69-65 Win over San Diego State's Steve Fisher
Jan. 26, 2004	79-71 Win over San Diego State's Steve Fisher
Feb. 3, 2001	101-66 Win over San Diego State's Steve Fisher
Jan. 29, 2000	93-87 Win over San Diego State's Steve Fisher
Dec. 19, 2002	77-63 Win over South Carolina's Dave Odom
Jan. 14, 1999	96-93 Win over TCU's Billy Tubbs
Jan. 8, 1998	65-46 Win over UTEP's Don Haskins
Jan. 15, 1996	72-68 Win over UTEP's Don Haskins
Jan. 25, 1997	87-74 Win over Fresno State's Jerry Tarkanian
Jan. 27, 1996	96-81 Win over Fresno State's Jerry Tarkanian

## Arena-Auditorium Largest Crowds (All Crowds Over 10,000)

Among the most popular draws in Arena-Auditorium history have been CSU (13 crowds above 10,000), Utah (8), New Mexico (6), Air Force (5), UTEP (5), San Diego State (3), Denver (2) and Louisville (2). But the most popular draw has been BYU, with 18 crowds of over 10,000. There have been 11 other opponents that have attracted one crowd each of over 10,000 to the Double A.

Rank and Date	Opponent	Score	Att.
1. 3-2-02	Utah	W 57-56	16,089
2. 2-10-01	Colorado State	W 72-70	15,456
3. 2-8-03	Brigham Young	L 66-74	15,418
4. 1-21-95	Brigham Young	L 52-58	15,218
5. 2-20-88	Colorado State	W 57-50	15,208
6. 2-21-87	Brigham Young	L 63-67	15,182
7. 2-27-88	San Diego State	W 85-59	15,096
8. 1-15-88	Brigham Young	L 67-83	15,087
9. 2-22-03	Colorado State	W 62-60	15,039
10. 3-20-86	#Clemson	W 62-57	15,028
11. 1-10-87	Louisville	L 64-67	15,028
12. 12-5-87	Texas Tech	W 84-65	15,012
12-19-87	Nebraska	W 87-58	15,012
2-6-88	New Mexico	W 90-72	15,012
15. 2-20-82	Air Force (Arena Opens)	W 59-29	15,004
16. 2-10-96	Brigham Young	L 71-81	13,452
17. 1-25-84	Brigham Young	W 56-55	13,332
18. 1-20-01	Utah	W 78-77(ot)	13,313
19. 2-16-02	UNLV	W 82-78	13,301
20. 1-12-02	Colorado State	W 95-72	13,183
21. 3-4-88	Boise State	W 56-50	13,158
22. 1-17-91	Utah	L 83-90	12,867
23. 3-1-03	San Diego State	L 73-86	12,863
24. 2-20-86	Brigham Young	W 66-56	12,677
25. 2-25-88	Utah	W 79-56	12,535
26. 1-20-90	Brigham Young	L 60-65	12,517
27. 1-21-84	UTEP	L 46-54	12,493
28. 2-4-88	UTEP	W 73-59	12,337
29. 1-26-02	New Mexico	W 79-67	12,254
30. 2-14-98	Brigham Young	W 77-54	12,201
31. 1-19-91	Brigham Young	W 86-80	12,109
32. 3-8-86	*UTEP	L 64-65	12,039
33. 1-17-87	UTEP	W 79-74	12,025
34. 2-20-99	Colorado State	L 75-80	12,009
35. 12-14-87	Georgia State	W 100-89	11,927
36. 1-15-90	Colorado State	L 57-65	11,831
37. 3-17-86	#Loyola-Marymount	W 99-90	11,658
38. 1-23-92	Brigham Young	W 72-67	11,618
39. 2-22-86	Colorado State	W 77-70	11,533
40. 2-9-91	New Mexico	L 83-85	11,511
41. 1-13-88	Air Force	W 81-61	11,341
42. 3-7-86	*New Mexico	W 56-54	11,264
43. 1-18-03	New Mexico	W 85-81 (ot)	11,242
44. 2-28-02	Brigham Young	W 76-60	11,189
45. 2-26-00	Brigham Young	W 85-70	11,147
46. 1-25-92	Utah	L 79-80	11,137
47. 2-25-89	Colorado State	L 59-62	11,119
48. 1-21-88	Hawai'i	W 81-61	11,081
49. 1-22-83	Brigham Young	L 64-82	11,080
50. 1-20-03	Air Force	W 46-44	11,029
51. 1-24-98	Colorado State	L 46-53	11,014
52. 1-2-88	Stephen F. Austin	W 94-55	10,784
53. 11-27-87	Denver	W 113-82	10,715
54. 3-8-91	*Utah	L 63-69	10,544
55. 1-21-89	Air Force	L 55-58	10,506
56. 2-25-95	Colorado State	W 80-73	10,503
57. 2-6-87	Chicago State	W 75-64	10,453
58. 1-15-05	Utah	L 49-74	10,336
59. 2-10-90	New Mexico	L 79-82	10,334
60. 12-18-93	Louisville	L 55-72	10,302
61. 1-19-95	Utah	W 63-56	10,262
62. 1-15-94	Colorado State	W 73-58	10,258
63. 2-14-04	Brigham Young	L 53-67	10,218
64. 1-15-00	Colorado State	L 71-77	10,211
65. 2-3-01	San Diego State	W 101-66	10,191
66. 11-23-02	Denver	W 85-65	10,059
67. 3-7-91	*UTEP	W 71-67	10,048
68. 3-6-04	Air Force	L 47-52	10,034
69. 1-29-05	Colorado State	W 69-56	10,025
70. 2-23-89	Brigham Young	W 72-65	10,021
71. 12-4-82	USC	L 55-56	10,016
72. 1-22-01	Brigham Young	W 85-78	10,008
73. 1-30-93	Brigham Young	L 64-77	10,002

\*Indicates Conference Tournament games.

#Indicates National Invitation Tournament games.

(Games not involving Wyoming played in the Arena-Auditorium that have drawn over 10,000 fans are as follows.)

3-8-91	Hawai'i 71, Brigham Young 73	10,269
3-7-91	San Diego State 56, Utah 67	10,048

## WYOMING'S HOME RECORDS IN ARENA-AUDITORIUM HISTORY

(The Arena-Auditorium opened the last game of the 1981-82 season when Wyoming defeated Air Force 59-29 on Feb. 20, 1982)

Season	Overall Home Records	Conference Home Records	Conference Tournament Records	NIT Records	CBI Records
2008-09	12-4 (.800)	5-3 (.625)			0-1 (.000)
2007-08	8-6 (.571)	3-5 (.375)			
2006-07	12-2 (.857)	6-2 (.750)			
2005-06	9-3 (.529)	3-5 (.375)			
2004-05	11-3 (.786)	5-2 (.714)			
2003-04	10-5 (.667)	4-3 (.571)			
2002-03	12-3 (.800)	4-3 (.571)		1-0 (1.000)	
2001-02	13-1 (.929)	6-1 (.875)			
2000-01	11-2 (.846)	6-1 (.857)		0-1 (.000)	
1999-2000	12-1 (.923)	6-1 (.857)			
1998-99	12-2 (.857)	6-1 (.857)		1-0 (1.000)	
1997-98	13-2 (.867)	6-1 (.857)		0-1 (.000)	
1996-97	8-3 (.727)	6-2 (.750)			
1995-96	10-4 (.714)	7-2 (.778)			
1994-95	9-5 (.643)	6-3 (.667)			
1993-94	8-5 (.615)	5-4 (.556)			
1992-93	9-4 (.692)	5-4 (.556)			
1991-92	9-4 (.692)	5-3 (.625)			
1990-91	13-5 (.722)	4-4 (.500)	1-1 (.500)	1-0 (1.000)	
1989-90	9-5 (.643)	4-4 (.500)			
1988-89	10-6 (.625)	3-5 (.375)			
1987-88	13-1 (.929)	7-1 (.875)			
1986-87	11-3 (.786)	6-2 (.750)			
1985-86	16-3 (.842)	7-1 (.875)	2-1 (.667)	3-0 (1.000)	
1984-85	12-4 (.750)	5-3 (.625)			
1983-84	11-3 (.786)	6-2 (.750)	1-0 (1.000)		
1982-83	10-3 (.769)	6-2 (.750)			
1981-82	1-0 (1.000)	1-0 (1.000)			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>294-97 (.752)</b>	<b>143-70 (.671)</b>	<b>4-2 (.667)</b>	<b>6-2 (.750)</b>	<b>0-1 (.000)</b>

GOACH

# EVERETT SHELTON

## – FATHER OF COWBOY BASKETBALL

The tradition and history of University of Wyoming Cowboy Basketball has its roots in its greatest coach — Everett Shelton.

Shelton coached the Wyoming Cowboys for 19 seasons from the 1939-40 season through the 1958-59 campaign. He led the Cowboys through their most successful period, highlighted by Wyoming's 1943 NCAA Championship. Coach Shelton ended his UW coaching career having won more games, 328, than any other Poke basketball coach. His all-time coaching record at UW stands at 328-201 (.620).

During his tenure at Wyoming, Shelton captured eight conference championships in: 1941, '43, '46, '47, '49, '52, '53 and '58. He also led the Cowboys to eight NCAA appearances in 1941, '43, '47, '48, '49, '52, '53 and '58.

He arrived in the Rockies in 1936 when William N. Haraway lured Shelton to Denver to coach the Denver Safeway AAU team. Haraway had attempted to hire another college-coaching legend, Henry Iba of Oklahoma A&M (now Oklahoma State). When Iba turned down the offer, he suggested Haraway hire Shelton.

"You couldn't obtain a better coach, including myself," said Iba. At the time, Shelton was coaching his alma mater, Phillips University in Enid, Okla.

In only his second season, Shelton led the Denver Safeway team to its first AAU National Championship in the 1937-38 season. He coached the Colorado Springs Antlers Hotel AAU team in 1938-39 prior to taking the head job at Wyoming.

A great teacher of the game of basketball, three of his former players followed him as head coach of the Cowboy Basketball program — Bill Strannigan (1959-60 to 1972-73), who succeeded his mentor; Moe Radovich (1973-74 to 1975-76); and Benny Dees (1987-88 to 1992-93).

Dees was a member of Shelton's final conference championship team at Wyoming and the final Shelton-coached team at Wyoming to make the NCAA Tournament in 1958. Dees has fond memories of Coach Shelton.

"He was one of the greatest disciplinarians I've ever been around, and his self-discipline was extremely strong," said Dees. "He was an immaculate dresser. He did everything by the numbers. He was a very, very strong personality, and was a tremendous influence on helping me decide what I wanted to do in my life. I thought the world of him.

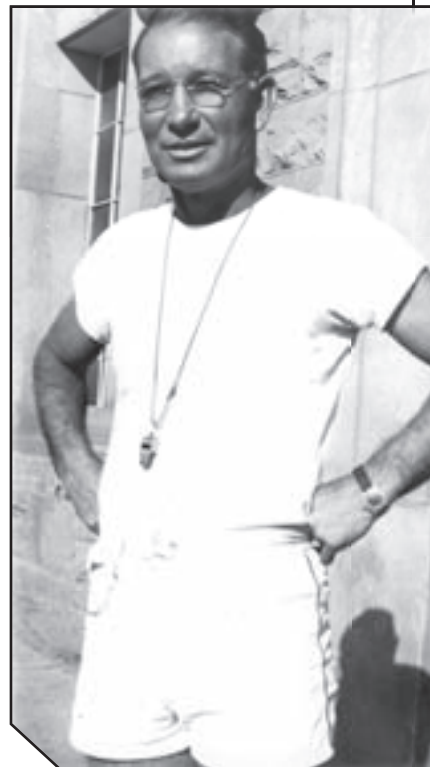
"His teams were very structured, in the Hank Iba mold. He ran what he called a box-weave offense, and you better have the right foot in the right place at the right time if you wanted to play for him. He was way ahead of his time as a basketball coach.

"When I came here, I was one of those unstructured junior-college players who aggravate me now. I can remember the first practice I played in here. One of my teammates got the rebound and kicked the ball out to me. I took off down the court, and I could hear Coach Shelton hollering, 'Somebody stop him, gear him down.' My two years playing under him were up and down. But as time went by and after I left, I found out how special I was to him and how much he meant to me. When I graduated, I could have stayed here at Wyoming as freshmen coach. Probably the biggest mistake I ever made was not staying with him as freshmen coach. He also offered me a job later, after he left Wyoming and was at Sacramento State.

"When I came, he was winding down his career here. We were very aware, as players, of the respect he had from the Wyoming fans. And when you would travel with him and would see the great respect he had from other coaches, you knew you were playing for someone special. He was such a good man."

Shelton's involvement in college athletics also included serving as President of the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) and as Commissioner of the Far Western Conference. He was also instrumental as a fundraiser for the construction of Wyoming's War Memorial Fieldhouse and Stadium. In addition to coaching basketball, Shelton served as UW's baseball coach for several seasons.

Shelton, who died on April 16, 1974, was posthumously honored with the highest honor in basketball in 1982 when he was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass. And to this day, he and a former player of his, the legendary Curt Gowdy, who was inducted as a broadcaster, are the only two individuals from the state of Wyoming to earn that honor.





# THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

## SEASON OF 1942-43

It was the greatest basketball season in University of Wyoming history. A team led by three All-Americans and the most successful coach in Cowboy history brought Wyoming great pride by winning the 1943 NCAA Championship.

The 1942-43 basketball season is one that Cowboy fans will never forget. It was also a season that almost never happened. On Nov. 10, 1942, the presidents of several Colorado colleges voted to cancel their universities' 1942-43 basketball and spring sport seasons due to World War II.

In response, UW President J.L. Morrill and the UW faculty athletic committee issued a statement saying, "The announcement by the Colorado college presidents probably anticipates what is inevitable for colleges and universities in this war emergency. Travel restrictions and the forthcoming lower draft age doubtless will make it impossible to conduct any normal program of intercollegiate athletics. Wyoming believes it right and proper for the Colorado institutions to meet the situation as they see fit, and the Colorado decision is accepted without criticism or complaint by our University.

"If it is necessary to discontinue intercollegiate athletics the University of Wyoming will gladly comply. Meantime, it is our hope and intention to undertake the eastern basketball trip which has been scheduled late in December, and to decide jointly with other members of the Mountain States Intercollegiate Athletic Conference at their regular December meeting, the future status of our athletic activities in this region."

It was a time in the country's history that filled everyone with doubts about the future of the country and the world. But, in the midst of much doubt and uncertainty, the Cowboy basketball team, under the direction of coach Ev Shelton and All-American Kenny Sailors, provided Wyoming fans an escape and a reason to cheer.

Wyoming began the season with three wins against a team of all-stars from Fort Warren. The Cowboys then took off on an eastern road swing. The Cowboys road trip east started on a disappointing note losing to Duquesne by the score of 33-43, but that loss would prove to be a very rare occurrence for "The Punchers", as some writers referred to them at the time. After the Duquesne loss, Wyoming ran off a string of 23 consecutive victories on way to a 31-2 record and a 10-0 record in the conference.

Through that 23-game winning streak, Wyoming posted four-game sweeps of rivals Colorado State and Utah, and a three-game sweep of Brigham Young. The Pokes outscored their opponents by an average of 25.6 points per game. It wasn't until the semifinals of the National AAU Tournament in Denver that Wyoming lost its only other game of the season — to the Denver Legion AAU team, 33-41.

Next up for the Cowboys loomed the NCAA Tournament where the Pokes were soon to take their place in college basketball history. In the NCAA Western Regional in Kansas City, Mo., Wyoming began with a 53-50 win over Oklahoma followed by another down-to-the-wire victory over Texas, 58-54. The West Regional Championship earned the Cowboys a trip to Madison Square Garden to face the NCAA Eastern Regional Champion, Georgetown.

The Georgetown game thrilled fans in Madison Square Garden, with seven ties and seven lead changes. Just prior to the half, Kenny Sailors' basket with five seconds remaining gave Wyoming an 18-16 halftime lead. With seven minutes remaining in the game, Georgetown built a 31-26 lead. Wyoming evened the score at 31 following baskets by Jimmy Collins and Sailors and a free throw from center Milo Komenich. The final four minutes belonged to Wyoming. Behind Collins sparking play off the bench, Wyoming built the lead to a final 46-34 tally, outscoring the Hoyas 15-3 down the stretch.

In an unprecedented matchup two nights later, the Cowboys and St. John's University met in a contest that pitted the NCAA Champion and the National Invitation Tournament Champion. The game, also played in Madison Square Garden, was devised to benefit the Red Cross. Before 18,000 screaming New York fans, who turned out in support of the hometown St. John's Redmen, Wyoming again showed the poise of a veteran team.

Despite suffering the loss of center Komenich, who fouled out shortly before the game ended in a 46-46 tie at the end of regulation, the Pokes pulled together to earn the undisputed title of National Champion. Floyd Volker was the hero for the Cowboys in overtime, scoring five of Wyoming's six overtime points, while the Wyoming defense held St. John's to only one point in the extra period for a 52-47 win.

As the season ended, Sailors, Komenich and Jim Weir earned All-America honors. Sailors was also awarded the Chuck Taylor award as the outstanding college player in the nation.

The Cowboys and their fans had much to be proud of in regard to their championship season, but perhaps nothing brought more pride than the fact that seven members of the championship team went on to serve in the military during World War II.

At a postseason banquet honoring the team in Cheyenne, Wyoming's president J.L. Morrill said, "These fine young men will soon be in the armed services. Who doubts the victory there."



**1943 National Championship Team**

First Row (left to right): Don Waite, Earl "Shadow" Ray and Jimmie Reese.  
Back Row (left to right): Jim Collins, Floyd Volker, Milo Komenich, Coach Everett Shelton, Lou Roney, Kenny Sailors, Jim Weir and Professor Philip O. Badger, President of the NCAA.

### University of Wyoming 1943 NCAA Championship Roster

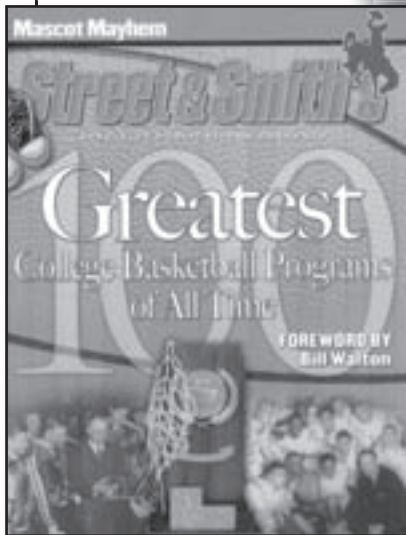
Player	Pos.	Hometown
Charles Castle	F	Phoenix, Ariz.
James Collins	G	Laramie, Wyo.
James Darden	G	Cheyenne, Wyo.
Jack Downey	G	Phoenix, Ariz.
Vernon Jensen	G	Lyman, Wyo.
Antone Katana	C	Rock Springs, Wyo.
Milo Komenich	C	Gary, Ind.
Earl Ray	G	Casper, Wyo.
Jimmie Reese	F	Rock Springs, Wyo.
Lewis Roney	G	Powell, Wyo.
Kenny Sailors	F	Laramie, Wyo.
Kenneth Tallman	F	Cheyenne, Wyo.
Floyd Volker	G	Casper, Wyo.
Donald Waite	G	Scottsbluff, Neb.
James Weir	F	Green River, Wyo.

**Coach: Everett Shelton**



The 1943 National Championship Trophy is displayed in the Arena-Auditorium concourse for all Cowboy fans to see.

# WYOMING PROGRAM AMONG NATION'S ALL-TIME GREATEST



Street & Smith's published its "Greatest College Basketball Programs of All-Time" in 2005 which featured the 100 best college programs in the history of the game of basketball. The magazine selected the Wyoming Cowboy program as the 42nd greatest in the history of college basketball.

There are currently over 300 NCAA Division I men's basketball programs in the country.

## New 'Heights' For Cowboys

The success of the University of Wyoming men's basketball program can be attributed to many things. Rugged fans, impact players, great coaches and a distinct home-court advantage have positioned the Cowboy program as one of the most remarkable in college basketball.

Unique to the University of Wyoming is its court, which sits at an elevation of 7,220 feet - one of the highest in the land.

"The thing about playing at Wyoming is that the altitude really gets you. Some people think it's psychological, but our players notice it. It's a great environment for college basketball and a very tough place to play for a lot of reasons," says Fresno State head coach Jerry Tashanias.

The Arena Auditorium was built in 1982 and has since been dubbed "The Dome of Doom." One of the most beautiful basketball arenas in America, the Double-A seats over 15,000 fans and is a bad dream for all opposing coaches.

In addition to playing at 7,220 feet, Wyoming opponents have to worry about a rabid crowd that comes out to support their Cowboys each game. The state of Wyoming boasts a modest population of just over 400,000 people, but on a good day the Double-A will shake with 14,000 people cheering on their Cowboys.

The men's basketball program was born in 1905 but wasn't nationally recognized until Wyoming won the NCAA championship in 1943. Hall of Fame Coach Everett Shelton and All-American Kenny Sailors (who single-handedly invented the jump shot) led the championship charge.

the cover of the 1988 Sports Illustrated College Basketball Preview.

The Cowboys have won 18 conference titles dating back to the 1932 season with Shelton winning the most (eight). Along with the great teams and coaches from the past, Wyoming has also had some incredible individual players.

Sailors and Dembo notwithstanding, Thom Ratliff is probably the most recognizable name in Wyoming history.

Ratliff burst onto the Wyoming basketball scene with a vengeance and in his freshman campaign, averaging over four blocks a game. During his senior year he averaged 5.2 blocks.

Cowboy fans erupted as he sent balls flying into the stands. Ratliff ended his career ranked in the NCAA top five in career blocked shots and was selected in the first round of the 1995 NBA Draft.

Over the past six seasons, the Wyoming basketball program has enjoyed a renaissance. Wyoming has been to the postseason four times and is building on the success of past legends.

Utilizing their distinct home-court advantage, the brown and gold are looking to take their program to new heights.

—JEREMY FRANCOM  
Media relations

[ 1943 National Champions ]

Another great Wyoming team was the 1987 squad under head coach Jim Boenkeburg. Cowboy great Fennis Dembo led the Pikes to a 24-10 regular season record and an appearance in the Sweet 16. The following year Dembo graduated.

**MASCOT MAYHEM:**  
COWBOYS ARE THE ORIGINAL AMERICAN SCUM. TOUGH AND DEPENDABLE, THE BEST RUGGED COWBOYS ARE ABLE TO ENDURE HARSH LIVING CONDITIONS AND BUCKS TAKING ONLY TO HORNS.  
Dr. ROBERT GRANT, VETERINARIAN

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# REACHING OUT TO THE COMMUNITY

The University of Wyoming Athletics Department believes that a student-athlete's college education reaches beyond the classroom and the playing field. UW student-athletes are encouraged to participate in a variety of community activities.

Among some of the outreach activities that Wyoming athletes have been involved in are: Summer Sports Festivals around the state of Wyoming; fund-raising events for local United Way agencies; family fitness nights at local elementary schools and speaking to public schools and youth groups around Wyoming.

The speaking engagements include involvement of UW student-athletes in the "Just Say No Program" which encourages young people to say no to drugs and alcohol. Another program that University of Wyoming student-athletes participate in is the "Teach Them to Read" program, whereby athletes go to local elementary schools and assist children with reading and writing skills.

It is hoped that by interacting with the community, UW student-athletes and the people they touch will develop a closer relationship and be able to learn from one another.

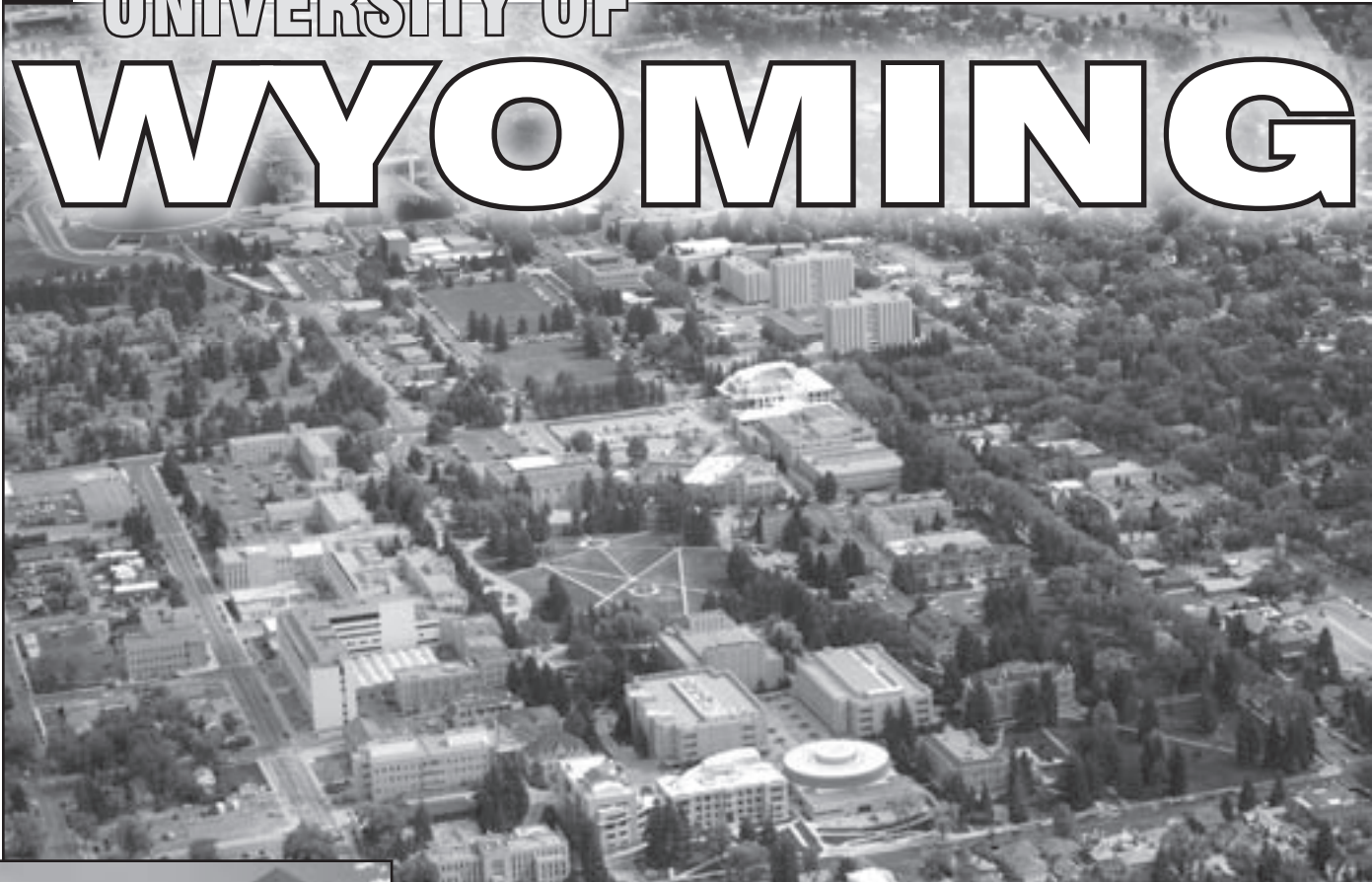
With student-athletes from as far away as California, New York, France and Senegal, it is also reassuring to those athletes and their families that they have an opportunity to become a part of the Wyoming community during their years in college.

Each year during the Christmas break, the Cowboys hold a clinic for special needs individuals in the Arena-Auditorium.





# UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING



**The College of Engineering**



**The Classroom Building**



**Wyoming's Law School**

If you are looking for a wonderful college environment, look no further than the University of Wyoming. From its' beautiful mountain setting in Laramie, to its wide range of academic offerings and its nationally-respected football program, UW offers a memorable college experience to its students.

UW provides an atmosphere that allows you to achieve both your academic and athletic goals.

The University opened Sept. 6, 1887, with one building, five professors, two tutors and 42 students. Programs of study included philosophy, arts, literature and science. We've come a long way since then.

Today, UW offers approximately 180 undergraduate, graduate and professional degree programs through the colleges of Agriculture, Arts and Sciences, Business, Education, Engineering, Health Sciences and Law, as well as through the Graduate School and the Outreach School, including the University of Wyoming/Casper College Center. This wide range of choices allows each student to explore many options to find his or her career niche. Another way we contribute to the success of our students is by offering a large number of courses each semester, making it possible for most to graduate in four years.

Our comfortable size and hands-on approach give students ample access to their professors who have as their primary responsibility the education of undergraduate students. Unlike faculty at most other major research universities, our faculty teach more than 90 percent of all credit hours. In fact, many of our most accomplished professors teach first-year courses — beginning the mentoring process with students from the first day of class. Our students have a chance to work with world-class faculty on cutting-edge projects that benefit people across Wyoming and around the world — projects like creating super-strong artificial spider silk or studying stressors that contribute to cardiovascular disease.

## University of Wyoming Distinguished Alumni

**Dr. Jerry Buss**, Owner of the Los Angeles Lakers

**Dick Cheney**, Former Vice President of the United States

**Curt Gowdy**, The Most Decorated National Sportscaster in History

**Jay Novacek**, Former All-Pro Tight End with the Dallas Cowboys

**Alan K. Simpson**, Former United States Senator

**Gen. Pete Schoomaker**, Former U.S. Army Chief of Staff

**Gerry Spence**, Noted attorney and television personality



UNIVERSITY OF

# WYOMING

The College of Health Sciences



***The First Building on Campus, Old Main,  
Now Home to the University of  
Wyoming's Administrative Offices***



***The American Heritage Center,  
Home to UW's Art Gallery and Archives***



***The Wyoming Technology Business Center (WTBC),  
A Technology-Oriented Business Incubator on  
the UW Campus***

At UW, we encourage students to develop their full potential by becoming involved as active members of the university, local community and the world. Opportunities for involvement in some 200 recognized student organizations include student government, publications, the speech and debate team and religious and cultural organizations. Many of our students also take advantage of exceptional international opportunities to become part of the world community through Study Abroad and International Programs. With so many choices, our students enjoy the benefits of meeting new people, making good friends, developing leadership skills and gaining invaluable life experiences.

UW offers a true college-town atmosphere. Laramie has a population of approximately 30,000 with a student enrollment of 13,207. The Laramie campus is composed of 80 major buildings on 785 beautifully landscaped acres. There is a pleasant mix of modern and traditional structures, many built of native Wyoming sandstone quarried northeast of Laramie. At the heart of the campus is the Wyoming Union, our "living room." Fresh from a new multi-million dollar renovation, the union is where students can kick back between classes, have a sandwich, meet friends, check out an art exhibit or study.

National publications continue to rank Wyoming as one of the nation's best. Barron's Best Buys in College Education ranked UW among the top four-year United States Institutions in its fifth edition. Most recently, Forbes.com listed Wyoming 17th among "America's Best Public Colleges" and additionally ranked UW fifth among "America's Best College Buys". UW is the perfect place for learning in a friendly yet achievement-oriented environment. As the state's sole four-year educational institution, the university receives strong support from the state and its residents. There is a dedication to making UW the best it can be in terms of its facilities, programs, people and aesthetics. Capital improvements on campus are a high priority, reflecting a commitment to maintaining UW's world-class stature.



# UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

# PLAZA



The Grand Avenue Land Partners, LLC was formed in December of 2005 to develop and operate the University of Wyoming Plaza Commercial Shops. The Plaza has had numerous shops open throughout 2008 and 2009, with additional shops expected to open in the future. Currently the UW Plaza includes such businesses as Carl's Jr., Chilis, Coal Creek Coffee, Grand Avenue Newstand, Great Clips, Jimmy John's Gourmet Sandwiches and McAlister's Deli. There is a total of 58,000 square feet available for retail shops and restaurants and another 30,000 square feet of Class A office space available for sale or lease.



*Located north and east of the UW Plaza are the University Apartments at the University of Wyoming that provide housing for families, married couples and single parents.*



# WYOMING

## ...THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE IT



They say it's beauty is like no other, and you fall in love with its people. Wyoming, it is like no place on earth. Within it's boundaries is America's first and largest national park, Yellowstone. The unbounding beauty there includes "Old Faithful" geyser and Yellowstone Lake, the world's largest high-mountain lake. There is Yellowstone Falls, so awe-inspiring, it'll take your breath away. There are over 260 different species of animals and birds located there.

Wyoming's wonders seem to be unending. There is Grand Teton National Park, whose centerpiece is the spectacular Teton Mountain Range. There is Devil's Tower, America's first national monument. There is the world's largest mineral hot springs located in Thermopolis. There is the beauty of Ten Sleep Canyon and a hundred other places.

For breathtaking beauty, Wyoming is unmatched. Its reputation brings millions of visitors to its borders each year. Plus, some of the best skiing in America can be found in Wyoming. Tourists and sportsmen can't wait to get here to enjoy the clean mountain air and limitless outdoor attractions.

The history of the great American West can be heard whistling through the trees of Wyoming. Wyoming had an historic place in the taming of the West in the late 1800's. Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid were two of Wyoming's most famous citizens during the era of lawlessness. There remain plenty of reminders of an age that will live forever in American lore.

People are Wyoming's strongest resource. These folks are down to earth, friendly and helpful. And, oh how proud they are of their Cowboys. Wyoming has some of the best fans in America. As their only four-year university, Wyoming folks are tremendously supportive of their teams.

Yet, as down to earth as they are, many Wyomingites are on the cutting edge of politics, entertainment and business. Among some of the most famous are: Vice President of the United States Dick Cheney; Dr. Jerry Buss, owner of the Los Angeles Lakers; Dean Conger, former chief photographer of the National Geographic Society; Curt Gowdy, the most decorated national sportscaster in history; Alan Simpson, former United States Senator; Gerry Spence, attorney and television personality; and General Pete Schoomaker, former U.S. Army Chief of Staff.

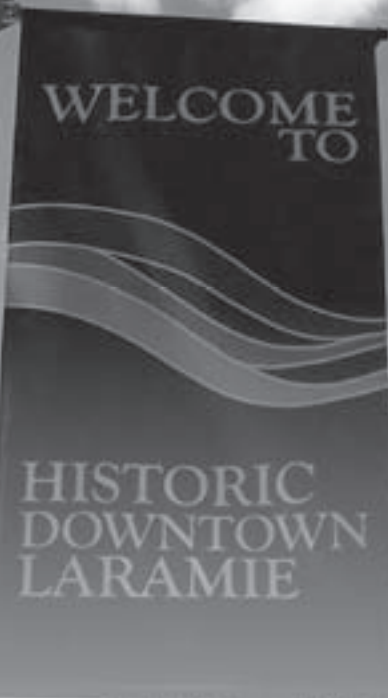
For great people, great scenery and a great education, there is no place quite like Wyoming.





# LARAMIE

...BEAUTIFUL COLLEGE TOWN



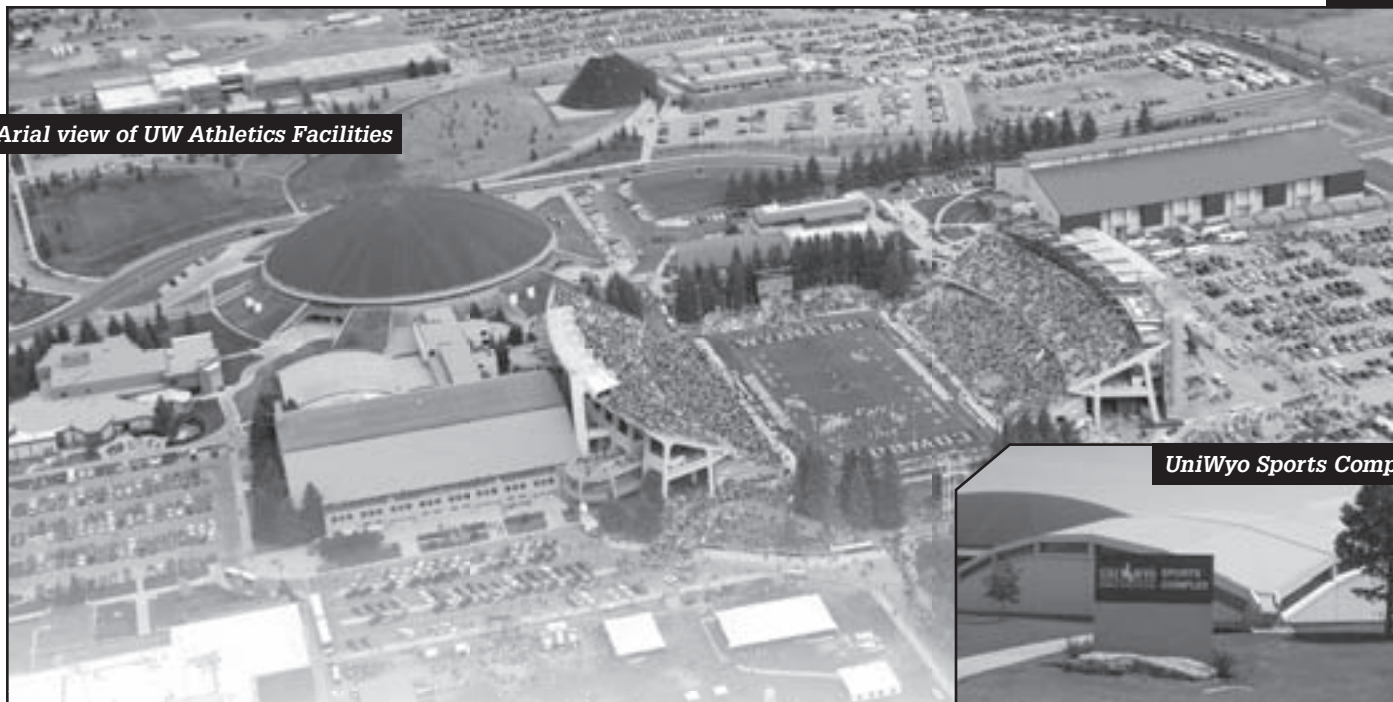
One of the best things about Laramie is its location between two beautiful mountain ranges. It's a place of blue skies and clean air. Much of the area surrounding Laramie is public National Forest land. That means great access! You can head for the nearby mountains and find yourself on a hiking, biking or skiing trail within 15 minutes. There's also nearby rock climbing at the impressive Vedauwoo formations. You can be downhill skiing in the Snowy Range within 45 minutes. Laramie is convenient to the world-class skiing offered in Steamboat Springs and other Colorado resorts.

For a different kind of fun, you can be in Denver within two and a half hours. There is an amazing array of culture throughout the area, plus the tremendous sports heritage of the Rockies, Broncos, Nuggets and Avalanche.

With its colorful Western heritage, cultural activities and outstanding outdoor recreation, the Laramie area offers a unique flavor that delights visitors from all over the world.



*Aerial view of UW Athletics Facilities*



*UniWyo Sports Complex*



# FIRST CLASS IN EVERY WAY



*Indoor Practice Facility*

*The Glenn "Red" Jacoby Golf Club*



With the addition of the Rochelle Athletics Center (RAC), opened in August 2001, the University of Wyoming boasts of athletic facilities as fine as any in college sports.

The Rochelle Athletics Center houses an 8,633 square-foot strength and conditioning center; a 4,470 square-foot academic center and a 4,829 square-foot sports medicine facility that serves the needs of all UW student-athletes. The building occupies over 46,000 square feet.

The RAC is part of an already impressive collection of athletic facilities that includes War Memorial Stadium, the Arena-Auditorium, UniWyo Sports Complex and the Glenn "Red" Jacoby Golf Club.

Jonah Field at War Memorial Stadium has been the home to Cowboy Football since 1950. It is one of the most picturesque settings in college football and seats 30,514. From your seat, you can gaze at the Laramie Mountain range to the east and the Snowy Range to the west. "The War" is the highest NCAA Division IA football stadium in the land at 7,220 feet.

The Arena-Auditorium opened in 1982 and seats 15,000 for basketball games, concerts, graduation and other major events. Also known as the "Highest Court in the Land," the Arena-Auditorium is at the highest elevation of any arena in the country.

The Glenn "Red" Jacoby Golf Club is located on the UW campus and is named for former Wyoming Athletics Director Glenn Jacoby, who served as UW Athletics Director for 27 years from 1946 until his death in 1973. The course measures 6,590 yards and plays to a par of 70.



# BUILDING WYOMING'S ATHLETIC LEGACY INTO THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

The University of Wyoming has experienced remarkable success nationally through the years on the field and in the classroom. The Curtis and Marian Rochelle Athletics Center (RAC) ensures a continuation of that success, as well as enhancing the Cowboys' reputation across the country. The Rochelle Athletics Center has allowed UW to continue its tradition of providing quality academic programs side-by-side with a quality athletics program.

Thanks to a \$4.2 million gift from the Rochelles, the largest in school history at the time, the facility began construction in May of 2000. It was completed in August of 2001 at a total cost of \$9.4 million.

Located just north of War Memorial Stadium, the RAC occupies 46,140 square feet. It includes a state-of-the-art sports medicine and treatment center, a strength and conditioning center, an academic and counseling area and large meeting rooms. It houses the Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Fame, which displays the proud athletic legacy of UW.

The expanded academic support area provides a full range of services for student-athletes. Included are networked computer stations, a student counseling area and study tables.

A broader scope and greater availability of sports medicine services includes space for treatment, practice preparation, examination/diagnosis and hydrotherapy. The strength and conditioning center allows improved weight and agility training for the Cowboys.

"We wanted our gift to help create a lasting athletic legacy for the University and for the State of Wyoming," Rochelle said after presenting the gift. "The University of Wyoming has had a major influence in our lives. We are proud to be a part of the tradition of academic and athletic excellence at the University of Wyoming."

Born in Lusk, Wyo., Rochelle received a B.S. degree in animal science from UW in 1941. While a student, he was president of his senior class.

Rochelle served as a UW Trustee from 1983 through 1989, and received a UW Trustee Award of Merit. In 1994, he was awarded the UW Medallion Service Award recognizing his outstanding service and dedication to the University. Marian, a native of Denver, is a graduate of Stephens College in Columbia, Mo., and Colorado College in Colorado Springs.

Curtis Rochelle passed away in the spring of 2005.



*Marian and the late Curtis Rochelle*



*Strength and Conditioning Facility*



*Academic Center*



*Sports Medicine Center*



# COWBOY

# TRADITION

## STEAMBOAT

The logo on the Wyoming uniforms depicts a Cowboy riding a bucking horse. This symbol has been a part of the University of Wyoming Athletics Department since the early 1920's, when UW Equipment Manager Deane Hunton obtained a photograph of a cowboy, Guy Holt, riding the world famous bucking horse Steamboat. Steamboat was born on a ranch between Laramie and Bosler in 1901, and is regarded as one of the greatest bucking horses ever. Hunton traced the photo, and had it made into a logo, that was utilized by UW athletic teams. In later years the symbol more closely resembled the logo on the state's automobile license plates which was a depiction of another horse and rider. That bucking horse also was world famous and was called "Deadman".

While there are differing opinions on exactly which horse and rider is depicted on all of UW's athletic uniforms today, it is the symbol that is important. The bucking horse and rider represents the toughness, and the never-say-die spirit that is Wyoming.

The horse and rider that Hunton traced was of Steamboat with Holt hanging on. The photo was taken at the Albany County Fairgrounds in 1903. The symbol that is currently utilized more closely resembles the bucking horse and rider on the State of Wyoming's automobile license plates. That design was developed by the then Secretary of State, Lester C. Hunt (who later became the Governor of Wyoming, and a U.S. Senator) in 1935. It was his idea to use the bucking horse and rider. The horse and rider he utilized for the license plates differs from the Steamboat image. For the plates, Hunt used a photo of a rider named "Stub" Farlow, and a horse called "Deadman". Deadman belonged to the Jackson Hole Frontier Association. The bucking horse and rider first appeared on the Wyoming license plate in 1936.

A statue honoring the symbol called "Fanning a Twister", was erected at the entrance to War Memorial Stadium in 1991.

Whether it is Steamboat or Deadman on those Cowboy and Cowgirl uniforms, one thing is certain ... the bucking-horse-and-rider logo is one of the nation's best, and most distinctive.



## COWBOY JOE

Cowboy Joe IV, a fourth generation Wyoming mascot, trots around War Memorial Stadium after each Cowboy touchdown, a tradition which started in 1950 when the Farthing Family of Cheyenne made a generous donation of a young pony to become Wyoming's mascot. This beautiful little pony is very popular with Cowboy fans of all ages.

## THE STAMPEDE

Wyoming's students cheer on all the Cowboys and Cowgirls as members of The Stampede. UW's student section is one of the loudest and most enthusiastic in the nation, inspiring the Cowboys to greater heights.





# COWBOY

# TRADITION



## CHEERLEADERS

Cheerleading is the spirit of Wyoming Athletics where traditions run deep and the enthusiasm never dies. Cowboy sports are flying high and the cheerleaders are leading the way. Under the direction of Ty'Lene Jackson, the UW Cheerleaders will be working to get the crowd involved and to boost the level of excitement to new extremes. Make this the year to get involved, share the excitement, and cheer for the Cowboys!



## PEP BAND

The popular Cowboy Pep Band performs at every Wyoming basketball game. The band's rendition of *Ragtime Cowboy Joe* never fails to get fans on their feet.



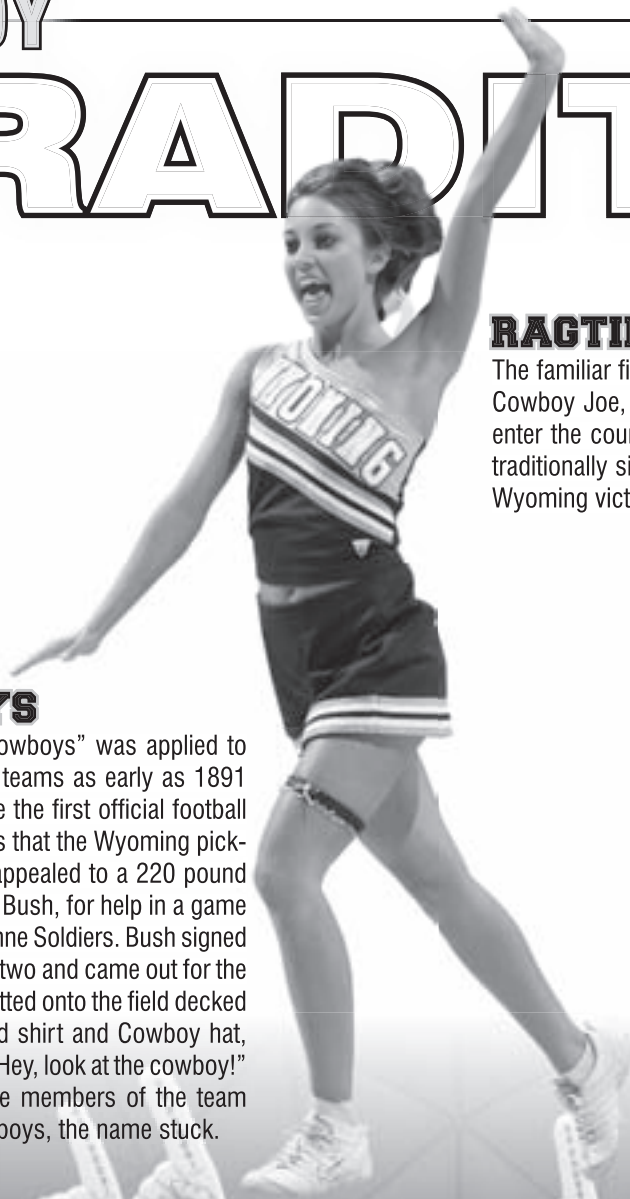
## PISTOL PETE

The entertaining antics of Pistol Pete are a longtime tradition at Cowboy home games.



# COWBOY

# TRADITION



## COWBOYS

The nickname "Cowboys" was applied to Wyoming athletic teams as early as 1891 - two years before the first official football game. The story is that the Wyoming pick-up football team appealed to a 220 pound cowpuncher, Fred Bush, for help in a game against the Cheyenne Soldiers. Bush signed up for a course or two and came out for the team. When he trotted onto the field decked out in a checkered shirt and Cowboy hat, someone yelled, "Hey, look at the cowboy!" Since many of the members of the team were also ex-cowboys, the name stuck.

## RAGTIME COWBOY JOE

The familiar fight song of the Wyoming Cowboys is Ragtime Cowboy Joe, which is performed by the band as the teams enter the court and to fire up the fans. The Cowboy players traditionally sing this song in the locker room following each Wyoming victory.

## RAGTIME COWBOY JOE

"He always sings Raggy music to the cattle as he swings back and forward in the saddle, on a horse - a pretty good horse! - he's got a syncopated gaiter, and you ought to hear the meter to the roar of his repeater; how they run - YES RUN! - when they hear him a-comin', 'cause the western folks all know, he's a high-falootin', rootin', tootin', son of a gun from ol' Wyoming, Ragtime Cowboy, Talk about your Cowboy, Ragtime Cowboy Joe!"



# OVER A CENTURY OF COWBOY BASKETBALL

The fabric of Wyoming's 102-year basketball tapestry is woven with many significant and magnificent contributions to the game, not to mention a multitude of memories to stir the emotions of every Cowboy fan.

There's that 1943 National Championship, the crown jewel of this century. And before that, the 1934 national title, selected by the Helms Foundation.

There's Les Witte, Wyoming's very first All-American, who was so dominating in his time that he was picked as one of the five best players in the nation in 1932 — legendary John Wooden was also one of the five — as well as in 1934.

There's the great All-American Kenny Sailors and his many contributions to the game including the jump shot which changed the game forevermore.

There's Flynn, and his fabulous behind the ear jumper; Tub and his leadership; Fennis and his swagger, and Marcus and his charisma.

There's a dozen other All-Americans, 27 professional draft picks; 14 NCAA and 8 NIT post-season appearances.

There are four historic facilities which have housed the Pokes, each in its own right, becoming as hostile and unique as any home-court in the land, while hosting 809 Cowboy victories during the century.

There are the millions of fans who have loyally, and with a fierce pride, shared the great times, and the not-so-great times, with their beloved Cowboys.

It all began in a small red-brick structure, located near what is now the Arts and Sciences Building, known as the "Little Red Gym". The State Legislature appropriated \$15,000 to construct the gymnasium with a capacity of 1,000. While the first game there was played in March of 1905, it was the summer of 1904, when a team representing the university was challenged by a city outfit known as the "Laramie Town Team". UW won the game 17-5, the first ever basketball victory for the brown and gold. It was the lone contest the team would play that year, forever stamping 1904 as the only undefeated campaign in Wyoming hoop history.

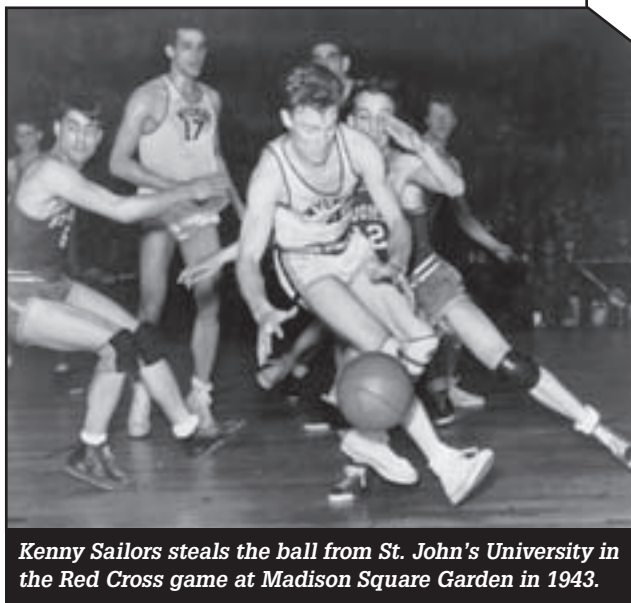
The Cowboys finished 52-40 in the Little Red Gym.

It would be five coaches and a decade later before UW would fashion another winning season. John Corbett, a Hall of Famer who would mean so much to Wyoming athletics through his career, reversed the losing trend in 1915, by directing the Pokes to a 3-2 record. During his nine seasons at the helm, he would coach three winning seasons, stepping down as head coach after the 1923-24 season.

Cowboy basketball would begin to transform from a pastime to a passion during the next six seasons. Under the direction of Stewart Clark and George McLaren, the Cowboys would begin the winning tradition as we know it today. From 1925 through 1930, those two would produce a record of 71-34, and pave the way for the era's "glory years".

It was during Clark's watch that the Cowboys moved into the Half Acre Gym. Construction of the Cowboys' next home began in 1923, at a cost of \$150,000. Considered a massive facility, the gym was just about one-half acre in size, and one of the nation's largest and most modern facilities. It had a capacity of just over 4,000. It's official dedication came on January 23, 1925, with Wyoming defeating Utah 31-29 in overtime. Known as "Hell's Half Acre" because of the difficulty for opponents to win there, Wyoming played eight perfect seasons in the gym in 26 seasons. From January of 1925 through March of 1951, the Cowboys were 222-44 in that building.

For the next 28 seasons following the Clark-McLaren era, a pair of coaches, known for their fierce competitiveness would elevate Wyoming basketball to a national level with successes that never were duplicated during Wyoming's first 100 years of basketball.



*Kenny Sailors steals the ball from St. John's University in the Red Cross game at Madison Square Garden in 1943.*

# OVER A CENTURY OF COWBOY BASKETBALL

The first of those two coaches was a reserved and shy gentleman by the name of Willard "Dutch" Witte who replaced McLaren in 1931. A Lincoln, Neb., native who coached as many as four sports while at Wyoming during the 30's, Witte would coach nine of those 28 landmark seasons. Compiling 134 wins in 185 games, Witte coached the Cowboys to five Rocky Mountain Conference Eastern Division titles and two outright league crowns.

But his most brilliant year came in 1934, when his Cowboys reeled off 20 straight wins—an accomplishment that has not been repeated—and finished the season with a conference championship, a 26-3 record and Wyoming's first national title. The Cowboys were selected as the 1934 National Champions by the Helms Athletic Foundation, the only collegiate voting poll of the era.

That season, Witte's starting five—Ed McGinty, Art Haman, John Kimball, Haskell Leuty and his brother Les — all were named to one All-America team or another. Two seasons earlier Les became Wyoming's first All-American, selected by both the Helms Foundation and the Converse Yearbook.

Under "Dutch", the Cowboys would win 52 consecutive Rocky Mountain Conference games in the Half Acre Gym.

He also coached football for six seasons, and after stepping down from coaching, served as Director of Wyoming Athletics for many years, and was a member of the National Basketball Association Rules Committee.

Witte's outstanding success was only exceeded by his successor, the legendary Everett Shelton.

It was Shelton who transformed Wyoming into a national name, a national power. For 19 seasons, and in two basketball palaces, he stalked the sidelines while directing Wyoming to 328 victories, and winning over 60 percent of his games. He remains the school's all-time winningest coach. In 1982, his life's work earned him basketball's highest honor, induction into the Basketball Hall of Fame.

Ironically, Shelton's first season at Wyoming was a dismal one. After winning his first three games as head coach, he would manage just three more wins the remainder of the year, and finish 6-10. His teams would win 20 or more games seven times following that season.

During his 19 campaigns, Shelton would coach Wyoming to eight conference championships, eight NCAA tournament appearances, and of course, the most famous season of them all, the 1943 National Championship.

The first basketball team from the Rocky Mountains to win an NCAA Basketball Championship, the 1942-43 Cowboys posted a 31-2 record, despite playing just nine home games all season. After losing at Duquesne (43-33) in the year's fourth game, the Cowboys did not lose a game to another collegiate team the remainder of the season. Their only other loss was to the Denver Legion team. The Cowboys outscored their opponents by an average of 20 points per game, and became the first UW squad to reach the century mark by beating Regis, 101-45.

Wyoming opened the NCAA Tournament beating the University of Oklahoma, 53-50, in the first round. They then beat the University of Texas, 58-54, in the semi-finals, to advance to the national championship game against Georgetown University. The Cowboys defeated Georgetown, 46-34, to claim the NCAA title.

Two days after winning the NCAA Championship, the Cowboys were asked to take on the winner of the National Invitational Tournament (NIT), St. John's, in a Red Cross benefit game. The idea of the game was to raise money for the country's war effort. It took an overtime period, but Wyoming beat St. John's 52-47, in New York's Madison Square Garden, to earn the title of World Champions of 1943.

While Shelton did a brilliant job of coaching that team, the stars were Kenny Sailors and Milo Komenich. While Sailors was scoring from the outside, Komenich was doing the damage on the inside.

A native of Hillsdale, Wyo., Sailors was a three-time All-American. He earned the honor in 1942 and 1943, and amazingly in 1946, after being away for two years serving in World War II. He was the unanimous selection for College Basketball Player of the Year in 1943, and was named the Most Valuable Player of the 1943 NCAA tournament. After the war, he was again named Player of the Year in '46. In an effort to shoot over his brother on their backyard court at home, he began toying with an offensive move in which he jumped, then shot. He turned it into an art, and is credited in most basketball circles with inventing the modern-day jump shot that revolutionized the game.



*Willard "Dutch" Witte compiled a 134-51 (.724) record from 1931-39*

# OVER A CENTURY OF COWBOY BASKETBALL

There was no basketball at Wyoming in 1943-44, due to World War II, and when it resumed in 1944-45, the Cowboys posted a losing record. But when Sailors and his teammates returned from the war, things were back on track for Wyoming basketball. The Pokes were 22-4 in 1945-46, and won the league. Shelton had great years in 1946-47 (22-6, conference champion and NCAA appearance); 1947-48 (18-9, conference title and NCAA appearance); 1948-49 (25-10, conference title and NCAA appearance); 1949-50 (25-11); 1950-51 (26-11); 1951-52 (28-7, conference title, and NCAA appearance); 1952-53 (20-10, conference title and NCAA appearance); and 1957-58 (conference title and NCAA appearance).

While his teams raised havoc in "Hell's Half Acre", Shelton was an instrumental fund raiser for War Memorial Stadium and Fieldhouse, where he coached for eight seasons, once the Cowboys moved out of the Half Acre.

Construction of War Memorial Fieldhouse began in August of 1949, and had a price tag of an estimated \$1,000,000. The Fieldhouse dedication was December 14-15, 1951, against St. Mary's (Calif.) and Indiana. Wyoming beat the Gaels and lost to the Hoosiers. At the time it was built, the Fieldhouse was the biggest structure in Wyoming at 69,680 square feet. It was a War Memorial to all Wyoming World War II veterans. In 31 seasons, the Cowboys played 381 games there.

While much of Wyoming's hoop tradition came in the 1940's under Shelton, he coached many outstanding players through the 1950's as well. Maybe the most notable was a young guy considered to be Shelton's best small player since Sailors. His name was Joe Capua, and he would become Wyoming's all-time single-season scoring leader. A tremendous sparkplug for the Cowboys from 1954 through 1956, the wiry guard from Gary, Ind., was an All-Skyline Conference selection for two seasons. In 1956 he led Wyoming in scoring at 24.5 points per game on his way to Skyline Player of the Year. That season he set a single-game scoring mark that still stands to this day. In a victory over Montana, he scored 51 points on 16 field goals and 19 of 26 free throws. Two nights later, in a win over Utah, he scored 32 points, capping the greatest individual scoring effort in back-to-back games in school history.

Another Shelton star during the late '50's was Tony Windis. A native of Long Island, N.Y., Windis was considered one of the finest shooters ever to play at Wyoming. During his senior year of 1958-59, he averaged 24.4 points per game, the fifth-best scoring season in history. The Hall of Famer was ever-so-close to breaking Capua's record on a January night in 1958 against New Mexico. While the Cowboys were romping to a 101-61 victory in the Fieldhouse, Windis was 19 of 30 from the field and 12 of 14 from the foul line for 50 points, one shy of Capua's record. Of his 50 points that night, 33 came in the second half.

Shelton's Wyoming finale was the 1958-59 season, and, ironically, it was his worst. The Pokes finished 4-22 that year. He would be replaced by one of his most outstanding former players, Bill Strannigan. A native of Rock Springs, the "Silver Fox", as he would be later known, was once considered one of the greatest athletes ever produced in the state of Wyoming. He was an outstanding football and baseball player, but hoops was his game.

Strannigan came to Wyoming after coaching at Iowa State where his claim to fame was upsetting Kansas and its great center Wilt Chamberlain. While his career record with the Cowboys was below .500, the popular Strannigan brought exciting teams and players to the Fieldhouse. His most significant season came in 1966-67, when Wyoming earned a spot in the NCAA Tournament. To earn that right, they upset Brigham Young in a playoff at Salt Lake City after the two tied for the Western Athletic Conference Championship.

That team was nothing short of amazing. In mid-February, Wyoming had an overall record of 8-12, and going nowhere. All of a sudden, the Pokes caught fire and won their final six games of the regular season, including WAC road wins at Arizona, Arizona State and New Mexico, and home wins over BYU and Utah. That run forced the playoff game with the Cougars for the league's automatic berth in the NCAA Tournament. The Pokes won that game and drew UCLA and Lew Alcindor in the NCAA's first round. They lost that one, and then a consolation game to Texas-El Paso in the tournament. Strannigan also coached the Cowboys to a pair of NIT appearances in 1968-69 and 1969-70.



*Flynn Robinson, with his behind the ear jump shot, thrilled Cowboy fans from 1963-65.*

# OVER A CENTURY OF COWBOY BASKETBALL

During his era, Strannigan brought some of the greatest players in school history to the Wyoming campus including Flynn Robinson, Leon Clark, Tom Asbury, Dick Sherman, Mike Eberle, Stan Dodds, Carl Ashley and Harry Hall.

The best of the best was Robinson. Considered the greatest pure shooter in Wyoming history, Fabulous Flynn could hit his patented one-hand jumper from behind his right ear from any place on the floor. Playing from 1963 through 1965, he remains second on Wyoming's career scoring list with 2,049 points. That total was the career record for 20 seasons. Ironically Robinson and Strannigan were inducted into the University of Wyoming Athletics Hall of Fame in the same class of 1994.

During his 14 seasons as head coach, Strannigan posted six winning records, and six of his teams scored over 2,000 points in a season. His 1965-66 team is still sixth on the single-season team scoring list with 2,366 points in 26 games. That team scored over 100 points 10 times, including 120 against Nevada, the second-highest mark in school history. Strannigan teams were offensive minded.

When he stepped down in 1972-73, Strannigan was replaced by his assistant coach, close friend George "Moe" Radovich. A great player for the Cowboys and another great Cowboy Hall of Famer, Moe's Cowboys struggled during his three seasons at the helm. In 1976 he was replaced by Don DeVoe. The tall, slender DeVoe came to Wyoming after a highly-successful stint at Virginia Tech. Although he stayed just two seasons (he moved on to Tennessee), he brought to Laramie a couple of players who would return Cowboy basketball to greatness, Charles "Tub" Bradley and Kenneth Ollie.

After DeVoe's departure following the 1977-78 season, the Cowboys struggled hiring a head coach, but finally settled on a guy who had produced outstanding success at the University of Montana. His name was Jim Brandenburg, and he would bring Wyoming basketball back to national prominence.

The first thing he did was to convince Bradley and Ollie to stay at Wyoming. Cowboy fans would be glad he did. By the time those two were seniors, the Cowboys were one of the nation's elite teams. Under Brandenburg's guidance, the Cowboys showed steady improvement. They were 15-12 in 1978-79, 18-10 in 1979-80, and bell-ringers in 1980-81, at 24-6. That team would advance to the NCAA Tournament, beating Howard University in the opening round (78-43), but narrowly losing to Illinois (67-65). It was Bradley and Ollie who keyed the season.

No Wyoming fan will ever forget the final home weekend of the '80-81 season, when the Cowboys hosted Brigham Young and Utah in the Fieldhouse. All three teams were involved in a three-way battle for the league title. The BYU game was played first on Thursday, February 26, and it was an epic. The game went two overtimes before the Cowboys came away with an 86-84 win over the Danny Ainge-led Cougars. One of the important figures in the game was a sophomore guard by the name of Mike Jackson who hit two long jumpers in the final minute-and-a-half of regulation to send the game to OT. But it was Bradley who was something to see. He finished with 31 points, including six of eight from the free throw line in the second overtime. It was an unforgettable night in the Fieldhouse.

The Cowboys were not done. The second-half of the weekend doubleheader brought seventh-ranked Utah to town. Even though the Utes had clinched the crown with a victory at CSU two nights before, the Wyoming-Utah game would be a classic in its own right. This one took on a different complexion, a physical, defensive struggle. With Ollie's 19 points leading the way, the Cowboys beat the Utes, 53-50 to finish with a perfect 14-0 record at home, the first time that had happened since 1946. The two weekend games also concluded the last full season in War Memorial Fieldhouse.

The Cowboys returned to the NCAA Tournament the next season of 1981-82 with Jackson and Bill Garnett leading the way. Wyoming finished 23-7, defeated Southern Cal in the tourney's first round, then lost a tough one to Patrick Ewing and Georgetown. That certainly was not the end of postseason play during the Brandenburg Era.

Without question it was Brandenburg, Bradley and Ollie who ignited the state of Wyoming, and brought Cowboy basketball back. Because of them a new basketball palace was planned and constructed. Sadly, Bradley and Ollie had already graduated before they could play in the new building. But the Arena-Auditorium was



Tony Windis and Coach Ev Shelton



# OVER A CENTURY OF

# COWBOY BASKETBALL

very definitely their legacy. Both Bradley and Brandenburg have since been inducted into the UW Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Fame.

The final game in the Fieldhouse, one of the greatest home buildings the country had ever seen, came on February 13, 1982. Don Haskins and UTEP received the honor of playing the last game, and saddened every Cowboy fan by winning the game, 45-37 in a typical pre-shot-clock Haskins game.



Charles "Tub" Bradley

The Arena-Auditorium opened seven days later, on Feb. 20, 1982, the final game of that season. A record crowd of 15,004 jammed into the new place to watch the Cowboys romp over Air Force, 59-29. It would have been difficult to beat the Cowboys on that energy-filled night. It was the final home game for the Pokes' Hall of Famer Bill Garnett, and he went out in style with 16 points and 12 rebounds.

Built at a cost of \$15,668,200, construction began in November of 1979. At over 200,000 square feet, the Double A has the largest seating capacity in the state. Over its 22-year history it has attracted 71 crowds of over 10,000, and has been sold out 15 times. Currently, Wyoming is 288-93 in the building.

After that "Dome of Doom" opening, Brandenburg's real fireworks, however, were yet to come. After three consecutive "quiet" seasons, Brandenburg and his Cowboys made some big noise in 1985-86, thanks to a player who signed at Wyoming after few had recruited him. He would become known as the "Electric Man", and would finish his career as the greatest player in Cowboy history.

Fennis Dembo was a sophomore in 1985, when the Cowboys embarked on one of the most exciting seasons in 40 years. The team actually lost five of its first nine games that season. But from late December through late March, no team in the country played better. The Cowboys won 18 of their last 23 games of the season, to finish 24-12. Down the stretch, each game became more historic than the last.

The first big one came in the final regular-season game at Brigham Young. The winner of the game would host the Western Athletic Conference Tournament. With Dembo playing at his electric best, the Cowboys upset BYU, 65-62. The WAC was coming to Laramie. The Double A never looked better as the Cowboys hosted the first eight-team WAC Tournament. Things did not look so great when UTEP beat the Pokes in the tournament final, 65-64 to earn the automatic NCAA bid. It would be a blessing in disguise, however.

Although they lost in that WAC finale, the Cowboys were selected to host an NIT game with Texas A&M as the opponent, March 13, 1985. They won that game. The crowd and the way they played earned for them a second home game. This one came against Loyola-Marymount. The Pokes won that game as well in front of an even bigger and more enthusiastic throng. Because of that the Pokes were surprisingly awarded a third home game. The opponent was Clemson, and the winner would go to New York and the NIT semifinals.

A record-setting crowd of 15,028 jammed the Double A to see their Cowboys take on the ACC opponent. Dembo was at his best, as was his sophomore teammate Eric Leckner. The Cowboys overcame an early Tiger lead, and went on to win 62-57. With the band playing "New York, New York", and Dembo sitting on the rim at the west end of the floor, it was final, the Cowboys were going to the Big Apple.

They would beat Florida (67-58) to play in the finals, only to lose to Ohio State (73-63). But what a magical season it was, and it set the stage for even bigger doings the next season.

The Pokes fashioned another tremendous season in 1986-87, but like the UTEP loss in the tournament the previous year, experienced the low before enjoying the high.

They lost their final three games of the '86-87 regular season, Brigham Young at home and New Mexico and UTEP on the road, to limp into the conference tournament at Albuquerque. But there, they found new life and new ways to win in the WAC tourney, beating Utah by two, UTEP by three, and New Mexico by two in the championship. They had earned the automatic NCAA berth. Making it even more special was the fact the Cowboys were sent to Salt Lake City for the tournament insuring a huge throng of loyal followers.

# OVER A CENTURY OF COWBOY BASKETBALL

With Cowboy fans filling nearly half of the Special Events Center, Wyoming upended Virginia (64-60) in the first round of the tournament, and drew UCLA and Reggie Miller in the second round. In one of the best games of his career, Dembo out-dueled Miller to lead the Cowboys to the stunning victory. The Wyoming legend finished with 41 points and nine rebounds, including 16-of-16 free throws, and the Pokes were going to the "Sweet 16" in Seattle. They would lose there to UNLV, which went on to play in the NCAA championship game, but it did nothing to tarnish one of the most sensational seasons in Cowboy history.

Sadly, and surprisingly, Brandenburg left after that season for San Diego State with a cupboard full of outstanding players. He was replaced by Benny Dees, a personable Cowboy basketball letterman who would coach for six seasons. He had the pleasure — despite the immense pressure — of coaching Dembo and Leckner during their senior seasons. That 1987-88 outfit finished with a 26-6 record, winning the WAC Tournament at Provo. The Cowboys defeated San Diego State, Colorado State — on a buzzer shot by Leckner — and UTEP to earn the NCAA's automatic bid. This time things did not go as well. They lost in the first round to a high-scoring Loyola-Marymount team in a shootout, 119-115.

Dees would finish with a 104-77 record over six seasons, including a pair of 20-win campaigns, that NCAA Tournament appearance, and one NIT appearance (1990-91). Dembo would finish his career as the most nationally-recognized Cowboy of all time, and clearly the school's best. He holds the career record for points scored, is second in steals, third in rebounds, and assists and sixth in blocked shots.

Joby Wright (1994-97) and Larry Shyatt (1998) would direct the Cowboy fortunes for the next five seasons before Steve McClain would take over, and return Wyoming basketball to national prominence.

In his first six seasons, McClain directed Wyoming through one of its most successful periods in history. In four of those six years the Cowboys appeared in postseason play. He posted the fifth-best winning percentage in school history while his teams averaged 20 wins per season through his first five years. His teams captured two of the first four MWC titles, sharing the 2000-01 season, and winning the 2001-02 outright. The back-to-back regular-season conference titles were the first since the 1980-81 and 1981-82 seasons.

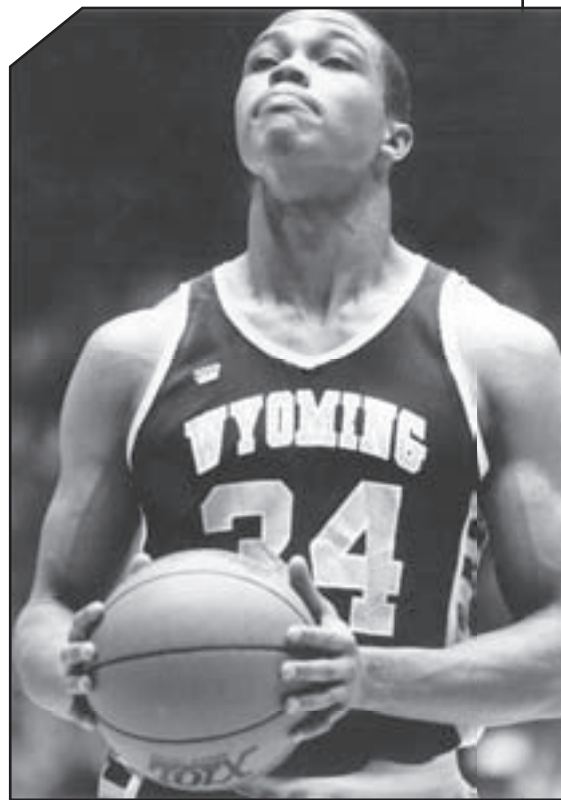
McClain coached two All-Americans in his first six seasons, Josh Davis and Marcus Bailey. Bailey was on his way to one of the great careers in hoop history when it was tragically and prematurely ended during the ninth game of his senior year. In a win over South Carolina, he tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee. He would never play for the Cowboys again.

The high point of the Cowboys' return to national prominence was their appearance in the 2002 NCAA Tournament. It marked their first appearance since 1988.

In one of the most thrilling games ever in the Double A, the Cowboys edged Utah (57-56) before the biggest crowd in school history (16,089) to win the MWC title outright.

After some anxious moments during Selection Sunday, the Cowboys drew number-six-ranked Gonzaga in the first round of the NCAA West Regional in Albuquerque, N.M. The Zags came into the game with a 29-4 record, and were heavily favored. The Cowboys played maybe their finest game of the season in throwing a balanced attack at the Bulldogs. Davis finished with 11 points, 14 rebounds and five blocked shots. Uche Nsonwu-Amadi added 14 points and Bailey 13. It was another one of those wins that ignited the state, and certainly thrust the Cowboys into the national limelight. They would play Arizona in the second round, and lose to the Wildcats, 68-60, finishing the season with a 22-9 record.

Now, a new century of Cowboy basketball is upon us and head coach Heath Schroyer and his Cowboys have begun returning the program to national prominence. It's exciting to think what kind of history will be made during Wyoming's second century.



*Fennis Dembo is Wyoming's all-time scoring leader with 2,311 career points.*

# OVER A CENTURY OF COWBOY BASKETBALL

## LITTLE RED GYM

(1904-05 through 1923-24)

In January, 1903 the Wyoming State Legislature appropriated \$15,000 to construct a gymnasium, "The Gym," capacity 1,000. Called the Little Red Gym because of the color of the building's bricks, this was the first tangible evidence that the governing authorities of the state assumed any responsibility for the recreational side of student life at UW.

The birthplace of Cowboy basketball, the first recorded men's game in the Little Red Gym was an exhibition on March 24, 1905, between two UW squads.

Wyoming was 52-40 in the early years of Cowboy Basketball in the Little Red Gym.

After the Half Acre Gym was built, the Little Red Gym was used primarily as a theatre and assembly hall. It sat where the modern day A&S building is on campus.



The exterior of the Little Red Gym.

*"I was a rabid Cowboy Basketball fan as a boy growing up in Cheyenne. I used to watch games in Half Acre from the balcony with my legs hanging over the edge. Les Witte and Ed McGinty were some of my favorite players to watch.*

*"Hell's Half Acre had one of the biggest playing courts in America at the time and we used to run teams to death there. Teams died at the altitude and we could play with anyone. Even the name, Hell's Half Acre, made it memorable.*

*"Wyoming had as good of fans as anywhere in America. They always packed the place.*

*"Wyoming Basketball means a lot to me."*

— CURT GOWDY

UW Hall of Fame member,  
Cowboy Basketball letterman 1940-42

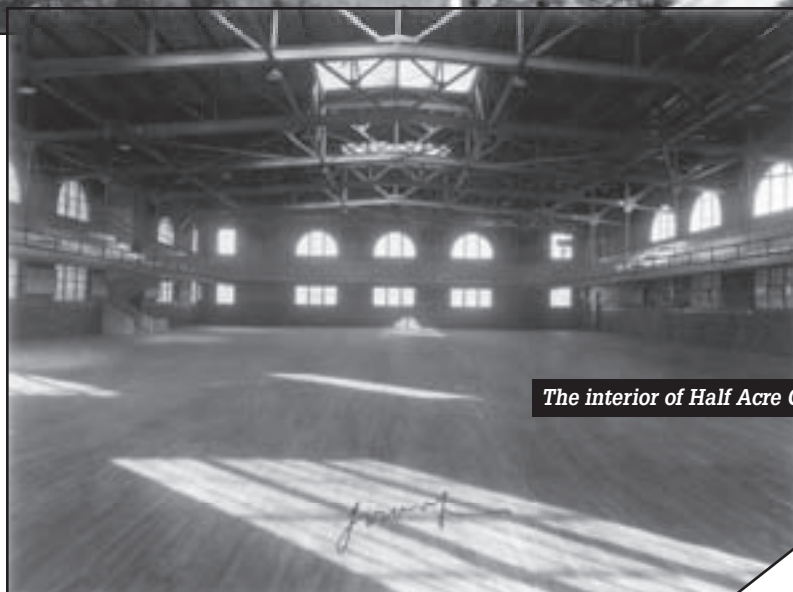
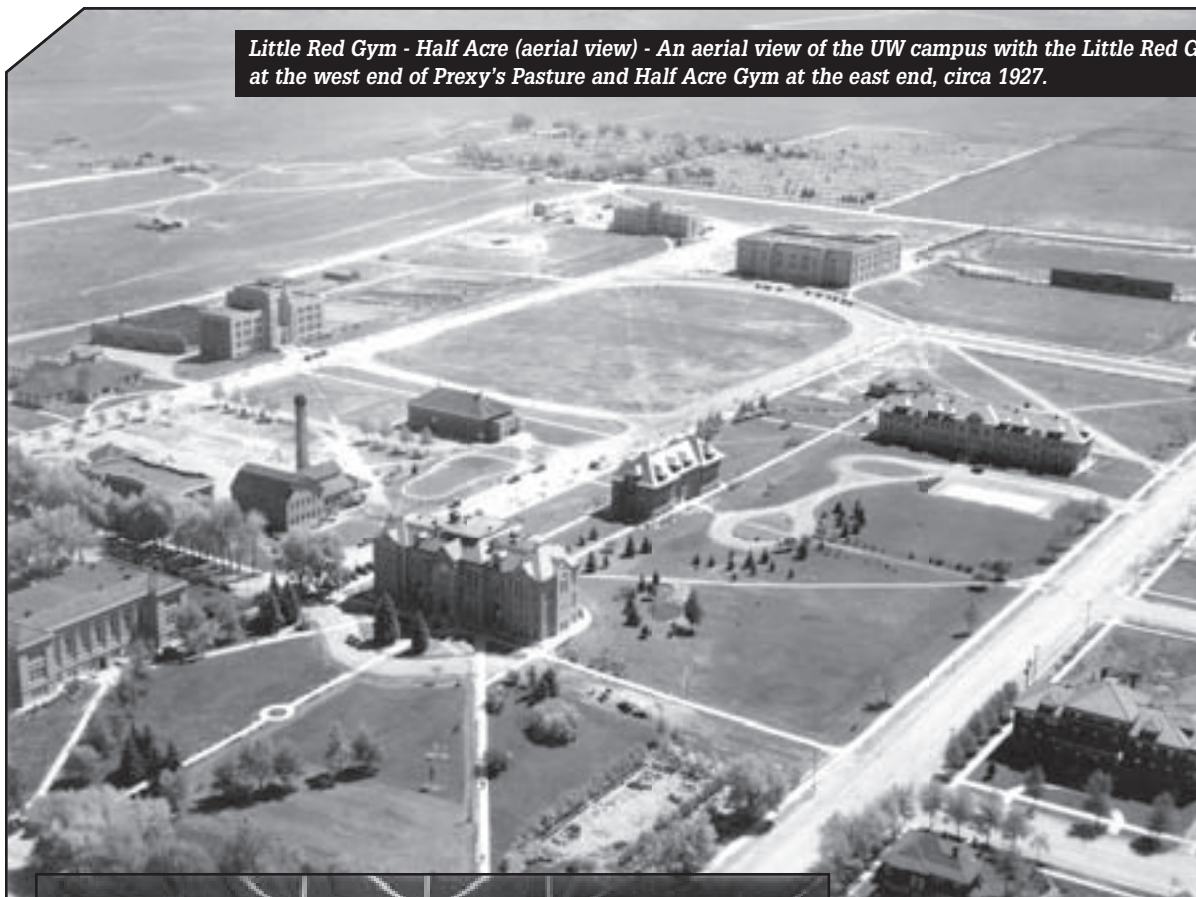


The Little Red Gym with Half Acre Gym under construction in the background, circa 1924.



# OVER A CENTURY OF COWBOY BASKETBALL

*Little Red Gym - Half Acre (aerial view) - An aerial view of the UW campus with the Little Red Gym at the west end of Prexy's Pasture and Half Acre Gym at the east end, circa 1927.*



*The interior of Half Acre Gym.*

# OVER A CENTURY OF COWBOY BASKETBALL

## HALF ACRE GYM

(1924-25 through 1950-51)

Construction of the Half Acre Gym began in 1923, at a cost of \$150,000. Considered a massive facility, the gym was approximately one-half acre in size, and the largest and most modern facility of the time between Syracuse University and California, according to a Branding Iron article from 1924. Half Acre had a capacity of over 4,000, nearly four times the size of the Little Red Gym.

The Half Acre Gym was officially dedicated on January 23, 1925, when Wyoming beat Utah 31-29 in an overtime game.

The gym was also used by fans during away games. Play-by-play action was posted on the "Grid Board", a grid-graph setup on the floor that flashed action by way of telegraph messages from a signal sent by the Western Union Telegraph Company. Crowds of 1,000 or more were reported to attend these events.

Dubbed "Hell's Half Acre" because of the difficulty for opponents to win there, Wyoming played eight perfect seasons in this gym. Coach Everett F. Shelton had three undefeated home seasons in a row in 1941, 1942 and 1943. Other spotless years were 1929, 1930, 1933, 1934 and 1947.

In 26 seasons from January of 1925 to March of 1951, the Pokes won 222 games, losing only 44 in the Half Acre Gym.



The interior of Half Acre Gym, 1947.

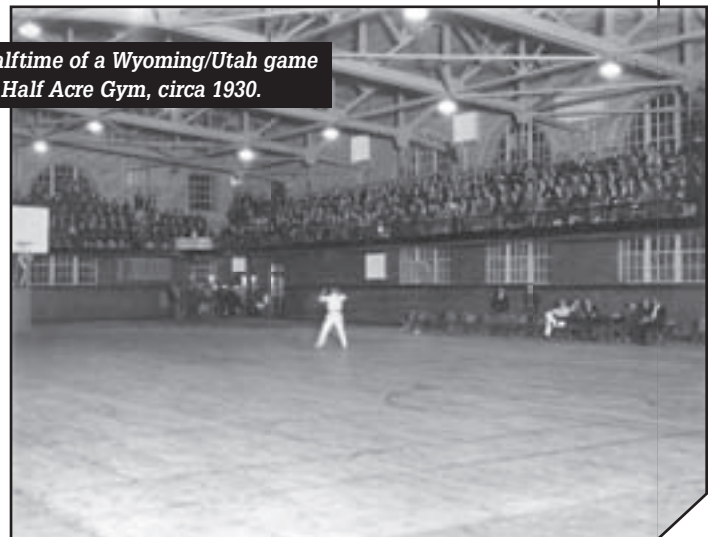
*"In those days Half Acre was the largest facility in the area. It was a good floor to play and dribble on, even compared to some of the largest arenas in the country. There was lots of room under the baskets so that I could finish my drives and not run into a wall like at some other gyms. Hell's Half Acre was a great place to play.*

*"We bussed in folks from all over the state for games in that gym. Sometimes there were so many fans that there was no place to put them. Fans were hanging from the rafters. Since they came from so far away UW officials squeezed in as many as they could and then put the rest in other buildings on campus so they could follow the games from there."*

— KENNY SAILORS

UW Hall of Fame member, All-American, 1942-43, 1946,  
NCAA Tournament Most Valuable Player and  
College Basketball Player of the Year, 1943

Halftime of a Wyoming/Utah game  
in Half Acre Gym, circa 1930.





# OVER A CENTURY OF COWBOY BASKETBALL

*A game in Half Acre Gym between Wyoming and Utah.*



*An overflow crowd in Half Acre Gym.*



*The Mountain States Conference championship trophy is presented after a game between Wyoming and BYU in Half Acre Gym.*

# OVER A CENTURY OF COWBOY BASKETBALL WAR MEMORIAL FIELDHOUSE

**(1951-52 through 1981-82)**

Construction of the War Memorial Fieldhouse began in August of 1949. Cost to construct the Fieldhouse was estimated at \$1,000,000. Exact cost was not known since the football stadium was built at the same time.

The Fieldhouse dedication was Dec. 14-15, 1951, with games against St. Mary's (Calif.) and Indiana. UW defeated the Gaels, 78-69, but lost to the Hoosiers by two points, 57-55. Over that weekend, Colorado A&M also played those visiting two teams in War Memorial Fieldhouse.

At the time it was built, War Memorial Fieldhouse was the largest building in the state of Wyoming, 69,680 square feet in area. The Fieldhouse had a state-of-the-art \$20,000 removable basketball floor which was raised 16 inches off the tanbark arena floor.

The building is a War Memorial to all Wyoming World War II veterans. An all-purpose facility, the Fieldhouse is still used for its artificial turf surface and 160-meter track.

Jim Brandenburg's 1980-81 Cowboy squad, featuring Charles Bradley and Bill Garnett, went undefeated at home in the Fieldhouse that season.

In 31 seasons of Cowboy Basketball in the Fieldhouse, 1,550,135 fans saw 381 games. The largest crowd, 10,580, coming for a Cowboy win over BYU, 63-59, on Feb. 27, 1953.



*The cornerstone of War Memorial Fieldhouse is laid by UW President George Duke Humphrey, Board of Trustees President Milward L. Simpson and Board members, Sept. 23, 1950.*

*"The first Cowboy Basketball game I saw was in the winter of '57. We would drive across the state from Kemmerer to Laramie whenever my family could.*

*"War Memorial Fieldhouse was a great facility for basketball. The crowd was so close to the floor and that place had its own unique atmosphere. More than once I saw players trip and almost fall when they were getting on the raised floor. The old trophy room on the south end had a lot of great memories.*

*"I'll always remember the Arizona booster who would bring a drum to the games here. He would later help several of us Wyoming fans get tickets to a sold-out Arizona and Kansas State game, while we were in Manhattan for a meeting.*

*"The most memorable game for me in that building was in 1981 when we beat BYU in double overtime. Wyoming had Charles Bradley and Bill Garnett and BYU had Danny Ainge. What a great game."*

**— ARLOWE HULETT**

*20 year spotter for internal PA,  
long-time Cowboy Basketball fan and supporter*



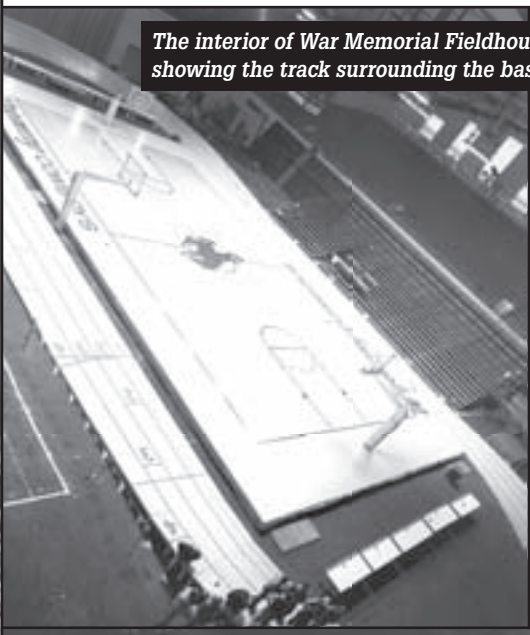
*A unique multi-use facility, War Memorial Fieldhouse has been used for indoor rodeos, track meets, wrestling events, as well as basketball games and assorted other uses over the last 50-plus years.*



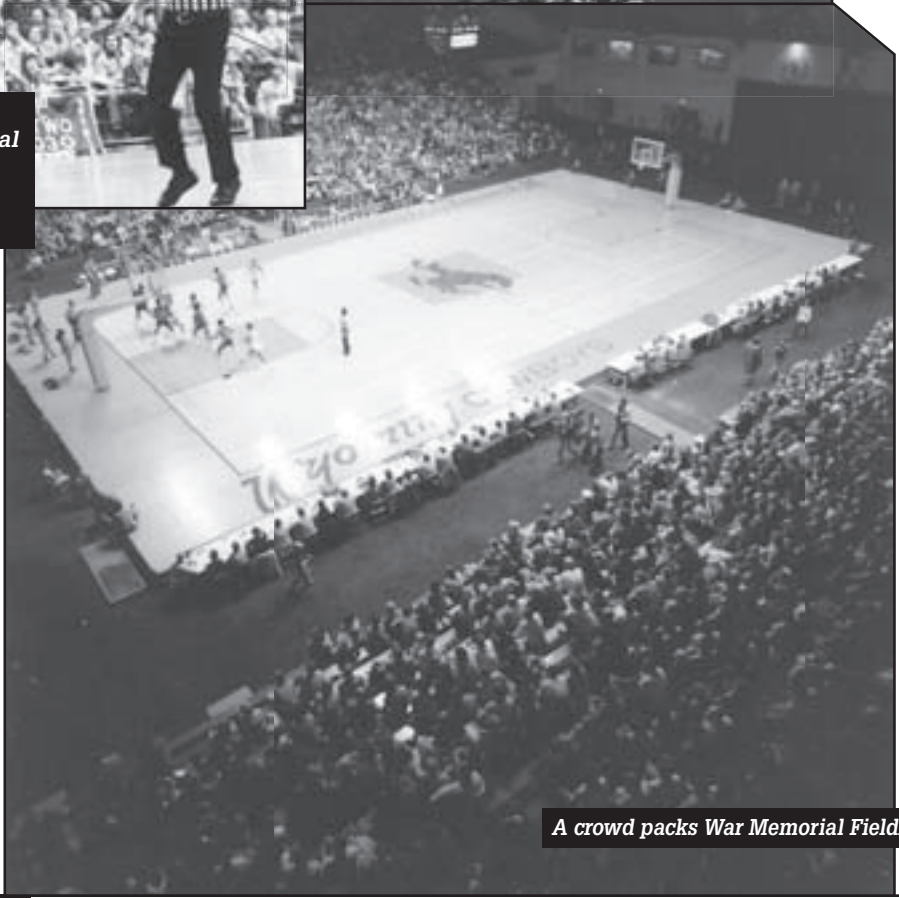
# OVER A CENTURY OF COWBOY BASKETBALL



*Cowboy Kenneth Ollie puts in a layup during the 1976-77 season in War Memorial Fieldhouse. The official in the photo is former basketball referee and current Denver broadcaster Irv Brown.*



*The interior of War Memorial Fieldhouse, showing the track surrounding the basketball floor.*



*A crowd packs War Memorial Fieldhouse.*

# OVER A CENTURY OF COWBOY BASKETBALL

## ARENA-AUDITORIUM

(1982-83 through present)

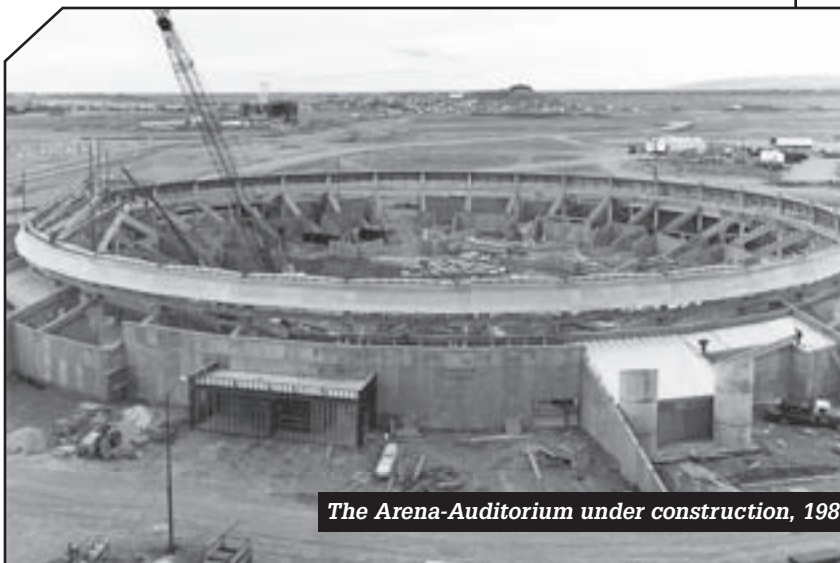
In February 22, 1979, the Joint Appropriations Committee of the state legislature approved \$15,668,200 for the new Arena-Auditorium. Construction began in November of that year.

The first Cowboy game played in the Arena-Auditorium was February 20, 1982. Wyoming defeated Air Force 59-29 in the final home game of that season before a capacity crowd of 15,004.

With nearly 200,000 square feet, the Arena-Auditorium still embraces the largest indoor seating capacity within the State of Wyoming.

Over the 22-year history of the Arena-Auditorium, Cowboy Basketball has attracted 71 crowds over 10,000. There have been 15 sellouts (crowds of 15,000 or more) in the history of the Double A. The largest crowd, 16,089, to date coming March 2, 2002, to watch UW defeat Utah 57-56, for the conference title.

Tagged "The Dome of Doom" by Wyoming fans, the Cowboys have won 76.6 percent of their home games in the Double A. Currently UW's record in the Double A stands at 288-93 (.752). In conference home games, Wyoming is 138-67 (.667).



The Arena-Auditorium under construction, 1981.



The Double A is the present home for the 1943 NCAA Championship banner.

"I saw my first Cowboy game in '44 at the base in Cheyenne. The national championship team played and I got in free since I was a paperboy at the time. I did make it over to Laramie to see some games in Half Acre and that was an exciting place to watch a game. The crowds were always large since we had such a good team.

"One of the best players, if not the best, that I've watched in UW's facilities over the years was John Pilch. He was nothing but elbows and a great player, a tough, tough player.

"Most of the games I've watched were in the Fieldhouse and the Arena. The Fieldhouse always made me a little jumpy because that place would literally shake when the crowd would get going.

"Wyoming's basketball facilities have always been as good as anyone's in the nation, if not better. Laramie has always been a good place to watch a game."

— MAURY BROWN

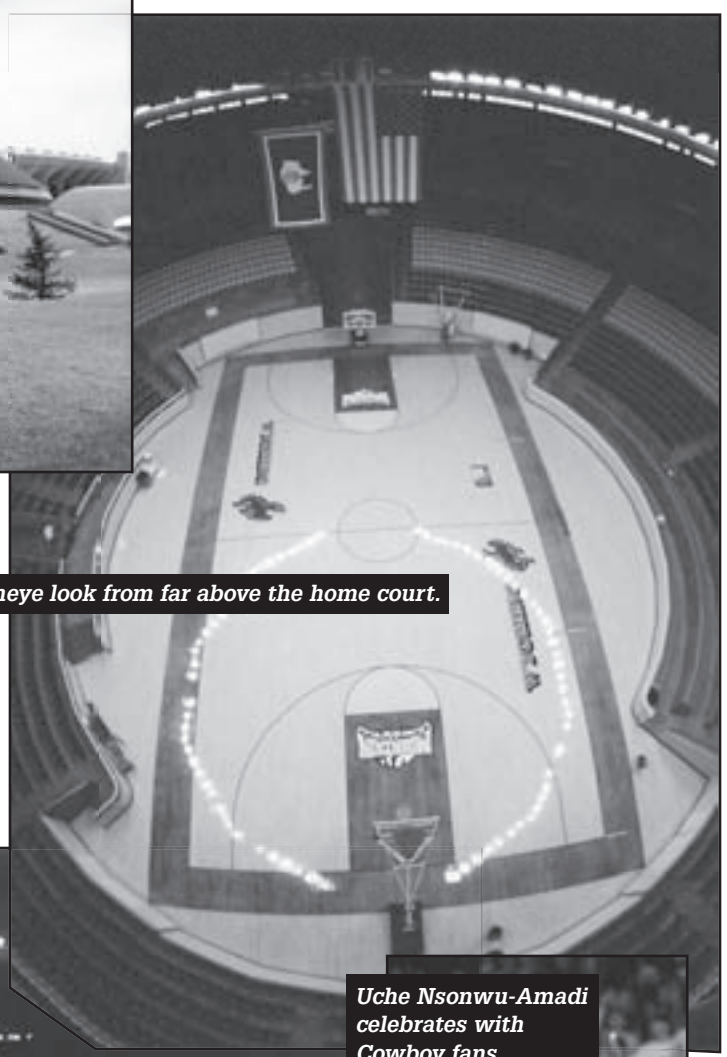
Long-time Cowboy Basketball fan and supporter



# OVER A CENTURY OF COWBOY BASKETBALL



*The Arena-Auditorium.*

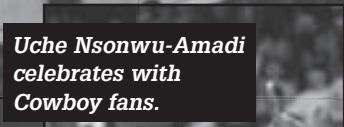


*A fisheye look from far above the home court.*

*A special thanks to John Waggener and the American Heritage Center for their help with photos and research.*



*A packed house for the Utah vs. Wyoming game.*



*Uche Nsonwu-Amadi celebrates with Cowboy fans.*



# UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME

## Men's Basketball Inductees



*Mike Jackson is the latest member of the Hall of Fame, inducted September 4, 2009.*



### MEN'S BASKETBALL

- Fennis Dembo, 1985-88, Inducted 1993
- Kenny Sailors, 1941-46, Inducted 1993
- Ev Shelton, 1939-59 (coach), Inducted 1993
- Johnny Winterholler, 1936-39, Inducted 1993
- 1943 NCAA Championship Basketball Team, Inducted 1993
- Flynn J. Robinson, 1963-65, Inducted 1994
- William Strannigan, 1941-42 (player), 1960-73 (coach), Inducted 1994
- Charles W. "Tub" Bradley, 1979-81, Inducted 1996
- Milward L. Simpson, 1917-21, Inducted 1996
- C. Keith Bloom, 1947-50, Inducted 1997
- Curt Gowdy, 1940-42, Inducted 1998
- Eric Leckner, 1985-88, Inducted 1998
- John Pilch, 1947-48-49, Inducted 1999
- Tony Windis, 1957-59, Inducted 1999
- Jim Brandenburg, 1978-87 (coach), Inducted 2000
- Joe Capua, 1954-56, Inducted 2001
- Bill Garnett, 1979-82, Inducted 2001
- George "Moe" Radovich, 1950-52, Inducted 2002
- Reginald Slater, 1988-92, Inducted 2002
- Willard A. "Dutch" Witte, 1931-39 (coach), Inducted 2003
- Leon Clark, 1963-66, Inducted 2004
- Theo Ratliff, 1992-95, Inducted 2005
- Stan Dodds, 1968-70, Inducted 2006
- Milo Komenich, 1942-46, Inducted 2006
- Dick Sherman, 1963-66, Inducted 2007
- Mike Jackson, 1980-83, Inducted 2009



*Fennis Dembo, Wyoming's all-time scoring leader, greets fellow Hall of Famer Flynn Robinson, who ranks third on the all-time scoring list.*