



Bob McKillop
Class of 2011

Bob McKillop was born on March 3, 1924, in Oroville, CA. He attended local elementary schools and graduated from Oroville High School (OHS) in 1942. While at OHS, he played basketball all four years, three on the varsity team that won a championship each of his three years. Bob also earned all-league honors in basketball and was the school's number one tennis player in each of those years. He was the Oroville city tennis champion when he was a senior and a member of the Block O Society all through high school.

In addition to being an outstanding athlete, Bob served as Student Body Vice President when he was a senior, was the OHS delegate to Boys State when he was a junior, and was an accomplished trumpet player in the school band for four years. He marched in parades playing the trumpet while his brother Jack played the drums. Bob was also a member of the Oroville Tiger dance band. Upon graduation, he was awarded a basketball scholarship to the University of Santa Clara. Oroville Union High School District (OUHSD) Hall of Fame coach, Hugh Harrison, once stated, "Bobby was the greatest basketball player I have ever seen."

During his growing-up-years, Bob's community activities included working for the Walsh & Ricketts grocery store, playing trumpet in the Elk's Drum and Bugle Corps, selling newspapers on the street, working for PG&E and playing second base for the Oroville Olives semi-pro baseball team.

Bob's collegiate career was interrupted when, from 1943 to 1946, he served as a radio operator under General George S. Patton in the 354th Infantry Regiment, US Army in the Rhineland & European Theatre. He received his honorable discharge from the Army at Camp Beale in May of 1946.

In the fall of 1946, he returned to Santa Clara University, where he was the leading scorer for the Broncos basketball team for three years, won the then coveted San Francisco Cow Palace player of the year award as a senior, and made all-tourney at a Division I college tournament played in Madison Square Garden.

He played on the varsity baseball team during the 1948 season and earned his Bachelor's Degree from Santa Clara in 1950.

Bob's thirty year career in public education began when he took a teaching position at Winters High School and continued at Hayward High School where he taught physical education and coached basketball and golf, winning several championships in both sports. He also served as Athletic Director, a position he held until his retirement.

Bob believed that his educational experiences and athletic journeys through high school and college gave him the knowledge and ability to do what he loved most — to teach, coach and help in the development of young minds.

Prior to the California State Basketball Championships being held, the Tournament of Champions staged in the Bay Area was the premier high school post-season event and the forerunner to the California State playoffs. Bob served on that board while working in Hayward and continued in that capacity following his retirement. He also worked clinics for golf and tennis and acted as Marshall on his home golf course.

Bob was inducted into the Northern California Sports Hall of Fame in 1984 and was voted into the University of Santa Clara Hall of Fame in 2001. He was one of the top twenty-two cagers selected as one of Santa Clara's best players during the first half century.

Bob's sister-in-law, Norma McKillop, wrote, "No doubt the idea of teaching and coaching took seed in Bob's mind through his inspiration and admiration of Coach Harrison, who appointed Bob to coaching the OHS "D" basketball team".

She further states, "He took great pride in being a small-town boy, who, through his experiences at Oroville High School, became successful in preparing his students for the future. He made a difference and gave Oroville much credit for his success".

Bob passed away in Oroville on November 14, 2007.