



Duard Millet Class of 2009

Duard Millet came to OUHS in 1954. That era's student athletes were arguably the best in school history. Duard brought his style of coaching and champions began to flow from OUHS like paper bills pressed at a mint.

Coach Millet retired from courtside in 1968 after coaching four different levels of boy's teams to 25 Sierra Foothill League titles (451 wins and 114 losses). Duard coached six additional years by helping restart the OHS girl's basketball program, which had been sidelined since WWII. The Duard Millet tournament is named in his honor.

Duard was qualified having earlier introduced controversial full court, running basketball to the BYU women's program. He coached a Western States championship women's team in 1946. By any standards, his record is quite an accomplishment.

Duard was raised by his grandparents and an aunt in Rockville, UT after his parents divorced in 1921. He attended Hurricane High School, 24 miles from Rockville. Therefore, Duard stayed with friends much of the time. At Hurricane, he played all sports. He also coached baseball before graduating in 1939.

After a tryout with the Cincinnati Redlegs, Duard enrolled for two years at Branch Agricultural College in Cedar City, UT. Later he chose a scholarship to Brigham Young University. The 1941-42 Cougar basketball team finished first and placed second in the NIT at New York. While at BYU, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps V-12 program.

Shortly before being shipped overseas, Duard and Shirley McAllister began their marriage, now in its 64th year. They had six children, but tragically lost two daughters.

In August, 1945, Duard was deployed to Okinawa. It had been surrendered but regular skirmishes continued. Over 250,000 people died during the 83-day battle. He remembers the horrible carnage on the beaches. He came home in February, 1946. One thing about the voyage home amazed Duard. The troops were racially segregated to keep them from fighting. Racial discrimination was never part of Duard Millet's playbook. His attitude towards life has reflected this experience. While coaching a game at Red Bluff, Duard protested racial slurs directed toward Oroville players. Abuse continued and he pulled the team off the floor. In support, Oroville administration scheduled no basketball games at Red Bluff for several years.

He does not forget former players and they don't forget him either. George Steele (1958) said, "I love the guy. He taught us not only about basketball, but things that helped later in life." Barry Rockwell (1959) said, "He never got down on you as a person." Doug Sears (1962) said, "There is no finer representative of all that has been great about Oroville athletics than Duard Millet." Duard says, "I knew how to show love to my players, and why it was essential to do so."