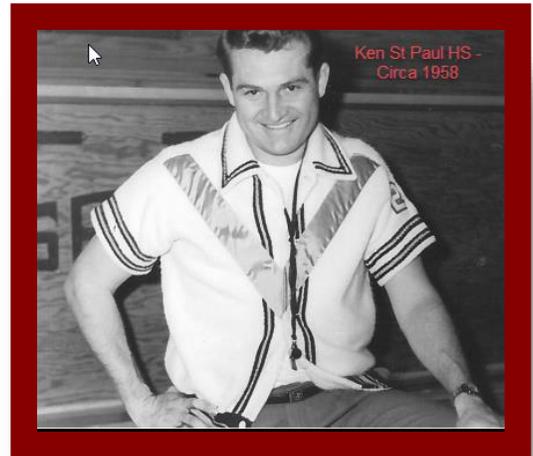


Kansas Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame 2021

Kenneth A. Diskin

Boy's Basketball Coach (1958-2017)



Kenneth A. Diskin, was born February 12th, 1931. The fabric of his values, work ethic and integrity were sculpted at an impressionable age as a farm kid and proud native of Southeast Kansas...St. Paul & Greenbush, KS. While Ken's responsibilities consisted of milking cows, hauling hay, harvesting crops, and serving as an alter boy, he always allowed time for schoolwork & of course, playing ball. He was one of the first Diskin descendants to receive a college degree and was also signed to play professional baseball by a legendary scout for the New York Yankees, Tom Greenwade (who also signed Mickey Mantle) in 1949. Ken was a standout catcher in baseball and subsequently played in the New York Yankees organization.

He enlisted in the Navy and served during the Korean War.



Returning from the war, he furthered his education, receiving a master's degree and became an educator and coach. Beginning in 1958, Ken cultivated a brilliant and transcendent career spanning nearly 60 years. Among his players, Ken fostered a culture of loyalty, discipline, and dedication. He had a legendary approach to coaching and education with insight, imagination, and integrity. He could wield a "straight to the soul" stare/glance that has paralyzed many young athlete's legs, yet his eyes always revealed the warmth and generosity of his heart. (Players came from all over the country to celebrate his 90th birthday.)

His career took him to 5 high schools in Kansas and sharing time with coaches such as Roy Williams, Jack Hartmann, Larry Brown, and Urban Meyer. He also worked with NBA players such as Danny Manning, Rolando Blackman, Lon Kruger, Mitch Richmond, and Kevin Pritchard.

- Total career wins – 512
- Took 3 different high school teams to the state tournament
 - Winning Sub State Championship 4 years
- Fellowship Christian Athlete's HS Male Coach of the Year
- Coached at the following summer basketball camps: Kansas University, Kansas State, 5 Star Basketball Camp, North Carolina

Ken is married to Jimmie Ruth (JR) and is the father of 3 children, Mark, Stan & Debbie, grandfather of a basketball team (5), and a growing team of great-grandchildren.

Coaching is in Ken's soul. He'll always be diagraming the "final shot." He's a true Hall of Fame coach, Hall of Fame father and Hall of Fame human being.

