



January 2017

CCCC Marketing Department

1979-80 basketball teams to be inducted into HOF

By David Wilson

Sports Information Director

The winter of 1979-1980 was a magical time for the Cloud County Community College men and women's basketball programs as, for five months, Concordia was home to the best junior college basketball in the state of Kansas.

With rosters chock full of some of Cloud County's all-time greats, the men and women each won their respective Region VI tournaments that season en route to NJCAA National Tournament appearances. Nearly 37 years after their respective runs, the players and coaches behind the T-Birds' rise to national prominence that season will be honored as the 11th class to be inducted into the Cloud County Athletics Hall of Fame.

"There's still a great deal of worthy athletes and teams to be inducted into the Cloud County Athletics Hall of Fame and this was certainly one of the most special times in Thunderbirds' athletic history," said Cloud County Athletic Director, Matt Bechard. "It was, like so many of the decisions we make in terms of the Hall of Fame, a no-brainer. We're really excited about these two programs, these two teams that we'll be bringing in for the ceremony to highlight their accomplishments."

Each team will be recognized for their induction into the Cloud County Athletics Hall of Fame on Saturday, February 4, 2017 at halftime of the men's game versus Neosho County. The women's game is at 6 p.m. that Saturday, with the men's game set to tip-off at 8 p.m.

That 1979-80 women's team, under the direction of head coach Jerry McCarty and assistant Rosemary Holloway, went 28-4 overall that season, winning their second straight Region VI championship. Cloud County continued to do damage on the national scene as it became the first women's team from Kansas to play in the NJCAA National Championship game (63-61 loss to Truett-McConnell).

McCarty and a pair of his players, Deb (Sothers) Monzon and Susan (Hamilton) Schneider, are already members of the Cloud County Athletics Hall of Fame for their indi-

2017 Hall of Fame Class

1979-80 Women's Basketball
Record: 28-4
Region VI Champions (back to back)
NJCAA National Runner-up
1st Kansas women's team to play for
NJCAA Championship

1979-80 Men's Basketball
Record: 27-9
Region VI Champions
(78-72 over Hutchinson)
1st Non-KJCAA member to win
Region VI

vidual accomplishments.

The men's team made its own program history that school year, finishing the season with a 27-9 overall record while earning the program's first and only Region VI championship. Cloud County defeated Hutchinson Community College 78-72 in overtime — the third meeting between the two schools that year — to punch its ticket to its first NJCAA National Tournament.

The Region VI championship win by the T-Birds was also the first time the championship had been won by a non-Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference (KJCCC) member.

Cloud County was led by sophomore Ronnie Joyner and head coach Dennis Erkenbrack, each of whom are current members of the Cloud County Athletics Hall of Fame.

Erkenbrack is the winningest coach in Cloud County men's basketball history with a record of 502-225 in his 23 seasons. Joyner was the program's first NJCAA DI All-American selection and record holder in all major scoring categories: career points (1,483), points in a season (978), points in a game (51), career scoring average (24.31), and season scoring average (30.56).

Women's Roster (Hometown)

Kathy Hawkins (Marysville, Kan.)

Rose Stephens (Jennings, Kan.)
Dora Gruber (Barnard, Kan.)
Marla Gardenhire (Salina, Kan.)
Linda Parker (Dwight, Kan.)
Carrie Wagaman (Topeka, Kan.)
Deb Fink (Herkimer, Kan.)
Kathy Russell (Marysville, Kan.)
Deb Ebert (St. George, Kan.)
Linda Frerichs (Superior, Neb.)
Susan Hamilton (Stockton, Kan.)
Deb Sothers (Courtland, Kan.)
Deb Rettele (Hiawatha, Kan.)
Head coach: Jerry McCarty
Assistant coach: Rosemary Holloway
Manager: Terri Yoxall (Stockton, Kan.)

Men's Roster (Hometown)

Rod Stacken (Topeka, Kan.)
Tim Martin (Salina, Kan.)
Tyrone Johnson (Chicago, Ill.)
Mark Ewing (McPherson, Kan.)
Kenny Johnson (Memphis, Tenn.)
Roger Riemann (Phillipsburg, Kan.)
Ronnie Joyner (Collierville, Tenn.)
Walter McElroy (Chicago, Ill.)
Bob Runge (Concordia, Kan.)
Tom Hansen (Ruskin, Neb.)
Randy Thayer (Republic, Kan.)
Darrell Jones (Kansas City, Kan.)
Head coach: Dennis Erkenbrack
Assistant coach: Kevin Pounds

January Department of the Month

The Business Department provides instruction for business majors. The Business Program has one of the highest program enrollments at Cloud County Community College.

The Business Program offers a variety of courses for students pursuing a business major. The program provides dynamic courses that prepare students for a degree or certificate, fulfill employment needs in business, and have delivery options.

One of the recent projects in the Business Department is that the students prepared business plans for a hypothetical business venture project. The students also prepared hypothetical audits as a class project.

Pictured, left to right, are: Shelly Farha, Department Chair, Academic Advisor and Instructor; Cathy Forshee, Economics and Computer Applications Instructor; and Susan Greene, Accounting Instructor.



Cloud alumna's artwork featured at Sternberg Museum

The artwork of Gena Kearn, Cloud County Community College art education alumna, is being featured at Fort Hays State University's Sternberg Museum until June 2. Kearn's pencil drawing series, "Enduring Roots," is part of her master's degree culminating project.

Kearn's "Enduring Roots" series features seven 11" x 22" colored pencil drawings of flowers she photographed, then drew with original Celtic crosses in the background. Each drawing took between 300 and 500 hours to complete. There are as many as 30 layers of color in some spots.

"Through this 'Enduring Roots' series of colored pencil drawings, I have found the opportunity to combine these things that I love, which are such an integral part of who I am – my faith, my heritage and my love of flowers," Kearn explains on her website. "I see these three loves as some of the 'enduring roots' of my life. They're the things that provide me with inspiration and renewal."

The second part of Kearn's culminating project for her Masters of Liberal Studies degree, with an emphasis in Studio Art, is the website she created to showcase her pencil drawing series, which can be found at www.genakearn.com.

The seven drawings on display at the Sternberg can be found on the site under the "Original Art" tab. There is a description of each drawing, its symbolism and how it portrays her love of faith, flowers and heritage.

"For me, this series has been, and continues to be, a wonderful and fascinating journey of discovery, and an opportunity to express and communicate from the depths of my heart," Kearn said.



Left: One of Gena Kearn's pencil drawings that is featured in her "Enduring Roots" collection, which is on display at the Sternberg Museum until June 2. The piece is called "Emerald Enchantment." Kearn is a former Cloud student who now teaches 7-12 art at Concordia Junior-Senior High School, a position she has held for 14 years.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, Jan. 18

Second semester classes begin

Saturday, Jan. 21 • 6-8 pm

Star Party

Earl Bane Observatory

Sunday, Jan. 22

Alumni Telefund begins

Saturday, Feb. 4

Homecoming & Hall of Fame Induction

During the men's & women's basketball games vs. Neosho County

Monday, Feb. 13 - Friday, Feb. 17

Week of Love activities

Concordia campus

Friday, Feb. 17

No Classes

Spring Inservice for faculty & staff