

Bill Sapp's love for baseball leads to Coaches Hall of Fame

By GARY RICHARDS

Five Central Iowa Conference titles. Two state championship teams. A 375-165 won-loss record.

Add the above and you have Bill Sapp of Boone, a newcomer-to-be in the Iowa High School Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame. What this honor and Sapp's records do not reveal is his love for the game.

Certainly, I love the game," the 50-year-old coach said. "I wouldn't still be coaching if I didn't."

Sapp has coached at Boone since 1959, winning state crowns in 1965 and 1967. A third state trophy just missed the Treadors' trophy case when the 1972 squad placed third.

"Success breeds success," he said. "I can't take credit for everything. We have a small school, but there's been good material and effort by the kids. Everything has just fallen into place."

Including Sapp's philosophy. Prep athletes are amateurs in the truest sense of the word. No financial reward is needed to justify spending tedious hours on the diamond.

Sapp recognizes this. He recognizes the need for the game to be fun for his athletes. If there's one reason behind Sapp's success, it's this:

"My philosophy," he chuckled. "Is whatever is best for the kids is best for the program. If I as a coach can go at my job with 150 per cent effort, I've done my part.

"The kids need to enjoy what they're doing. If they love the game of baseball, it's fun to coach them.

"I instruct my players to just concentrate on the game. A person cannot do more than one thing at a

time. Let the umpires umpire, the fans yell and the coaches coach. The players should play the game."

The philosophy has paid off. On March 12, Sapp will be inducted into the Hall of Fame. Joining him that day will be former major leaguer Bob Oldis of Iowa City, Bill Freese of Wiota and the late John Dorman of Upper Iowa University.

"I was surprised by my selection," Sapp marveled. "I'm pleased that my fellow coaches recognizes me like this.

"It's also a nice feeling to be included in a fine group like Bob Oldis, Dr. Dorman and Bill Freeze."

The path to the Hall of Fame has been long. Included were stops at Hopkinton and Grand Junction. Then in 1959 came what appears to be the final spot—Boone.

There he has worked with the Babe Ruth League and Little League programs. He started the successful baseball program at Boone High back in '59.

That's in the past. Now it's time to think of the upcoming season. "We're going to be competitive," Sapp promised. "We were 15-13 and second in the CIC last season. But we can be better.

"We lose a catcher, a pitcher and shortstop. But the talent is here for another fine team."

(Previous inductees into the hall of Fame are Joe Baily, Everett Barr, Jay Beckman, Ken Blackman, Bob Bowers, Pete Cramer, Dick Davis, Alex Evans, Wayne Heintz, Bill Holmstrom, Roy Jepsen, Emil Klumpar, Fred "Zebe" Larsen, Orval Madden, Ray Manship, Joe McDermott, Vince Meyer, Midge

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McKeever, Hap Miller, Hamlet Peterson, Jeff Pickart, Pinky Primrose, Earl Proctor, Harold Schmickley, Lefty Schnack, Cy Slapnicka, Elmer Starr, Bud Sufer, Chick Sutherland, Marv Thelen, Estel Thomsen, George Thomsen, Cap Timm, Hal Trosky, Frank Tyrdik, Otto Vogel, Mon Whitford and Dr. Harry Zimmer.)

Ames sophs win, 66-60

The Ames High sophomores moved their record to 10-4 on the season with a 66-60 win over East Waterloo Friday night.

Jay Bro led the Little Cyclone sophs with 24 points, followed by Mark Jensen with 12 and Paul Ryan with 11.

Ken Stevenson was the leading scorer for East with 12 points.

Ames	16	18	12	20	66
East	12	17	12	19	60

AMES—Jay Bro 24, Stohlmeyer 9, Weigle 6, Mark Jensen 12, Paul Ryan 11, Marty 4.

EAST—Ken Stevenson 12, Morehead 6, Kinley 11, Sallis 11, Foote 1, Thels 9, Epps 4, Ott 6.

FOULED OUT—Kinley and Sallis, East Waterloo.

CLOSEOUT PRICES!



HALL OF FAMER—Boone's Bill Sapp intently observes proceedings on the field during a Boone High baseball game last summer. In the inserts, the soon to be inducted Iowa Hall

of Fame coach moves through the motions required of all baseball coaches. (Tribune photos by Rollie Petersen)

ISU wrestlers romp over LSU

Veteran Pete Galéa noched a pin but the honor for the tickest pin of the night went to a newcomer as the Iowa State Cyclones blanked Louisiana State 42-0 to close their home dual meet.

ranked Cyclones rolled to their biggest victory margin of the season.

The newcomer was Dave Stamp, who pinned John Madden in just 1:24 at 190

Major decisions were recorded by Paul Bartlett, Tom Zimmerman, Dave Powell and Tom Waldon.

Don Finnegan of Ames decisioned Kevin Cortes 7-0

126—Johnnie Jones (ISU) dec. Steve Oswald, 12-9.

134—Paul Bartlett (ISU) major dec. Al Majeau, 11-3.

142—Randy Nielsen (ISU) dec. Mike Millay, 6-2.

Sapp's record shows success

Bill Sapp, Boone, coached baseball and basketball for 28 years.

Before coming to Boone in 1957, he coached baseball and basketball at Hopkinton and Grand Junction high schools and was a junior varsity basketball coach at Drake University while he worked on a Masters Degree in 1951-52.

From 1957-59, Sapp coached baseball in the Boone Babe Ruth League and worked with others in the Little League program. He started up the high school baseball program, which was absent from the high school's athletic schedule for several years, in 1959.

"We were better than .500 the first year I coached, at 8-7. All the kids were good ballplayers. We just couldn't get it together and we had no good place to practice baseball," Sapp said.

But the good skin (no grass) infield, and lights, eventually became a part of the Boone baseball scene thanks to Boone volunteers and efforts of Sapp.

He coached Boone High School baseball through the 1977 season and compiled a career record of 318-190 — a .626 percentage. During that era, his teams were summer state baseball champions in 1965 and 1967, placed third in the state in 1972 and competed at the state level in 1970, 1971.

The Boone high school team claimed five conference championships and was runner-up six times in conference standings.

His "glory years" were from 1964 to 1972, when his teams put together a 193-65 record that included nine sectional tournament championships, six district tournament championships, five substate tournament championships and two state tournament championships.

The conference championship was won by Boone during five of those eight years.

"I recall during those good years when we didn't lose a game a Memorial Park in Boone for five years," Sapp said.