

Ex-Northern Illinois Men's Gymnastics Boss Hubie Dunn Inducted Into Washington State Hall Of Fame

Dunn coached the Huskies from 1962-72.

Sept. 8, 2006

DeKALB, IL --- Retired Northern Illinois University head men's gymnastics coach J. Hubert "Hubie" Dunn's passionate involvement with his favorite sport might date back to the late 1930's, but his stellar reputation as a distinguished educator and innovative pioneer still shines brightly on a national basis in the 21st Century.

His rep and storied contributions still deliver clout in gymnastics circles. Those are the facts.

The 85-year-old Dunn was enshrined into his fifth Hall of Fame Friday (September 8) as one of nine inductees into the Washington State University Athletic Hall of Fame at ceremonies at Pullman, WA. The announcement of his induction was made by WSU Director of Athletics Jim Sterk.

Considered by many observers as the Father of Northwest gymnastics, Dunn became the first full-time gymnastics coach at Washington State, the Northwest region, and the Pacific Coast Conference---the forerunner of the current Pac-10 Conference---in 1947.

Previously, the Pinckneyville, IL, native had been inducted into the Citizens Savings Helms Foundation Gymnastics Hall of Fame as both a contributor and a coach (1973), the U. S. A. Gymnastics Hall of Fame (1996), the Northern Illinois Athletics Hall of Fame (1997), and the state of Washington Gymnastics Hall of Fame (2004).

"Hubie Dunn is one of our true gymnastics pioneers," said former Huskie head men's gymnastics coach Chuck Ehrlich, a 2002 inductee into the Northern Illinois Athletics Hall of Fame and former All-America still rings performer at Southern Illinois University. "His vast knowledge, intelligence, and acumen in the sport is respected on a national and regional basis. Hubie did introduce gymnastics to the Northwest after World War II. I think its tremendous that our coaches, our national organization, and now Washington State recognize him for all his efforts and service to the sport."

At the WSU Hall of Fame induction banquet, Dunn was inducted with a four person Pioneer group with former Cougar student-athletes Vaughn Hitchcock, Dick Hanula, and Janet Harman. Five individuals were enshrined into the Contemporary era---Including former Washington State Director of Athletics Sam Jankovich, plus athletes Dan Lynch, Laura Lavine, Steve Puidokas, and James Donaldson.

In 24 seasons as a head collegiate coach, Dunn produced a 132-69-4 won-lost-tied dual-meet record (.654 winning percentage). He went 70-23-3 in duals, won three Pacific Northwest College team crowns and three Pacific Northwest AAU team titles, and garnered 48 individual champions in 14 winters at WSU (1947-55, 1956-62), plus won National Association of College Gymnastics Coaches West Region Coach of the Year honors (1961-62).

Dunn's most significant contributions to the sport were the 150 gymnastics clinics and exhibitions conducted through the state of Washington, Montana, Oregon, and Idaho in the late 1940's and early 1950's. WSU's widely acclaimed annual "Spring Exhibition Tour" spread the gymnastics gospel at schools and civic functions throughout the Northwest. Dunn also established the Pacific Northwest College gymnastics Championships (1955) and founded the Washington State High School Gymnastics Championships (1957).

At Northern Illinois, he built the foundation of a respected Division I program with seven winning dual-meet campaigns and a 62-49-1 mark in ten seasons (1962-72). His Huskie teams produced three Interstate Intercollegiate Athletics Conference individual champs and nine loop runners-up in four league meets (1963-66). Dunn tutored NIU's initial IAC gymnastics kingpin (Tom Hussein on the still rings in 1964), posted the school's first dual-meet triumph vs. the Big Ten Conference (153.55-to-140.15 victory over Ohio State University in 1956-66), and recruited the programs



Former NIU men's gymnastics coach Hubie Dunn was inducted into the Washington State Athletics Hall of Fame on Friday (September 8)

first All-America (still rings star and NIU Hall of Famer Pete Botthof).

Over the years, Dunn not only has served his sport, but has received the highest accolades from the NACGC--- Including the Honor Coach Award (1981), plus Outstanding Service Award twice (1968 and 1981). He served a term as NACGA president (1967-68). As the long-time meet director for Northern Illinois home men's and women's gymnastics meets, Dunn helped run the National Collegiate Athletic Association Eastern Independent Qualifications (1974) and the memorable United States vs. U. S. S. R. meet (1982) in Chick Evans Field House. His biography was featured twice (1973 and 1978) in the Who's Who in Gymnastics. A recipient of NIU's Excellence in Teaching Award (1968), he retired from the Northern Illinois physical education faculty in 1986.

Regarded as one of the top All-Around performers in the nation at Southern Illinois, Dunn lettered four years (1939-43) and captained the undefeated Salukis as a senior. He served as an officer in the U. S. Navy during World War II and prepped at Pinckneyville High School.

--NIU-- ---For further information, please contact Mike Korcek, NIU SID Emeritus (AC 815-753-9559)