

December 18, 2006

TO: ALL MONTANA MEDIA OUTLETS
FROM: MARK BECKMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
RE: 2007 MHSA ATHLETES' HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

***** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE *****

The Montana High School Association is proud to announce its eleventh list of inductees to the MHSA Athletes' Hall of Fame.

There are six inductees for 2006 including Rick Goodman of Belt, Mark Kato of Havre, Sam McDonald Jr. of Billings, Terry Schlabs of Medicine Lake, Kristin Schmitt-Salonen of Great Falls, and the late Willie Weeks formerly of Wolf Point.

Goodman was a standout basketball player for Belt High School and compiled records as the leading scorer for three years and the leading rebounder for four years. He was voted the Most Valuable Player at the state tournament in 1971. In addition he was All-Conference in football for two years and still holds the school record in the shot put. He is listed in the book of Outstanding Athletes of America for 1974 and 1975. Goodman currently is a teacher at Belt High School.

Kato graduated from Havre High School in 1947. He excelled in both football and basketball for the Blue Ponies in the mid-forties. He was the first quarterback in the East-West Shrine game and was selected in 1946 to the All-State Football team and the 1947 All-State Basketball team. He is retired and still resides in Havre.

McDonald was a star athlete for Billings Senior High School in the 1950's and has given back to high school athletics in the state of Montana for many years. He was an All-State selection in basketball and football his junior and senior years at Billings Senior High School. He excelled in American Legion baseball as well, and eventually went on to be a Division I basketball player at Oklahoma State University. He resides in Billings, where he operates his business, Wendy's of Montana.

Schlabs, also known as Big Daddy, excelled in sports at Medicine Lake High School in the 1960's. He was an All-Conference selection for three years in football, All-Conference for two years in basketball and especially starred in Track and Field, as he was once the state record holder in the triple jump. He received a full scholarship to MSU in football and track and eventually competed at the national level in the Decathlon. He has gone on to become a successful business man in Spirit Lake, Idaho.

Schmitt-Salonen was a premier basketball player and Track and Field athlete for Great Falls High School in the early 1980's. Schmitt was a basketball first team All-State selection in 1983 and 1984 and led her team to the Class AA state basketball championship in 1982. She won multiple state championships in track and field and went on to an outstanding career at the University of Montana in Track. She currently teaches and coaches at Columbia Falls High School.

Weeks was an tremendous student-athlete for Wolf Point High School in the late 1960's. He was a two time All-State selection in basketball and was the all time leading scorer in the six year history of the "Big 32" basketball tournament. He was also an All-State football player in 1969 and played in the East/West Shrine game. Willie

went on to play for the Bobcat basketball team and earned All Big Sky Conference distinction. Willie passed away earlier this year.

The MHSAA Executive Board recently adopted a change in the way inductees are recognized for this prestigious honor. Previously the MHSAA Hall of Fame Banquet was held in conjunction with the MHSAA Annual Meeting. To allow for more friends and family to attend a function to honor the inductees the Annual Meeting banquet was discontinued. Now, friends and family can organize a recognition function in the inductee's local community at a time and place more convenient for this function to maximize attendance and support for each new inductee. The MHSAA Hall of Fame does not maintain a physical location but there is a page on the MHSAA website (mhsaa.org) dedicated to all of the inductees.

If you have any question regarding the MHSAA Hall of Fame please contact Brian Michelotti, Assistant Director at the MHSAA office.