

2006 HONORARY REFEREE: Mr. Doug Dohrer of Milbank

Doug Dohrer was born and raised on a farm and attended school in Milbank, graduating in 1967. He earned nine varsity letters in football, basketball, and track while competing for the Bulldogs. Dohrer was the leading scorer on Milbank's State Class A Basketball Championship Team his senior year. He gained honors in basketball as a second team All-State pick as well as being named honorable mention All-State quarterback in football. Doug placed fourth in the pole vault at the State Track Meet his senior year. He also pitched and played shortstop on the Milbank American Legion baseball team.

After graduation, Dohrer attended South Dakota State University and graduated with a degree in education. He participated in basketball at SDSU and was the leading scorer on the Jackrabbit Freshman team in 1967-68. After his sophomore year, he concentrated on baseball and earned All-North Central Conference honors his junior and senior seasons. In addition, he gained distinction by being named to the All Fifth-District team, one of three NCC players to do so. Doug was Co-Captain of the Jackrabbits his final two years.

Doug started his teaching and coaching career in Estelline in 1972. He was a junior high instructor in Math and Science, as well as the junior high basketball coach the first two years. He coached the Redmen football team for four years, compiling a record of 28-7. The 1977-78 team sported a 9-0 record, earned the Eastern Dakota Conference championship, and was honored by the South Dakota Sportswriters' Association as being the Number One nine-man team in the state.

He took over the reins of the Redmen basketball team for the 1976-77 and 1977-78 seasons, garnering a respectable 28-12 record. The 77-78 team captured the Eastern Dakota Conference championship. Doug also served as an assistant girls track coach at EHS.

Doug ended his high school coaching stint in 1978 and moved back to Milbank to begin a career in the insurance industry. He remains in that capacity today, operating his own independent insurance agency in Milbank.

It was also at this time that he began his officiating career. He officiated football for nearly 20 seasons in the nine-man ranks as well as at the 11-man level. He was fortunate to have been able to work with several outstanding officials. His role as the Awhite hat@ will always be remembered.

As if one sport was not enough to keep him busy, he also officiated both boys and girls basketball at the AA, A, and B levels. Again, he felt extremely fortunate to have worked with many top-notch basketball officials throughout eastern South Dakota, as well as western Minnesota. He finally hung up his whistle a few years ago as time and physical problems started to catch up with him. He now has become a basketball and soccer fan, attending his grandchildren's games.

His amateur baseball career started the first summer after high school graduation and spanned 35 years as a player, manager, sponsor, and coach. In 2003, Doug was named to the South Dakota Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame. During his baseball career he played for Milbank, Estelline, Lake Norden, and Montrose, as well as being drafted by several other teams for the State Amateur Baseball Tournament. He played in 32 state amateur tournaments which ranks near the top of the list in that category.

In addition to his amateur career, Doug played in 12 Men's Senior Baseball League World Series in Phoenix, AZ. The South Dakota Rushmores were crowned National Champions in 1992 and 1993. Competition was always fierce as evidence by the fact that the Rushmores competed against as many as seven ex-Major League players per team. Games were played in the Phoenix area at the major league sites for Spring Training.

The Dohrer family includes wife Peg, a Clear Lake native; daughter Ginny, who is a Head Start Coordinator in Sioux Falls, her husband Calvin, and their daughters, Tayla, Madison, and Hallie; son Chris, who is a lawyer in Aberdeen, his wife Barbara, and their sons, Jonah and Micah; and son Gregory, who is with the South Dakota Highway Patrol in Madison, his wife Jaime, and their son Mickale.