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A TRIBUTE TO EDDIE CHINSKE

MISSOULA --

It's hard to write about a man like Eddie Chinske.

In paying tribute to Eddie, you don't want to become overly emotional, because he wouldn't have liked that. But you don't want to leave anything out, because that wouldn't be fair.

Eddie's outstanding record in the field of athletics is already known throughout the state and beyond, and repetition of wins and losses and state and conference championships in three different sports would mean nothing to those that knew, and admired, Eddie Chinske.

It is what made Eddie such a success in athletics, both as a player and a coach, that is important.

Eddie had the personality, desire and drive that are needed so badly to stand out in athletics. As a coach, his interest in the young men he led was of utmost importance.

No one knows this better than those young men; men like Murdo Campbell, Doug Dasinger, Billy Gue, Dick Heath, Dick Imer, Huz Jensen, Dale Shupe and others who played football at the University of Montana when Eddie was coaching from 1952-54.

More recently, as a golf coach whose teams have won the Big Sky Conference championship all four times since the conference was founded in 1963 and who was named Big Sky golf coach of the year each time, Eddie has worked with other young men who came to know him not only as an outstanding coach, but also as a good friend.

Men like Don Waller, Gary Kopravica, Rick Carpenter, Jim Roberts, Harland Peschel, John Warren, and numerous others, have bettered themselves through their relationship with Eddie Chinske.

(more)
But Eddie's influence among young people at the University of Montana didn't stop with varsity athletics. Hundreds of young men were acquainted with Eddie through the men's intramural program, a program which Eddie directed in addition to his coaching and teaching duties.

Those young men will tell you that Eddie did a tremendous job with the intramural program, one that has grown so large that it could nearly warrant a full-time director.

Eddie wasn't the kind of man who coached and taught for financial rewards alone. He coached and taught because he loved kids, and because he knew the true value of education and athletics, both individually and combined.

Eddie did not like to give away his deep interest in people, especially young people. But those of us who were fortunate enough to know him and work with him can realize how much working with and helping young people meant to Eddie. It was his life.