

RESUME
Newton D. "Bud" Lassiter
to the
El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame

Bud is not only being nominated for his accomplishments at Texas College of Mines but for his contributions to sports in El Paso for over 30 years. Sports, as defined by the American Heritage Collegiate Dictionary, is an active pastime of recreational activities enjoyed during one's leisure time. However, to Bud Lassiter, sports activities became a way of life.

Early Years

A native El Pasoan, born July 20, 1921, Bud has played sports, of all types, at all levels from grade school, high school, through college and even during his years of military service.

He began his involvement in sports in 1932 while enrolled at Lamar Elementary school. There he played the position of tackle on the football team, and helped lead the team to a second place win in the Western Elementary School Division. At this same time he took an interest in other sports activities and became a member at the El Paso YMCA where he learned to shoot hoops, spike a volleyball, meet his match in boxing and learn the fine art of tumbling and wrestling.

In 1934, while a freshman at El Paso High School, Bud, was sidelined by a severe childhood illness. Following a year of recuperation, he was finally able to resume strenuous activity and started developing his interest in basketball. He joined the YMCA sponsored basketball league where he fine-tuned his skills at making baskets plus continue to participate in volleyball and tumbling.

In 1937-38, Bud's senior year in high school, he made the El Paso High School varsity playing Center/Forward. He was awarded an Honorable Mention on the All District Team for his performance.

Mucker Years – Texas College of Mines

Bud's success during his one year at EPHS was good enough to earn him a basketball scholarship at Texas College of Mines (TCM) where he played Center/Forward from 1938-42 for the Muckers.

During his freshman year 38-39, the freshman basketball team compiled an excellent 22 and 1 record and Bud was credited with leading the team in rebounding and was second in scoring.

The 39-40 year, Bud's first varsity year, he became a starter after the third game and the team went on to place third in the Border Conference and was selected Honorable Mention - All Border Conference. The highlight of the season for Bud was when he scored the last five points during a game to beat the New Mexico State Aggies 63-60. The first time ever, that TCM had beaten the Aggies in basketball.

The first Border Conference Championship for TCM, in any sport, came during the 40-41 season. During this year, Bud was selected First Team - All Border Conference where he ranked third in scoring.

During the 40-41 and 41-42 seasons, Bud was All Border Conference both years, and at 6'-2", led the Muckers in rebounding, place second in team scoring and was in the top five both years in conference scoring.

Also, in recognition of his contributions to the TCM basketball program and his participation in many non-athletic activities, the college honored him as one of the "Men of Mines".

The War Year and Afterwards

In 1942, Bud enlisted in the U.S. army Air Corps, where, while serving in Italy, he organized an 'unofficial' basketball team which played other squadron teams and was undefeated.

Upon returning in 1946, he met and married Rena Wilson and resumed his association with the YMCA where played volleyball, he joined the 'Town' basketball team and began playing softball in the city's Major League.

During the 1947 year, Bud participated in 3 National Championship tournaments, all in different sports. The first was as a member of the 'Town' basketball team which played in the Amateur Athletic Union National Championship Tournament in Denver. Two months later as a result of playing with the El Paso YMCA volleyball team, he was invited to join the Fort Worth YMCA volleyball team and

compete at the National Volleyball Championship Tournament in Houston. In August he played with the El Paso Major League Softball team in the National Softball Championship Tournament in Phoenix.

From 48 to 51, Bud continued to play volleyball with the YMCA team, softball in the Major League and basketball with the International Petroleum Company (IP) 'town' Team. With all these teams he continued to represent El Paso by participating in many tournaments in the Southwest. In volleyball, Bud was selected to the All Tournament Team in almost every tournament and won Most Valuable in two. In softball, he was selected to the All City Team twice. With the IP team he played against the Harlem Globetrotters on 4 occasions, once in Las Cruces, twice in Juarez and in 1950 played in the first ever integrated game held in the State of Texas when they played the Globetrotters in El Paso.

In 1951, Bud was recalled to active military duty where he served at Biggs and his interest in sports took a different perspective when he was assigned the duties of Athletic Officer for the base. In this capacity he supervised and coached various sports programs, and designed and supervised the construction of a lighted baseball/softball field.

After the active duty stint, Bud continued playing volleyball with the YMCA, twice partnering with C. L. North to win City Championships in 2 Man Volleyball, playing with the YMCA volleyball team in Southwest area tournaments which included many championships and played softball in the El Paso Natural Gas recreational league.

As Bud's playing days were ending, he gave back to sports by becoming active in the Cielo Vista/Airport Optimist Club where he worked closely with various coaches in the developing youth teams in football and basketball, plus coaching in Boys Baseball of El Paso Little League teams.

Summary

It is because of his ongoing interest in sports for over 30 years of participation in El Paso sports, and a commitment and desire to assist young people to become involved in competitive games, that Newton D. (Bud) Lassiter is being nominated into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame.