

February 8, 2008

TO: Selection Committee, DM Register Sports Hall of Fame
FR: Mike Chapman
RE: Nomination of Dale Anderson, West Waterloo High School

It is with great pleasure that I nominate Dale Anderson for induction into the Des Moines Sunday Register Sports Hall of Fame. Dale is an outstanding candidate in terms of athletic achievement, character, and accomplishments outside of the sport arena. He is the type of athlete and person that will add even more stature to a great hall.

Winning two NCAA championship and three Big Ten titles tells you what kind of a college athlete Dale Anderson was – sensational. He was a gritty, non-stop competitor who relied greatly on conditioning and mental toughness. He won the NCAA 137-pound title in 1967 by simply outlasting a great technician from Portland State in the finals, then repeated as 137-pound champion the next year.

In 1967, with Dale leading the way, the Spartans won the NCAA team title – the first Big Ten school to ever do so! Doug Blubaugh, one of the MSU coaches and 1960 Olympic champion, said it was Dale's leadership and non-stop pursuit of excellence that played a huge role in the Spartans' historic victory. Dale was undefeated as junior and over his last two seasons lost just one match – an overtime decision to Dan Gable in the finals of the Midlands Championships. Dale is the only wrestler to ever force Gable into overtime, and Gable often says Dale is one of the athletes he respected the most, and actually was apprehensive about wrestling him due to Dale's tremendous conditioning!

"Dale was everything you want in an athlete – hard-nosed, skilled and very smart," said Blubaugh, who is considered the Dan Gable of his era. "His leadership was the key to those great Michigan State teams, no doubt about it. When he was out there on the mat, he gave you everything he had. He's also a great person with great character."

Dale was the captain of the Michigan State team his senior year and was captain of nearly every sports team he ever competed on, all the way back to high school! He was also voted MSU Athlete of the Year his senior year, ranking him above all the football players and basketball players.

Dale had a sensational career at West Waterloo High School in the mid 1960s. He was state champion as a junior and senior, wrestling for the legendary Bob Siddens (a member of the DMR hall of fame). Dale was an all-around athlete, winning a state tennis championship at the Jaycees level and playing quarterback on the West Waterloo football team. Coach Siddens has said, looking back on his 40 years in high school athletics, that Dale was the best all-around athlete he ever saw at West High, and is one of the finest men he ever met!

Dale was also a state champion in table tennis (a sport that requires tremendous hand-eye coordination and great reflexes), and an Arizona state champion in racquetball, and now has his eye set on a national title. Showing his amazing versatility, he was a standout baseball player at the Little League level -- and has run two marathons!

Dale would have been a top candidate for an Olympic berth (a wrestler who finished behind him in the NCAA tournament made two Olympic teams and won a bronze medal), but after college he shifted his goals to other areas. He felt it was time to move on, and earned a law degree from the University of Virginia and embarked upon a very successful law career.

After law school, Dale applied his competitive spirit to the courtroom where he was a prosecutor for five years in Tucson, Arizona. He was a named partner in the law firm of LaPaglia and

Anderson in the Phoenix, AZ area. He returned to school to pursue his PhD. And was a law professor at Michigan State for 10 years.

He reached the height of the law profession when he was appointed by Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of the United States Congress, as his special counsel. Dale has written a dozen books on constitutional law and how to win cases in court. Today, Dale travels the nation giving legal seminars to personnel within the justice community.

Just recently, West Waterloo High School opened its new athletic facility and hall of fame. They selected an **Elite Eight** – eight athletes who have excelled at the highest level. Among those honored athletes are Don Perkins, of Dallas Cowboys fame; Dan Gable....and Dale Anderson! He is a member of several halls of fame, including the Glen Brand Wrestling Hall of Fame of Iowa, located in the Dan Gable International Wrestling Institute and Museum, and the Iowa High School Wrestling Hall of Fame.

Dale was born in Fort Dodge, and lived in Roland for three years prior to his family moving to Waterloo when he was near the end of sixth grade. Today, Dale is semi-retired, living in the Chicago area with his wife, Sandy. He was an extraordinary athlete and represented the State of Iowa very well in everything he has done, both on and off the mat. Thank you for considering Dale as a member of the Des Moines Register Sports Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

Mike Chapman
Executive Director

SUMMARY SHEET for DALE ANDERSON

Athletic Accomplishments

- (1) Two-time state wrestling champion, Waterloo West High School
- (2) State tennis (Jaycees) doubles champion, West Waterloo
- (3) Starting quarterback on the football team, West Waterloo
- (4) YMCA state table tennis champion, boys division
- (5) Two-time NCAA wrestling champion, Michigan State University
- (6) Three-time Big Ten Champion, Michigan State University
- (7) Three-time All-American, Michigan State University
- (8) Michigan State Athlete of the Year, 1968
- (9) Arizona State racquetball champion
- (10) Marathon runner (two completed)

Special Athletic Honors

- (1) Most Valuable Athlete, West Waterloo High School, 1964
- (2) Junior Athlete of the Year, Michigan State University, 1967
- (3) Athlete of the Year, Michigan State, 1968
- (4) Big Ten Scholar-Athlete, 1968
- (5) Named to Elite Eight of the West Waterloo High School Athletic Hall of Fame
- (6) Member of the Iowa High School Wrestling Hall of Fame
- (7) Member of the Glen Brand Wrestling Hall of Fame of Iowa (Waterloo)
- (8) Member of the Iowa Wrestling Hall of Fame (Cresco)

In addition, Dale has been elected captain of nearly every athletic team he has ever participated for, including the Michigan State defending NCAA Championship team of 1968.

Accomplishments Outside of Sports

- (1) Twice Elected President, West High School Student Body
- (2) Law degree, University of Virginia
- (3) Prosecutor, Tucson, Arizona
- (4) Law firm partner, Tucson, Arizona
- (5) Law professor, Michigan State University (while pursuing PhD)
- (6) Special Counsel to Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House, U.S. Congress
- (7) Author of at least a dozen law books focusing on constitutional law and the justice function
- (8) Presents seminars to the justice community to educate them on the constitution