

Editors Note: One of the players who will be honored lives in your readership area.

RMC INDUCTS 1956-57 TEAM INTO RING OF HONOR

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ATTACHED: Photo of RMC Battlin' Bears team from 1956-57

CAPTION: 1956-57 RMC Battlin' Bears Championship team
Front row (l-r): Darrell Sevier, John Flanagan, Chuck Frost, John Tweetie, Gordon Stoddard. Middle row (l-r): Rich Alberta, Norm Olson, Don Steele, Jim Peterson, Joel Frost, Bill Ryan.. Back row (l-r): Dan Freund, Lee Kunkle, Don Sherman, Coach Herb Klindt. Not pictured LeRoy Bender.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BILLINGS -- The 1956-57 Rocky Mountain College Battlin' Bears will be inducted into the Ring of Honor during a ceremony on Saturday, Feb. 25, 2012, at halftime of the men's home game between RMC and Montana Tech.

One of famed coach Herb Klindt's favorite basketball teams, they will become the fourth team to be featured in the Ring of Honor, which is prominently displayed on a wall at one end of First Interstate Bank Court at Fortin Center on the Rocky campus.

"The group that you see on that team are people who have graduated from Rocky, gone on to be successful in many different roles in their personal lives and continue to make Rocky an important part of their life," said Robert Beers, RMC athletic director.

The 1956-57 Bears, with many players coming from small towns surrounding the Billings area, compiled a 19-6 record, won the Montana Collegiate Conference and defeated rival Eastern Montana College during all four of their meetings that season.

During their heyday, the 1956-57 Bears got off to a 16-2 start and prompted Klindt to tell a sportswriter for The Gazette: "This is one of my better teams in many years of coaching."

Klindt's team averaged 73 points per game and ranked among the national leaders in the NAIA for free-throw shooting accuracy.

Along with Klindt, seven players on the 1956-57 team are already members of the school's Athletic Hall of Fame: Rich Alberta, Ryan, Don Steele, Dan Freund, Don Sherman, Gordon Stoddard and Peterson. The other members of the team included Darrell Sevier, John Flanagan, Charles Frost, John Tweetie, Norman Olson, Joel Frost, Lee Kunkle and LeRoy Bender. Besides Klindt, Tweetie and Joel Frost are also deceased, according to Kristin Mullaney, RMC alumni director.

A private social gathering for the players will be held in the school's Hall of Fame Room prior to the ceremony in the Fortin Center on the night of the game.

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