

Raymond “Ray” F. Yost

Omaha South High School Graduate, 1950

Born: September 18, 1932

Died: June 19, 2009

- **Omaha South High School Basketball, 1946-1950**

Ray Yost was a three-year letterman standing at 6'3" and 200 lbs. as a senior. (Evening World Herald, December 1953). The Creightonian, November 20, 1953 says that Ray was a four-year high school letterman.

- **1949-1950 Intercity League Scoring Champion, 132 total points on 54 field goals and 24 of 61 free throws.**

According to the Omaha World Herald Morning Edition, March 7, 1950, pg. 18. “Ray Yost, the hook shot artist of the South High basket ball team, is the Intercity League scoring champion with 132 points. Yost was the bright spot on the South roster. The Packers finished next to last in the Intercity League despite Yost’s all-around talent.”

- **1950 All Intercity League Team**

“One of the arguments for playing position is Yost, the hook shot artist of the South team. Yost, the all-star center, played the post for the Packers. And his perfect hook was the best in the league—and helped him win the scoring title. Though he was a member of a losing team, Yost still sparkled.” (Sunday World Herald, Omaha, March 12, 1950, pg. 4-B.)

- **The World-Herald’s All-State Basket Ball Team, 1949-1950**

“Yost a four-year veteran, was all South had to offer the past season. When the Packers had their moments, it was Yost who fired the machine. Ray is an excellent post man. His hook shot is tops and although playing with a losing club and forced to deliver under heavy guarding, Yost led the individual scoring in the tough Intercity league.” (Sunday World Herald, Omaha, March 26, 2019, pg. B-1.)

- **Every Nebraska Boys Basketball All-State Selection of All Time, Omaha World Herald, May 16, 2018**

1950

First team: Paul Fredstrom, Lincoln Northeast, 6-3, Jr.; William Mann, Omaha Benson, 6-1, Sr.; Howard Rudloff, Omaha Holy Name, 6-5, Sr.; **Raymond Yost, Omaha South, 6-4, Sr.**; Jack Wood, Lincoln Northeast, 6-1, Sr.

Class A: Paul Fredstrom, Lincoln Northeast, 6-3, Jr.; William Mann, Omaha Benson, 6-1, Sr.; Robert Fairchild, Omaha Central, Sr.; **Raymond Yost, Omaha South, 6-4, Sr.;** Jack Wood, Lincoln Northeast, 6-1, Sr.

Creighton University 1950-1954

- **Three-year letterman in basketball. (Family scrapbook info.)**
- **Freshman basketball team scoring champ with 216 points. (The Creighton University Basketball 1951-1952 "Dope" Book, found in family scrapbook.)**
- **Scored 251 points as a sophomore forward finishing in third place for scoring on the team. (Sunday World Herald, November 23, 1952, pg. 8-C)**
- **Voted Co-Captain of Creighton University Basketball Team as a Junior (Sunday World Herald, November 23, 1952, pg. 8-C)**
- **Again, voted team Co-Captain as a senior. (Family scrapbook)**
- **As a senior, sets season scoring record of 616 points during the 1953-1954 season, a record that held until 1967 when it was broken by Bob Portman. (Omaha World Herald, November 20, 1969, pg. 33)**
- **As a senior averaged 19.4 points per game for a ranking of 58th in the nation according to the National Collegiate Athletic Bureau. (Morning World Herald, April 3, 1954, pg. 10)**
- **Over a three-year period, 1951-1954, scored 1,161 points with a field goal percentage of 75.3% and a free throw percentage of 66.9%. (College Stats/ College Basketball at Sports-Reference.com)**
- **Contacted by Minneapolis Lakers (NBA), March 12, 1954, regarding interest in playing professional basketball. (Contact found in family college basketball scrapbook.) Ray did not follow-up on contact since he was committed to military service as a result of Army ROTC during his four years at Creighton.**

Military Service

- **Graduated from Creighton University in 1954 with a degree in sociology. As a result of his Creighton ROTC membership rank of Captain in Army ROTC), he was commissioned a 2nd Lt. in U.S. Army. Ray was a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne reaching the rank of 1st Lieutenant. He returned to civilian life in 1958.**

Ray told the World Herald in an article in November 1969, "...in 38 jumps he had only one anxious moment. That delayed (parachute) opening came during maneuvers for the benefit of the secretary of defense and a group of senators at Fort Bragg, N.C." (Omaha World Herald, November 20, 1969, pg. 33)

- Family lore tells of Ray's career as a boxer while in the service. It is told that he won several division title bouts.

Sports Remain Part of Active Life for Years

- **Won the Omaha City Park and Recreation Departments Free-Throw Grand Championship, January 1960**

Hit 21 of 25 at Kellom Community Center. "A field of 24 survivors from more than four hundred represented Florence, Benson, and Kellom. Yost, winner in the men's division, defeated the champions of seven other classes for the grand championship." (Omaha World Herald, January 26, 1960, pg. 15)

- **Played basketball in the Omaha Council of Catholic Youth Senior League.** Senior League champion was Ray Yost of St. Joseph who collected 162 in seven games for a 23.1 average. (Evening World Herald, March 14, 1960. Pg.15)
- **Played for Omaha National Bank Central YMCA Basketball League** "Yost Paces Scoring in Cage Tourney at Y" (Omaha World Herald, November 8, 1963, pg. 36.)
- **Continued to play basketball locally until 1968.** In 1969, Yost was quoted as saying he quit after two games in 1968, "... the courts seem to be getting longer and the baskets higher." (Omaha World-Herald, November 20, 1969, pg. 33)
- **Bowled in Multiple Leagues from 1961-1969**
Examples of Ray Yost's Bowling Successes:

- Yost logged a 650 series at Chops Bowl. (Omaha World-Herald, Dec. 5, 1965, pg. 14)
- "Ray Yost sizzled at Vinton Bowl Monday night by rolling a 287, high for area leagues." (Omaha World-Herald, October 25, 1966, pg. 26)
- In 1968, while bowling in five separate leagues Yost maintained a top average of 184. (Omaha World-Herald, November 20, 1969, pg. 33)
- In 1969, he only bowled in two leagues, "... the South Omaha Eagles and the South Omaha Livestock, carrying averages of 177 and 175, respectively." (Omaha World-Herald, November 20, 1969, pg. 33)

- President of the South Omaha Eagles League, 1969 (Omaha World-Herald, November 20, 1969, pg. 33)

- **Other Sports Activities include:**

- Horse-back riding, he owned two saddle horses
- Hunting and fishing along the Platte and Missouri rivers.

Employment

- Omaha National Bank, Operations Dealing with Livestock Industry
- Owner of Western Recreation Hall on South 24th St.