

Don Huber Remembered and Honored

Continental's Gym was Renamed in his Memory

Putnam County Sentinel – February 9, 2000

In a moving one-hour ceremony between two basketball games, a special coach was remembered by two different schools and a gym was renamed in his memory.

When the Continental Superintendent Ed Platzer asked members of the audience who had personally known Don Huber to stand during the dedication of the Don Huber Memorial Gymnasium in Continental, hundreds of Continental and Holgate citizens stood up.

Don Huber taught science, biology and driver's education at Continental High School from 1965 until 1991. Coach Huber led the Pirate junior high, freshmen and junior varsity teams from 1967 to 1991 and coached varsity basketball from 1971 until 1991.

Coach Huber's 1972 and 1977 teams went on to the regional and state tournament and Huber's teams also won five Putnam County League titles. Huber's varsity coaching record included 285 wins and 170 losses.

Huber continued to support his beloved Pirates at basketball games after his retirement and until his death in April of 1998.

On Saturday, February 5, people from Continental and Holgate also remember Huber for his interest in the youth he taught and coached at Continental and in his home town of Holgate.

Speakers for the evening included: Marv Sebring, Master of Ceremonies and former radio announcer; Dennis Potts, former reserve coach; Paul Wayne, Holgate head coach and friend; Steve Moore, former athletic director; Doug Williams, former assistant coach; Ron Weisenburger, representing former players; Superintendent Ed Platzer.

Sebring recounted some special memories when Coach Huber would wave his towel during an exciting game. "He was a dear friend and a special kind of guy. I feel so privileged that God let me have him for a friend," said Sebring. "It is fitting to honor a man who was so instrumental in getting this gym built. And it is indeed fitting that the two communities, Holgate and Continental, which meant so much to him, are here tonight."

"The most important thing Coach Huber brought to the game was his enthusiasm. He said he was always looking for the key that would turn things around in a season, but he was the key. I will always remember this desire, love and enthusiasm. This is the house that Don Huber built," said Potts.

Steve Moore said, "Don Huber was an outstanding coach and teacher, but he was also a great human being. After I met Don, I knew I'd like to begin my career here and I know he had a tremendous impact on the lives of many other people in this community. Some of us called him 'The Bomber'. When he played basketball with his friends, he liked taking the bomb (long shots). Don always looked for the good in people and I believe he was really appreciated. You just don't find head coaches that stick in a community for as long as he did. He had

the ability to get players to believe in themselves and to have good self-esteem. He was a 'builder of people' and I can't think of a better person that exemplifies what athletics are all about," concluded Moore.

Doug Williams, current Pirate head coach, said "I knew Coach Huber for over 20 years and we shared both good and bad days. We laughed and cried together. He was the big brother I never had. His guidance and experiences really helped you to get to know someone and I'm here to honor Don's legacy. I know Don was very proud to have been in Continental, but his true greatness is the three young men sitting here tonight. He never forgot his obligations as a father. Thank you, Don, for all you've meant to me and others."

Paul Wayne, current Holgate head coach, said, "Don Huber affected my life. He took a rookie coach and taught me how to coach a team. He was my mentor. We may have been competitors on the opposing bench, but he taught me about life and about the type of person I wanted to be like." Wayne concluded, "Coach Huber's pet phrase was 'Zingo Zowie!' He would use the phrase to will good things to happen."

Former player, Con Weisenburger, said, "Coach Huber could take a group of boys and put Continental on the map. I'll never forget all the signs I saw around town in 1972. Coach always gave everyone the same chances and showed me what hard work and a sense of fair play meant. He always knew what to say and when to say it and I'd just like to thank Don's family who sacrificed so much. Thank you for all the memories."

Sue Huber, Coach Huber's wife and their three sons, Robert, John and Kenneth and other family members attended the dedication. Sue Huber, an educator in Continental Schools, accepted a plaque in honor of her husband during the dedication of the gym.

Ron Winkle, Kevin Homier, Jim Martin, Sue Huber and Ed Platzer helped organize the committee for the event.

In the darkness of the gym, slides were shown of Coach Huber and former basketball players, as two songs, 'Memories' and 'Angels Among Us' accompanied the presentation.

When the lights came back on a large wall memorial was revealed and Don Huber, coach, teacher and friend, was remembered.