



DANIEL MARINKOVICH 1926-2020



Hoop Historian **Daniel Marinkovich** passed away on December 11. Marinkovich was a four-year basketball player at the University of Montana from 1946 to 1950, and coached basketball at Custer County High School and Miles Community College for 20 years. Dan attended his first Final Four in 1951 and was present for every NCAA Championship from 1984 through 2019 -- attending the culmination of March Madness each year, well into his nineties. Marinkovich was inducted into the Hoop Historians in April of 2020. After his coaching career, he was Superintendent of the Anaconda School District for ten years. Dan was always a loyal supporter of his collegiate alma mater, the Grizzlies, and helped raised three million dollars in funding over a three-month period. Dan was inducted into the Montana Officials Association Hall of Fame.

WELCH ADVANCES TO STATE FINALS – ONCE AGAIN

Hoop Historian **Gordon Welch** always looks forward to state final competition. As a player at Carbondale High School in southern Illinois, Welch scored 20 points in the final game of his high school career, as his team fell one game short of advancing to the state finals. After playing collegiately, Welch became an official and worked the Texas high school basketball state finals in 1993. This past season, Welch added another state finals appearance to his impressive resume, as he officiated the 2020 Texas high school Volleyball state semi-finals. Way to go Gordon!



SONNY ALLEN PROVIDED A LONG-LASTING IMPACT



Basketball coach **Sonny Allen** left an impression on many people, including a couple of Hoop Historians as well as countless others. Allen, who passed away a few months ago, was an offensive innovator on the court and a fighter for social justice off the floor. In 1965, he took the head coaching position at Old Dominion University and recruited the school's first African American athletes inside the segregated state of Virginia. Sonny's teams advanced to the NCAA Division II tournament five times, winning the championship in 1975 and finishing second in 1971. Allen was also head coach at two other NCAA schools, in the CBA, WBL, WNBA, as well as an assistant in the NBA. Allen attended Marshall University and was a classmate of Hoop Historian **John Mayberry**, who was attending Marshall on a football scholarship. The two knew each other prior to college while growing up in West Virginia. After winning the National Championship, Allen took the head coaching position at Southern Methodist University and recruited future Hoop Historian **Gordon Welch**, who ended up scoring 10.1 points per game his senior year. In his 36-year coaching career Sonny won 613 games and had many more wins with the relationships he made through basketball.

PLENTY OF TIME AHEAD TO WATCH BASKETBALL

Hoop Historian **Brian Burmeister** officially retired from working at Costco after 12 years and one month of service, which gives him more than enough free time to catch games on the Big Ten and Pac-12 Networks. Congratulations Brian!

GET READY TO ZOOM: ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS PLANNED FOR JANUARY



Mark your calendars for **Sunday, January 17** and **Sunday, January 31** for the first two Hoop Historians roundtable Zoom meetings. Meetings will be open to Hoop Historians members and Friends of the Hoop Historians. Meetings will be held starting at 7:00 pm Eastern; 6:00 pm Central and 4:00 pm Pacific Standard Time. Each session will discuss the current events in college basketball, have a trivia contest and will allow of members and friends to interact with one another. Additional roundtables are also planned for February and early March. Meetings can be accessed from your home computer, laptop, tablet, or mobile phone. More information on the meetings and the "Introduction to Zoom" session – for those not familiar with the online technology, will be announced in early January.

BACK AT WORK AGAIN



Hoop Historian **Ted Reineking** (left) is back on the sidelines at DePaul

2021 FINAL FOUR



APRIL 3-5