Robert E. Caselli
1952-1988

A Teacher, a Coach and a Principal in South Dakota for 34 years. Robert E. Caselli is being honored as a major contributor to the Athletic Program at Washington High School.

Robert E. Caselli was born on December 3, 1927. He attended Proviso Township High School in Maywood, Illinois. He participated in Football (All Conference Half-Back), Wrestling and Track. He earned 2 varsity awards in football, wrestling and track in a school where freshman and sophomores were not allowed to play varsity sports.

Bob attended Dakota State University in Madison, South Dakota, graduating in 1951. While at Dakota State University, he participated in track and football. During his college career he scored 44 touchdowns and 16 points after touchdowns for a total of 280 points. He was named to the Tom Harmon Little All American team in 1951 and inducted into the South Dakota Intercollegiate Conference Hall of Fame in 1984. In 1986 he was the recipient of the Dakota State University Distinguished Alumni Award.

In 1960 he received his Masters Degree from the University of South Dakota and did post-graduate study at South Dakota State and the University of Chicago.

Bob served several schools in South Dakota. Langford (1951-52); Garfield Elementary in Sioux Falls (1952-56); South Sioux Elementary (1952-56); Patrick Henry Junior High (1956-58) and Washington High School (1958-1960). In each of these teaching positions, Bob coached football, basketball and track. He was the Assistant Principal at Patrick Henry Junior High from 1960-69; the Principal at Edison Junior High from 1969-74 and the Principal at Washington High School from 1974-88. As principal of Washington High, he was an avid supporter of the school's athletic program and coaches. This support added immeasurably to the success of those programs.

From 1989 to 1993, he served as a South Dakota State Representative from District 12. His community activities included Charter member of the Sioux Falls Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa; President of the Downtown Sioux Falls Kiwanis; Secretary of the Board of Directors of Turn About; Vice President of the Sioux Falls Retired Teachers; President of Our Saviors Lutheran Congregation in Sioux Falls and Stephen Ministry Leader for United Lutheran Church in Bella Vista Arkansas. Other awards received by Caselli include Sioux Falls Downtown Kiwanis Outstanding Club Leader and the South Dakota Music Educators Association Distinguished Administrator Award. He received the Howard Wood Relays 25-year award in 1983 and the Howard Wood Relays Board of Directors Award in 1998.

Bob and his wife, Delila, now live in Bella Vista, Arkansas. They have four children. Rebecca Caselli Smith, R. Craig, Garth and a Foster Daughter Mary Ann Beck.

Washington High School is proud to induct Robert E. Caselli into the Washington High School Athletic Hall of Fame.