

# Seven Selected To Coyote Sports Hall Of Fame

VERMILLION — Seven Coyotes comprise the 2015 Henry Heider Coyote Sports Hall of Fame Class. The induction ceremony will be held Sept. 19 during USD's Hall of Fame Weekend.

Brothers and baseball players Jason '94 and Jeff Huska '95, football player Chris Mikkelsen '05, softball player Kristi (Gorman) McKee '99, track and field athletes Mike Martin '85 and Brianne (Vette) Edwards '04, and special contributor Nancy McCahren '57 are represented in the class of 2015. The group brings the Hall of Fame total to 297 individuals.

An abbreviated bio of the 2015 Hall of Fame Class follows:

**Kristi (Gorman) McKee (1995-98)**

McKee, who came to USD from Denison, Iowa, is one of two players in program history to earn All-America honors and was the first to do so following her junior season in 1997. McKee is a two-time all-NCC and all-region outfielder who led South Dakota to a program-record 40 wins in 1998 when she batted .401 with 46 RBIs and 48 runs scored. She hit .409 during her All-America season in 1997. McKee graduated holding program career records for hits (225), runs (124), RBIs (98) and doubles (40). She also had the second-highest batting average on the books at .347. She still ranks in the top 10 in all five categories.

McKee and her husband, Mickey, reside in Houston, Texas, with their four children Taylor, Maddox, Peyton and Brooks. McKee taught and coached in the Houston area for 10 years. She and Mickey own Kodiak Gas Services, an oilfield service company.

**Jason Huska (1991-94)**

Huska, who grew up in Vermillion, is one of two players in program history to earn all-NCC honors three times (his brother, Jeff, is the other). In 140 collegiate games spanning four seasons from 1991-94, Huska batted .342 (152-for-445) with program records of 22 home runs and 102 runs scored. He also had 103 RBIs. Huska started at first base for three seasons and was a catcher during his freshman campaign. He finished with a program-record 868 putouts and carried a .984 fielding percentage.

Huska's first season with the Coyotes was the program's first following a four-year hiatus. Huska batted .363 as a freshman in leading the program to a record 21 wins and a 9-7 mark in NCC play.

Huska has served as assistant principal and athletic director at Vermillion High School for the last 15 years. He and his wife, Sue, have two daughters, Mckenzie and Keely, and a son, Jayce.

**Jeff Huska (1991-94)**

Huska, who grew up in Vermillion, is a two-time Academic All-American infielder who led the Coyotes in batting for four consecutive seasons from 1991-94. He graduated as the program's all-time leader in eight different offensive categories including batting average (.382), hits (165), RBIs (117), doubles (35) and slugging percentage (.595).

Huska and his brother, Jason, are the only Coyotes to be named to the All-NCC team three times. He led the NCC in batting during conference play as a freshman (.500) and broke South Dakota's single-season record by hitting .419 (44-for-105) as a senior. He belted 18 home runs, scored 91 times and had a .456 on-base percentage in four seasons as a Coyote.

Huska currently resides in Windom, Minn., with his wife, Jennifer, and their children Sam, Kaitlee and Charlee. Huska serves as a high school biology and anatomy teacher. He is also a head girls basketball coach and assistant varsity football coach.

**Chris Mikkelsen (2001-04)**

Mikkelsen, who came to USD from Gregory, S.D., is a two-time all-NCC performer who excelled as both a wide receiver and return man. He caught 150 passes for 2,279 yards and 15 touchdowns in four seasons from 2001-04. He averaged 11 yards on 39 punt returns and 26 yards on 25 kickoff returns in that span and has the longest kickoff return in program history of 100 yards.

Mikkelsen is a three-time academic all-NCC honoree who helped lead the Coyotes to a 9-2 record as a senior in 2004. He graduated as the program's all-time leader in receptions. He currently ranks third in career catches, fourth in receiving yards, sixth in receiving touchdowns, and seventh in all-purpose yards (3,417).

Upon graduating from USD, Mikkelsen enrolled in chiropractic school in Bloomington, Minn., and graduated in 2010. He began working at ChiroSport in Sioux Falls that same year and

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# K.C. A No-Coasting Zone

Royals Not Letting Up Despite Big AL Central Lead

BY DAVE SKRETTA  
 AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — When Ned Yost was the bench coach in Atlanta, he watched the Braves cruise to a few division titles with big leads by the time August rolled around.

This year, he's learning how that feels as the manager in Kansas City.

After eking out a wild-card spot last year, the reigning American League champions had rolled to a 12-game advantage in the Central entering Tuesday night's game against the Detroit Tigers. In fact, there were more games between the Royals and second-place Minnesota Twins than separated the West-leading Houston Astros from the last-place Oakland As.

The St. Louis Cardinals had a five-game lead in the NL Central, the second largest margin of any division. Otherwise, most races are wide open entering the final six weeks of the season.

"It's nice. That's good. It gives us some breathing room," Yost said, "but we still have 50-something games yet. Even though you have a big lead, you can't let your guard down for a second. Everybody is out to get you."

It would be easy for a team to relax with such a comfy cushion, but the Royals insist that's not their style. They quickly point out that they have not won a division title since 1985, the year of their only World Series triumph, and that anything — injuries to pitchers, slumps in their lineup — could send



JOHN SLEEZER/KANSAS CITY STAR/TNS  
 Kansas City Royals starting pitcher Johnny Cueto (47) celebrates after finishing out the eighth inning on Monday at Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City, Mo. The Royals entered play on Tuesday with a 12-game lead over second place Minnesota, but remain focused on continuing to improve.

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# Timberwolves' Flip Saunders Says He Has 'Treatable' Lymphoma

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Flip Saunders had quite a challenge on his hands when he returned to Minnesota two years ago to take over the moribund Timberwolves.

Just as it appeared the franchise was starting to turn the corner, a new challenge has presented itself. And he plans to take this one on with as much determination and confidence as he has any other.

Saunders announced Tuesday that he is being treated for Hodgkins lymphoma, and his doctors consider it "very treatable and curable."

Saunders was diagnosed with a cancer of the immune system two months ago and has been undergoing chemotherapy. He plans to remain the Timberwolves' head coach and top executive while being treated.

"I am attacking this with the same passion I do everything in my life, knowing this is a serious issue," he said in a statement issued by

the team. "I also know that God has prepared me to fight this battle."

The 60-year-old Saunders returned to the Timberwolves as team president in 2013. Last year, he replaced the retired Rick Adelman on the bench and the team finished 16-66.

Even while undergoing treatment, Saunders remained active with the team, overseeing draft workouts, selecting Karl-Anthony Towns at No. 1 overall and trading for Tyus Jones on draft night in June. He signed players including Euroleague MVP Nemanja Bjelica and veteran point guard Andre Miller to supplement a roster teeming with young talent.

He didn't attend the Las Vegas Summer League, but has remained engaged and at the team's new practice facility throughout the summer. Doctors have encouraged him to keep up with his daily business.

"Flip has kept me apprised of his

cancer diagnosis and treatment," owner Glen Taylor said. "He has my support as well as my thoughts and prayers for him and his family."

As team president, head coach and a minority owner, Saunders has carved out a nearly unprecedented amount of power within the organization. His influence can be seen from the construction of the roster, the return of franchise icon Kevin Garnett and the drum line occasionally used during pregame introductions.

He will no doubt lean on his coaching staff — Sam Mitchell, Sidney Lowe, Ryan Saunders (Flip's son) and David Adelman — as well as a front office team that includes general manager Milt Newton. But the organization doesn't expect the diagnosis to get in the way, especially given that he has almost two months before training camp begins.

"It was emotional for me when

Flip informed me of his battle as I consider Flip a very good friend who I love like a brother," Newton said. "My family and I will support him and his family in any way we can. We will pray for his complete recovery and support him to the fullest."

Saunders started informing friends about the diagnosis a few weeks ago and has since come to peace with the path ahead. He remained confident that he will be ready for training camp in October and healthy enough to handle the grind of the 82-game season that awaits.

"I am taking it step by step and day by day to understand how to best manage this process," Saunders said.

The former University of Minnesota standout coached the Timberwolves for 10 years before being fired in 2005, leading the long-suffering franchise to its only real playoff

success. Taylor brought him back as team president two years ago to try to get the organization back on track, and he's helped infuse the roster with promising young players including Towns, Andrew Wiggins, Zach LaVine and Shabazz Muhammad while convincing Garnett to sign a two-year contract.

The moves have energized a fan base that hasn't had a team in the playoffs since 2004, and Saunders made it clear he has no plans of slowing down.

"Sending positive thoughts and praying for a good recovery," point guard Ricky Rubio said. "Stay strong, coach."

Twins manager Paul Molitor went to college with Saunders at Minnesota and extended some well wishes before his team played the Texas Rangers.

"I certainly will be thinking of him and pulling for him," Molitor said. "He's got a lot of fight in him."

# Panthers QB Newton Doesn't Regret Role In Scuffle At Camp



DAVID T. FOSTER III/CHARLOTTE OBSERVER/TNS  
 Carolina Panthers quarterback Cam Newton (1) throws downfield at morning practice during the team's training camp at Wofford College in Spartanburg, S.C., on Tuesday.

SPARTANBURG, S.C. (AP) — Cam Newton is defending his role in a scuffle with Carolina Panthers' teammate Josh Norman that put the star quarterback at risk of unnecessarily getting injured.

Newton said Tuesday he would do it again.

"I have no regrets of things that I've done," Newton said. "It's been whispered about 'franchise quarterback doing this or doing that.' What's the blueprint of a franchise quarterback? Leading your team. I'm not going to let anyone dictate how I play."

It's rare to see a quarterback of Newton's stature in-

stigating any type of contact, let alone starting a fight, at training camp.

But Newton contends he's not like most franchise quarterbacks.

"You've never seen a guy in a red jersey like me," Newton said. "You're not going to shape or form me into who you want me to be. I'm here for" my teammates.

Most quarterbacks around the league, including Newton, wear a red jersey at practice designed to protect them from contact and reduce the risk of injury.

They normally keep a

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# Jets' Smith Out 6-10 Weeks After Locker Room Fight

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. (AP) — Geno Smith's hopes for a breakout season with the New York Jets took a major blow — to the jaw.

The quarterback will be sidelined at least 6-10 weeks with a broken jaw after being punched by teammate Ikemefuna Enemkpal in the locker room Tuesday morning. Smith, entering his third season, required surgery to repair the injuries.

Coach Todd Bowles made the stunning announcement in an impromptu news conference before training camp practice was scheduled to start.

Enemkpal (EN-um-PAL-ee), an outside linebacker in his second season, was immediately released by the Jets. Bowles said Smith and Enemkpal got into an "altercation" in the Jets' locker

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