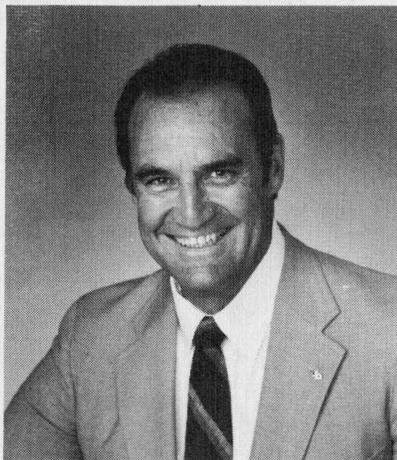


in 1974-75 while helping the Warriors win the world championship.

In 1977, Wilkes joined the Los Angeles Lakers. He played an integral part in the Lakers winning three NBA Championships. His best season with the Lakers was 1980-81 when he averaged 22.6 points per game, 11th best in the league. A year earlier he averaged 20 points per game and tallied 37 points in the sixth and final game of the NBA Championship Series against Philadelphia, which the Lakers won 123-107.

He also averaged 21.2 points in 1981-82 when the Lakers won another NBA title.

Plagued by injuries and reduction of playing time, Wilkes was released by the Lakers during the summer of 1985. Although he was signed by the L.A. Clippers, Wilkes retired from basketball shortly after the 1985-86 season started.



Bill Blythe

It's a good thing dentist Bill Blythe was self-employed. If he worked for someone, it's unlikely he would have been able to devote all the time he has over the years to help the local sports community.

"It was a lot of long hours, but it was also a lot of fun," says Blythe of his involvement. "And I couldn't have done it without the strong support of my family and office staff and the great people who worked on the various committees and boards with me."

Going over his various activities, one would have a difficult time

finding someone else who has done more for the local sports community.

Among his activities were: a member of the Santa Barbara Athletic Round Table Board of Directors for 15 years, including six years as president and master of ceremonies at the SBART's weekly press luncheons; served five years (three years as president) on the Valley Stadium Inc. committee which raised capital for the stadium to be built at San Marcos High; and was a member of the UCSB Hoop Club, "UCSB Bench," and UCSB Gaucho Gridiron Club and president of both the football and basketball support groups for three years. He also was involved in the resurrection of football at UCSB a few years ago.

In addition, he was co-chairman to head the Capital Campaign to raise the \$850,000 to complete the construction of the UCSB Events Center.

Blythe also was co-founder of the Youth Basketball League and served as its first president for the first two years.

He likewise founded and was president of Student Activities, Inc., which raised considerable funds to pay the fees the Santa Barbara School District charged under its "Pay for Play" policy.

Blythe also was part of the original committee to start Las Positas Park and served on the board of directors. In addition, he was host for the local TV sports show "Athletic Round Table with Bill Blythe" for two years.

An active horseman, Blythe was a member of various riding organizations, including Santa Barbara Trail Riders and Rancheros Vistadores. And those are just some of Blythe's many activities in the community.



Louise Lowry Davis

Louise Lowry Davis admits today she always had a bit of "showmanship" in her.

"I wanted class ... the tops ... the best for anything I did," confessed Davis, who served as a supervisor for the City's Recreation Department for 30 years before retiring in 1966. "I loved my job. I felt a great responsibility for my work because I was representing the city of Santa Barbara through the Recreation Department and I felt I had to give my best. The pride I had in my city wouldn't allow me to give any less."

With that kind of attitude, it's no wonder Santa Barbara Recreation Department's women's programs under the direction of Davis became the envy of other cities all around the country. The success of today's women's recreational programs sponsored by the city are due in large part to Davis.

As director of the Women's Sports League, which was sponsored by the Recreation Department, Davis turned women's sports activities into one of the biggest draws in the city back in the 1930s and 40s.

As many as 5,000 fans would turn out at Pershing Park for the opener of the softball season. The women's softball league drew over 200,000 people over an eight-year period. To draw interest in the

league, Davis got the Santa Barbara High band and the American Legion Drum Corps to perform at the season's opener.

Davis said it took hard work and organization to get the women's sports programs the popularity it got back in the 1930s and early 1940s but she says it also took a lot of help. "I've had a lot of success but it must be remembered it wasn't the work of one individual but a united group."

Among those she credits is the late Katherine McCloskey, the first woman inducted into the Santa Barbara Hall of Fame. "She started the Women's Sports League in 1932 and I came aboard in 1935."

Sports has always been part of Davis' life. She was a star athlete at Hollywood High before moving to Santa Barbara to attend Santa Barbara State College. Besides competing in softball, she was one of the nation's top female table tennis players during her young adulthood.

Davis said she learned a lot from the seven City Recreation Directors she worked under during her 30-year service to the city. "All of them were wonderful men and all different and I learned from all of them."

Since her retirement from the recreation department, Louise Lowry Davis has been doing volunteer work for a variety of activities.

"I've done what I like to do all my life and that's sports."

Elmer Boeseke

It was no surprise when the late Elmer Boeseke decided to take up the sport of polo. For starters, it was the Boeseke family that started polo matches in Santa Barbara on a dirt field on San Andreas Street back in the 1890s. And at one time, there was an all-Boeseke polo team that competed.

Elmer Boeseke, whose father was a two-time mayor of Santa Barbara, got interested in riding horses at a very young age, according to his cousin Cedric Boeseke. "I

think he learned how to ride before he learned to walk. He was always on a horse on his Dad's ranch."

Elmer's talent in polo was such that he is the only native Santa Barbara polo player to achieve the ranking of 10 goals - the highest honor bestowed upon a player.

Elmer achieved international recognition as a polo player back in the 1920s and 1930s. He was a member of the United States' polo team that won the gold medal in the 1924 Olympic Games in Paris. The Olympic Committee dropped polo as one of its sports after that.

In addition to winning a gold medal in the Olympics, Elmer Boeseke was on the American polo team that upset the Argentines in Buenos Aires in 1932. That same year, he played a team of western players that defeated the top players from the East in a challenge match.

In 1933, Boeseke was on the National Open Championship team.

Whenever local polo players today talk about their sport, the family name of Boeseke is always brought up, especially the name of Elmer Boeseke, the greatest polo player to ever come out of Santa Barbara.

Gene Snyder

Coaches are used to challenges. When Gene Snyder was asked to coach Santa Barbara High's boys tennis team back in 1957, he knew he was in for a real challenge.

"I didn't know anything about tennis," recalled Snyder, one of six new inductees into the Santa Barbara Hall of Fame tonight. "Without my players knowing it, I snuck down and took lessons from Mike Koury, who was the city's tennis pro back then."

Today, Snyder says tennis is one of his favorite sports as a player.

What about his tennis team at



Santa Barbara High?

Under Snyder, the Dons won or were co-champions four of the five years he coached the team. The other year, they finished second.

Besides turning into a top high school tennis coach, Snyder was one of the most successful basketball coaches in the school's history. During his eight seasons as head basketball coach back in the late 1950s and early 1960s, he guided the Dons to the CIF playoffs three times, including the 1959-60 campaign when the team made it all the way to the CIF quarterfinals.

His overall record as basketball coach was 104 wins and 77 defeats.

When Snyder, who retired recently as co-principal of the school, took over the basketball program back in 1956, the Dons had won only 9 of their previous 60 games. After posting a 2-19 record in his first year back in 1956-57 season, the Dons turned things around and were co-league champions during the 1958-59 season. Led by such players as Bob Zapata and Gary Hart, the Dons won the Channel League title outright during the 1959-60 campaign.

Snyder retired as basketball coach after the 1963 season and served as the school's co-principal for 16 years before retiring.

As for being inducted into the Santa Barbara Hall of Fame, Snyder said: "I think it is a tremendous honor ... something I never expected."