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8 Legends in Boone County Sports - brought to you by the Boone County Shopping News

Boone's Greatest Baseball Pitcher



By MO KELLEY
Sports Editor

Boone's youth baseball program has produced some outstanding Boone High School pitchers.

And, there were even some very good hurlers in the community prior to the establishment of the youth program here in the 1950's.

Still, all things considered, Jack Mustapha Jr. would have to rate as the greatest Toreador pitcher in the school's history.

He was a bright star throughout the entire youth system. A highlight was his performance as the top pitcher on the 1962 Babe Ruth team that won state and regional championships and competed in the eight-team Ruth World Series in

Bridgeton, New Jersey. Just a year later, as a high school sophomore, the hard-throwing Mustapha recorded a 10-0 record for the Toreadors. He had 131 strikeouts that season in just 82 1/3 innings of work.

In his junior year, Mustapha suffered the first and only losses of his high school career.

Despite the fact he allowed just three hits with nine strikeouts, Marshalltown defeated him, 3-1, in a first round sub-state tournament game.

That same year, Des Moines Dowling, unbent at the time, collected seven hits and nine runs off of him in an 11-0 setback. Just four of the nine runs were earned.

His season total as a junior was 12-2 with 174 strikeouts in 97-innings and



Mustapha with his, 1965 state championship team

a 1.44 earned run average.

He had three no-hitters plus a nine-inning one-hitter. In those four contests, he struckout 19, 15, 14 and 14 batters respectively.

In 1965, Mustapha's senior season, he got off to a slow start due to illness. He missed nine early season games.

In the season opener, he defeated Nevada, 9-0, with a two-hit, 18-strikeout performance.

Due to illness, his next

start didn't occur until the Toreadors 15th game of the season.

Still, he finished with a 9-0 record and was brilliant in post-season play as his team won 12 of their last 13 games enroute to the state championship. Nine of those victorious games were in tournament play.

Mustapha made six starts in the tournament, posting four no-hitters and two one-hitters.

In the state championship

game, Mustapha defeated Burlington, 2-0, on a no-hitter with 12 strikeouts.

Over his entire senior season, he fanned 135 batters in 63 2/3 innings and posted an 0.28 earned run average. His entire prep record was 31-2 with 430 strikeouts in 243 innings, seven no-hitters and four one-hitters plus a state championship.

Mustapha went on to Iowa State University on a baseball scholarship. Freshmen were not eligible to play varsity ball but he did do some pitching on the freshmen team.

Then, military duty beckoned and injuries received in combat during the Viet Nam conflict plus the passage of time halted any further competition.

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