



HOLDREGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

Giving Back to Education

HHS Alumni Recognition Feature!



Dear HHS Alumni and HPS Foundation Supporters,

Take this opportunity to help the HPS Foundation grow!

GIVE 2 GROW is a one-day fundraising event on November 21st. It's your chance to make a real impact when your gift to the HPS Foundation is matched by the Phelps County Community Foundation. Last year's match day was very successful with nearly \$11,000 contributed to the HPS Foundation, as well as additional matching funds of more than \$2,200.

Join us in our mission to enhance educational programs and give back to the students of HPS. Your investment is guaranteed dividends! Find out more ... click to go on the Give2Grow website below. Please contact the HPS Central Office if you have questions. Walk-in donations will also be accepted at the Phelps County Community Foundation office from 8:00am-7:00pm on November 21st.

<http://give2grow.razoo.com/story/Holdrege-Public-Schools-Foundation-2013>

Holdrege High School is fortunate to have many very successful graduates. We are excited to continue sharing the stories of some of those HHS Alums thanks to the journalistic talents of Kristine (Long) Jacobson, Class of 1990.

We also welcome your suggestions and comments and encourage you to join the Duster Alumni Association (*see form below*).

Sincerely,

*Matt Allmand, Chairman
HPS Foundation Committee*

Jim Huge - Class of 1958

In the early 1960s, there was no Sea of Red. No consecutive sell-outs. No tunnel walk. Not even a winning season for the Huskers.

by Kristine Jacobson

That was the scene when Duster alum Jim Huce started playing football for the Huskers in 1958. But, during his senior year in college, it all changed.

A new coach by the name of Bob Devaney was hired.

It was the beginning of a new legacy that is called Nebraska football, and Jim Huce said humbly that he is grateful for "being able to play a very, very, very, very small part in turning the Nebraska football program around." That chance was made possible by Huce's parents deciding to move to Holdrege during his sophomore year in high school.

Huce was born in Dresher, lived in Superior for a while and then moved to Lincoln, where he found success as a basketball player. His family moved to Holdrege in the spring of his sophomore year when his dad was hired at the hatchery.

"It was a small enough school, you could do everything," Huce said of Holdrege High School. He enjoyed his role as editor of the school newspaper and lead in the junior class play in addition to sports. He recalled his newspaper advisor setting up a chance for him to interview Marian Anderson, a famous black opera singer, who had come to Holdrege to perform. "I really admired the fact that Holdrege really supported the arts," he said.

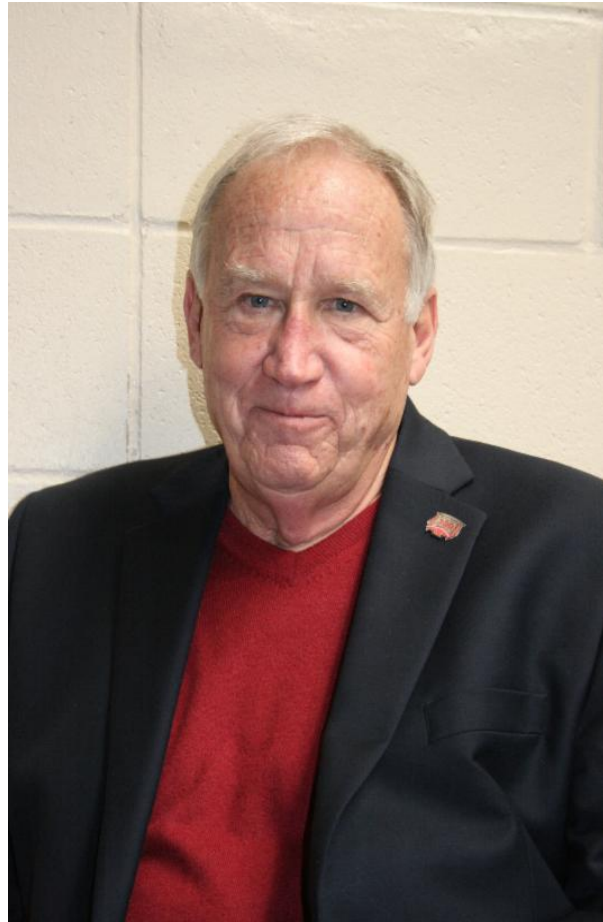
And, he felt he received an excellent education. His sports experience at HHS was memorable as well.

"I didn't play football until I was a junior," he said. "Jess Keifer gave me lots of good coaching. It gave me an opportunity I never would have had in Lincoln because I just played basketball."

The Duster basketball team earned a trip to the state championship in 1958, and they competed well in football, earning a mythical state championship by the Lincoln Journal Star during Huce's senior year.

Huce was recruited to play football and basketball by several colleges, but he chose to stay close to home in Nebraska. He played both football and basketball for the Huskers.

At the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Huce excelled in academics as well as sports. He maintained a 3.8 GPA and was named an Academic All American in 1962. He also earned three Academic All-Big Eight honors, was the first-ever three-time academic all-conference selection and was a member of the Innocent's Society.



Jim Huce - HHS Class of 1958

Huge said academics were important in his family. His mother only had the opportunity to attend school through eighth grade, and she wanted to ensure her three sons had opportunities that she didn't. "If you got home with anything other than an A, you got a long conversation," Huge said of his mother.

Huge majored in chemistry and math, eventually earning a bachelor's degree in those areas and a master's degree in educational leadership from UNL. While keeping up his grades, he also found success on the playing field. As a junior, Huge caught eight passes for 11 yards and one touchdown under Coach Bill Jennings' final season for the Huskers. They finished 3-6-1. The next year, Bob Devaney stepped in. "It was marvelous," Huge said. "When Devaney came in, it was like the clouds were lifted."

He said Devaney met with each of the players individually to discover their strengths. Huge said he learned great lessons in leadership from Devaney that would help him in his future role as a teacher, principal and leadership consultant. "He taught me to find out about students' strengths and to build on that," Huge said.

The Huskers went 9-2 during Huge's senior year and earned a trip to the Gotham Bowl at Yankee Stadium in New York, where they beat the Miami Hurricanes. It was the first of 40 consecutive winning seasons at Nebraska.

After graduating from UNL, Huge taught science and math in Lincoln Public Schools, quickly moving his way up to assistant principal and then principal. At the same time, he stayed connected with the Huskers by working as a sportscaster for the Cornhusker Football Radio Network for 14 years.

Early in his career, he accepted a principal job at a high school in Manhattan, Kan., where they asked him if he would be able to cheer for Kansas State. "I will wear a purple coat, but it will always have a red lining," Huge said he told them jokingly.

He dream job of being principal at Lincoln East High School eventually opened up, and he got the job. He was the second principal to lead the new high school. It was a time of tremendous growth at Lincoln East, and the new school started excelling in sports, academics and extra-curricular activities under Huge's leadership. Huge said he had an amazing team to work with at Lincoln East and will always have fond memories of his time there. "It was a wonderful time and the right combination of people," Huge said.

For the past 35 years, Huge has enjoyed traveling the world serving a consultant to schools, corporations and small businesses in all 50 states, Canada, Europe, Asia, Africa, South America, and the Middle East with his consulting business, Jim Huge & Associates.

He has worked as a mentor for governing boards, chief executives and executive teams, including coaching the vice president of marketing at Disney theme parks in Orlando.

He works with teams and leaders to help them identify and build on strengths, discover leadership style, manage time, coach future leaders, and motivate employees.

Huge now lives in Reno, Nevada, with his wife, Laura. He has two children, Todd Huge, an attorney in Seattle, and his daughter Joni, who is a nurse in high-risk pregnancies also in the Seattle area. He has three grandchildren.

Jim also enjoys his work as chairman of the Harry and Reba Huge Foundation, which was started by his brother, a successful attorney. The foundation offers scholarships to top scholars attending Nebraska Wesleyan University and the

College of Charleston in South Carolina. The foundation also offers the Dorothy Vorderstrasse Huge Scholarship for young women in Thayer and Nuckolls counties. This scholarship is in honor of Huge's mother, Dorothy, who "believed education was more than a means to further one's own opportunities; it's a means to grow them for others."

The unique aspect of the scholarships is that they offer mentoring from the Huge family in addition to the financial awards.

About Us

The mission of the HPS Foundation is to support and enhance the educational efforts of students and teachers of Holdrege Public Schools by providing funding for innovative and challenging programs, learning experiences, and activities.

Holdrege Public Schools Foundation

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