



# WILDCAT CHRONICLE



## 2015 HALL OF FAME

The WSU Wildcat Club was pleased to announce this year's 2015 Hall of Fame class. This year's Hall of Fame inductees are: Dave Arslanian (head football coach), Jermaine Boyette (men's basketball), Jeff Carlson (football), Tenille Howe Slack (women's golf) and Stephanie Stanger Hale (women's basketball). The inductees were honored at a banquet on February 27.

### Dave Arslanian

Coach Dave Arslanian has been a part of the Weber State community since 1969 when he played for the Wildcat football team.

He later returned for 16 years as a coach at Weber State with nine seasons as the head coach where he became the school's all-time leader in victories.

In 1989, Arslanian became the head coach of the Wildcats and over the next nine years would lead Weber State to 53 wins, still the most victories in school history.

As head coach of the Wildcats, he coached 38 players to All-Big Sky honors. He also coached four players who were drafted in the NFL including Tau Pupua, Cam Quayle and Scott Shields.

### Jermaine Boyette

Jermaine Boyette was a three-year standout for the Weber State men's basketball team and still ranks as one of the top players in school history.

Boyette came to Weber State from the tough streets of Hammond, Ind., a suburb of Chicago. After leading the Hammond High School Wildcats, he signed to play for the Weber State Wildcats and head coach Joe Cravens. He then came to Weber State where he sat out the 1999-00 season as a red shirt before beginning his three-year career with the Wildcats.

His crowning season came as a senior in 2002-03 when he guided the Wildcats to one of their best years in school history. He again led the Big Sky in scoring, this time at 20.5 points per game and earned Big Sky MVP honors. He guided the Wildcats to a perfect 14-0 regular season record in 2003, just the second team in Big Sky history to post an undefeated conference record. The Wildcats also captured the Big Sky Tournament and advanced to the NCAA Tournament where the winning streak ended with an 81-74 loss to Wisconsin.

He finished his career as Weber State's career leader in free throws made. He currently ranks fourth in school history in scoring with 1,613 points in his 85 career games.

### Jeff Carlson

Jeff Carlson was a four-year standout quarterback for the Weber State football team from 1984-88 and helped lead the Wildcats to one of their best seasons in school history.

Carlson ended his career as Weber State's career leader in passing yards with 6,147 yards, which now ranks third in



Above: Inductees Dave Arslanian, Jermaine Boyette, Tenille Howe Slack, Stephanie Stanger Hale and Jeff Carlson pose for a picture at the Hall of Fame banquet.

school history. He threw for 47 touchdowns in his career with the Wildcats, still third most in school history.

Following his Wildcat career, Carlson was drafted in the fourth round of the NFL draft by the Los Angeles Rams, which was the highest a Big Sky quarterback had ever been drafted. He played four seasons in the NFL with Tampa Bay, New England and Denver.

### Tenille Howe Slack

Tenille Howe Slack was a four-year member of the Weber State women's golf team and made history by becoming the first Wildcat to win a Big Sky title and led the 'Cats to their first ever conference championship.

She is still the only Wildcat to ever win the Big Sky title. She was named the Big Sky Conference Player of the Year that season, the only Wildcat to ever win the award.

Howe also had a strong amateur golf career and captured the 2000 Utah State Women's Amateur Championship at the Logan Golf and Country Club. She also advanced to the top 16 of match play at the U.S. Public Links Tournament in 2000 and qualified for the U.S. Women's Amateur in 2000.

Howe married Rob Slack in 2004. The couple has four children and lives in Lehi.

### Stephanie Stanger Hale

Stephanie Stanger Hale was a four-year standout for the Weber State women's basketball team and helped lead the Wildcats to their first Big Sky Conference title and trip to the NCAA Tournament. She also became the first Big Sky MVP in Weber State history.

Stanger played four seasons for head coach Carla Taylor and the Wildcats from 1998-2002. She led the Wildcats to a 21-9 record that season, including an 11-3 record in Big Sky play. It marked Weber State's first ever Big Sky Conference title and WSU advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the first time in school history. She was named the Big Sky Conference Most Valuable Player, the first Wildcat to ever earn the honor.

She still ranks 13th in scoring in Weber State history, totaling 1,126 points in her 115 career games. Stanger is the Weber State all-time leader in free throw percentage at .842 for her career. Stanger graduated from Weber State in 2003 with a degree in Secondary Education and spent five seasons as an assistant coach with the Wildcats under Coach Taylor. In 2003, she married former Weber State football player Mike Hale.

## WILDCAT CLUB

### MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: GRETTA ERICKSEN

Gretta Ericksen bleeds purple. She has been a member of the Wildcat Club for over 50 years.

Her late husband, Earl Ericksen, was a music teacher at Weber State. The couple first had season basketball tickets in the Swenson Gym. When the Dee Events Center was built Earl picked his seats carefully.

"I swear he sat in over half of the arena before he picked the seats he wanted," Gretta said. "We have those same exact seats still today."

Gretta will turn 90 on March 10. Since the passing of her husband, she rarely misses a Weber State men's basketball game and attends the games with her son, Steven.

In all her time as a Wildcat fan, her favorite memory was watching her nephew Jim Ericksen play for the Wildcats from 1975-77 with Wildcat great Al Dewitt.

She is proud to say that both of her children and her three grandsons have all graduated from Weber State. She is proud to be a Wildcat and to donate to the Wildcat Club Athletic fund.



Above: Gretta Ericksen stands for the National Anthem at a Weber State men's basketball game. Ericksen has been a long time Wildcat fan and truly bleeds purple.

# SOJOURNER'S JERSEY RETIRED

On Saturday, Jan. 10, Weber State retired the jersey of former men's basketball standout Willie Sojourner, making him the first Wildcat men's basketball player with a jersey retired.

Sojourner, who played three years at Weber State from 1968-71, still ranks as one of the best players in school and Big Sky history. In his three seasons with the Wildcats, he led Weber State to three-straight Big Sky Conference titles and three straight trips to the NCAA Tournament.

He still ranks as WSU's career leader in rebounding and is the Big Sky's career leader in rebounding average at 14.1 per game. He is also fifth in scoring in WSU history. In 2013, he was named one of the top 50 male athletes in Big Sky Conference history.

Sojourner came to Weber State out of Philadelphia where he was a multi-sport star at Germantown High School. He arrived in Ogden for the 1967-68 season under head coach Dick Motta but freshmen were not allowed to play varsity basketball at the time so he played that season with the Wildcat freshman team.

For his career, Sojourner played in 81 career games at Weber State and led the team in scoring and rebounding each



season. He earned First Team Big Sky All-Conference honors each season, one of five Wildcats to ever earn First Team honors three times. He still ranks first in Weber State and Big Sky history in career rebounding average at 14.1 per game. He is also Weber State's career leader and is second in conference history in career rebounds with 1,143. He still holds the school record with 25 rebounds in one game. He is also fifth in school history in scoring with 1,563 points and is sixth in scoring average at 19.3 points per game. In his three seasons, the Wildcats posted a 68-16 overall record and were 39-5 in Big Sky Conference games.

Sojourner was not only a star on the basketball court at Weber State. He was a member of the



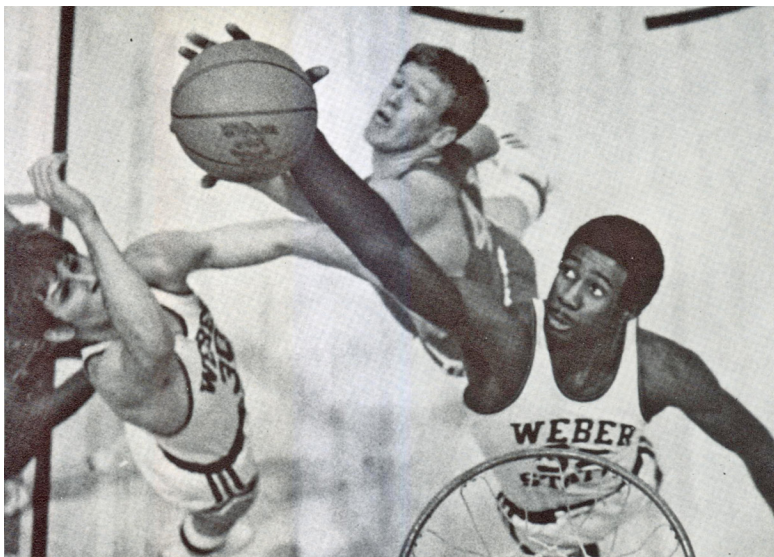
Wildcat track and field team and won three-straight Big Sky titles in the high jump. In 1970, he became Weber State's first Division I All-American in any sport as he earned All-American honors by finishing third at the NCAA Championship in the high jump. He was also the first Wildcat to ever reach the seven foot mark in the high jump.

Following his Weber State career, Sojourner was drafted with the eighth pick of the 1971 ABA Draft by the Virginia Squires. He was also drafted in the second round (20th overall) in the NBA Draft by the Chicago Bulls. He went on to play four years in the ABA, two with Virginia and two with the New York Nets. He played in 309 career games in the ABA, the most games played by any Wildcat in the ABA or NBA. He played the bulk of his profes-

sional career with Dr. J., Julius Erving.

He decided to continue his professional career overseas and went to Italy where he ended up spending the majority of the rest of his life. He played six more seasons professionally in Italy and had his number retired by his team in Rieti. He later returned twice to Italy as a coach. In 2005, while serving as the coach in Rieti, Sojourner was killed in a tragic one-car accident at the age of 57.

"We are thrilled to honor Willie Sojourner as the first Weber State men's basketball player to have his jersey retired," said Jerry Bovee, WSU Director of Athletics. "Willie was a terrific student-athlete and was a major part in helping put Weber State basketball on the map across the nation. He is certainly deserving of this honor."



# A MESSAGE FROM JERRY BOVEE



A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to attend the Utah Jazz game against the Portland Trailblazers. It is always fun to see how the people of Utah continue to accept and welcome Damian

Lillard back to town. At halftime, I was out in the tunnel area under Energy Solutions Arena and met the owner of the Trailblazers, Paul Allen. We had a brief but pleasant conversation about the impact that Damian has had in Portland and with his franchise. He was so complimentary of what Damian has brought to the organization. His comment to me was, "As an owner of an NFL and NBA team, I am very fortunate to have two of the best quarterbacks to run my teams in Russell Wilson and Damian Lillard."

I also visited briefly at halftime with the TV personalities of the Blazers, Mike Barrett and Mike Rice. They could not say enough positive things about Damian. Rice pulled me aside and said that he had recently asked Damian why he had designed purple shoes as part of his Adidas line and he said that Damian was quick to reply that he had

to continue and support and promote his school.

It was another example to me of the effect that our student-athletes can have in the world. Obviously Damian is an anomaly in what he has accomplished on a global scale but there are many of our former student-athletes that are doing amazing things in their own industries. It is a constant reminder that the outcomes of intercollegiate Athletics are far-reaching. They are meaningful beyond the day-to-day operation of the department and the games or competitions we compete in during our seasons each year.

This has been a challenging year in our winter sports but I'm confident that improvement will occur because the culture of our Weber State University Athletics programs is strong and vibrant. We have great coaches, student-athletes and staff members that are committed to providing the best to our local community.

An example of this occurred during the fall of the 2014 season as Weber State had 48 athletes earn Big Sky All-Academic honors. Of that number 17 were from football, 10 in volleyball, 10 from soccer, six in men's cross country and five in women's cross country. We are proud of their efforts and hope to see that number grow in the future. We currently have no teams below the 930 NCAA APR benchmark which indicates in real time that we

are performing well academically and that our students are in line to graduate at a high rate.

The strong culture of our athletic department was strengthened this fall when we welcomed Coach Jeremiah Larsen as the new head coach of the Wildcat volleyball program. Larsen comes to Weber State after a strong career as an assistant coach, including the last four as an assistant at Utah State. Has already made an impact on our student-athletes and is a great addition to our head coaching pool.

There continues to be much by way of national news on current topics such as cost of attendance, freshman eligibility and multi-year scholarships. While our staff is constantly tracking on all the NCAA legislation and the ongoing discussion as to the state of intercollegiate athletics, we are continuing to build our program in a responsible and measured fashion. Truly the only thing constant in this industry is change and those who are willing to embrace it and grow accordingly will find success. Thanks for your continued support, Go Wildcats!



*Jerry Bovee*

## STUDENT ATHLETE SPOTLIGHTS

### WOMEN'S TRACK: JAMIE STOKES



faster than her previous time set just two weeks earlier. That time is the fastest in the conference by nearly five seconds. She also has the fourth-fastest time in the conference for the 800-meters this season.

She's been on the Big Sky All-Conference Cross Country team two years in a row.

This year, Stokes has been named the Big Sky Athlete of the Week on two separate occasions for her performances during the indoor track season. At the Big Sky Indoor Track championship meet, Stokes earned All-Conference honors by winning the mile and earned her first career individual Big Sky title.

Jamie Stokes, a junior from Ogden, Utah, recently broke her own school record in the mile-run at the Husky Classic. Her time of 4:43.12 was nearly a second

### MEN'S TRACK: TREVOR RICKS



seasons.

Ricks earned 2014 All-Conference honors by placing ninth at Big Sky Championships covering the 8,000 meter course in 24:28.1. He placed 28th at the NCAA Mountain Region cross country championships covering a 10,000 meter course in 30:35.5.

Ricks was named the 2014 Indoor team MVP for the Wildcats. He is earning his Bachelor's of Integrated Science degree and has earned Big Sky All-Academic honors two years in a row.

At the Big Sky Indoor Track Championship meet Ricks finished in sixth place in the mile and ran anchor in the distance medley and took second.

Trevor Ricks, a senior from Alpine, Wyoming, a four year letterman in cross country and he was all-conference and all-state his sophomore, junior and senior