



Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
June 19, 2019

While watching ESPN last Saturday, I came up with an idea for the Face of Fillmore. Fillmore has gone down in history especially for its early pioneer heritage, but there are some other areas Fillmore is known for. One of those is found in the expertise of some local athletes.

From the very beginning of this column, I will explain that I know I will be missing several prominent names in the field of athletics. It is now your turn to fill in the blanks.



When thinking of athletes and Fillmore, notably Millard High, one of the first ones to come to mind with longtime residents is Taft Watts. Taft was actually from Kanosh but was a famous Millard High athlete. In 1943 he joined the MHS staff where he taught for 21 years. During that time his football team won 10 regional championships and six state victories, four which were consecutive years 1940-1953. He also coached track, winning 11 regional tournaments four state trophies and in 1954 he led the Millard wrestling team to a state championship.

Another great name in MHS coaching history is Phil Robison who was a head coach or assistant for several sports including basketball, football, and track. He was honored by the Utah Sports Hall of Fame Foundation as a Distinguished Coach in 2013. He continues to take an active interest in Millard County athletics.

David Rose, who just recently retired as the head basketball coach for Brigham Young University, was a former MHS coach and Fillmore resident.

Other notable athletes from Millard High include track star R.L. George who competed in the 1976 Toronto Summer Olympic Games.

One member of the 1996 MHS graduating class Aaron Boone went on to excel in football at the University of Kentucky and went on to play in the NFL. (I will admit to being a Bear fan while he was there.) His brothers Jason and Jesse also played professional football.

Millard High School was awarded the All-Sports Title for 2A for the second year in a row. Millard tallied 87 All-Sports points this year, topping last year's total by 10. The Eagles won state titles in wrestling, boys track, girls' cross country, and had three runner-up finishes.

Two of Millard's coaches were awarded the top honors in their fields – Coach Blake Turner for wrestling and Coach Cody Moat for girls' cross country.

Just this last week we watched anxiously as former Millard track star Anna Camp competed in the NCAA Track and Field Competition in Austin, Texas. On Thursday, she qualified for the finals which were held on Saturday, June 8. What a thrill to watch Anna on national television running as part of the field of the best eight runners in the country in the 800-meter race, being chosen for the First Team All American.

Congratulations to her and all others who compete in their chosen athletic fields.