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Indian Capital Technology Center

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2009



Joe Gordon Inducted into NSU Hall of Fame

Joe Gordon, Assistant to the Director for Indian Capital Technology Center's Muskogee Campus, has been inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame at Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

Gordon was raised in Bastrop, Louisiana, and attended Bastrop High School. "When I was growing up, there weren't many opportunities for kids like me after high school graduation," says Gordon. "I never thought I could ever go to college. My only options seemed to be to join the Army or work on the railroad. There were four children in my family and my parents couldn't afford it."

But one day there was a knock at the door of the Gordon home. "My mother answered the door. The man at the door said he wanted to talk to Joe Gordon about going to college," says Gordon. "That man was Gene Hawk, basketball coach for Seminole Junior College, in Seminole, Oklahoma. He visited with my parents and told them that I should go to college, and that it would all be paid for. It was exciting, because nobody in my family had ever gone to college before. My parents said they would talk about it."

Leaving his family and heading for another state was a big step for Joe. “Gene Hawk sent a minister and his wife to Louisiana to talk to my parents,” said Joe with a smile. “The minister asked my parents if he and his wife could take me to Seminole, so I could attend college. My parents gave their blessing and I packed my belongings and left for Oklahoma. That was in 1972.”

Gordon played basketball at Seminole Junior College and received his Associates Degree. “I was being recruited by several schools in Kansas, Alabama, Texas and Oklahoma,” says Gordon. “When I talked with Dr. Jack Dobbins, he had something that intrigued me, so I decided to go to Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma.”

Gordon graduated from Northeastern State University in 1976. He was a two-year basketball letterman for the Redmen where he earned Honorable Mention All-Oklahoma Intercollegiate Conference honors in 1976. He was named the Most Valuable Player on Northeastern State’s 1976 squad.

Following graduation he coached basketball for 27 years. For 24 years he was head coach and went on to log a career record of 361-190. For nearly 20 years, he also served as the Athletic Director for the Wagoner Public Schools. During his illustrious coaching career, his teams posted 17 district championships, 15 conference titles, 4 area crowns, won six regional championships and had two semifinal appearances. In 1999 he led the Wagoner High School Bulldogs to a state runner-up finish.

Gordon served as president of the Oklahoma Basketball Coaches Association, and president of the Oklahoma Intercollegiate Athletic Association. He was the Oklahoma High School Athletic Director of the Year in 1998, an All-State basketball coach in 1997, the Faith 7 Coach in 2003-2004 and a Region 3 representative for the Oklahoma Coaches Association.

Gordon left coaching last year and now serves as the Assistant to the Director for Indian capital Technology Center’s Muskogee Campus. He and his wife, Marie, reside in Wagoner. They have three children, Joe (30), and twins, Alan and Alanda (28), and four grandchildren.