

Inducted into State Hall of Fame

Emmot receives special honor



HALL OF FAME COACH — Walter (Kayo) Emmot of Independence seems to be in a reflective mood during induction ceremonies Friday night in Emporia.

(Photo by Chris Riggs)

**By DICK HARDY
Sports Editor**

EMPORIA— Water (Kayo) Emmot has always been and is still a winner.

And at long last, statewide recognition was paid to the former Independence High School Football coach here Friday night.

It may not have been a proper setting for a football coaching whiz — at halftime of a state Class %A high school basketball tournament game — but as they say, it's the thought that counts.

During halftime of Friday night's state tournament basketball game between Salina Central and Topeka Hayden High, the former Independence High football coaching great was officially inducted into the Kansas State High School Activities Association's Hall of Fame.

A plaque, suitably engraved, was presented Emmot by Nelson L. Hartmen, executive secretary of the KSHSAA. Although the time for the ceremony was at about 9 p.m. at White Auditorium approximately 115 miles from Independence, there was a good turnout of Emmot friends, former players, IHS officials and school cheerleaders.

Annual Oscar Stauffer Awards were also presented at the ceremony. Plaques were presented to Allen Quakenbush, of the Topeka Capital Journal, 1981 sportswriter award winner,

and to Gary Bailey, of Coffeyville radio station KGGF, winner of the annual sportscaster award.

Emmot's wife and their sons, Dr. William Emmot, Independence, and Ray Emmot, Erie High School football coach, attended the induction ceremony.

As Independence's head football coach, Emmot established a remarkable record of 103-14-3 for an 83 percent winning edge.

From 1954-62, his Bulldog teams went 62-1 and fashioned a 49-game winning streak that still stands as a state record.

Friday's induction into a hall of fame was the second for the former Bulldog coach. In 1972, he was elected to the Washburn University Athletic Hall of Fame. At Washburn, Emmot carved out a brilliant career in both football and basketball and was named to All-Missouri Valley teams in both sports.

There were six 1980 inductees into the KSHSAA Hall of Fame. The five other selectees were honored and presented plaques at other state high school championship events.

To be eligible for the hall of fame, an individual must have made an unusual and outstanding contribution to inter school activities, either as a student with exceptional talent, a faculty member (coach, etc.), administrator, athletic official or contributor, and be no longer

active in the category for which he was nominated.

In 1976, the late Evan R. Stevens, long-time Independence school superintendent who worked many years in state and national high school activities associations, was selected to the KSHSAA Hall of Fame.

The Hall of Fame is housed in the Kansas State High School Activities Association's office building located at 520 W. 27th Street in Topeka.

Emmot, recovered from vascular surgery in late December, is also considered an excellent teacher. He heads the social

science department at IHS and plans to retire from his teaching duties following the 1981-82 school year.

Emmot's accomplishments in his career as a high school coach cried out for state recognition. And that came in proper form Friday night at Emporia.

Before the ceremony, the IHS Bulldog cheerleaders performed at center court. The 10 attractive young ladies did themselves, their school and community proud. They received a fine round of applause from an appreciative audience.



CONGRATULATIONS COACH — Pack St. Clair, left, and Dan Plake, right, were among friends and former players under Emmot on hand for the ceremonies honoring him Friday, St. Clair and Plake played for Emmot's Bulldog teams in 1956-57-58.

(Photo by Chris Riggs)