



Doug Huff – *Sports and Athletics*

A pioneer in national, state, and local high school sports media coverage, Doug Huff was a daily newspaper sports editor and columnist in Wheeling, a widely-read contributor to national publications, and an author and historian in a five-decade career.

When he became the second newspaper sports journalist inducted into the National High School Sports Hall of Fame in 1999, the award bio started, “When it comes to statistics and records on high school sports, Doug Huff is in a class by himself on a national basis.” When the National Federation of State High School Associations published the first National High School Sports Record Book in 1978, he was instrumental in the original research as contributing editor.

Huff also authored national high school reports, pre-season All-America teams, top college recruits, and national team rankings for football, boys basketball, and baseball for Street & Smith’s magazines from 1975-2008. Street & Smith’s, with an estimated circulation of 500,000 in every state and overseas, was originated in 1941 and considered the “Bible of National Sports Previews.” He was a contributor or columnist for The Sporting News, USA Today, Sports Illustrated, ESPN, Sport, Parade, Scholastic Coach, Student Sports, Football News, Pro Football Weekly, Basketball Times, Basketball Weekly, Letterman, Joe Namath’s National Prep Sports, SportsNow, NABC Courtside, The New York Times, Pittsburgh Weekly Sports, etc. He edited several national prep publications and published a statewide periodical, “W.Va. Sports Extra,” from 1971-78 and “Prep Athletes Report,” a recruiting guide used by 71 colleges. He originated national/regional high school team rankings for football and boys basketball in 1987 that were used on the Associated Press wires and distributed by Sports Features Syndicate to numerous major newspapers.

Huff was profiled in USA Today, on national wire services, and in several publications. He authored the first state all-sports reference book, “Doug Huff’s Sports in West Virginia, A Pictorial History” in 1978 and co-

authored “How to Watch Sports on TV...And Enjoy It” in 1972, and contributed to an estimated 30 other books. In his book, “Incredible Football Feats,” Jim Benagh labeled him “a one-man clearing house for high school records.”

Huff had a 47-year West Virginia daily newspaper career including a longest-ever 44-year tenure on The Intelligencer: associate sports editor (1967-78), sports editor (1979-99), and contract columnist (2000-12). He originated the All-Valley Boys Basketball and Baseball selections in 1968 and covered state championships in eight sports plus West Virginia University, including 13 football bowl games, West Virginia Conference sports, etc. He was the original curator and major contributor for the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Sports Museum inside WesBanco Arena. He earlier was sports editor of The Fairmont Times and on the Morgantown Dominion-News sports staff. He ended his career as senior editor for ESPN Rise with ESPN/Student Sports from 2000-12.

Huff served on six Hall of Fame boards located throughout the Ohio Valley and the state. A life member of the West Virginia Sports Writers Association and secretary-treasurer since 1982, he was on board of directors of the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association and Football Writers Association of America, a member of the U.S. Basketball Writers Association of America, and life member of the WVU Alumni and WVU School of Journalism Alumni, serving as president for two terms. He has been the recipient of numerous other awards honoring his sports and journalistic expertise.

He was born in New Martinsville on Sept. 25, 1943, to Ralph and Eva Huff. His wife, Jean Fox Huff, died in 2014. Huff’s son, Ryan, and daughter-in-law Megan have three children – Kellan, Logan and Griffin, and daughter Bethany Schunn and son-in-law Matt have three children – Jeremiah, Reed and Samantha.