

Darroyl Sims

Coach



Darroyl Orien Eugene Sims grew up in Philip and graduated from Philip High School. He attended Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, SD, on a football scholarship.

Sims met his future wife during college, and he and Margaret Huyck were married on March 13, 1943, at Dakota City, Neb. He enlisted in the Army Air Force in 1943 and served as an instructional pilot until his discharge in 1945. After the Army, Sims returned to Dakota Wesleyan to complete his BA in education, then went on to earn his Master's Degree in Administration at Colorado State College.

In 1948, the couple moved to Custer, where Sims taught and coached various sports. He became a renowned basketball coach, developing his own zone defense that he passed down to his son. Sims led two teams to the Class A State Tournament. He was the first person inducted into the Custer Wall of Fame in 1988 and was later inducted into the South Dakota Coaches Hall of Fame in 1996. He went on to serve as principal and later as superintendent of Custer Public Schools.

In 1964, the family moved to Pierre for one year while he worked as the business manager of the Pierre Public Schools. In 1965, he returned to Custer and became the administrator of the Custer State Hospital, where he remained until his retirement in 1984.

Sims was an avid golfer and competed in numerous tournaments. He and his wife, Margie, traveled throughout the Southwest, playing on various golf courses until they found one in Desert Center, Calif., that became their winter retreat. They spent 20 years as snowbirds, living in Desert Center during the fall and winter and returning to Custer in the spring and summer.

Darroyl Sims passed away on Dec. 23, 2005.