

Bob Brooks honored by C.R. Schools

Written by Jim Ecker

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Bob Brooks broadcast his first high school football games from Kingston Stadium in 1952 and still visits the facility in search of good stories for his radio and TV shows.

Starting Sept. 30, he'll be reporting from the Bob Brooks Press Box at Kingston Stadium.

The Cedar Rapids Community Schools have decided to rename the press box in Brooks' honor and make him the first member of the new Kingston Hall of Fame.

There will be a ceremony at Kingston Stadium on Friday, Sept. 30 during halftime of the Jefferson and Kennedy football game.

"I'm humbled by it, of course," Brooks said Monday morning. "It's nothing I expected or thought about. I certainly appreciate the kindness."

The new Kingston Hall of Fame will recognize significant contributions made to the success of activities performed at Kingston Stadium, according to Dr. Dave Benson, the superintendent of Cedar Rapids Community Schools.

"I am very pleased to congratulate you as the first recipient of this honor," Dr. Benson wrote in a letter to Brooks.

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Brooks, 84, was nominated for the honor by a committee comprised of community members. Dr. Benson said Brooks exceeded the criteria for consideration.

"The District Activities Council and I were awed by the extraordinary impact you have made on our schools and student athletes during your more than six decades in broadcasting," Dr. Benson wrote.

"It is remarkable to note that you were the first to broadcast football games from Hill Park at Roosevelt High School in 1948 and were also the first to broadcast from Kingston Stadium in 1952. What an illustrious career you have shared with our community."

Brooks is the sports director at KMRV, has regular television shows on Mediacom and writes a weekly column for the Metro Sports Report.

Franklin, McKinley, Wilson and Roosevelt played their high school football games at Kingston in 1952. Now Jefferson, Kennedy and Washington play at Kingston, so it's appropriate he'll be honored at halftime of the Jefferson-Kennedy game on Sept. 30.

"I will be proud to unveil the new press box name at that time and to introduce you, Bob, as the charter inductee into the Kingston Hall of Fame," Dr. Benson stated. "We look forward to honoring your legacy as a broadcasting and community icon on this evening."