

A tip of the fedora to Mr. Brooks

Written by Scott Unash

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You can usually tell how the week is going to go by what happens the first thing Monday morning.

I knew this week would be a good one when I learned Monday morning that the Cedar Rapids Community Schools were not only going to begin a "Kingston Stadium Hall of Fame," but that the charter member was going to be none other than Bob Brooks. I was even happier when I learned the press box at the great stadium was going to be named in honor of Bob, one of the city's greatest men to ever hold a microphone.

Bob Brooks is not only Kingston Stadium, he is high school sports in the Metro. Bob has been covering the preps for the last 67 years and is still a fixture at the games each and every year. In fact, Bob was front and center in the press box both last Thursday and Friday for the opening two football games of the year.

Bob has the utmost respect from coaches, fans, parents, fellow broadcasters and scribes, and, most importantly, the athletes he covers. It is no secret that it was the goal of every athlete in basketball and football to have a "special night" when Bob was calling the game because you may get that opportunity to be interviewed by Bob after the game. Sometimes that was just as good as winning the contest!

Bob has seen it all at Kingston Stadium. From calling the first ever game in 1952, to NFL exhibition games at Kingston, to conference championship deciding tilts, he has seen and lived it all.

It is still, to this day, special whenever you walk into Kingston Stadium to call a football game, and I have had that privilege many times. Many times I think of Bob when I sit down and prepare my notes the way that he would have done in this very same booth in years gone by.

My hope is when they put that plaque on the wall of the press box, signifying this as the Bob

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Brooks Press Box, everyone who enters will take a moment and think about and thank Bob for all of his wonderful years of service to the sports fans of this community.

And give Bob a tip of the fedora.

(Scott Unash is the sports and program director at KGYM-AM 1600. He is a six-time winner of the Iowa Broadcast News Association play-by-play Announcer of the Year Award. Scott and Mark Dukes co-host the Gym Class weekdays from 3-4 p.m. on KGYM)