

Nominator's Name Darren Gattney Address 13870 Sunset Bay Blvd
City Rogers State AR Zip 72756 Phone 925-0644 Date of Nomination 15 June 2014

**CRITERIA FOR NOMINATING A PERSON TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE
ROGERS HIGH SCHOOL
MOUNTAINER HALL OF FAME**

- Secure nomination form from the Rogers School District website or from the main office of Rogers High School, 2300 S. Dixieland Rd., Rogers, Ar.;
- Contact as many people as possible who worked with, played for, were influenced by, or in any other way were a part of the nominee's life;
- Compile letters of recommendations, list of honors, any stats or special contributions, stories, championships, and sports participated, including pictures, clippings, etc. and return the application to Rogers High School's main office by May 31, 2014. The nominee will then be officially nominated and his/her name will be on the consideration list for five (5) years. Selections will be announced on July 1, 2014.

CATEGORIES:

1. **Distinguished Service:** Any person who has made a significant contribution to the Rogers High School Athletic Program. Any person other than an athlete or coach should have at least ten (10) years of service to the Rogers Athletic programs.
2. **Coaches:** Coaches that have made contributions to the athletic program, the community of Rogers, or have distinguished themselves in such a way as to deserve this honor. A current coach in the Rogers School District is not eligible for nomination.
3. **Players:** Players who have made contributions to the athletic program, the community of Rogers, or who have distinguished themselves in such a way as to deserve this honor. A player must have been out of high school for ten (10) years.

ROGERS HIGH SCHOOL MOUNTAINEER HALL OF FAME RESUME

Nominee's Name: Tom Olsen Phone: 479 619-7743
Current Address: 15321 Pleasant Ridge Rd City Rogers State AR Zip 72756
Spouse's Name Karen Olsen Number of Children 4

Category of Nomination (Circle One):

Distinguished Service Coach Player

Number of years involved in RHS athletics: _____

SPORTS INVOLVED WITH – Check all that apply:

 Softball Soccer CrossCountry Football Basketball Track
 Baseball Volleyball Tennis Golf Swimming
Legion

Athletic honors received: All State - 3x All Conference - Multiple Mountie Record

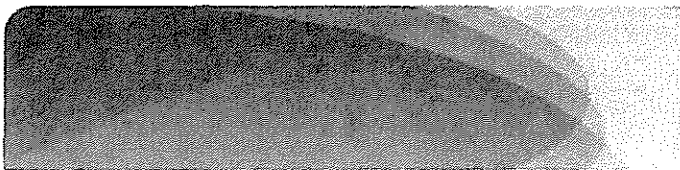
Present professional status: Head Coach - Heritage High School

Other information (use back if necessary) key stats and records on back

Former RHS Basketball assistant to Coach Gray + Coach Barnes,

Tom Olsen Statistical Records

- 4 Year Letterman
- 1090 career points (only one year--1988--with 3 point line) – at that time, this was 2nd all-time behind Mark Jones (1970-73)
- 171 career steals (record – 1st all-time). Broke prior record by 80 Steals.
- 251 career assists (record)
- 18.2 average points per game – 1988
- 3 time MVP, RHS Boys Basketball
- All Conference (AAAA West) 1986, 1987, 1988
- All State 1988 (verifying this... wasn't sure if he got it 2 years or 1)



Darren Gaffney

13870 Sunset Bay Blvd

Rogers, Arkansas 72756

Phone: (479) 925-0646

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June 13, 2014

Rogers High School Mountaineer Hall of Fame
Rogers High School
2300 South Dixieland Road
Rogers, Arkansas 72758

Dear Mountaineer Hall of Fame:

It is my privilege to nominate Tom Olsen for the Rogers High School Mountaineer Hall of Fame. Tom was as an highly decorated High School player for the Mounties, being named All-Conference three times and being voted All-State in 1988. He holds multiple school records. A number of his accomplishments are included in the articles and statistics attached.

I was fortunate to play with and against Tom in basketball and baseball. He is a fierce competitor with a tremendous will to win. A look at the records he owns demonstrates the type of player he was. He owns the career assist record due to his selflessness and desire to do what was best for team. He is the career steals leader, which speaks to his instincts and the effort with which he played. He was also a tremendous scorer, finishing his career 2nd on the all time points list. He was a complete player. He continued his career in college, first receiving a scholarship to Missouri Southern, and then finishing his career at Wisconsin - Lacrosse where he also excelled, averaging double - figures in points.

Tom is also a tremendous leader. The recommendation letters enclosed are from very prominent members of our community. Their words describe him as a leader among leaders. He continues that legacy as the Head Coach of the Heritage War Eagles today. The War Eagles of 2013-14 played with the same effort and tenacity that Tom displayed as a Mountie. It is no coincidence that the best season in Heritage history occurred this year under Tom's leadership and with Crist Olsen and Dane Olsen playing significant roles.

Tom's accomplishments alone are worthy of the Hall of Fame. However, he also is a man of tremendous character. He has represented Rogers with pride while on the floor for the Mounties, while playing AAU basketball, as a college player, and as a coach for both Rogers and Heritage High Schools. He has left a tremendous impact on Rogers athletics. He is everything we should want a Mountie to be. I appreciate your consideration of Tom for the Mountaineer Hall of Fame. He will continue to make you proud.

Sincerely,

Darren Gaffney



May 29, 2014

To Whom It May Concern,

This is a letter of recommendation for Tom Olsen. I first started playing basketball with Tom at Elmwood Junior High and played with him all through high school until we graduated together in 1988. Tom was by far the best basketball player during the 80's in the Rogers school system. He was one of the few players that played up on varsity during his whole high school career. Being one of the best guards to have ever played for Rogers, he had a tremendous ability to handle the basketball and he was one of the best shooters I have ever seen.

What I think really set Tom apart was his ability to be a team player. It didn't matter if he was a sophomore playing up with seniors or a senior playing with younger players he was a leader and really wanted the best for the team. I was known as being the best defensive players on the team and Tom always made me feel like I was the best defensive player. I remember a number of times that Tom would brag about me and the things I did defensively to other players or teams. We all looked up to Tom and his ability and who he was as a person.

I have been in college coaching for over 20 years now and I have seen a lot of players and by far Tom was one of the best. He deserves and I would highly recommend Tom Olsen to be in the Rogers High School Mountaineer Athletics Hall of Fame. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Soderquist". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Jeff Soderquist
Head Women's Basketball Coach
Assistant Director of Athletics
John Brown University

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to recommend Tom Olsen be inducted into the Rogers High School Mountaineer Athletics Hall of Fame. I had the privilege of playing with Tom for three years. Tom is one of the best basketball players to ever play at Rogers High School. In addition to being a great player, Tom was a great example of what a Rogers Mountie should be on and off the court. Tom was a hard worker, good leader, and dependable teammate.

Tom's contributions to the Mountie program did not end with his playing days. Tom was instrumental in building the Mountie program to a level that has never been see in Rogers. I have been fortunate to work the scores table at basketball games for the past 12 years and have seen alot of JV basketball games. Tom was one of the best at developing and teaching young players to be their best and to be ready to contribute to the Varsity team the following season.

Tom Olsen would be an excellent addition to the Rogers High School Mountaineer Athletics Hall of Fame. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marc Bryant". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Marc Bryant

Olsen's 23 points boosts Mounties over Bentonville

By RANDY REECE
Morning News Writer

BENTONVILLE — Ending a lengthy losing string requires uncommon team resolve. The Rogers Mountaineers could not have overcome a vociferous enemy crowd and the tenacious Bentonville Tigers without pulling together.

Tom Olsen tossed in 23 points and the Mounties played opportunistic defense to down the Tigers for the second time in three tries, 45-42.

The victory ended a six-game slide for the Mounties who improved to 9-9. Bentonville is 15-10.

Olsen made things happen repeatedly for the Mounties in the boys' tilt, compensation for the impressive shooting of Bentonville guard Charlie Dawson.

A husky junior, Dawson nailed eight of 12 from the field, including five 3-point field goals, to finish with a career-high 21 points.

Olsen, however, scored nine of the Mounties' last 12 points, set up Monte Moore with a perfect feed for a crucial layup, and made the defensive play of the game.

Two free throws by Olsen had the Mounties ahead 44-37 with 2:24 left but the Tigers put in five straight points. Rogers missed two front ends of 1-and-1s in the final minute but Bentonville got nothing in return.

The first time, 5-foot-8 guard Scott Speer grabbed a tough defensive rebound after two Bentonville misses. Speer, who led the Mounties with six boards, missed a bonus free throw, but Olsen stripped the basketball from Dawson with seven seconds left and went to the line to clinch it with :04 on the clock.

Olsen made the first shot, his eighth straight, missed the second but the Tigers failed to get off a good shot before time expired.

Dawson's shooting was the only thing which kept the Tigers close. Rogers forwards Jeff Soderquist and Chuck Hyde played excellent man-to-man defense on Bentonville's leading scorer, Tommy Thompson, who managed only 10 points. The other six Tigers who played combined for only 11.

"Two guys that don't get a lot of credit for the things they do, Jeff Soderquist and Chuck Hyde, did a great job on Thompson," Rogers Coach Bill Niven said. "Our kids played a great ballgame. I'm tickled to death that the kids came off a drubbing last night, and came back with their heads up. They showed they haven't got any quit in them."

Bentonville boys coach Boyd Shelton viewed Olsen as the deciding factor.

"The difference in this game was Tom Olsen against our guards," he said. "I was afraid it was going to be like that. Rogers has got a guy they can go to in crucial situations who's not going to turn the ball over and is going to set up some good shots for his teammates."

Both teams held leads in the first half, Rogers by as much as seven and Bentonville by eight. The Mounties countered a 10-0 run by the Tigers with 10 straight of their own to end up ahead 22-21 at half.

Free throws made the ultimate difference, the Mounties getting some rare breaks. Rogers went to the line 16 times and made 12, but Bentonville got only five chances and made two of them.

MOUNTAINEERS (45)

Hardin 3-8 0-6, Soderquist 1-3 0-2, Moore 2-8 3-3 7, Olsen 7-18 8-9 23, Speer 2-4 1-3 5, Bryant 1-2 0-0 2, Hyde 0-1 0-1 0, Milholen 0-0 0-0 0, Chambers 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 16-42 12-16 45.

TIGERS (42)

Thompson 5-13 0-10, Fowler 1-2 0-0 3, Tullis 2-5 0-0 4, Ward 0-2 2-5 2, Dawson 8-12 0-0 21, Chambliss 0-1 0-0 0, Bennett 1-2 0-0 2. Totals 17-37 2-5 42.

Rogers 12 10 9 14 — 45
Bentonville 11 10 7 14 — 42

Three-point field goals — Rogers 1-3 (Olsen 1-3); Bentonville 5-12 (Dawson 5-8, Fowler 1-2, Thompson 0-1, Ward 0-1). Rebounds — Rogers 25 (Speer 8), Bentonville 25 (Tullis 8). Turnovers — Rogers 7, Bentonville 14. Total fouls — Rogers 10, Bentonville 15.

Rogers bombs

Bentonville, again

Olsen paces scoring

By DON LOWE
Morning News Writer

BENTONVILLE — The Rogers Mounties, with a swarming fullcourt pressure defense and the accurate shooting of Tom Olsen (21 points) defeated the Bentonville Tigers 67-47 Saturday at Tiger Fieldhouse in Bentonville.

"We played good defense. Our basic game plan was to use a lot of pressure and wear them (Bentonville) down," said Mounties head coach Ken Hopper.

Bentonville's Boyd Shelton agreed. "I thought we were prepared but we just didn't execute. We couldn't get it past their (Rogers) press and we had to many turnovers."

The Mounties worked the press to perfection in the first period forcing 10 turnovers.

And on the offensive end, Olsen ignited the charge with eight points as Rogers took a 17-8 lead at the end of the opening period.

Rogers continued to surge ahead in the second period. Mike Howery and Tim Howard scored six points apiece as the Mounties raced to a 35-22 lead at the half.

Bentonville cut the lead to seven early in the second half on baskets by Gary Beckman and Jim Haethner.

But Rogers' behind the hot shooting of Olsen streaked to a 50-31 lead at the end of the the third period.

The Mounties were able to cruise on to the easy victory and Hopper was able to clear the bench midway through the final period.

"They (Rogers) controlled the ball on their end of the floor and shot well," said Shelton.

"We couldn't find anybody to score and we missed some easy shots. We seemed kind of tense but we just made some mental mistakes. We're just not playing well right now," he said.

"They (Bentonville) played a lot better this time and we struggled to get every point. Their defense gave us problems early but we finally just wore them down," said Hopper.

"We got some good shots and it was a good team effort. We'll take the win," the coach said.

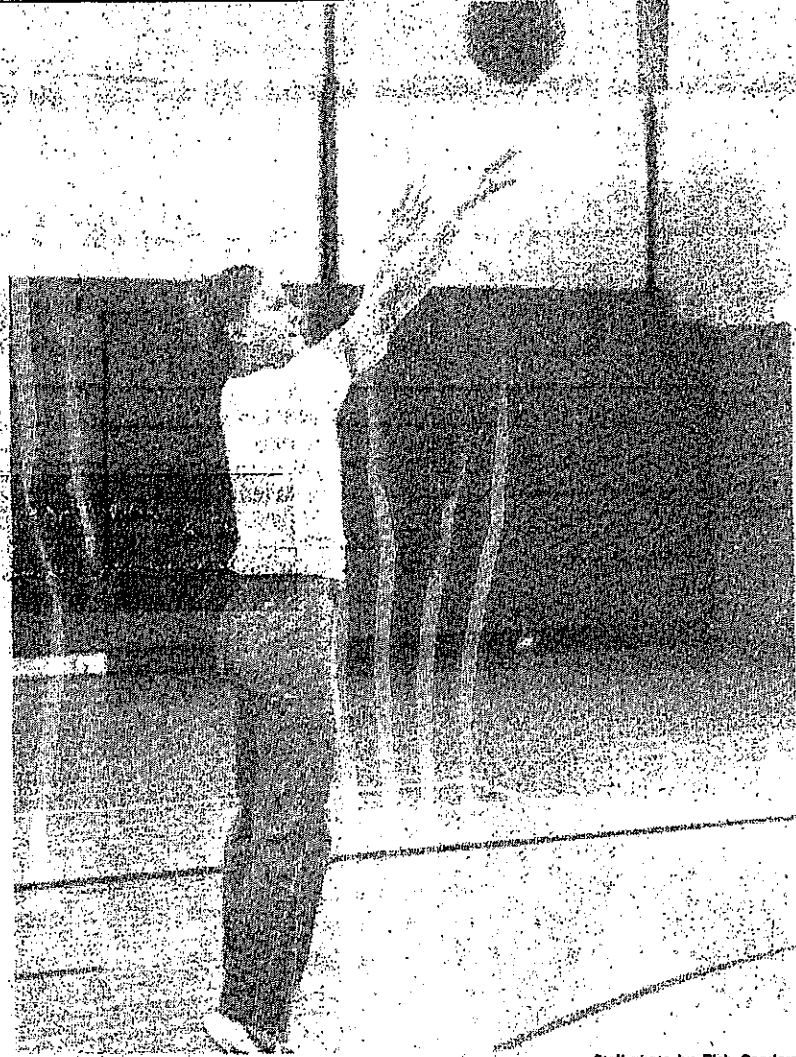
Rogers improves to 6-3 overall and will battle the Harrison Goblins Tuesday at Greer Lingle Fieldhouse.

Bentonville, on the heels of a two game losing streak, falls to 4-6 overall and 0-1 in conference play. The Tigers will travel to Fayetteville Tuesday night to face the No. 4-ranked Bulldogs.

"We've tried to do somethings a little different the last three games. We were were unselfish and more patient. It was a good team effort and we'll take a win no matter how we get it," said Hopper.

Shelton looked to turnovers as the key factor in the Tigers loss.

"We knew they were going to press. We just couldn't handle it. Turnovers, thats the game," said Shelton.



Staff photo by Rich Sanders

Rogers' Tom Olsen has signed with Missouri Southern State College. See story below.

**UW-La Crosse 75
UW-River Falls 70**

At La Crosse, Tom Olsen scored 19 points and Ryan Gannon added 17 to lead La Crosse over River Falls.

Olsen, Gannon and David Shaw made two free throws each in the final 33 seconds to preserve the La Crosse lead.

La Crosse improved to 10-10, including 2-8 in the WSUC. River Falls dropped to 12-10 and 6-5.

Dean Cook led River Falls with 23 points. Rick Montreal added 22.

La Crosse led 38-25 at halftime, but River Falls challenged several times in the second half.

Mounties' Olsen gets scholarship

Rogers standout signs with MSSC

By RICH SANDERS
Morning News Writer

Tom Olsen, a three-time most valuable player for the Rogers Mountaineers, has chosen Missouri Southern State College in Joplin, Mo., to continue his basketball career. Olsen signed for a tuition-free scholarship with Coach Chuck Williams' club Friday morning.

The 6-foot native of Wisconsin finished an illustrious four years at Rogers High School with 1,090 points — second on the all-time scoring list — and set high-water marks for steals and assists. His 171 steals surpassed the old career record, held by Don Ganoung, by 90 thefts.

"I guess what I'll remember most at Rogers is getting 1,000 points," said Olsen of his days as a Mountie. "I was glad to finally get it

... I had been wondering for about four games how close I was to it." Only one other Mountaineer, Mark Jones in 1970-73, has ever reached the 1,000-point plateau.

Olsen will join the MSSC Lions next year in the Central States Intercollegiate Conference, an NCAA affiliation. The Lions are in the process of moving up to NCAA Division II during the next two years.

Olsen said he chose the school because its close to home and because the Lions have a pretty good program.

"Coach Williams said he liked me because I was an intelligent player," smiled Olsen. "So he says ... he didn't get to see all my games."

At MSSC, Olsen said he would like to steadily work his way into a

starting role.

"I'd like to play my share as a freshman, keep building in the year or two after that and hopefully start sometime down the road," Olsen said.

As a freshman at Elmwood, Olsen earned some playing time under former Rogers coach Ken Hopper with the Mounties. He also led the Elmwood Raiders, under Coach Tom Williams, to their best record since the two junior highs split.

Also in 1985, Olsen played for the Arkansas Kings, an under-15 AAU club, and helped them win a state title.

The three-year MVP for the Mounties won all state accolades this season by averaging 18.2 points per game from his spot at point guard. He also took advantage of the new three-point arc, hal-

ving treys on 52% of his attempts.

"This year was kind of frustrating for Coach Niven and all of us," said Olsen. "We always got beat by five or six points a game in the conference ... but Coach Niven didn't give up on us and we didn't quit on him."

In his first season at the helm, Niven led the Mounties to a 10-12 mark.

"He's a dandy," summed Olsen on his most recent mentor. "Coach Niven, Coach (Tom) Williams, Coach Hopper and Coach (Geralf) Walsh have all done a great job here." Olsen also added the names of Tom Triplett and John Crook to his list of coaches with whom he's been gratefully associated.

Olsen said he plans to study natural sciences at Missouri Southern State College.

SPORTS OF NOTE

ROGERS — Tom Olsen, a three-year letterman for the Rogers Mountaineers basketball team, has earned all-conference and all-state honors.

The senior point guard was one of four AAAA-West players to make the all-state squad. Joe Sitkowski and Eugene Watson of Fayetteville and junior Jonathan Triplett of Fort Smith Northside were also lauded.

Joining the foursome on the all-conference team were Brooks Yeargan, a senior post player from Fayetteville; Rodney Perry and Eric Burnett of Northside; point guard Rob Lyall of Springdale; postman Jay Scholtens of Fort Smith Southside and forward Maxie Mathis of Russellville. Burnett, Triplett, Lyall, Scholtens and Mathis are all juniors.

Olsen averaged 18.2 points a game and amassed 400 points this season. He finished his career with 1,090 points. He holds career records as a Mountie for steals (171) and assists (151). This season Olsen had 52 steals and 57 assists.

Coach Bill Niver's first Rogers basketball team will be recognized along with the Lady Mounties, the Mountie cheerleaders and the Mountie Royal drill team at the 1987-88 basketball banquet. The banquet, sponsored by the Rogers Athletic Booster Club, will be held at Oakdale Junior High School on Thursday, March 31.

FHS Grizzlies Place Three on League Team

League champion Fayetteville and runner-up Fort Smith Northside both placed three players each on the Class AAAA-West all-conference boys basketball team released today.

Seniors Joe Sitkowski, Eugene Watson and Brooks Yeargan represent the Purple Bulldogs, who finished 24-6 after losing to North Little Rock Ole Main in the quarterfinals of the AAAA state tournament last week.

Northside's selections were senior Rodney Perry and juniors Jonathan Triplett and Eric Burnett. The Grizzlies lost to Ole Main in the semifinals.

Other members of the squad are senior Tom Olsen of Rogers and juniors Rob Lyall of Springdale, Jay Scholtens of Fort Smith Southside and Maxie Mathis of Russellville.

Sitkowski, Watson, Triplett and Olsen were named to the all-state team, the second such honor for Sit-

kowski.

Seniors Keith Girard, Matt Ogle, Brian Higgins and Peter Jakobsson were named honorable mention from Springdale.

Fayetteville had two choices and Springdale one on the girls squad.

Dee Gibson and Shelly Hudspeth were named to the 10-member team from Fayetteville. Janet Moore, the all-time leading scorer at Springdale, was also selected.

League-champion Fort Smith Northside was represented by Belinda Caldwell and Sherry Posky. Rogers had three players — Susie Hughes, Teresa Liberty and Angie Kennan — on the squad. Kim Drozal of Fort Smith Southside and sophomore Tonya Foster of Russellville complete the team.

Moore, Gibson, Caldwell and Drozal were named all-state.

Sophomore Tami Grams of Springdale earned honorable mention recognition.