



ORRIE JIRELE after coaching Rochester Lourdes to three state high school basketball championships and spending five years in Green Bay, Jirele came to Albert Lea in 1973. He was a long-time counselor in Albert Lea and a successful basketball coach through the 1987 season, which was the last time Albert Lea has won or shared a Big Nine basketball title. He coached 21 players who won awards including Big Nine All-Conference, Mr. Basketball finalist, All-State Team and Minnesota All-Star Game participant. In six of his seasons, Jirele's teams either were region finalists or Big Nine champions. He has the second highest winning percentage in the history of Tiger basketball and had the most wins with a record of 160-108 while guiding the Tigers. Jirele also coached boys' and girls' tennis for the Tigers. In April of 2013, Jirele was honored by being placed on the Albert Lea High School's Wall Of Inspiration. Jirele's energy and passion for helping others reach their potential has had, is having and will continue to have a profound effect on the lives of the many people who had the opportunity to cross paths with him. Following retirement from District 241 School system, Jirele enjoyed an active life-style filled with family, fishing, golf and of course hunting. His passion for life included skilled violin performances and serving as Master of Ceremonies for the Hall of Fame Banquet from 2010 through 2013. Orrie Jirele died on September 21, 2013 at the age of 73.