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THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF LEE HAFEN
TO ATHLETICS AT DIXIE COLLEGE

by
Douglas V. Allred

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment
of the requirements for the degree

of
MASTER OF SCIENCE

in
Physical Education

Approved:

UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY
Logan, Utah

1968



Figure 1. Coach Leland Hafen (Born September 1, 1895,
Died November 23, 1959).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The writer wishes to express his grateful appreciation to the Thesis Chairman, Professor H. B. Hunsaker, for his help and guidance. I am grateful to the Committee Members: Professors John Pennock, Dale Rasmussen also to Dr. Lincoln McClellan for their suggestions.

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Finally, to my wife, Elaine, the writer expresses a husband's appreciation for the many hours spent in typing and for her patience and encouragement to complete this study

Douglas Vance Allred

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ABSTRACT

The Life and Contributions of Lee Hafen to Athletics at Dixie College

by

Douglas V. Allred, Master of Science

Major Professor: Mr. H. B. Hunsaker
Department: Physical Education

Leland Hafen was born in Santa Clara, Utah, in 1895 and after a fine athletic career was signed as an athletic coach at Dixie in the fall of 1926. For the next twenty years Coach Hafen guided the athletic program at Dixie, and for a period of ten years (1926-1936) coached both the high school and college squads. Until 1963 Dixie College and Dixie High School were combined into what was called upper and lower divisions. From 1936 until 1946 Coach Hafen coached only the high school but was the athletic director and taught classes in history to both upper and lower division students.

Coach Hafen's record as an athletic coach was outstanding: it included as a college coach, one conference championship, one southern division championship, second place in the conference play-off on two different occasions, third in the conference two years, second in the southern division twice, and two seasons when his team placed fourth. His high school record was equally as eminent, having taken his "Fliers" to the state meet on thirteen occasions in this twenty-year span. His

finishes were as follows: one championship, three second places, two third places, consolation was played for on four occasions, and on only two occasions did a Dixie team fail to compete all four nights of the tournament. Added to these fetes was the fact that at that time there was just one classification, no "A" or "B" alignments, so he was usually competing against much larger schools.

Coach Hafen possessed a wonderful personality, and made friends wherever he went. He took a great deal of pride in Utah's Dixie and enjoyed telling the many people he met about his homeland, which included all of Southern Utah.

Coach Hafen held many positions of responsibility in both the Utah Activities Association and the I. C. A. C. Conference, and as athletic director of Dixie he realized a life long dream when in 1957 an ultra-modern fieldhouse was built, which includes not only a fine athletic layout but also physical education facilities for both men and women.

Physical Education for all age groups meant a lot to Coach Lee and he was a great advocate of fitness for both men and women as witnessed by the modern skillrooms dance studios, etc. , etc. , which can be found in the gym.

On November 23, 1959, Coach Hafen died of complications following surgery in the Dixie Memorial Hospital.

INTRODUCTION

James Harvey Robinson in his book The Ordeal of Civilization concluded, "It is the past that makes the present, and what goes before is the key to what comes after."¹ It is with this thought in mind that the following compilation is made.

Located in the southernmost portion of the State of Utah, under the warm desert sun, lies the small, thriving, semi-tropical community of St. George. Called "Utah's Dixie" because of the unusual climatic conditions, in which cotton was grown in early days, St. George, today, includes such industries as farming, tourist accommodations, vacation and recreational facilities, many small private businesses and a thriving junior college.

The people of the area are characterized by a strong sense of unity and much pride in the accomplishments of their forefather's labors. They affectionately refer to this pride as the "Dixie Spirit."

"Dixie" Academy was started in the fall of 1911 under the direction of Mr. Hugh M. Woodward, principal, and thus was the beginning of what today is known as Dixie College, a comprehensive junior college serving the people of the area as well as students from all parts of the nation.

¹James Harvey Robinson, The Ordeal of Civilization (New York: Harper Brothers, 1926), p. 3.

Dixie College experienced early struggles for her existence and from time to time was run almost on a year-to-year basis. The future and status of Dixie seemed always in doubt.

The beginning of athletics was definitely one of these early struggles. The halls and trophy cases now are filled with names of individuals who contributed much to Dixie during this time, and one such individual who seemed to possess those qualities and values which so characterize Dixie and its people was Coach Lee Hafen, who for several decades of coaching and guiding the athletic program became part of and typified this thing which is called the "Dixie Spirit."

Purpose of study

The purpose of this study is to collect and present in historical and chronological fashion the accomplishments and records of Coach Leland Hafen, and more specifically, to attempt to evaluate from the findings of this study the role this man played in influencing athletics at Dixie College, St. George, Utah, and the surrounding area.

Delimitations

This study will be delimited to the Leland Hafen era as basketball coach at Dixie College and Dixie High School and will include only that portion of the athletic program's history with which he was associated. Other areas of growth will be discussed only as they are directly concerned with Coach Hafen.

Need for the study

For its historical and educational value, a study of the life and contributions of Coach Lee Hafen would provide an interesting history of the athletic program and also offer a source of reference for those people interested in the subject. Through a completed source a greater appreciation for this man's contributions might be shared by people in the specific field of physical education and coaching and also by friends and relatives of this distinguished educator.

Definitions

In this study Coach Leland Hafen will be referred to as Coach "Lee" or Coach Lee Hafen and the institution is referred to as Dixie Academy or as Dixie College (its present name).

Because of the unique way in which the Dixie High School and Dixie College were combined up to and including 1963, clarifications will be made throughout the study as to which area of the institution (high school or the college) thoughts are directed.

Method of procedure

The procedure used in this study was the historical method of research. Literature was reviewed to ascertain if previous studies had been made, and related studies were read to note the methods and procedures used in similar studies. The study was divided into three main parts; namely, Part One, the early history of Lee Hafen dating from his birth in 1895 to 1926, at which time he was hired as a critic-teacher at

Dixie; Part Two, his coaching tenure at Dixie which included the years of 1926-27 up to the school year of 1945-46; and Part Three, the post-coaching era at Dixie in which he served as athletic director, dean of men, and instructor of social sciences and history, until the time of his death in the fall of 1959.

Source of data

Sources of data were personal interviews with family members, former coaches who coached against and with Coach Hafen, athletes who played under him, students who were taught by him, and interested persons who were directly or indirectly connected with the athletic program or with Dixie during his tenure there.

Also used was correspondence through questionnaires with various individuals, Dixie College catalogue, the Dixie (annual student yearbook), The Dixie News (student newspaper), Washington County News (St. George weekly newspaper), The Salt Lake Tribune and The Deseret News (state daily papers), individual scrapbooks, and related studies.

Related studies

Although this study of Coach Leland Hafen is original, there have been other studies made of athletic coaches at various institutions in Utah. Several of those reviewed were:

Ernest J. Bennett, Life of Joseph R. Jensen;

Darwin Stanley Woodbury, The History of Athletics at Snow College;

Walter S. Atkinson, The History of Athletics at Westminster College.

CHAPTER I

LELAND HAFEN'S PRE-COACHING ERA 1895-1926

Leland Hafen was born September 1, 1895, in the small town of Santa Clara, Utah. He was one of eight children born to Harmon and Francis Wilson Hafen. During his boyhood, he was described by his mother as "the joy of our home."

Lee, as he was more commonly known, had a strong love for the outdoors and especially for animals.

As a small boy, Lee was fond of horses and learned to ride very well on his first horse called "Pep." He would go on the range after cattle with the grown-ups and ride for days working along side of the older men. Lee often told in later years of the fine saddle horse he had, and while on the desert for the winter the horse got caught in a wire fence and unable to free itself, died. The horse was not found for some time, and Lee often remarked that this hurt him as much as anything he remembered as a young man.¹

Lee attended school in Santa Clara and St. George, being one of the first students to enter Dixie Academy in 1911. Lee was well-liked during his school days and seemed to possess outstanding leadership qualities. He held numerous class offices and positions, seemed to be

¹Interview with H. Val Hafen, brother of Lee Hafen, St. George, Utah, August 4, 1967.

always surrounded by friends, and friendship meant a lot to him. In a letter penned by his sister, Mrs. Audra Hafen Gubler, she stated,

I remember when he was going to school in St. George and often brought boyfriends home with him. I especially remember Chester Snow. They would have regular rodeos and ride our milk cows and calves. I'm not sure our father approved, but he had a hard time to get very angry with Lee.²

The 1914-15 annual describes "Lee" as "Full of Pluck, but gentle and sweet and lovable as a girl. Lives only when he is playing basketball, chasing cattle or teasing girls. Resolves to get a college education. Will make his resolve a prophecy."³

A fine athlete in his school days, Coach Lee was an All-State member of the first Dixie team to make an appearance in a state tournament, having played in the championships in Provo in 1914, along with Grant Prisbrey, who was selected a guard on the honor team that year.

In the fall of 1915-16, Coach Lee attended the Agricultural College at Logan, where he participated in athletics. The following year, 1916-17, he attended the Brigham Young University in Provo.

He returned in the fall of 1917 to begin his teaching career in Santa Clara as an instructor in the upper grades.

He married Elsie Barbara Frei, daughter of Mrs. and Mrs. Jacob Frei of Santa Clara on December 12, 1917. In a short biographical review in Elsie Hafen's scrapbook the following information was found:

²Mrs. Audra Hafen Gubler, excerpt from personal letter, July 19, 1967.

³The Dixie, Arrow Press, Salt Lake City, Utah. (1914-15), p. 13.

Elsie always had a soft spot for the popular athletic Lee Hafen. They dated on and off for years. When Lee went to St. George to school and started dating many of the popular St. George girls, Elsie kept her own counsel. She didn't have to wait long. Soon Lee came back--for good. A universal sigh of relief went up in Santa Clara when Elsie and Lee's engagement was announced. The suspense was finally over.⁴

Shortly after their marriage, Coach Lee entered the army for World War I and was stationed at Camp Beauregard, Louisiana. It was during his stay in the army that Coach Lee sustained a chronic injury to his hip which was to give him trouble throughout his life. After his return from the army, he taught one year in Hurricane, Utah, and then joined the faculty at Woodward in 1921 and served in that position until the spring of 1926.

Lee and Elsie reared a family which included a girl and four boys. Maxine, their first child and only girl, was born October 12, 1918, shortly after Lee had left for the army. "Maxine inherited the high spirits and popularity belonging to the personalities of both her parents. She had a very strong sense of family; because she was the oldest, she was always flying to the defense of her four brothers."⁵

Like all daughters, Maxine had an extreme love for her parents and especially her father, Lee. She is married to Mr. Darrel Phil Spencer and

⁴Elsie Frei Hafen, Scrapbook, 1917, p. 18.

⁵Ibid., p. 23.

lives in Las Vegas, Nevada, where Mr. Spencer is manager of Sun Supply Company. Maxine is presently serving as President of the Relief Society in her ward. They have three children: Barbara, Christine, and Darrell.

On August 20, 1921, Keith Leland Hafen, their first son, was born. Keith, like Maxine, inherited many of the qualities of his parents, and apparently from his father, Keith received a sincere appreciation for the outdoors and especially loved to ride horses. He was a fine athlete from the day he was Team Mascot for his father's basketball squads and through his playing days for both the high school and college teams.

From the time he first learned to read, Keith was intensely interested in airplanes and flying. As World War II neared, Keith volunteered for the Air Corps. When the United States finally entered the war, Keith had completed training and was one of the first U. S. airmen sent to England in its darkest hours. Co-piloting a B-17 bomber out of England, Keith was killed in action on March 31, 1943, somewhere in the European Area.⁶

The extent this tragedy affected the lives of his parents, no one knows; however, neither was their first son and seemed to be so much like his father that one can only ponder the effects this would leave.

Clark Jacob Hafen, their third child, was born April 26, 1926; unlike the other boys in the family, Clark's interests were not channeled toward athletics, but he seemed to get his enjoyment from good books and

⁶Keith Hafen, Scrapbook, April 1943, p. 27.

being around people, especially the young people. After spending some time in the U. S. Navy and in the banking business in Las Vegas, Nevada, Clark returned to St. George, Utah, to take a teaching position, first at Woodward Junior High and later as a teacher of English at Dixie High School.

Stanley Harmon Hafen, the fourth child, was born July 19, 1931, and, like his older brother Keith, occupied the position of mascot throughout his early days for his father's teams and always seemed to be around the athletic squads. Stanley enjoyed a fine athletic career in both high school and at Dixie College and just recently retired from active competition in L. D. S. Church Recreational Softball in Las Vegas area, where he now lives. He is married to the former Carol Jean Peterson and they have a family of four children: Susan, Kevin, Keith, and Nancy. Stanley teaches at the Twin Lakes Elementary school in Las Vegas, Nevada.

On November 6, 1939, Elsie and Lee's last child was born, Richard Lee Hafen, who seemed destined to have all the wonderful qualities and abilities in athletics that his father's life had been so devoted to. Richard won many awards for his athletic abilities: the Tom McAn Award given by the Deseret News; All-State in both football and basketball; All-Conference in junior college in both football and basketball; All-American honors as a quarterback in football and a fine career in football at the University of Utah. Most of all, Richard seemed to please his dad. He is now completing his studies and is going to be a coach.

Lee and Elsie seemed to enjoy thier family and much of their time and efforts were spent in making their home enjoyable and pleasant for their children. Family projects such as remodeling the old Hafen home were common happenings around their house. The home they left their children (in which Clark now lives) reflects the comfortable atmosphere that Lee and Elsie loved.

Elsie was a good homemaker and seemed to feel a very personal love for the task and always kept the home clean and provided good meals for the family, especially when Coach Lee was away on ball trips so much of the time.

Both Lee and Elsie held positions in their church and tried to instill its principles into their children, Elsie especially.

If any of them did what she felt to be wrong, she was deeply grieved and felt that she herself must somehow be at fault. Lee's religious convictions were perhaps as strong as Elsie's, but his loveable, fun-loving nature often momentarily led him into forgetting them. His minor, temporary lapses were always accompanied by such wholesome good-nature and surprise that even Elsie had to forgive him. Something inside her told her that the pool hall was a sinful place, and her husband's pool game suffered greatly as a result.⁷

If Coach Lee spent time in the pool hall, it was because he enjoyed and seemed to be happy whenever he was around someone with whom he could visit. He had a story for everyone, and everyone found it easy to talk to him.

⁷Elsie Frei Hafen, Op. cit., p. 12.

In a talk given by Senator Orval Hafen at Coach Lee's funeral, he so adequately stated, "Coach Lee's outstanding quality--he liked people and considered it a rare privilege to have a friend and a great opportunity to be one."⁸

It was during the summer of 1926 that Coach Lee was asked to become athletic coach at Dixie College and High School to replace the retiring coach, Chester Whitehead. Thus, in the fall of 1926, Coach Lee Hafen started on what was to become twenty years of colorful athletic history at Dixie.

⁸Recorded talk given by Senator Orval Hafen, at funeral of Leland Hafen, St. George, Utah, November 25, 1959.

CHAPTER II

LELAND HAFEN'S COACHING ERA 1926-1946

Because of constant re-evaluation of the teaching system in the state of Utah, Coach Chester Whitehead was released from his position as athletic coach in the spring of 1926 for lack of sufficient teaching credits. He bought an ice plant and operated the business until the summer of 1928 when a tragic accident took his life while he was greasing a belt in the ice plant.

Coach Lee Hafen started his Dixie coaching career in the fall of 1926 and inherited a group of athletes who were unique in several ways. First, Coach Lee had taught these young men while he was at Woodward School and had spent many noon hours and much free time playing basketball on the outdoor baskets with them, teaching them the mechanics which later became natural habits. Second, this group, added to others like Elsworth "Cat" Thompson, who had played at Dixie the previous year when the high school went to the nationals in Chicago and later was an All-American for Montana State's "Golden Bobcats," were to start Dixie and Coach Lee into what now is a legendary period in the athletic history of Dixie as well as the state of Utah.

At that time in the athletic program at Dixie the major sport was basketball, but emphasis was placed on the minor sports such as track and intra-class baseball, cross-country and other events; the responsibility for coaching both the high school and college basketball squads was given to one man. This responsibility continued to be Lee Hafen's for the next ten years. Following is a brief summary of Coach Lee Hafen's years as coach at Dixie, both at the high school and at the college.

1926-27--The high school basketball team consisted of the following: Elwood Romney, Lorraine Cox, Melvin Fawcett, Reed Graff, Alma Wakeling, Carl Stratton, Rulon Pectol, Kenneth Cox and Rowland Webb. At this time a team was only allowed nine men at the state tournament. The team that year, lead by Romney and Cox, with a win over Hurricane assured themselves of a state tourney berth.

In the state tournament, Dixie placed third, after having been beaten by L. D. S. An account of the state tournament was found in the Washington County News:

The Dixie High School team and subs, also Coach Lee Hafen and Referee Arthur Paxman left Monday for Salt Lake City to participate in the state finals. The players consisted of Melvin Fawcett, Elwood Romney, Kenneth Cox, Rulon Pectol, Reed Graff, Lorraine Cox, Alma Wakeling and Rowland Webb.

The 'Fliers' go (sic.) undefeated to the state meet and remained undefeated at the close of the first day's play there (yesterday) when they were victorious over the classey little Ogden hoopsters

with a score of 33-22. The editor also got word over the radio that Provo beat Boxelder. Average age of players is 17.¹

The following article appeared in the Washington County News a week later concerning this state tournament:

Dixie is proud of the showing made by the high school team at the state meet, where they came pretty near carrying the entire state as they did two years ago. As it is they gained third place and a wonderful reputation. They proved strong favorites at the tournament on account of their clean and plucky playing.

The team got home Monday night and were given a tremendous ovation at the Dixie College devotional period Tuesday morning when Coach Leland Hafen, Umpire A. A. Paxman, D. Clark Watson, Jos. T. Atkin, Jr., John M. Higgins and Miss Anna Musser told how the boys did it.

They made some splendid records. Elwood Romney was the highest scorer at the tournament, the Dixie team made a total of more points than any other, and the team had the high score record for any game of the tournament. Dixie had added impetus to win from Bingham Thursday, according to reports from the Dixie camp. The principal force was the fact that Fawcett, captain and guard, observed St. Patrick's Day by having a birthday. The Dixie captain is now 18. He accompanied the Fliers to Chicago in 1925 after they won the championship here, and helped bring back the

Two of the players on the Dixie five who have attracted considerable notice are sophomores in high school and only 15 years of age. Cox at center, and Romney at forward are the two boys. They are a classy pair to watch.

¹"Dixie Flyers Beat Ogden at State Meet," Washington County News, XX, March 17, 1927, p. 1.

The Deseret News says of Thursday's game: 'Dixie's mighty fliers went into the semi-finals by nosing out the fighting Bingham Miners, 25 to 22 in one of the most sensational games seen in the tournament in years. It was a beautiful fight.

Friday Dixie lost to the L. D. S. 31-22. Extracts from the Tribune said: 'One outstanding feature of the game was the exceptionally clean playing on the part of every man on the floor.'

Speaking of this game the Deseret News said: 'The Flyers had shot their bolt and done it mighty fine but it was not enough.'

On the last day of the tournament, Dixie played Manti, winning the game from them 42-16 and putting them in third place. Romney and Cox scored 30 points between them in this game, Cox 20 and Romney 10.

Extracts from the Tribune read: 'Dixie played an especially fast game and with Lorraine Cox center, caging shots from all angles of the court were able to set a RECORD SCORE for the 26 games extending over the four days of play. Fawcett, Dixie guard and captain, played stellar ball for the winners. Cox, besides being high scorer with ten field goals played a strong floor game.' All of the eight Dixie players who were sent into the fray came through with flying colors.

The Deseret News says: 'Led by L. Cox and Romney, stars among stars, the Dixie Flyers made a high score record for the tournament by beating Manti in the final round. Fawcett, claimed by some to be the best guard in the meet, played wonderful ball throughout.'²

²"Dixie Makes Splendid Record," Washington County News, XX March 24, 1927, p. 1.

The following article taken from the Washington County News sums up the tournament:

Deseret News: 'The most popular forward in the tournament is Romney, Dixie flash. He wins the laurel spring by sheer ability to swish the ball through the net from any angle and under most any circumstances. Moreover, he was the best passer in the joust according to the concensus of opinion. He displays a great knowledge of the game for a player so young and he is a great rustler. Romney will make a wonder player before he finishes high school as he is only a sophomore.'

Watch Dixie next year, was the watchword at the tournament and it was heard all over the hall whenever the famous Flyers took the court. Coach Hafen, formerly of B. Y. U. , has molded another wonderful team to represent the Southland in basketball and though he will lose three of his squad members by graduation, he will have Romney, All-State forward, Lorraine Cox, a mighty fine center; Pectol, guard, and Kenneth Cox, forward, back at the St. George school next fall. This looks like a championship contender already.³

Just a week before the State High School Tournament Coach Hafen had taken his college squad to Ogden for the Junior College Tournament in which they played third. Owen Frei was selected as an All-Conference forward. It was said that Dixie always spelled class in basketball and that Coach Hafen was one of the main reasons.

The school year 1926-27 was certainly a tribute to Coach Lee's abilities, a year during which he coached both the high school and college

³ibid. , p. 2.

teams and made an exceptionally good record in his first season as athletic coach. He was 32 years old at that time.

1927-28--This was a banner year at Dixie. Coach Lee had made predictions the previous year that the 1928 squads would be the ones to watch and certainly his predictions were true. Led by Elwood Romney and Lorraine Cox, Dixie High School entered the state tournament for the second straight year under the new coach's reins; they did so by once again overwhelming Hurricane by a score of 60 to 21. They had an undefeated league season and swept through the state tourney, defeating Pleasant Grove for the state title. The highlight of the tournament came when Elwood Romney was named the best all-round player in the state and selected as team captain of the mythical five. Lorraine Cox was declared the best center in the state; although not exceptionally tall, he was never out-jumped. Rulon Pectol was named to the second team as guard and both Kenneth Cox (Lorraine's brother) and Karl Stratton made honorable mention. Other members of the eight-man squad were Cecil Gates, Preston Hafen, and Reed Wittwer.

For the second time in four years the Dixie "Fliers" were invited to the national high school tournament held in Chicago in early April; the 1925 squad, under Coach Chester Whitehead, had gone to Chicago also. It was decided by the executive board at the conclusion of the last game at the state tourney that the flag should no longer be passed around for donations to help defray expenses for the traveling team. The executive

board had previously appropriated the sum of \$750.00. Because this amount would not be sufficient, an interesting thing happened. When the team arrived home from the state tournament, it was decided that the high school should make a challenge to the college squad for a benefit game with the proceeds going to help finance the trip. The story is told in an article appearing in the school paper:

The celebration of the victory of the Dixie High Fliers was combined with "D" Day activities in one splendid effort. The customary dinner on the Black Hill was replaced by a community lunch on the college lawns at 6 o'clock in the evening. The lunch had been prepared by the girls of the college while the boys worked on the campus, cleaning and planting.

At seven o'clock the parade was held. The queen with her maids of honor made a very beautiful float. They were followed immediately by the torch bearers, Dixie College Band, students and townspeople. They marched through the principal streets of the city and returned to the gymnasium to witness the clash between the Dixie Fliers and the College Team.

The game was hotly contested. During the first half the college boys broke even with the Fliers. Would the Fliers carry the score? The half ended with the score tied 25 to 25. In spite of the fact the college yell squad came to their rescue the college lost by a score of 28 to 31.

It has been sung 'Dixie Has No Alibi,' but the college fellows insist on attributing their losing fight partially on the part of Coach Hafen. They did not realize that he was placed on the horns of a dilemma until it was too late. Trainer Walter Miles and Coach Church could not accomplish in half a day what Coach Hafen had done in a winter. They are to be commended for their splendid efforts, however.

The dance following the game was a success from a financial and social standpoint. The gymnasium was

crowded to capacity. An extraordinary feature was presented under the direction of Miss Mabel Jarvis. A group of dancers interpreted the 'Spirit of Dixie,' while a chorus sang 'The Spirit of Dixie,' a composition by Mr. Reid.

The queen and her maids with the college team and the Dixie Fliers paraded the ball carrying the flag into which contributions were liberally thrown. Over \$100.00 was realized by this means.

In their going to Chicago the Dixie Fliers leave with our best wishes for a successful and pleasant journey. We are confident of their returning victorious.⁴

With no discredit to the college squad which consisted of the following players--Byron Taylor, Joseph McArthur, Grant Empey, Lorenzo McGregor, Bronson Adams, Findley Judd, Mayden Church, Kenneth Judd, Owen Frei and Reed Blake--but to illustrate the strength of the high school team that year, the college squad coached by Coach Lee had just two weeks previously won two out of three games in the Junior College Tournament held in Ogden, beating Ricks College 31 to 19 and a good Weber College team by a score of 40 to 24, only to lose to L. D. S. by a score of 17 to 12.

Coach Lee and eight ball players boarded a Pullman coach which took about four days to reach Chicago. After arriving, their first game was with Tennessee champions from Purdy, Tennessee. The final score was 36 to 20 in favor of Dixie. The following day Dixie met Stiver High, champions from the state of Ohio. The score was 27 to 25 in favor of Dixie. The third game was with Canton High, State Champions of Illinois, and the Salt Lake Tribune had this to say about the game back there:

⁴The Dixie News, Vol. VII, March 27, 1928, p. 1.

The battling team that came up from St. George, Utah, without advance notices, and which fought for every point as though it were the one needed to win the championship, went down to defeat before Canton, Ill. , 22 to 17, this afternoon in the quarter-final round of the Stagg National Interscholastic Basketball Tourney.

A flip of a coin could have decided equally well which of the teams was the better, for, despite the score, the victory was a matter of a single point and was won by Canton on a single free throw. The defeat eliminates St. George from further competition, as the consolation tourney which is conducted in connection with the Stagg Tournament is for first round losers only. The four points which Canton added in the closing minute of the game were made because the time was so short and the St. George team was putting everything it had in an effort to make a single field goal. With the Canton boys one point ahead and a minute to go, the St. George men lost their heads for the first time in the meet, and forgetting their five-man defense, strove desperately, though not systematically, to count from the floor. But forgetting their defense gave Canton the break it needed for their speedy passing game worked the ball under the basket twice in less than a minute for easy setups, which clinched the Illinois five its victory.⁵

This Canton team went on to play for the championship and was beaten by Ashland, Kentucky, by a score of 15 to 10 for the National High School Basketball Championship.

This 1927-28 Dixie team not only had a tremendous amount of talent, but also had a lot of fun and seemed to show an unusual amount of respect and admiration for Coach Lee. The story is still told and retold about how right after being defeated by Canton, the team, with their coach,

⁵The Salt Lake Tribune, Saturday Morning, April 7, 1928, p. 23.

gathered in the steamy dressing room, stood on the benches and sang
the song:

Dixie Has No Alibi

We'll fight for the cause of Dixie,
No stain shall mar her name,
Her foes shall meet sure disaster
When they meet her in life's game,
Resistless her men push goalward
With her standards ever high,
Defeat never comes to Dixie
For she has no alibi

DIXIE--DIXIE--DIXIE--DIXIE
DIXIE--DIXIE--DIXIE--DIXIE
DIXIE

We'll stand by her through all trial
At her shrine our knee we'll bend
Our faithful guide she has ever been
When we needed most a friend;
Her mountains and hills may crumble
But her spirit ne'er will die,
Dixie shall live on forever,
Dixie has no alibi.⁶

The team returned home to a royal welcome given by the school and
community.

The Dixie High School Basketball Team returned Wednesday evening. Representatives of the city, school, Chamber of Commerce, and studentbody and townspeople met the party in Washington and escorted them to St. George. The procession was headed by the school band and there were at least 50 cars, all loaded to capacity, in line. There was

⁶"Dixie Has No Alibi," words adapted to song by Paul Thurston.

a large attendance in the gymnasium to participate in the reception program. Dancing was indulged in until 10 o'clock when a program of about an hour's duration was given, commencing with the "Skyrocket" and other school yells.⁷

Because this team had an unusual amount of success--winning 30 games and losing but 1--and because this writer has had the opportunity to visit and interview several of the team's members, it seems appropriate to relate some of their thoughts. In an interview with Elwood "Woody" Romney, who is now in the insurance business in Salt Lake City, he stated "Coach Lee and myself had a complete understanding for each other; he was not only a great coach, but a sincere friend." When asked what he thought Coach Lee's outstanding quality was as a coach, Elwood replied, "Coach Lee had the ability to inspire a person, and it didn't matter who you were or what position you held on the team, he made you feel very important."⁸

Elwood Romney at the age of fifteen was named to the All-State Team and for three consecutive years was an All-State performer. In March of 1932, while playing for Brigham Young University, "Woody" was named "All-American" along with Richard Linthicum of the University of California, Ed Krause of Notre Dame, John Wooden of Purdue and Lewis

⁷ Washington County News, XXI, No. 14, April 12, 1928, p. 1.

⁸ Interview with Elwood Romney, Salt Lake City, Utah, July 24, 1967.

Berger of Maryland. He joined Elsworth "Cat" Thompson as the second "Dixieite" to be named as an "All-American." "Cat" Thompson gained the honor while playing for Montana State. Elwood also made an interesting comment when he said, "In all my ball playing, which includes my days at B. Y. U. and also with Denver in the A. A. U. League, I've never played with a smarter group as a whole. We just seemed to know where each other would be all the time, and Lorraine Cox would have to be the greatest athlete I've ever seen."⁹

This statement seemed quite unique coming from such a great athlete; however, Elwood Romney, Lorraine Cox and Kenneth Cox grew up together in the same part of St. George (known as Sand Town), and the three young men spent much time together playing basketball.

1928-29--The year was perhaps slightly anti-climatic. Lorraine Cox had decided to leave Dixie and attend the University of Utah, mainly because of his age, which would have been 19 before the state tournament time and would have made him ineligible. He became one of the University's all-time greats in basketball and track, a regular starter as a college freshman and playing regular for four years at Utah.

That year, the Dixie High School consisted of veterans Elwood Romney, Cecil Gates, Kenneth Cox and Rulon Pectol along with new-comers Rex Nelson, James Andrus, George Snow, and Horace McArthur. Mid-way through the

⁹Ibid.

season the Fliers were on their way again, having won ten straight games and seemingly getting stronger.

The college squad, that year, had a good ball club also; they were led by All-Conference Reed Blake. The club consisted of the following players: Byron Taylor, Preston Hafen, Ellis McAllister, Karl Stratton, George Harmon, Reed Wittwer, Loran Hirschi, Reed Wilson and Harris Gubler.

By late February both teams had gained tournament positions in their respective leagues. The following article describes their progress:

The Dixie College Basketball Team is assured a berth in the Junior College Tourney at Ogden as a result of a double victory over Snow College at Ephraim last Friday and Saturday nights. Scores: Dixie 29 and Snow 24 on Friday and Dixie 44 and Snow 30 on Saturday.¹⁰

Also appearing in the same edition was the following: "Dixie Fliers defeat Hurricane 57-17 to clinch the Dixision Championship and entitle Dixie to a berth in the State Tournament in Salt Lake City next month."¹¹

The college team did well in Ogden, winning two ball games and losing one. Reed Blake and Byron Taylor were named to the All-Division First Team as guards.

The high school team again was the favorite in the state meet and won their first three games, beating Lehi the first night by a score of

¹⁰Washington County News, XXII, No. 7, February 21, 1929, p. 1.

¹¹Ibid., p. 1.

23-12; Bingham the second night 34-17; and Springville the third evening by a score of 29 to 12, only to lose the championship game to a powerful Granite team. The score was Granite 36 and Dixie 29. The Fliers had a season record of 29 wins and 1 loss that year, and again Elwood Romney was named All-State as was Kenneth Cox.

This 1928-29 group of athletes seemed to enjoy their relationships with Coach Lee as much as any group. They had been with Coach since he had started at Dixie, and their friendship and loyalty to their coach can still be seen.

In an interview with Cecil Gates, who is now employed in Los Angeles with an electrical firm, he related that "One could feel completely at ease around Coach Lee, and it was a real experience to go on a trip with him. Coach would enjoy traveling and meeting people and always seemed to find someone to talk with and exchange a joke or a story."¹²

Rulon Pectol, employed as a car salesman in St. George, who played for three years in high school and also played college ball for Coach Lee, stated, "Coach had the ability to get everything possible out of us. We were just a bunch of giggling kids and Coach Lee could really get us fired up."¹³ Rulon Pectol confirmed the story previously told to this writer in Salt Lake City by Elwood Romney, that during the latter part of the 1928-29

¹²Interview with Cecil Gates, St. George, Utah, July 3, 1967.

¹³Interview with Rulon Pectol, St. George, Utah, Aug. 16, 1967.

season the Fliers had gone north to play Manti and Ephraim High Schools, and after beating Manti on Friday night, Coach Lee had told the team members that they could go up to the dance until a designated time, but they should be back in the hotel and asleep by eleven o'clock. Rulon Pectol and Elwood Romney were sleeping together in a room and both got in on time but decided that they would accept the invitation they had received to go pop corn with some Manti girls, so they sneaked out. Elwood claims he got a little nervous and decided to return to the hotel only to find that Rulon had the key to the room, so Elwood went down the hall and crawled in with another team-mate. Several hours later, Rulon come sneaking in with his shoes off and told the night watchman not to divulge the time to anyone of his return. He quietly unlocked the door to his room and in the dark climbed into bed and started to tell how enjoyable the pop corn party was after Elwood had left. After a few minutes of elaborating and trying to wake Elwood up, Rulon turned the light on, only to find Coach Lee looking him right in the face. Elwood stated that from his room down the hall he could hear Rulon fly out of bed and out of the room. Rulon confirmed the fact that he got out of bed real quickly.

Coach Lee held council early the next morning and made the team very uneasy. After a lengthy get-together, it was decided they would continue their trip to Ephraim and that the incident would go untold, which it did for several years after. They beat Ephraim that night and that game was a "Must" win, repeated Rulon.

This season completed a three-year record for Coach Lee and included approximately 102 contests with only four defeats. In a state paper later that spring the following article summed his record:

Lee Hafen is quite a gent. Undoubtedly you remember him from previous basketball seasons. If not, just connect him with those Dixie Fliers who are always the sensation of the State Scholastic Hoop Tournaments.

Hafen has been the coach at the southland school only since the fall of 1926. But in that time his teams have turned in ninety-seven victories and have tasted but four defeats. His quintets have competed in three state tournaments, reaching the semi-finals round at least on each occasion. In 1926 his outfit was eliminated by L. D. S. in the semi-finals. The next year they won the title and reached the quarter-finals of the national scholastic tournament. Last spring they were beaten by Granite High School in the titular game. Those three defeats, along with one suffered at the hands of Minersville in a practice game are his only setbacks in 102 contests.¹⁴

It was during these first three years at Dixie that Coach Lee also developed school interest in other sports. His track teams began to receive notices for their strength, having taken the Divisional Championship twice and also having captured the Las Vegas Invitational Relays. He had class intramurals in a baseball series and encouraged competition not only between classes but also between faculty teams. At that time football had not started at Dixie.

1929-30--the school year saw many new faces appear in athletics and the loss of many familiar ones. Romney went to B. Y. U. to start on

¹⁴Unidentified article found in Lee Hafen Scrapbook, p. 50.

his great college career. The high school squad consisted of hold-overs Andrus, Gates, Nelson and McArthur, with new-comers Wesley Atkin, Merle Emmett, Ross Savage, Willard Bleak, Andrew McArthur and Walter Brooks.

The high school, off to a good start that year, slumped during mid-season and ended second in their division. An unusual thing happened to Coach Lee and Dixie this season:

For the first time in four years as coach at Dixie, Lee Hafen's high school team came out on the short end of a league game last Saturday night. It is notable that the team which turned the trick is coached by one of Hafen's former proteges, Byron Taylor, Kanab Coach, a former star guard on Dixie College squads.¹⁵

B. A. C. High School of Cedar City took first. The Fliers' over-all record for the year was 21 wins against 3 defeats.

Coach Lee's college squad this same year consisted of some promising material in two returning lettermen, Wittwer and McAllister. New faces included Melvin Fawcett, Kenneth Cox, Milton Walker, Francis Leavitt, George Snow and George Harmon.

After a fast start, in which they won games in both California and Arizona, the college boys settled into second place in the league's southern division race and reports of the season's conclusion were:

The Dixie College Basketball Team with their coach left this morning for Cedar City, where they entered the Idaho-Utah Junior College Tournament. It is expected

¹⁵Washington County News, XXIII, No. 4, Jan. 30, 1930, p. 1.

that Dixie will meet Weber tonight, as both are second place winners in their respective divisions.¹⁶

Another article appeared a week later:

The Ricks College Basketball Team from Rexburg, Idaho, won the Idaho-Utah Jr. College Championship at Cedar City Monday winning from B. A. C. in the final contest 36-29. In the elimination series, Monday morning, Ricks defeated Dixie and B. A. C. defeated Snow, the two winners playing for the championship Monday evening. Snow defeated Dixie for third place.¹⁷

1930-31--this basketball season had several note-worthy happenings.

First, Dixie High School started the season by losing at home to Monroe High School, and Enterprise High started basketball and became a member of the league.

Dixie Fliers once again captured the Dixie Division Title with a league record of ten wins against one defeat. Coach Lee took his charges to the state tournament for the fourth time in five years only to be beaten the first night by Granite, the score--Granite 28 and Dixie 22. The overall season's record was 21 wins and 5 losses.

The team consisted of the following members: James Andrus, Donald Bleak, Andrew McArthur, Wesley Atkin, Arvel Milne, Ronald Fawcett, Ross Savage, Merle Emmett and Dudley Leavitt.

Coach Lee's college squad had the following lineup: Melvin Fawcett, Rulon Pectol, Preston Hafen, Walter Brooks, Cecil Gates, Clarence Pugh and Karl Stratton.

¹⁷Ibid., No. 9, March 6, 1930, p. 1.

An interesting letter found in the Dixie News that year, written to Arthur Paxman by Coach Lee while he was on a trip to Arizona reads:

Tempe, Arizona
January 10, 1931

Dear Art:

Saturday morning, and I am going back to Phoenix with Coach Shipkey and try to schedule some kind of game for to-night. He was going to play us, but said one night of Utah basketball was all he wanted. The boys played great ball last night. Hope you did at home. Would like to know the score this morning.

I am scheduling games for all next week and won't be home until a week from tomorrow, so they are yours, and you will win from Parowan. I feel perfectly at ease with you in charge.

We are a tired outfit at Flagstaff and got beat 34 to 25. The road from Kanab to Flagstaff, 232 miles, was a crime. With that heavily loaded car and rocks and ruts I can't see how we made it at all. Broken seven leaves in front spring just before we got to Lee's Ferry. Blocked things up at the Ferry and had to drive to Flagstaff before I could get a new spring. Didn't get there until an hour before game time. Don't see how the boys could see a basket. However, Flag has a real squad.

We start for New Mexico in the morning. Hope to make a good showing. Am enclosing a before and after writeup of our game last night. Let President Nicholes and others interested read them.

Am with you and the boys in thoughts every day.
Lots of best wishes.

Lee. ¹⁸

The college team finished their season that year by participating in the Junior College Tournament, which B. A. C. won. Dixie played three

¹⁸Dixie News, Op. cit., Vol. IX, No. 7, Jan. 16, 1931, p. 28.

games in the tournament, losing to Ricks and Weber and winning from Albion.

1931-32--in the next season, the 1931-32 college team set a first at Dixie. They won the Southern Division of the Rocky Mountain Junior College Conference. Taken from the 1932 yearbook is the following account:

This squad of 1931-32 college athletes set a new record for future college teams to challenge. They met the keenest of competition throughout the year and after a successful season of practice games, won the championship at Rexburg, Idaho, February 18, 19, and 20th. Walter Brooks was out of the last two games because of his mother's death. Ricks College, champions of the norther division, won two of the three games and the championship. This is a new history because it is the first time our team played in the final game for the conference championship. Kenneth Cox, captain, and Wesley Atkin were selected on the All-Conference Team.¹⁹

The college squad that year consisted of Andrus, Pugh, Carter, Brooks, Leavitt, Cox, Atkin, Englestead, Pace, and Savage.

The 1931-32 High School "Fliers" had a "down" year, finishing second in the division. A summary of their season is found in the school yearbook:

Dixie lost by graduation her entire team of 1930-31 regulars. The task of building a team capable of upholding Dixie athletic traditions was a serious one. Ronald Fawcett and Andrew McArthur, two seniors and subs of last year's team formed the nucleus, and

¹⁹The Dixie, Op. cit., 1932, p. 30.

from a large group of promising boys, Coach Hafen finally made a selection of eleven. After a rather discouraging series of practice games, the Dixie lads finally got going and opened the league with seven straight victories, only to go into a slump and lose four of the remaining five league games. They finished second in the division, however, losing out only to Parowan High. This team of Parowan "Rams" were very worthy Dixie Division representatives, and placed seventh in the state meet.²⁰

This season, then, marked the first championship for Coach Lee's college team and only the second time in six years that the high school "Fliers" had not reached the state tournament, and on those two occasions they finished second in the division standing. Coach Lee was at that time 37 years old.

1932-33--Season was a good season in some respects, poor in others. The high school team won the majority of their games, losing only two league games, but those two were to B. A. C. High School, which made the year for the "Fliers" somewhat tarnished. The Cedar team represented the Dixie Division in the state tournament.

The Fliers consisted of the following members: Lynn Empey, Denby Wade, Erwin Schmutz, Rulon Cox, Floyd McMullin, Clark Blake, Delbert Sullivan, James Bunting, Richard Sullivan, Andrew Price, George Whipple, Arnold Adair, and LeRoy Johnson.

The college squad again enjoyed unusual success, mainly because other teams had been predicted stronger and the success which they

²⁰Ibid.

gathered was somewhat unexpected. An article found in the county news summarizes their season:

By winning second place in the annual Junior College Basketball Tournament, Dixie College surprised all hoopsters, who had predicted that the championship game for supremacy in basketball at the Cedar City Tournament would be played between B. A. C. and Ricks of Rexburg, Idaho.²¹

The Dixie team was beaten for the championship by B. A. C. with Church from Dixie making the All-Star Team of the tournament. Lewis Pectol was named All-Conference as a forward.

Other significant happenings occurred during the 1932-33 school year. It is reported in the Dixie yearbook that "The school's first football team went to Overton, Nevada, on October 11, 1933, and played their first football game. Of course, they did not win."²²

Also of importance here was the fact that after long debates the State of Utah had finally decided to assume the operation of Dixie College from the L. D. S. Church, and a summary of this controversy was found in the local paper.

On Monday of this week, Dixie College completed the requirements whereby she became an official member of the State's Junior College System. On Saturday, June 17, title to property, buildings and equipment amounting to \$205,695.09 passed from the L. D. S. Church to the State of Utah. On Monday, June 19, the State Board of Education appointed B. Glen Smith President

²¹Washington County News, Op. cit., XXVI, No. 10, p. 1.

²²Dixie, Op. cit., 1933, p. 42.

of the college, selected other members of the faculty and prescribed the course of study for the school year of 1933-34.

Thus, there was completed the requirements of the Miles's Bill, H. B. 58, passed by the last legislature which created the Dixie College a state junior college. At the time Governor Henry H. Blood signed the bill making Dixie College a state institution, a Gentlemen's Agreement was entered into between the governor and representative citizens of St. George, whereby these citizens promised to secure the necessary finances to carry on Dixie College for the biennium 1933-35.

The L. D. S. Church officials agreed upon the general terms of a lease whereby Dixie College should be conducted under the direction of the State Board of Education, but financed entirely by citizens of Washington County, particularly St. George, under the direction of the local Executive Committee of the College.²³

The 1933-34 season basketball results were again somewhat below the previously established tradition for the Dixie High School. With Andrew Price as team captain the following players were on the squad: Eugene Gregerson, Stanley Mosley, Dick Lund, Grant Excell, Ferrel Hafen, Sid Sorenson, Richard Bentley, Blake Empey, Garn Heaton, Edsel Demille, Wilford Cannon, Denby Wade, and Cecil Blake.

This year marked the third consecutive year in which Dixie did not make the state tournament. In an interview, Captain Price made this comment about the 1933-34 squad. "We had prospects for a real fine team, but due to the training standards we had set up, Coach Lee had to let some of the team members go."²⁴

²³Washington County News, *Op. cit.*, No. 25, June 22, 1933.

²⁴Interview with Andrew Price, St. George, Utah, August 21, 1966.

That year Hurricane represented the Dixie Division at the State Tournament.

The college squad consisted of Ross Savage, Howard Benson, Howard Church (captain), Floyd McMullin, Paul Wilson, Grant Whitehead, Richard Sullivan, Lee Gregerson, Rulon Cox and Englestead. After just an average season they lost to B. A. C. for a tournament berth.

The following year, 1934-35, was a rebounding year for Dixie after a mediocre season for both the high school and college.

The high school "Fliers" were off to the state tournament again after a 3-year span of staying home. The only league game they lost was to Hurricane. An account is found in The Dixie:

The Dixie High School found itself with such a large and capable squad of players that a good team was a certainty from the start of the season. Although Dixie lost to Hurricane 32-33 here in St. George, it was her only defeat. She then went over to Hurricane and drubbed them 61-31. In the 12 league games Dixie scores 583 points as compared to 311 for the opponents.²⁵

Dixie High School placed third in the state meet that year, behind Jordan and Ogden. Denby Wade was named the outstanding player in the state meet and Andrew Price was a second-team choice. In an article found in the county newspaper the following account is given:

By placing third in the fast state tournament, Dixie definitely proved that she had one of the finest high school teams in the state.

²⁵The Dixie, 1935, p. 43.

From the beginning, Coach Lee Hafen's team was a favorite with the fans. This came from the fine spirit shown by the boys and their clever team work. In the last game they gave one of the cleverest exhibitions of passing and ball handling shown by any team in the tournament.²⁶

This, then, made the fifth time in Coach Lee's first nine years that he made the state tournament.

In addition to the fine season the high school enjoyed, Coach Lee's college squad, after tying with Snow and B. A. C. for Southern Division honors, went into the college tournament with Snow, B. A. C. and Ricks, playing for the championship. Following is a summary of that tournament:

By defeating Snow, Ricks, and B. A. C. on successive nights, Dixie for the first time in history, won the Intermountain Junior College Championship. This tournament which was played off in the local gymnasium on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights saw these four teams battling it out with the championship unsettled until the final fun. Dixie fans feel that this championship team was one of the least promising teams that Coach Lee Hafen ever had at the beginning of the season. Coach Hafen gives credit to the boys for the fine spirit they have shown throughout the year.²⁷

This year goes down as a rewarding one in Coach Lee's coaching career because he again captured a high position in the high school tournament and also won the conference with his college squad.

The college squad consisted of the following men: Wilson, Hoyt, Sullivan, Hunt, Ramsay, Chamberlain, Schmutz, Richards, Empey, Milne, Richards, and Gregerson.

²⁶Washington County News, *Op. cit.*, XXVIII, No. 10, March 21, 1935, p. 1.

²⁷*Ibid.*, No. 11, March 28, 1935, p. 1.

The school year of 1935-36 brought several interesting items into the athletic picture at Dixie. In an article from the Washington County News entitled "Football To Be Added To Dixie College Curriculum: Lloyd Shields To Be Coach," the following announcement was noted:

Dixie Jr. College is to have Football! Thrilling words to football fans of this district who have long desired to see the local college represented in this great college sport. This decision was made at a meeting of the civic leaders of St. George at the Standard Cafe Banquet Room Wednesday evening after the problem had been presented to the group by Ott Romney and his staff from B. Y. U. The meeting had been arranged by President B. Glen Smith with the assistance of the St. George Chamber of Commerce. Those in the group who were introduced by Coach Romney were: Mr. Hart in charge of Physical Education at B. Y. U. , Eddie Kimball, freshman coach, and All-Star John Smith, graduate of Penn. ; Shields, who was a four year letterman, All-Conference man for three years and captain of the B. Y. U. Football Team and who is to be the new coach at the Dixie Jr. College this year, was among the group introduced.²⁸

So, with the support of the community, donations and some old football gear donated by B. Y. U. , Dixie College officially started its football program in the fall of 1935. Coach Shields, assisted by Coach Hafen, coached the football team that fall, which did not win any games but played respectably. The high school, under Coach Lee's supervision, was at this time playing 6-man football on a small scale.

Basketball season for the high school was again a success with a team consisting of Lee Wilkins, Donald Frei, Evan Whitehead, Waldo

²⁸ibid. , No. 34, September 5, 1935, p. 1.

Romney, Boyden Fawcett, Anthony Snow, Earl Tobler, Therol McArthur, Charles Pickett, and Merlin Milne. Gus Shields was assistant coach.

With advance notices as the team to beat in the state tournament, Dixie again gained third place for the second consecutive year. Merlin Milne was named on the All-State first team as a guard. Coach Hafen felt that this was one of the best teams he had coached.

That year Coach Lee's college squad had a rather dismal season and a summary was found as follows: "Friday and Saturday Dixie and B. A. C. will play the final two games of the season in the Junior College Division. All in all, it has been a rather disastrous season for the college, with injuries, suspensions, and sickness. . . ."29

The 1936-37 athletic year saw Coach Shield's football team defeat B. A. C. for the first time in the school's history, and, although the college basketball team under Coach Lee had a rather dismal season, an article appearing in the county paper summarizes the season: "The 1936-37 season is not a complete loss. Reason? That two-game win over B. A. C. in the last week-end tussles has convinced the Dixie fans that all is not lost."30

When the above article was written, it must have applied to both the college and high school teams because, after two consecutive years

²⁹Ibid., XXIX, No. 6, February 27, 1936, p. 1.

³⁰Ibid., XX, No. 6, February 25, 1937, p. 1.

of placing third in the state, Coach Lee's 1936-37 high school squad failed to make the state tournament. The division was won by Kanab High School, with the Dixie "Fliers" taking second. This marked the fifth time in eleven years that Coach Lee failed to go to the state meet.

The 1937-38 athletic year started with an unsuccessful season in football according to this statement found in the school yearbook concerning the season: "The boys never won a game but the boys had an injury jinx."³¹

This year also marked a note-worthy change. Coach Lee stepped down as basketball coach of the college squad after ten successful years during which he won the Conference once, the Southern Division once, placed second four times, third in three different years, and took fourth on one occasion.

The final ten years of his coaching tenure at Dixie was spent with the high school "Fliers." He held title of Athletic Director over the combined college and high school and taught many "upper-division" classes, so his influence and contact were still felt, and his apparent closeness to the entire athletic program is related in the following pages.

This writer could not determine the exact reason for Coach Lee's relinquishment of the college coaching position, but one can assume that ten years of coaching and traveling with both the high school and college

³¹The Dixie, Op. cit., 1938, p. 27.

squads in basketball and track, plus other activities such as class series, intramurals, baseball, and some 6-man football had started to have an effect on Coach Lee and his boundless energies.

The remaining portion of this study will be concentrated on Coach Lee's tenure as high school basketball, and the other areas of Dixie's athletic growth will be mentioned only as they are related with Coach Hafen.

Coach Lloyd "Gus" Shields took command of both high school and college football and also assumed the duties of basketball coach at the college in the school year of 1937-38.

The high school team that year consisted of the following men: Creston Woodard, Kenneth Blake, Keith Wallace, Dan Worthen, Dwane E spline, Eugene Bringham, Earl Cox, Adrain Bunting, Howard Morris, Keith Hafen, Dick Morris, and Vere Hafen.

From an article found in the 1938 yearbook the following data were taken:

A study of the game scores listed is evidence of the fact that the high school basketball team made an enviable record. In 12 practice games the team scored 10 victories against 2 defeats. As champions of the district, they won 11 league games and lost 1. In the state meet at Salt Lake City, they won two and lost two. They played Bear River High School for Consolation Championship. The team deserves much credit for their fine play, team morale and spirit, loyalty to the school, code of training rules, and coach. Their record adds glory to Dixie's athletic history.³²

³²Ibid., p. 40.

This, then, marked Coach Lee's first year as just the high school coach and also of importance was the fact that his son Keith was playing ball for his dad. They lost the consolation game that year to Bear River and placed eighth in the state; however, Dwane Esplin, a junior, gained All-State honors.

The following year 1938-39 had several interesting events. First, the "Fliers" again captured the district championship only to lose the opening-round game of the tournament to South Cache 36-32, and again Dwane Esplin was selected on the All-Tournament Team. Earl Cox and Coach Lee's son Keith were given honorable mention, but the unusual thing was the fact that the Fliers were eliminated the third night, and an article found in the county paper quoted Coach Lee as saying: "This is one of the best teams I ever had; yet they are the only team which hasn't made it to the final night's play."³³

Another interesting fact that year was that Dwane Esplin, who was named the tournament's outstanding player, scored 64 points in 3 games and tied the all-time record of 27 points for one game which was held by the famous "Cat" Thompson, a former Dixieite who played in the 1925 State Tournament. Dwane Esplin went on to play at B. Y. U. , where he achieved All-Conference honors.

³³Washington County News, Op. cit. , XXXII, No. 9, March 26, 1939, p. 1.

The team members that year were Ernest Pulsipher, Weston Seegmiller, Keith Hafen, Dwane Esplin (captain), Dan Worthen, Max Gentry, Gray Wilkins, Earl Cox and Grant Fawcett.

The 1939-40 year saw a change in the college's coaching staff. Jay Tolman assumed the position vacated by Coach Shields, after the latter had spent four years at Dixie. Coach Gus Shields should be given credit for starting the football program at Dixie.

Jay Tolman came to Dixie College from Delta High School. He was assigned to coach college and high school football and also college basketball and track. Coach Lee was to assist him in both football programs and take high school basketball and track. In Coach Tolman's first year at Dixie, the high school football team captured the state title in 6-man football by beating Uintah 30-0.

Coach Lee's high school basketball team of 1939-40 consisted of the following players: Arlo Hafen, Gray Wilkins, Barnard Hafen, Weston Seegmiller, Volma Heaton, Max Gentry, Herb Pitchforth, LeGrande Frei, Junior Neilson, Wendell Tobler, Elvin Hafen, with Stanley Hafen (Coach Lee's son) as official mascot. This was another great year for Dixie and Coach Lee; the Fliers went to the state tournament. An account of the season was found in the school yearbook:

Dixie's well-balanced and high-g geared machine adds more glory to our athletic history. Throughout the season the boys were consistent and in twelve pre-season games were undefeated. In league play the boys won eleven of twelve games. At the State Tournament, held in the New University of Utah Fieldhouse on March 13, 14, 15, and 16, the boys in blue and white brought our Dixieland worthy recognition and

a state sport fan-following similar to that of our 1928 championship squad.

Monroe High School tasted their first defeat of the year as they met Dixie the first night. The second night a stormy Murray team went down while the third night, Provo High, the only undefeated team in the state, lost to Dixie in the greatest game of the 1940 tournament. The last night Dixie lost the Championship game to a truly great Ogden team. Our All-State contribution was Volma Heaton, Captain of the Fliers.³⁴

A brief summary, then, of the year's highlights would include the high school's 6-man championship under Coach Tolman, second place honors in the state basketball tournament for Coach Lee's basketball squad, a successful college football season with only a loss to Weber College, and a cellar position for Coach Tolman's college basketball squad.

The 1940-41 year was another fine season for Coach Lee's basketball team, and for the fourth straight year the Fliers gained a position in the state tournament. The team members were Arlo Hafen, Earl Milne, Wendell Tobler, LeGrande Frei, Victor Frei, Herbert Pitchforth, Junior Neilson, Alpine Prince, Kay Hafen, Phil Reid and Myrl Riding. In an article gleaned from the school yearbook that year the following excerpt was taken:

For the fourth consecutive year the 1941 edition of Dixie's High School Flyers soared to the Dixie District Championship and the State Tournament in Salt Lake City.

³⁴Dixie, Op. cit., 1940, p. 25.

Again they upheld the reputation of Dixie's southland and played all four nights, winning over Altamount the first night, B. Y. High the second night, were defeated in the semi-finals by Davis. They played for third and sixth place the last night, losing to Box Elder.

They were the smallest team, yet one of the classiest teams to ever represent Dixie at the state meet. They earned the affectionate name of "Tournament Darlings" while in Salt Lake.³⁵

Junior Neilson was an All-State selection that year.

That year marked the tenth time in fifteen years of coaching the high school that Coach Lee's team had entered the state meet, and of the ten teams only the 1938-39 team failed to play all four nights.

The school year of 1941-42 saw some interesting changes take place. In the county newspaper was found the following article entitled: "College Completes Teaching Staff for Coming Year. "

Stanley Watts will replace Jay Tolman as Coach of College Athletics. Mr. Tolman is on leave to serve in the military forces of the United States. Mr. Watts is a graduate of Weber College and Brigham Young University. He has been serving as coach at Fillmore High School.³⁶

This appointment began Coach Stan Watts' 5-year coaching tenure at Dixie, which was to be unique in several ways. It was during the war years, and although Coach Watts was hired as an athletic coach for all college and high school football, his coaching experiences at Dixie were primarily in the

³⁵Ibid., 1941, p. 26.

³⁶Washington County News, Op. cit., No. 30, August 14, 1941, p. 1.

area of football. He did have several fine basketball teams; his first college basketball team took second place in the conference at Ogden, beating Mesa 45-40 and losing the championship to Weber 56-40.

For Coach Lee, that year was probably an all-time low. His high school Fliers ended fifth in the league, behind Hurricane, Cedar City, Kanab, and Enterprise. The team consisted of Victor Frei, Ronald McArthur, Myrrh Cox, Leon Watson, Kent Reber, Ralph Hafen, Wesley Whitehead, Stafford Snow, and Howard Atkin.

The 1942-43 year was very unusual. First, this was a war year, and because of gasoline rationing and the shortages of various commodities, it was decided that league play for the high schools would be eliminated and the college conference schedule was also in doubt. The coaches, however, maintained workouts and had intramurals and class series. By early January, it was decided that the region would play a basketball schedule in the high schools, but the status of the state tournament was not settled. An article appearing in the local paper clarified this matter: "The Utah High School Athletic Association has announced that a decision has finally been reached not to conduct a state tournament in basketball this year."³⁷

Coach Lee's team took second place in league play behind Hurricane. Hurricane, Dixie, Beaver, and Delta met in Beaver for the regional championship. The outcome of the tournament was found in the following

³⁷ ibid., XXXVIII, No. 4, February 4, 1943, p. 1.

news article: "Dixie defeated Beaver 61-33 Friday night and swamped Hurricane for the championship 51-26. Leon Watson and Kent Reber were named to the tourney team."³⁸

The manner in which this team captured the region tournament added to the ability of his boys, and Coach Lee commented many times in later years that this team would have taken many honors had there been a state meet that year.

Leon Watson went on to become an all-time great for Coach Vadal Peterson at University of Utah, playing on the "Cinderella" N. C. A. A. Championship team, with Vern Gardner, Arnie Ferrin, Wat Masaki, and Fred Weidner.

Also in this event-filled year, state and regional officials decided that the state basketball meets would be divided into Class "A" and "B" groups, determined by the enrollment of the schools. This decision gives additional insight into Coach Lee's previous records, because he had previously been competing against the larger schools in the northern part of the state.

Then, on March 31, 1943, Coach Lee was notified by Western Union telegram that his oldest son Keith had been killed while on a bombing mission over England. Expressions of sympathy flowed from all sections of the country, from people in all walks of life; many people, because they were

³⁸Ibid., No. 13, March 18, 1943, p. 1.

friends of the likeable Coach Lee, wanted to lighten the family's sorrow.

In an unidentified article "From The Press Box" by James Hodgson,

which was found in Keith's scrapbook, the following was taken:

Keith Hafen, former Dixie High Basketball star and a typical American boy, has died fighting for the things he typified and symbolized so perfectly.

When Keith was playing basketball with the Dixie Fliers in the state high school tournaments of four or five years ago, such things as personal freedom, the pursuit of happiness and self-government were just a lot of words taken more or less for granted by all of us.

But after Pearl Harbor when Keith and the rest of us started to realize that these great ideals consisted of the little things of our everyday life such as the chance for athletic competition, the thrill of achievement, the chance to get an education, the opportunity to go hunting with Dad Lee Hafen, and that these privileges were being endangered, Keith immediately started training for the air corps.

His athletic experience at Dixie High and Dixie College and his clean living, courage and intelligence, made him an excellent pilot, eager for action. He turned down the chance to become an instructor in order to get on the firing line and was sent to England. For two and a half months he played an important role flying a big four-motor ship on missions over the continent.

Keith flew just like he played basketball, with everything he had. He hung up an outstanding record.

But on March 31 he was reported killed by the war department.

Keith becomes one of the first from the ranks of Utah's former prep stars to give his life for his country. Unfortunately, there will be more.

The proud but bereaved father of the 21-year-old flier is Lee Hafen. The popular Dixie mentor has not only been a dad but also a coach and pal to the flier. Thousands of fans all over the state who have known the Hafens through

their basketball abilities and sportmanship join Lee in his loss of the clean-cut likeable young Dixie flier.³⁹

In the fall of 1943-44 Coach Watts' 6-man football team again won the state title beating Richfield.

The 1943-44 season saw the college without a football or basketball team because of the war; however, Coach Watts helped with the high school teams and once again the Fliers were off and running. The squad consisted of Norman Hafen, Donald Truman, Cecil Worthen, Clayton Atkin, Marvin Woodbury, Darrell Hafen, Dan Hafen, Russel Neilson, Austin Gentry, and Jack Mathis. Darrell Hafen was named to the All-State First Team that year.

The following description of the basketball team was found:

This year Dixie again maintained her excellent record in basketball. She won 10 out of 12 league games to gain a berth in the Regional Tournament, but she went down fighting in the region tournament tussle, losing to Cedar City. However, Dixie was able to gain a berth in the state tournament by defeating the Manti "Templars." In the state meet, Lehi beat Dixie in the first round game, but Dixie was able to even the score with Cedar by winning 43-41. In the consolation finals the Monroe players hit the hoop like professionals to win. Dixie placed sixth in the state.⁴⁰

1944-45--Again Coach Stan Watts' 6-man high school football brightened the fall athletic activities when they beat Cedar in a league

³⁹"From The Press Box," as cited in Keith Hafen's scrapbook, p. 9.

⁴⁰Dixie, Op. cit., 1944, p. 28.

playoff only to lose the state championship to the Roosevelt "Rough-Riders" by a score of 37-32.

Without College basketball or football duties, once again Coach Watts assisted Coach Lee with the high school basketball team which consisted of Loraine Milne, Joe Bob Lund, Dan Hafen, Jack Mathis, Bob Pearce, Dennie Atkin, D. J. Worthen, Alma Truman, Spencer Reber, Arthur Paxman, Harry Lundin, Melvin Woodard, Hal Sullivan and Eldon Gentry.

An article found in the paper that year summarized the season:

Delta to represent Region 6 in the State Meet. Final league standings were as follows:⁴¹

	Won	Lost
Kanab	12	0
Cedar City	9	3
Enterprise	8	4
Hurricane	5	7
Dixie	4	8
Orderville	3	9
Parowan	2	10

Excluding the 1942-43 year in which no state tournament was played, that year marked the seventh time in nineteen years that Coach Lee's team did not make the state tournament. He was then fifty years old.

The athletic year of 1945-46 brought to an end 20 years of colorful athletic history at Dixie. At the close of that year, Coach Lee retired from the coaching profession.

⁴¹Washington County News, Op. cit., No. 10, March 8, 1945, p. 1.

The year started with some changes in coaching personnel. Coach Stan Watts went to Jordan High School, and Walter Brooks, who had played for Coach Lee and had been an outstanding athlete at B. Y. U. in addition to spending several successful years coaching at Hurricane High School, came to Dixie for a coaching assignment. Coach Brooks won the state football title his first year at Dixie as high school football coach.

After juggling coaching assignments early in the year, Coach Lee took his last basketball club to the state tournament, and for only the second time in thirteen state tournament appearances, the Dixie Fliers were eliminated the third night. The first day Dixie beat Springville, the pre-tourney favorites, 44-28. The second night saw American Fork, with big Kent Durrant leading the way, beat Dixie 54-25. Durrant in this game set a new tournament record for one game with his 30 points. The previous record had been held by "Cat" Thompson and Dwane Esplin, both from Dixie, who each scored 27 points in a single game. The third night Dixie lost to Park City.

The last team to play for Coach Lee consisted of Robert Pearce, Hal Sullivan, Larry McMullin, Doug Hafen, Harry Lundin, Clair Snow, Max Seegmiller, Darlo Esplin, Gar Stucki, Alma Truman, and Frank Snow. Richard Hafen, Coach Lee's youngest son, was team mascot that year.

With the conclusion of the 1945-46 season Coach Lee's record as athletic coach at Dixie was complete. He had in ten years of coaching

the college team won one conference championship and one southern division championship, had placed second in the conference play-off on two different years, had gained third place in conference play on two occasions and placed second in the southern division twice and had for two seasons taken fourth place.

During the same ten-year span he coached the high school ball club, and after adding the following ten years, during which time he had no college coaching duties, his record of twenty years of high school basketball contained thirteen years represented at the state tournament with one championship, three second-place finishes in the state meet, two third-place finishes in the state meet, consolation games on four different occasions with a loss of four times, and only two years in which teams failed to play all four nights. A complete record is found on the following page.

Coach Lee had unusual success as a coach, and his win-loss record was very good. The most remarkable factor seemed to be that while he was accumulating his enviable high school record, Utah high school athletics had not been reorganized and he was playing against both the large and small schools in the state meets. Another note-worthy point was the fine success of his Fliers in state competition. On only two occasions did his Fliers fail to compete all four of the tournament nights.

When one considers the size of St. George and the population of the surrounding area and then considers the number of very fine athletes

Table 1. High School record^a

Year	Placed
1926-27	Second place in State Tournament
1927-28	State Champions
1928-29	Second place in State Tournament
1929-30	Second place in Dixie Division
1930-31	Sixth place in State Tournament
1931-32	Second place in Dixie Division
1932-33	Second place in Dixie Division
1933-34	Second place in Dixie Division
1934-35	Third place in State Tournament
1935-36	Third place in State Tournament
1936-37	Second place in State Tournament
1937-38	Sixth place in State Tournament
1938-39	Lost out third night of Tournament
1939-40	Second place in State Tournament
1940-41	Sixth place in State Tournament
1941-42	Fifth place in Dixie Division
1942-43	No State Tournament (Dixie won Regional Tournament at Beaver)
1943-44	Sixth place in State Tournament
1944-45	Fifth place in Dixie Division
1945-46	Lost out third night of State Tournament

^a A tabulation by the writer compiled from newspapers, yearbooks, scrapbooks, etc., as found in the bibliography.

produced while Coach Lee was there, one can then truly appreciate his abilities.

There are many outstanding "Dixieites" who have been under Coach Lee's influence at one time or another. While Lee was at Woodward, there was Elsworth "Cat" Thompson; then the fine pair of Elwood Romney and Lorraine Cox; then Denby Wade, Merlin Milne, and Dwane Esplin. Leon Watson and Darrell Hafen were two of the last great ones to play under Coach Lee.

This list does not include all the names of great players who won honors as All-State kids under Coach Lee, nor does it include the numerous second-team members or the All-Conference members of his college fives.

Before ending this era in Coach Lee's career, a look should be given to those other activities which Coach Lee directed during his coaching span. First, because of his likeable, out-going personality and his unusual success, Coach Lee held many positions with local and state coaching and teaching organizations.

Coach Lee gained state recognition not only as a basketball coach, but also with his track teams, and he was a great believer in physical education. He thought each boy and girl ought to engage in some form of physical exercise.

In an article entitled "Lee Hafen" states:

Yep, Lee Hafen, Dixie High School Coach, does something besides instruct his St. George boys in the fine arts of

basketball. You bet your life he does. Lee is busy keeping everyone of his 148 boys in Dixie High School in some sort of physical sport.

Right now our St. George correspondent reports that 140 of his boys are participating in the annual baseball series. The other eight lads are playing horseshoes, tennis, volleyball, soccer, or boxing or wrestling.

His records as a basketball coach mark him as one of the outstanding coaches of this state. But his work in intramural sports is so remarkable that it must be heralded, too. It's a case of a coach devoting almost as much time to intramurals as to interscholastic activities and making a success of both.⁴²

During his twenty-year tenure, Coach Lee spent his summers either going to school or working for the Bureau of Land Management; this gave him the opportunity to be outdoors with a good horse. In the talk, given at Lee's funeral, Senator Hafen remarked, "Coach Lee would rather be around a campfire than to have attended the finest banquet in the world. Men like that get close to God."⁴³

Coach Lee spent many hours around a campfire with his friends during those years and the years which followed.

⁴²Lee Hafen, Scrapbook, p. 50.

⁴³From recorded talk given by Orval Hafen at funeral of Leland Hafen.

Table 2. College record^a

Year	Placed
1926-27	Third place in Conference
1927-28	Second place in Conference
1928-29	Third place in Conference
1929-30	Fourth place in Conference
1930-31	Third place in Conference
1931-32	Southern Division Championship
1932-33	Second place in Conference
1933-34	Second place in Southern Division
1934-35	Conference Championship
1935-36	
1936-37	Second place in Southern Division

^aA tabulation by the writer compiled from newspapers, yearbooks, scrapbooks, etc., as found in the bibliography

CHAPTER III

POST-COACHING ERA 1946-1957

The school year of 1946-47 marked the first year Coach Lee was not actively engaged in coaching. He was appointed Dean of Men at Dixie College and also assumed the Athletic Directorship. He taught history and government to both upper and lower division students.

Coaches Harold Stowell and Walter Brooks assumed the coaching duties at Dixie for the next 10 years and there seemed to be a constant shuffling of coaching assignments. A complete list of coaching transactions is found in Table 3.

It was during those years when Coach Lee expanded to new capacities that his outgoing personality and friendly ways became evident to so many people. He found time to visit with many students, and although he was not only associated with athletics through his athletic directorship, he still could be seen at all the state tournaments and wherever the Dixie Teams were competing. His youngest son, Richard, was starting on his own athletic career, and of Coach Lee during this post-coaching era, Mr. Garner stated:

Coach Lee was so enjoyable to be around; he had a story for everyone and seemed to enjoy telling the "I remember when . . . stories." He was Mr. Dixie, and although as athletic director he played a secondary role, everyone would watch for him to come into the basketball and football games.

Table 3. Tenure of coaches at Dixie during Lee Hafen's era^a

Lee Hafen	1926-36	College basketball High School basketball also Track, baseball and 6-man football	10 years 20 years
Lloyd Shields	1935-39	College football and basketball High School football	4 years
Jay Tolman	1939-31	College basketball and football High School football	2 years
Stanley Watts	1941-45	College basketball High School football	4 years
^b Walter Brooks	1945-	College basketball and football High School football	
Harold B. Stowell	1946-49	High School athletics College basketball	3 years
Garth Belliston	1950-53	College football High School basketball	3 years
Keith Wilson	1953-55	Upper Division coach	2 years
Sark Arslanian	1956-64	College football	8 years
Doyle Sampson	1956-57	College basketball Ast. College football	1 year
Ray Englestead	1957-62	College basketball Asst. College football	5 years

^aA tabulation by the writer compiled from newspapers, yearbooks, scrapbooks, etc., as found in the bibliography.

^bStill coaching High School football.

It seemed to me that the pep cheers and songs were meant for Coach Lee.¹

Records herein show the many young men who came into contact with Coach Lee and gained values and honors from their athletic associations with him, but during the period of time after his coaching years he was influencing many young people in the classrooms, teaching history, and reliving the many wonderful experiences of Dixie's early struggles. An editorial taken from the school paper and found in his scrapbook stated:

Many of the new students haven't had the opportunity of getting acquainted with one of Dixie's oldest and most beloved teachers. Our own Lee Hafen is the man! We really feel that Mr. Hafen is one of the most stalwart carriers of what President Bruhn calls the "Dixie Spirit." Lee is given this title with just cause too.

Yes, if you ever get onto the subject of Dixie he can fill you full of spirit faster and better than any person we know.²

Coach Lee talked of the "Dixie Spirit" constantly and tried to instill it into each person he met. He would ask the new students coming to Dixie if they really wanted it and, in a joking way, would tell how true Dixieites would get up every morning and bow three times to the "D" on the hill before starting the day.

Teaching was most enjoyable for Coach Lee, and though his last years were spent with much personal pain because of his hip conditions, he never

¹Interview with Ray Garner, St. George, Utah, October 12, 1967.

²Lee Hafen, Scrapbook, Op. cit., p. 59.

revealed this ailment to his students. He was always smiling and cheerful, and although his mobility was affected, he still could be seen around the campus and at all the athletic contests; everyone was given his big cheerful "Hello." Because of his personal qualities, Coach Lee was a successful coach and teacher.

The following anonymous poem was found in all of Coach Lee's roll-books where he could see it from day to day:

PERSONALITY

The Golden Rules

Be courteous to everyone.
 A pleasant smile accomplishes wonders.
 Acknowledge all introductions cordially.
 Extend a hearty handshake, never a flabby one.
 Memorize the names of everyone you meet.
 Look people in the eye when conversing.
 Talk with calm assurance; do not raise your voice.
 Shun idle gossip; never meddle in personal affairs.
 Be a good listener; respect other's viewpoints.
 Avoid arguments; keep cool, even if provoked.
 When you are in the wrong, admit it promptly, frankly.
 Be open-minded, tolerant, considerate.
 Cooperate readily, cheerfully,
 Be a booster! Praise generously! Criticize tactfully!
 Show that you appreciate all favors, big or little.
 Say "Thank You" expressively, not just politely.
 Be sympathetic, but never complain or seek sympathy.
 Always be punctual! Keep no one waiting.
 Make your word respected by keeping all promises.
 Be fair and square, loyal and sincere.
 Take pride in your work and appearance.
 Do your best--today and every day.
 Radiate Friendliness, Enthusiasm, Good Will.³

³Ibid. (n. p.)

Coach Lee radiated Friendliness, Enthusiasm and Good Will. Many people feel these are part of the "Spirit of Dixie" and that Coach Lee had the ability to pass these feelings to other people he met. Coach Walter Brooks stated that "After a pep talk by Coach Lee we felt we could jump right through the nets, we were so high."⁴

Although Coach Lee's years at Dixie brought many struggles, there were also many rewards. He is credited with starting a winning tradition in basketball plus beginning football at Dixie, and with encouraging participation in track, tennis and baseball. All these activities came during his time, but he also saw one of his brightest dreams come true in 1956 when, as Director of Athletics and with the planning of the administration, Dixie College laid plans for a new basketball fieldhouse which would be built on the site of the new campus east of town. These plans were a milestone for Coach Lee, not only because of his position and past honors, but because he sincerely believed in physical education and athletics as a vital part of the educational program.

It was during his later years that people all over the area started to ask for and receive Coach Lee's suggestions and knowledge in athletics. While athletic director he was instrumental in forming many of the foundation policies of the Intermountain Collegiate Athletic Conference (I. C. A. C.), and he continued to function in many state activities concerning athletics. For

⁴Interview with Walter Brooks, St. George, Utah, July 17, 1967.

these services the Intermountain Athletic Conference awarded him a plaque for "thirty years of devoted service to youth" and a lifetime, free entrance to all athletic events.

In the spring of 1957 Coach Lee resigned from the Athletic Directorship at Dixie College with this statement: ". . . I figured that if I quit this Athletic Directorship, the school would hire another coach, and it would be that much better off."⁵

Coach Lee continued to teach at Dixie, and mainly because of his efforts Doyle Sampson joined the coaching staff. Thus ended three decades of the Lee Hafen Legend at Dixie College. From 1957 until the fall of 1959 Coach Lee taught his history classes at Dixie, and although his hip had all but given way, he was able, with the use of crutches, to struggle into the fieldhouse to watch the Dixie teams perform. Many people still remember his warm smile that greeted them--whether they met him in his classrooms, on campus, or on the St. George streets.

Several years earlier Coach Lee had had an operation on his hip, and although the surgery had given him temporary relief, the problem was chronic and was to become more and more painful. Then, in November 1959, a second operation was needed, this time for the removal of kidney stones. He had felt a bit despondent after his hip operation because for the first time he was unable to ride his horses, and that autumn marked

⁵Lee Hafen, Scrapbook, Unidentified article from a state newspaper, p. 38.

the first time he had to decline going with his boys to hunt quail. He told Elwood Romney how much this hurt him and how he hated to have the operation. Coach Lee had made the statement to several other people that he didn't feel like he was up to another major operation.

On November 23, 1959, Coach Leland Hafen died of an embolism following surgery in the St. George hospital. On that day his son Richard was chosen as a Junior College All-American Football Player and Coach Sarkis Arslanian was on his way to the hospital to notify Coach Lee when the community learned of his death. And, as stated in a book entitled Hafen's of Utah, "It seems appropriate that on the day of his death, the world of athletics that he loved was so close to him."⁶

Much has been written about Coach Lee since his death and the words and expressions for him are boundless. One such thought was found in Bill Coltrin's book entitled 25 Years Of Utah Sports in which Mr. Coltrin stated:

Back in my early days with the Telegram, when I thought Dixie was the name of a song, I heard about Lee Hafen . . . Woody Romney, for instance, kept saying that 'here was one of the world's wonderful people!'

In the mid-40's when he brought the Dixie High School team to the state tournament I first met him. And with him there was Richard Hafen, four years old or thereabouts, pitching the ball through the net between halves.

⁶LeRoy R. Hafen (Ed.), The Hafen Families of Utah (Provo: The Hafen Family Association, 1962), p. 32.

Richard later went on to be one of the finest all-around athletes the state has ever produced and Richard had to feel good about his decision to remain in St. George and play for Dixie Junior College instead of accepting any one of dozens of "big college" offers when he graduated.

Lee was fighting his fatal illness at the time and he had to stick pretty close to home. His life at that time was wrapped up in Richard and he never missed a practice session or a game if the doctors didn't have him flat on his back.

This man, Lee Hafen, loved sports as no one we've ever known has loved them. He, more than anyone else, put Utah's Dixie on the sports map and win or lose, everyone loved Lee.

It must have cost him a lot in pain and maybe years of his life, to make the trip to the state basketball tournament when his beloved Dixie won the title with Richard playing a key role.

But he would have come up if he knew that it would kill him.

He told me once, shortly before he died, that when he was a high school boy he honestly believed that he would gladly give his life for Dixie High School.

A grand man was Lee Hafen.

St. George, the entire Dixie area, Utah . . . heavens, the whole world . . . has to be a better place after he lived his life.⁷

Coach Lee had made many friends through his athletic associations, both here in the southern end of the state and throughout the northern area as well. He would delight in talking of Utah's Dixie and related to these

⁷Bill Coltrin, 25 Years Of Utah Sports (Salt Lake City: Publishers Press Co., 1966), p. 30.

people how he loved Southern Utah and its people. State Senator Orval Hafen, a cousin of Coach Lee's once stated "Whenever I hear the phrase 'How green is my valley,' I think of Coach Lee and how he loved Dixie."⁸

Coach Lee's friends away from home were many, but it was those who were around him from day to day and observed his unselfish attitudes and ways who loved and respected him most. One such individual is Stan Watts, Basketball Coach at Brigham Young University and former teaching associate of Coach Lee's. His expressions can be felt in a letter penned to this writer which reads:

September 25, 1967

Mr. Douglas Allred
Head Basketball Coach
Dixie College
St. George, Utah 84770

Dear Doug:

I was certainly pleased to receive your letter of September 25 asking me to give you some of my experiences with my very dear friend Lee Hafen. As you know, I was at Dixie for four years and had a very wonderful association with Lee and his family. This association went beyond our athletic and educational experiences.

I had the pleasure of hunting with Lee and of course having many social activities with him. Lee had a wonderful personality, making friends very easily and influencing the lives of all the people with whom he came in contact.

He knew his basketball well and taught his young men the game well. He believed in team work and his theory was to play basketball by playing it together. I am sure that his success

⁸Orval Hafen, recorded talk, loc. cit.

as a high school coach speaks for his outstanding abilities. Lee had the foresight to determine the situation and could adjust quickly to make everything a pleasant experience.

I recall visiting his history class on certain occasions where the interest of the day was an athletic contest, and because his students desired to talk about that, he felt it important enough to talk with his students and clarify any problems that might arise or to enjoy the thrill of winning the game.

He had a heart as good as gold and was always trying to help someone out. I recall on many deer hunts with him that he was always concerned with my welfare and comfort and my getting a prize deer. We were in his home many, many times and enjoyed the association of Lee and Elsie. We found the same sweet spirit at their home along with the gracious hospitality that everyone experienced when they visited this fine family.

Lee was honest in all of his dealings. I know in his sports activities he never wanted any favor and neither did he give any. He wanted to play the game according to the rules with the chance of the best team winning.

Lee was very industrious and worked real hard.

I know when the opportunity came for me to leave Dixie, Lee was very concerned about my leaving and visited President Snow telling him he would pay the difference in my salary if President Snow could convince me to stay. I think this is a fine example of the type of man that Lee Hafen was.

His contribution to the St. George area can never be measured wholly. The fine young men that he worked with and whose lives he influenced are all over the country and are successful in their choice of specialized fields. I think this will always be a living monument to Lee and a tribute to his many contributions.

Personally I considered Lee as one of my finest friends and I am a much better man today for having had the opportunity of knowing this man and sharing many pleasant experiences with him.

I trust this will help you with your thesis. If I can be of any further help please feel free to contact me.

We had a very delightful trip and we are pleased to be home to start our new campaign.

May I wish you success in your forthcoming season. Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

Stan Watts
Head Basketball Coach⁹

In 1960 the yearbook of Dixie College was dedicated to Coach Hafen and read:

IN MEMORIAM

In tribute to LELAND HAFEN, longtime dean of Utah pepcoaches, The Dixie pauses in memorial. Coach Hafen's list of friends and admirers stretches the width and breadth of Utah and into every clime of the land. His smile has been the lift to many, his spoken word the inspiration. On the fields of friendly competition he was known as a man of honor. His record stands for itself.

Among many he was known as "Coach." to other "Coach Lee," and to others "Coach Hafen." But to all he was "Mr. Dixie Athletics" for nearly three decades. His death was a loss to all, but his memory will be a guidepost to all who walk down the halls of Dixie College.¹⁰

⁹Letter from Coach Stan Watts, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, to Coach Doug Allred, September 28, 1967.

¹⁰Quoted from The Dixie, 1960, p. 140.

CHAPTER IV.

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Leland Hafen was born in Santa Clara, Utah, a small community just west of St. George, and with the exception of two years spent obtaining a college degree and time in the army, he spent his life in St. George. Lee Hafen was a fine young athlete and possessed leadership qualities as a young man. Early in his life he showed an unusual loyalty and affection for Dixie College and expressed a desire some day to have a college education and return home.

After several years of teaching experiences in nearby schools, Lee Hafen joined the faculty of Dixie in the year 1926, and for the next two decades he carved a career that has not been equaled as an athletic coach at Dixie.

During these years Coach Hafen's personal life held many joys and many rewards not directly connected with athletics but the more ordinary joys brought him by his lovely wife Elsie and the fine family he was rearing. Sadness and pain were also his. He lost his first son in World War II, and a chronic hip condition gradually worsened as years went by. To this physical pain was added perhaps a more vital pain as this condition separated him from actual participation in his world of sports.

At that time in Dixie's history and until 1963 the college and high school were combined and consisted of anywhere from 75 to 300 students, mostly from surrounding localities.

Coach Hafen was a winner, to be sure, but more important he possessed such strong qualities in leadership, enthusiasm, loyalty and pride that many people associated this man with Dixie's standards and what people of this area referred to as "The Dixie Spirit."

Coach Lee radiated a spirit so intense during the athletic contest--and yet so full of love for the game and his boys--that it created an unusual understanding between not only a coach and his team, but between a coach and a community. Under his guidance basketball reached a position at Dixie higher than it had achieved with any consistency before and set goals to strive for in the future.

For ten years Coach Hafen coached both the high school and college athletic teams, not only in basketball, but also in track and baseball. Coach Hafen was a great believer--and won state acclaim for his convictions--that every student ought to engage in some form of physical activities, and for this reason Coach Lee carried on extensive intramural tennis, boxing, cross-country runs, inter-class baseball and softball, and many other related sports activities.

Despite his many teaching activities Coach Hafen found time to ride horses and spend time in the outdoors with his family. For many summers he worked for the Bureau of Land Management on the Arizona Strip as a conservation officer.

Partially because of the number of times his teams played in state meets, and also because of his friendly personality, Coach Hafen made numerous contacts and friends throughout the intermountain area and enjoyed telling stories praising Utah's Dixie to these friends.

In the fall of 1936 Coach Lee relinquished his coaching duties on the college level, mostly because of the growth experienced by both the college and high school programs; he continued his teaching duties on both the upper and lower division levels.

The list of fine athletes who have come from this area and gone on to major colleges and universities is a tribute to Coach Lee and the principles which he taught.

Coach Hafen saw many transitions take place while he was at Dixie. He and Lloyd Shields were instrumental in starting the football program at Dixie, which since that time has culminated in championships for both the college and high school. The track and baseball programs have experienced continual growth, and the college has one of the finest fieldhouses in the entire intermountain area. The community of St. George has an athletic atmosphere year-round. During any weekend during the fall or winter the fans of the area can watch some of the finest junior college and high school teams compete against the Dixie teams. The summers in St. George are filled with softball and baseball programs designed for participants of all ages.

Dixie College is now located on its spacious site, with its new attractive buildings just to the east of town and is continually growing. Dixie is now recognized as the largest junior college in the state of Utah with an expected enrollment of nearly 3000 students; the high school is located just to the south of town in a new, ultra-modern building which bulges with community pride and spirit.

The old campus, with its great tradition, still stands in the middle of town; and even though the high school and college student bodies have separated, the rays of the Dixie Spirit--the epitome of Coach Lee Hafen--still reach forth and touch those who look for it.

Conclusions

From the study the following conclusions were drawn by this writer:

1. Leland Hafen as an athletic coach had a most successful career in games won while at Dixie.
2. As a coach and teacher Lee Hafen made numerous contacts and friends because of his outgoing personality and extensive travel.
3. Coach Hafen showed a sincere love and appreciation, not only for Dixie, but for the area known as "Utah's Dixie."
4. Coach Hafen was instrumental in the growth of athletics at Dixie mainly because of his boundless energy and enthusiasm.
5. Coach Hafen reflected through his actions the intangible "Dixie Spirit" which is so important to the people of this area.

Recommendations

In the light of the above mentioned conclusions, it is recommended by this writer that:

1. As a result of the efforts documented by this study that the Dixie Fieldhouse which bears no name be named in memorial of Leland Hafen.
2. That a more complete study be made which would include all other phases of the athletic program.
3. That a more complete history be kept of the entire athletic program regarding records, dates, names, and scores of all other coaches and tenures so as to make this information readily available to those individuals who are interested.

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APPENDIX

DIXIE COLLEGE, ST. GEORGE, UTAH 84770

June 24, 1967

Mr. Stanley H. Hafen
1210 Tumbleweed Ave.
Las Vegas, Nevada

Dear Stanley:

Since coming to St. George and Dixie College, six years ago, and being associated with the athletic program, I have come into contact with many "Dixieites" and learned their attitudes and feelings. Invariably in visiting with these people the name of Lee Hafen is brought up and discussed in association with the Dixie Spirit and the fine athletic program of past years.

The purpose of this letter is to ask your permission and help in accumulating and putting into orderly fashion your father's contribution to Dixie and the area around here.

I have approval from Utah State University under the direction of Mr. H. B. Husaker, Departmental Head, and also a personal friend of your father, to complete this as part of my requirements for a Master's Degree in Physical Education.

My present plans are to start immediately and write through the summer months here in St. George. With your permission I undertake this task and consider it a distinct privilege and assure you that every effort will be made on my part to make this something that your family, as well as myself, will be proud of.

A completed copy will be offered to the Hafen family.

Respectfully yours,

Doug Allred
Basketball Coach

Copies sent to:

Mr. Clark Hafen
Mrs. Maxine H. Spencer
Mr. Richard Hafen

VITA

Douglas Vance Allred

Candidate for the Degree of

Master of Science

Thesis: The Life And Contributions Of Lee Hafen To Athletics At
Dixie College

Major Field: Physical Education

Biographical Information:

Personal Data: Born at Ephraim, Utah, May 18, 1934, son of
Vance L. and Reva L. Allred; married Elaine Barton
September 9, 1953; four children--Debra, Annalee,
Gary and Lance.

Education: Attended elementary school in Ephraim, Utah;
graduated from Snow High School in 1952; received
Associate of Science degree from Snow College in 1954;
received Bachelor of Science degree from Utah State
University, with a major in Physical Education and a
minor in Business, in 1956; did graduate work at Uni-
versity of Utah in 1958; and completed requirements
for the Master of Science degree at Utah State University
in 1968.

Professional Experience: 1962 to present, Assistant Professor in
Physical Education and Head Basketball Coach at Dixie
College; 1956-1962, Coach of Basketball and Baseball at
Delta High School, Delta, Utah.