

May 17, 1951

Larry Gillespie Will Take Coach's spot

Now on Coaching Staff at Famed Davenport High

Missouri Valley High and Drake U. Star Athlete, Succeeds Bill Stenecker
Larry Gillespie, 1948 graduate of Drake University and at present a member of the coaching staff at Davenport, will assume duties as Manning's new athletic director and head coach this fall.

From a large field of applicants the new coach was unanimous choice of the school board following personal interviews here Thursday, according to Superintendent Kenneth B. Koch.

In coming to Manning this fall, Coach Gillespie returns to a section of the state he knows well. He prepped at Missouri Valley where he was an outstanding athlete in all sports, directed at that time by Warren Gear, now at Drake University.

When Coach Gillespie enrolled at Drake, he continued participation in all major sports and rated varsity team billing all along the way.

The new coach's experience in the field of athletic direction includes two years at Oakland high school where he produced championship football and basketball teams, winning conference and sectional titles. He also coached baseball and track and saw his efforts well rewarded by having his boys win a majority of their contests.

Moving to Davenport last year, Coach Gillespie acted as assistant football coach and directed sophomore baseball. He was to have assisted Coach Paul Moon in the highly-rated basketball program provided for the famed Blue Devils if he remained at Davenport.

Coach Gillespie is married to a former Missouri Valley girl and they have one child. He served three years in the armed forces and is continuing his educational work on a master's degree. This summer he will attend college at Omaha University.

When school resumes here this fall, Coach Gillespie's academic duties will include teaching industrial arts. The hiring of the new coach completes the faculty for Manning's next term of school.

After 11 years at Manning, Coach Bill Stenecker will enter a new field at Mason City. Coach Stenecker, whose coaching career in Manning included a state basketball crown in 1948, can boast a record of 80 percent wins in basketball games played by the Bulldogs. He enters the sixth largest school in Iowa at Mason City where he will be head basketball coach and assist in other sports.

May 1, 1952 Gillespie to Boone Staff

Larry Gillespie, who is serving his first year as head coach and athletic director at Manning has accepted a position on the Boone coaching staff. Announcement of the change came today from Superintendent David R. Littell.

At Boone, Coach Gillespie will act as head basketball coach and assistant football coach. He goes there with a considerable raise in salary, it was announced.

Coach Gillespie came to Manning from Davenport last fall, succeeding C.W. "Bill" Steneker, now head basketball coach at Mason City. His resignation hands the local board the task of securing a new coaching staff for this fall, since Ray Welder, assistant, returned his unsigned contract some time ago.

February 18, 1954 Manning Cage Record Is Tops Through Years Bulldogs Lost 5 In 83 Games Over Four-Year Period Desire to Play Is Big Factor In Turning Out Top Squads Here

If any town high school teams can boast a basketball record better than one held by Manning Bulldogs, no one in this section of the state has heard about them. Boasting a four-year record of 83 wins against five losses, the Bulldogs are in form to launch state district tournament play at Atlantic next week.

The five losses registered by Manning in that four-year span include three in tournament play, leaving the lads with a record of only two defeats in regular scheduled season play during those encounters from 1950 to the current season concluded this week Tuesday night with Denison.

Three Coaches.

Three coaches have been involved in the destiny of the Manning Bulldogs. C.W. "Bill" Steneker, now at Mason City, guided the local courtsters through their Cinderella performance at Iowa City in 1948 when they defeated Davenport's Blue Devils for the state crown.

His tenure here ended in 1951 and Larry Gillespie, now at Boone, took over to continue the winning ways of the Bulldogs.

Kermit Tannatt, serving his second year as tutor of Bulldog athletics, has coached the lads through 37 wins against three losses.

A year-by-year look at the records through the last four seasons gives rise to speculations that no other Iowa high school can boast of basketball marks so lacking in defeats.

Lose In Tournaments

For instance, the 1950-51 year saw the Steneker-coached Bulldogs win 22 straight. Their only loss was to Sioux Center in the semi-finals of sub-state. The following season (1951-52) under Gillespie, the win list was 23 straight and the only loss that year was to Glenwood in the finale of sub-state play. The 1952-53 Season saw the first for Kermit Tannatt and the Bulldogs lost one scheduled Tilt that season which saw them take 18 wins and two losses; one to Glidden and then the Jefferson Ramblers took them out of state play in the district. Thus far this year the kids amassed a total of 20 wins, while losing one in season play to Carroll.

February 25, 1954

14-Year Cage Mark Is 285 Won, 54 Lost

Continuing the recapitulation of Manning's basketball history mentioned herein last week thanks to Al Martens' records and covering a 4-year period, a look at records for the last 14 years discloses an equally imposing mark on the part of the Bulldogs.

Through the last 14 years, the kids have played a total of 285 games and lost only 54. Bill Stenecker was here 11 year and had a 224 win, 50 loss mark; Larry Gillespie was here one year and tutored his boys through 23 wins and one loss, while Kermit Tannatt's two-year tenure has thus far seen his lads go through 38 wins and three losses.

That makes an over-all percentage of .840, and local fans fail to find any other class A team in the state with a mark near that. During the 1941-54 period, the Bulldogs have won a state title, sub-state, and seven district and 13 sectional trophies.

The year-by-year mark from 1941 through today's standing, here are some facts dug up by Howard Brantz of the Carroll Daily Times-Herald:

Tournament Progress

Year	Win	Loss	
1941	19	6	Lost to Denison, District
1942	26	5	Lost to Atlantic, Sub-state
1943	16	2	Lost to Humboldt District
1944	21	4	Lost to Harcourt, Sub-state
1945	22	2	Lost to Sac City, District
1946	14	7	Lost to Coon Rapids, Sectional
1947	26	4	Lost to Carroll, Sub-state
1948	29	2	STATE CHAMPIONS
1949	19	7	Lost to Forest City, Sub-state
1950	20	10	Lost to Harlan, District
1951	22	1	Lost to Sioux Center, Sub-state
1952	23	1	Lost to Glenwood, Sub-state
1953	18	2	Lost to Jefferson, District
1954	20	1	Lost to Atlantic, District
Total	285	51	Won 13 out of 14 Sectionals