



## **Michael Bottorff**

**“You knew would excel”**

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This rapid sharpshooter had strong basketball influence that developed from the dynasty of the Bottorff family; he certainly, was no stranger to the game

His father was Canby Bottorff; an excellent Pirate in the 1940’s, and probably, Charlestown’s first super-star. Like his father, he was fascinating to watch and had a savvy for the sport.

Bottorff was a terrific ball handler and had solid moves on the floor. He could shoot on the fly. His variety of shooting skills brought out the best of his intrinsic abilities around the rim, which led the Pirates to big wins for coaches Tom Hamilton and William “Bill” Dunn.

Coach Tom Hamilton said Bottorff was only a freshman when he coached him “but he was a kid you knew would excel. His talent level and nose for the game of basketball was obvious. He just knew what to do and how to do it. He was a “thinking” type who seemed to plan his move ahead of time. He was like this as a youngster and only got better. He was one of my favorites as I look back.”

Bottorff is Charlestown High School’s fourth all-time leading scorer. In 1972, he became Charlestown’s first major Pirate to collect 1,322 points and finished off his career as the first all-time leading scorer in the school’s history. He scored double figures 60 times during his varsity career. He scored 30-plus on seven occasions. He ended with a 27.0-ppga.

In 1972, his senior year, he had a marquee performance versus Mid-Southern Conference foe the Salem Lions. The hot shooting ace blistered the nets for 43; his single career highest scoring presence on the basketball court and steamrolled the Pirates past the Lions, 92-63. He had 20 from the floor; three for seven at the charity toss to close out his phenomenal loop career with the Pirates.

You knew he would excel!



**Michael Bottorff (Photograph courtesy of Charlestown-Clark County Public Library)**