



Steve Hamilton “Legend-Maker”

Perhaps, no other Pirate basketball player in Charlestown’s 100 year history has such a mark of distinction in sports than Steve Hamilton. He excelled in two sports at Charlestown, basketball and baseball.

Hamilton’s deep-rooted achievements are endless from his playing days at Charlestown, Morehead State University (MSU) and the National Basketball Association (NBA) and Major League Baseball (MLB). The pathway to his athletic success was carved out by the mentoring of Harold “Dutch” Reis and Billy L. Abel, as one of their top weapons for the Pirates.

At Charlestown, the lanky prep star was respectfully tagged, “Bones” by teammates due to his lean appearance. Hamilton was six-foot-three while in high school and he escalated to six-foot-seven by the time he arrived at Morehead State University to play for the Eagles.

In the Pirates’ 1952 campaign, Hamilton set a school record. He popped in a single-best shooting performance of 38 points against Henryville. He ended with a 14-ppga and was credited with a career-best scoring performance of 446 points. He was in double-digits 24 times with the Pirate, having offensive highs of 38, 28, 26, 25, 24 and 20. At the end of the season, Hamilton won the coveted 1952 Charlestown Lions Club Free Throw Award with a 70 percentile. There are no records of his power on the boards, which was substantial, according to his former coach Billy L. Abel.

At Morehead State University (MSU), he set five basketball records; all in the rebounding department and was named All-American in 1957. Professionally, Hamilton played for the Minneapolis Lakers (NBA) and New York Yankees (MLB). He is the only individual to play in the NCAA Basketball Championships, a Major League Baseball World Series and a National Basketball Championship series. He is known around MLB for his pitch called the “folly-floater.” – *(Editor’s note: You can read more on his achievements in the Centennial book)*

Hamilton’s penchant in the two-sport arena left an enormous sports legacy for future generations of Pirates to emulate. He truly was a legend-maker Pirate!



Steve A. Hamilton
(Photo courtesy of
Chuck E. Ledbetter,
Sr.)