



Tom Allen “Shooting Blitz”

There’s nothing like turning back the pages of time and bringing to life some of the many fond memories of notable Pirate basketball athletes on the hardwood. There moments of greatness.

Such a Pirate was, 6-1 senior, Tom Allen.

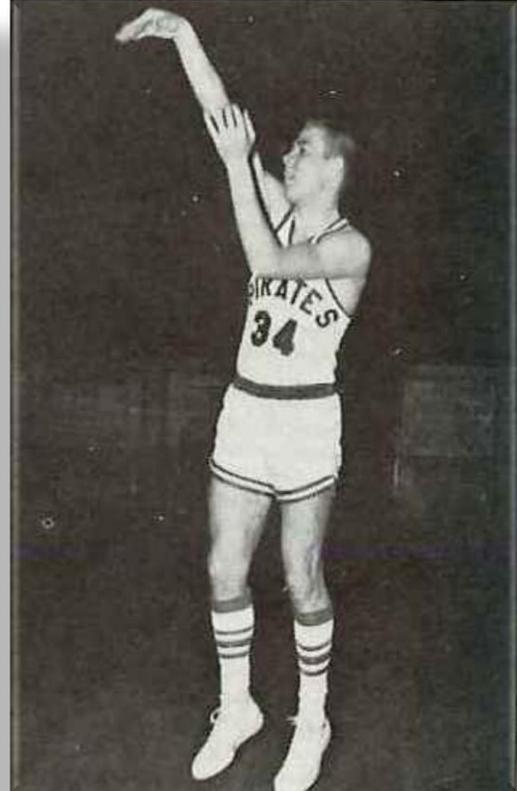
In the hoops season of 1960-61, Allen had an impressive shooting game with one of the Pirates’ cross town nemeses, Silver Creek. And, he wasn’t about to abdicate his role on the hardwood without a hardnosed offensive attack underneath or from the outskirts of the rim.

Allen, wasting no time in his bid for dominance on the floor, loaded the nylon with points in the Pirates opener with the Dragons of Coach Ray Green. He scored 20 points---8 from the floor, 4 from the lane---to capture the solid win. His defensive hawking of the Dragons’ 6-3 star, Tommy Lund, one of Green’s key shooting arms in the pivot, was kept at bay with only one field goal underneath. Lund ended the contest with only 6 points, far below is game average, getting the rest of his total from the free throw lane. Allen’s shooting blitz gave the Pirates of Coach John E. Wood a strong finish over Silver Creek 56-39, and the Pirates fans were thrilled by Allen’s offensive and defensive play!

Coach John E. Wood said, “Tom was an outstanding defensive player. He played hard at all times.” In 21 starts that 1960-61 basketball campaign, he was the team’s third leading scorer, canning 202 seasonal points and posting a 9.6-ppga. He finished out his varsity hoops career with 361 points; teams that went 44-20. Allen had 19 outstanding offensive games for the Pirates where he scored in double-figures, but his specialty on the hardwood was his dynamic defensive attack against his opponents.

At the end of the 1960-61 basketball season, he was the recipient of the highly coveted Sportsmanship Award from the Charlestown Lions Club; an award that dates back to 1934 when Forrest Coots was its first recipient.

Tom Allen was one of the all-time greats from the Pirates centennial past. - *Read more on Tom Allen in “Pirates of the Hardwood” by Chuck E. Ledbetter, Sr.*



Tom Allen (Photograph courtesy of Charlestown-Clark Co. Public Library)