

Brooksie appreciates his week in the spotlight

Written by Bob Brooks

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For yours truly, this has been a week to remember.

It started Tuesday with Mayor Ron Corbett and the City Council proclaiming Friday to be Bob Brooks Day in Cedar Rapids. But that doesn't mean the speed cameras will be turned off.

But I'm very appreciative of the recognition by the City of Cedar Rapids. Having worked here for 68 years, I always felt comfortable and appreciative of the support of the athletes, coaches, administrators, parents and fans.

I never had a great desire to leave, because I enjoyed the pureness of high school athletics. That feeling remains intact today.

As for the program Friday night and the dedication of the Bob Brooks press box at Kingston Stadium, the people behind the scenes have simply been known as the committee. So I would like to take this opportunity publicly to salute them and give them my ultimate thanks for moving this project forward.

They wanted to do it, and through the deliberations of the School Board and Superintendent Dr. Benson, the agreement was made that the press box could be named the Bob Brooks press box.

So here is the list of the committee that spent a year on the project and put this together: Kay and Ron Baty, Cheryl Corey, Tom Ecker, Bill Happel Jr., Jay Peterson, Bill Quinby and Steve Ridge.

Susie and I give them our ultimate thanks. And hopefully in the future, when other generations play at Kingston Stadium, no matter what the sport, they will see and improve the press box and

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enjoy the athletic experience as much as I did covering it.

NOTE I: A tip of the fedora to the Cody Bell-led Cedar Rapids Kennedy golf team on winning the Mississippi Division title and a tip of the fedora to Xavier on winning the Valley division title. And to Tyler McCann of Linn-Mar on becoming the individual medalist in the Mississippi Division meet.

NOTE II: With Iowa off this week, the focus of local Big Ten fans becomes Nebraska at Wisconsin on Saturday. Friends up there tell me this is the hardest ticket to come by in Camp Randall Stadium history, and they expect, somehow, to get 50,000 Nebraskans in and around the stadium.

Mad Town will be madder than ever. Wisconsin to win by 10.

(Bob Brooks is sports director at KMRY and has been one of the leading voices of college and prep sports in Eastern Iowa for more than 65 years. He is a 10-time winner of the Iowa Sportscaster of the Year Award, and was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in South Bend, Indiana in 2004. His sports reports can be heard weekday afternoons at 4:30 and 5:30, and Saturdays at 6:40 for the Hawkeye football wrap-up.)