

David Kelsey Gordin

Died: March 18, 2007

Dave passed away in Santa Barbara, California on Sunday, March 18, 2007. He was 68 years old.

He grew up in rural Connorsville, Indiana, an hour east of Indianapolis. At Connorsville High School he was the quarterback of the 1956 Spartans, “the only undefeated team in the school’s history,” says the school’s citation honoring him as a member of its Hall of Fame. In high school he excelled academically, and was President of the Student Council, captain of the basketball team, and co-captain of the football team.

His championship year high school football teammates wrote this about Dave, when they nominated him to the school’s Hall of Fame: “Dr. Gordin was the type of individual that excelled in everything that he became involved in. As a student in Connorsville High School not only was he a member of the National Honor Society, he was in the top five percent. He not only played football but also earned letters in basketball, baseball, and track. (Baseball and track, it should be noted, take place during the same season.) He has been called ‘one of the best all-around athletes Connorsville ever had’.”

The citation continues, saying that during the 1956 season Dave scored 18 touchdowns, a record that has never been broken, and that he shares the school record for scoring four touchdowns in a single game.

At Dartmouth, Dave majored in sociology, was a member of Beta Theta Pi, a member of Dragon, active in dormitory government, and in the outing club his first three years. Tom Conger also recollects that Dave, true to his Hoosier background, in his freshman year played basketball, “and was proud of what he called his ‘deadly one-handed set shot.’ ”

Dave went to Dartmouth Medical School, graduating in 1962, and completed his medical studies at Cornell University, where he earned his M.D. degree in 1964. He pursued further medical education at the University of Cincinnati, and then went into the Air Force for three years, where he attained the rank of Colonel.

The rest of his medical career was spent as an orthopedic surgeon in Santa Barbara, California, where he lived until he died. Dave had four children: Suzanne, David, Andrea, and Stacy.