



News Release

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Jim Carter to hold book signing at NMCC Library for new book “Six Decades of Wildcat Basketball”

Aroostook County - The author of a new book that tells the story of Presque Isle High School basketball dating back to 1950, will hold a book signing for his new publication in the Edmunds Library at Northern Maine Community College on Tuesday, September 15.

Jim Carter of Presque Isle, the author of “Six Decades of Wildcat Basketball: A History of Boys and Girls Basketball at Presque Isle High School 1950-2009”, will be on hand at NMCC between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. with copies of his new publication that tells the storied history of varsity basketball in the Star City over the past six decades.

The 92 page publication features an historical narrative that tells the story of Wildcat Basketball by decade, team rosters and photos through the years, and a section featuring action photos of players. There are also parts of the book that highlight coaching records and thousand point scorers, as well as student-athletes over the years who earned such distinctions as All State, All Tourney and All Conference.

“Presque Isle High School can be proud of its rich basketball tradition. So many teams have provided memorable sporting entertainment during the cold winter months that define Aroostook County,” said Carter. “Over the years, players, coaches, officials, scoring table personnel and administrators have put their hearts and souls into providing a program of which everyone can be proud.”

For Carter, writing the publication was an idea that evolved over time and not necessarily his original intent. After penning a few historical sports articles for the *Star Herald*, he was encouraged by others to write a book on Presque Isle basketball.

Since one had already been written about Aroostook County basketball covering the period of time from 1900 through 1950, he decided to use the latter year as a departure date for the boys program. The year 1975 was used as a start date for the girls program, as that was the year the Maine Principal’s Association officially sanctioned girls basketball in the state.

In addition to discovering a great deal of new information, research work on the book was a bit of a trip down memory lane for Carter, who played himself for the Wildcats in the 1960's and is featured in team photos from that era. He also played baseball for Presque Isle, graduating from the high school in 1964, and moving on to later earn a Bachelor of Science degree in business education from Husson University.

“While completing this research, I was reminded of the times during the 1960's and 1970's when the local gymnasium was filled to capacity for every home game. One former coach reminded me that he remembers the gym being full by the end of the first quarter of the junior varsity game. School basketball passion was truly present, and I am very pleased to have been a participant in the passion that defined Aroostook County basketball.

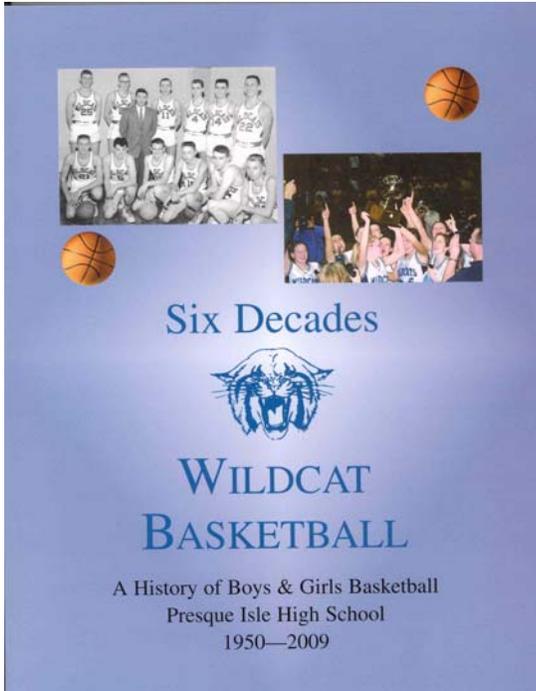
Carter's career as a business educator began in Caribou in 1971, and his love for sports soon manifested itself through coaching opportunities in that school district. He began coaching eighth grade boys basketball in 1979, and did so at the level for five years.

In 1984, he became the assistant varsity boys basketball coach under legendary Caribou head coach Gerry Duffy. He continued as assistant coach under Jeff Holmes, who replaced Duffy in 1988, until he assumed the head coaching duties in 1997, where he remained until his retirement in 2001.

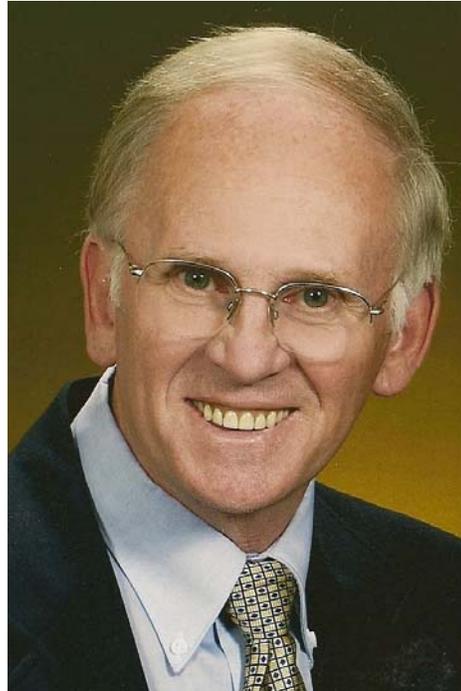
He also coached baseball at different levels throughout his career. In 1986, he began coaching Caribou's girls cross-country team and stayed in that position through 1990. During that time the girls won six Aroostook County Championships, three Eastern Maine Class A Regional Championships, one state runner-up title and one state championship.

The public is invited to attend the book signing event at NMCC. Copies of “Six Decades of Wildcat Basketball: A History of Boys and Girls Basketball at Presque Isle High School 1950-2009” will be available for purchase at the event. The cost per book is \$22 plus tax. For more information on the book signing, contact Gail Roy in the Edmunds Library at NMCC at 768-2734.

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*The cover of “Six Decades of Wildcat Basketball”
Written by Jim Carter.*



Jim Carter