

## **Hall of Fame Inductee Pete Butler – Greeley**

The name Pete Butler has been attached to the University of Northern Colorado for close to 70 years. And for good reason. Pete, who played football and basketball at then-Colorado State Teacher College, went on to coach men's basketball and baseball at Northern Colorado.

Pete is the all-time winningest baseball coach in school history with 416 victories spanning 26 seasons (1941-1967). Pete led his teams to nine College World Series appearances until his retirement following the 1967 season.

Pete was inducted into the American Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame in 1969. The main athletic facility on the UNC campus, Butler-Hancock Hall, is named in his honor.

Under the direction of Pete, the 1949 baseball squad finished 17-3 overall and advanced to the NCAA Regionals. The Bears tallied a 16-1 mark in the regular season was a perfect 8-0 in Rocky Mountain Conference games. The Bears took on Southern California in the NCAA Region 7 playoffs. USC scored a 12-2 win in game one of the three-game series, but the Bears bounced back behind the arm of Harry Wise to take game two, 6-2. Wise then pitched in the deciding game of the series and staked the Bears to a 7-0 lead in the sixth inning but coach Butler was forced to use a series of relief pitchers and USC rallied for an 8-7 victory.