

Dave Diles: Always a Wayne State Ambassador

by Raymond Rolak

Past President

Detroit Sports Broadcasters Association

Dave Diles, Sports Director of Detroit's WXYZ-TV (Channel 7) from 1961-1972 and 1979-1982, passed away, surrounded by members of his family, on Dec. 27, due to complications from a stroke. He had been retired and living on his farm near Athens, Ohio. He was 78.

Dave was also an ABC-TV Sports announcer covering the Olympics, College Football, Indianapolis 500 racing, NBA Basketball, Pro Bowlers Tour and Wide World of Sports programming.

He was inducted into the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame in 2006. During his storied career in broadcasting, he spent more than two decades at ABC. He hosted the Prudential College Football Scoreboard Show on ABC for more than 10 years.

He was a big supporter of Wayne State sports and a pioneer in doing women's college features on television. While at WXYZ-TV, Diles did many stories on WSU, including one that got him recognized with an Emmy. Former WSU baseball coach Bob Samaras remembered, "We suited him up and he pitched an inning against the varsity during practice. His crew taped the episode and he wore the Wayne State jersey on his broadcast. It was a nice compliment to Wayne State."

He was a Past President of the Detroit Sports Broadcasters Association and a frequent presenter at the North American International Auto Show.

Diles was a native of Pomeroy, Ohio and a superb athlete in his own right.

He hosted one of the first radio call-in sports shows at Detroit's WXYZ-AM, "Dial Dave Diles." He also spent time writing — as an Associated Press sports editor and as an author of several books including ones on Terry Bradshaw, Denny McLain, Archie Griffin, Duffy Daugherty and ABC Sports.

There is a scholarship in his name for students from Meigs, Mason and Gallia counties in Ohio.

Dave's son, Dave Diles, Jr., is currently the Director of Athletics at Case Western Reserve. The senior Diles graduated from Ohio University in Athens, Ohio.

As a pioneer of sports talk radio and television broadcasting, Diles will be most remembered for his work ethic and professionalism. Broadcaster Bill Bonds summed a special statement, "Dave was one of a kind: fair, honest and hard working. He was admired and will be missed."