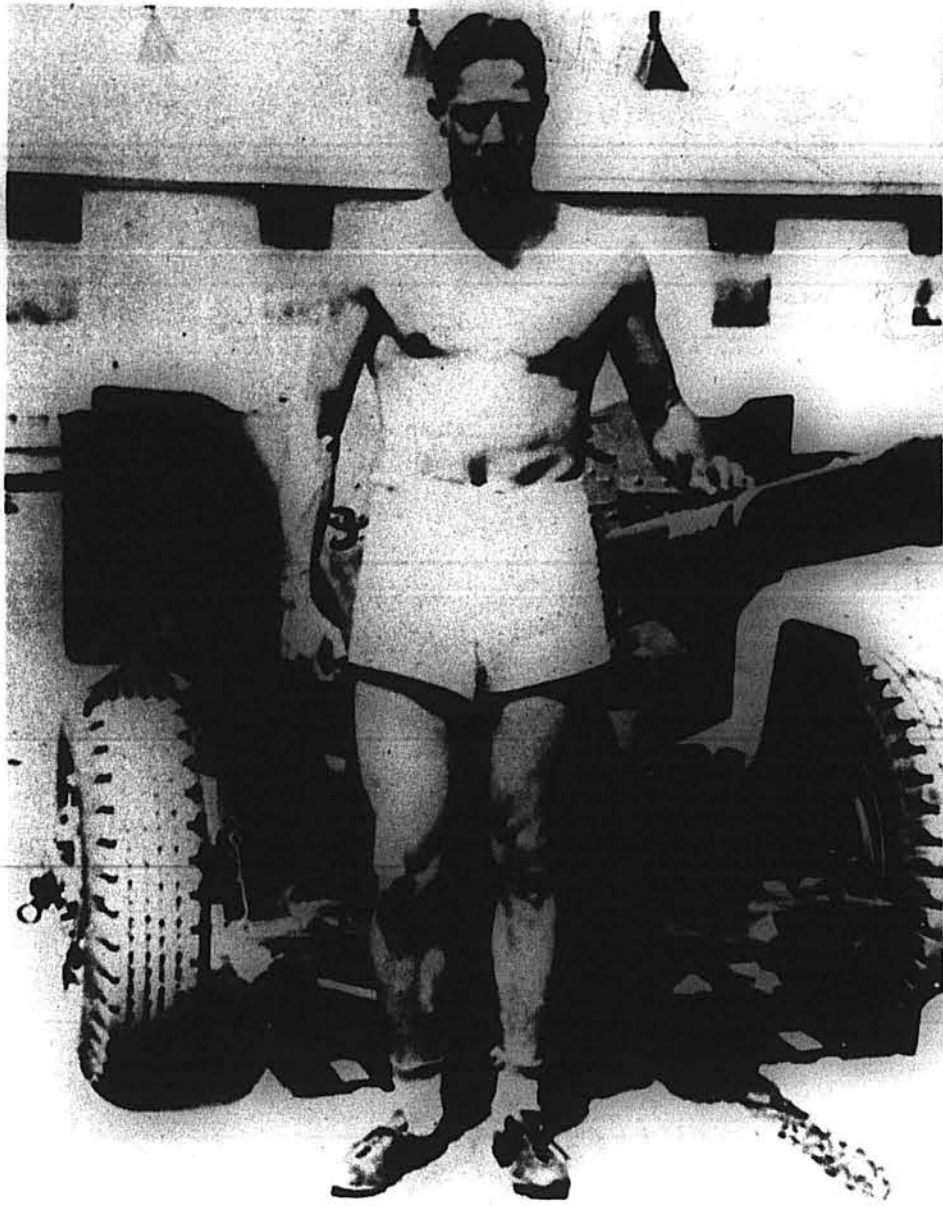


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RUNNING. Football, basketball and track had all helped build Bob Dole's body into a powerful specimen before the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. Here at an Army training center, you can see the powerful legs that had propelled Dole to come close to setting a new indoor track record at The University of

Kansas during his freshman year. He also played football and basketball at KU. He lettered one season in track and two in football. Dole, while suffering from war injuries in hospitals, dropped from 194 to 122 pounds. During his senior year in high school, Dole ran early most every morning.

Dole Grabs Win Over Bush In Arkansas GOP Straw Poll

By TYLER TUCKER
Democrat Staff Writer
The Arkansas Democrat
Sept. 13, 1987

LITTLE ROCK — Sen. Robert Dole of Kansas on Saturday captured a straw poll for the GOP presidential nomination at the Republican State Committee meeting in Little Rock, stunning supporters of both Dole and Vice President George Bush, and turning the state's delegate sweepstakes into a "horse race."

The straw poll, testing the candidate allegiance of the top party officials in Arkansas, was attended by 186 Republicans at the Camelot Hotel. The poll gave Dole a clear victory over Bush, who is considered the GOP front-runner, and Rep. Jack Kemp, R-N.Y.

The straw poll's results were Dole, 67 votes; Bush, 54 votes, and Kemp, 24 votes.

Television evangelist Pat Robertson garnered five votes and former Delaware governor Pete du Pont received three votes. Six were undecided and four others voted for state party officials.

John Davis of Chattanooga, Tenn., Southern political director for Dole, attended the meeting and said in an interview that the stunning "straw poll victory in Arkansas was a turning point for Dole in the South."

"The Bush camp has perpetuated the myth that the South is solid for him — that's not true," Davis said. "This is the beginning of the unraveling of the Bush campaign in the South."

Davis said Arkansas — like Iowa and Michigan — is a "trouble state" for Bush.

"The reality is it's a two-man race around the country," Davis said.

State Sen. Joe Yates of Bentonville, campaign chairman for Dole in Arkansas, said Dole's rapport with farmers and his six trips to Arkansas in the past two years are paying off for the Senate Minority Leader.

"We've campaigned Arkansas hard," Yates said in an interview. "I feel good about it (straw poll), but it's early in the campaign."

Yates said the results reflected the support in a "totally partisan group" of GOP leaders. He said he was more encouraged by a straw poll at the Washington County Fair last week that gave Dole a 71-69 edge.

"He (Dole) has a pretty broad-based appeal," Yates said.

Bush's state campaign leaders nudged in a room at the hotel after the vote results were announced.

Sharon Trusty of Russellville, co-chairman of the George Bush for President campaign in Arkansas, said the vice-president was still the frontrunner and

questioned the "credibility" of the straw poll.

"Let's remember that it's early, and it's a straw poll," Mrs. Trusty said. "Let's not place too much credibility in it."

Mrs. Trusty said many Bush supporters from Northwest Arkansas were unable to attend the committee meeting. She also said the campaign is "targeting" the March 8, 1988, "Super Tuesday" primary, which is open to all voters.

Some party officials also complained that an estimated 11 non-committee members, who paid \$18.50 to attend the meeting, were allowed to vote in the straw poll.

Ed Bethune, state GOP chairman, said the straw poll results were an "early reading" of the candidates' support among top party officials.

"What I would say is we've got a horse race," Bethune said in an interview. "I don't put much stock in any kind of poll except ... on election day."

During the meeting, Bethune continued to hammer away at his theme of welcoming all voters to participate in the GOP primary.

The committee also passed a resolution encouraging all Democrats and independents to take part in the GOP primary.

The state committee also passed a resolution calling on voters to support GOP efforts to "clean up" the "sordid mess in the Arkansas Legislature."

The party is pushing for strict enforcement of codes of ethics and "lobby reform" in the General Assembly, which is controlled by

Democrats.

"Real change will come only when the people get mad enough to throw the rascals out and transfer power to a competing political force," the resolution said.

The committee also endorsed a resolution outlining the delegate selection process for the 1988 Republican National Convention in New Orleans. The state party will elect 27 delegates and 27 alternates to the convention.

Under the plan, three delegates and alternates will be elected in each of the four congressional districts and the state committee will select an additional 15 delegates and alternates at-large.

Under Arkansas law, delegates must be apportioned according to the percentage of the state-wide vote received by the candidate.

After several months of discussion, the committee ratified a plan proposed by the delegate selection committee with only one amendment — allowing anyone to run as a committed delegate regardless of whether the delegate-candidate is sanctioned by the presidential candidate.

Doris Holke of Rogers, chairman of the committee that drafted the selection plan, said the party wanted to avoid the "hard feelings" and "unhappy occurrences" of 1976 when a bitter rift developed in the state party over the delegate selection process because of the heated primary battle between former President Gerald R. Ford and then-Gov. Ronald Reagan.

Ellsworth Heads DFPEC

Robert Ellsworth, who lives 40 miles outside of Washington D.C., and runs "a very conservative venture capital business" these days, says his involvement in Dole's 1988 campaign for the presidency began with a meeting last fall between him and the then-Senate majority leader, at which Dole asked him to head up this committee.

The two men had been friends and political colleagues for 25 years, Ellsworth explained — the reason Dole came to him. "He said, 'I trust you.' And he also said, 'You don't have any other (political) agenda but my interest — do you?' And I said, 'No.'"

Ellsworth is a lean man with wise eyes, a gray beard and an aloof, calculating manner — a middle-of-the-road Republican who represented the old Second District in Kansas from 1961-67, was political director of Richard M. Nixon's 1968 campaign, and later served in appointive posts in both the Nixon and Ford administrations.

Among other things, Ellsworth was best man at Dole's 1975 wedding to Elizabeth Hanford, former secretary of transportation and the only woman until recently in the Reagan Cabinet.

Ellsworth selection to head the Dole for President Exploratory Committee, and later rumors about internal squabbling for position within the committee's ranks, led to speculation that Dole is dumping old conservative allies in favor of more moderate advisers, or that Ellsworth is intended to be the referee among key aides.

But such speculation sells Bob Dole short.

Certainly no citizen in America years to be President more than 64-year-old Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole, late of Russell, Kan., the 10th Mountain Division, Topeka's Washburn University School of Law, the Republican National Committee chairmanship, and various points in between.

Dole is a team player; a good soldier. Thus, when Gerald Ford picked him as the vice-presidential candidate and detailed him as the campaign's verbal gunslinger (a role for which he is eminently suited by his quick, acerbic wit) and ordered him to rally forth and shoot it out with the enemy, Bob Dole saluted, marched off — and efficiently gunned down every political opponent in sight, even at the detriment of his own career.

A week, as Senate Republican leader, Dole made Herculean efforts to sustain Ronald Reagan's crumbling veto of the popular (and expensive) highway construction bill. He failed; in part because the measure promised to provide needed jobs in the flat economy of most states, in part because it raised the unpopular 55 mile per hour speed limit to 65 on rural highways.

Often the darling of the GOP conservative wing, Dole also is a chief architect of the food stamp program, for example — one of the most expensive social programs in history of government.

The truth is, left to his own devices, Bob Dole is a maverick; an independent who calls the plays as he sees them. Certainly, as the commander of his own political campaign, he can be expected to continue to do so.



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When Bob Comes Home:

'I'm Still Ralph, And He's Still Bob'

By IRENE H. JEPSSEN

"Bob always gave 110 percent, even if we were behind. He always played hard and never gave up."

For Ralph Resley and Bob Dole, sports was an integral part of their teenage years, and into their college years.

"I feel you can judge the character of a man by the way he plays sports: The way he trains, the way he works hard in practice, and the way he puts out in the game," Resley explained as his personal view.

"I believe the way a man handles himself in sports is the way he handles himself in life. And in high school, Bob always gave 110 percent."

Bob Dole and Ralph Resley were teenagers together, attended all four years of high school together, and were fellow graduates in the Russell High School Class of 1941.

During their junior and senior years at Russell High, Dole was a track man, and Resley was track manager.

"Bob trained hard, and he ran hard. The 440-yard dash was his specialty," Resley said.

"Everyone wants to win when it comes to sports, and Bob was no exception, but he was a good loser too."

"When he was playing, he was serious. Off the playing field he laughed a lot and was witty. He liked to have fun."

As track manager, it was Resley's job to take care of all the equipment, towels, soap, heat lamps, and to do rubdowns. "Bob had the good, strong legs of a track man."

In their freshman and sophomore years the two young men played basketball, but were together in sports mainly on the varsity level.

Expounding on his belief that the quality of Bob Dole as the "man today" is exemplified in Bob Dole as the "boy of yesterday," Resley said:

"In basketball, if Bob and another guy were going down the court in a dead layup, Bob would pass off to the other guy giving him the chance to make the point. He was a team player."

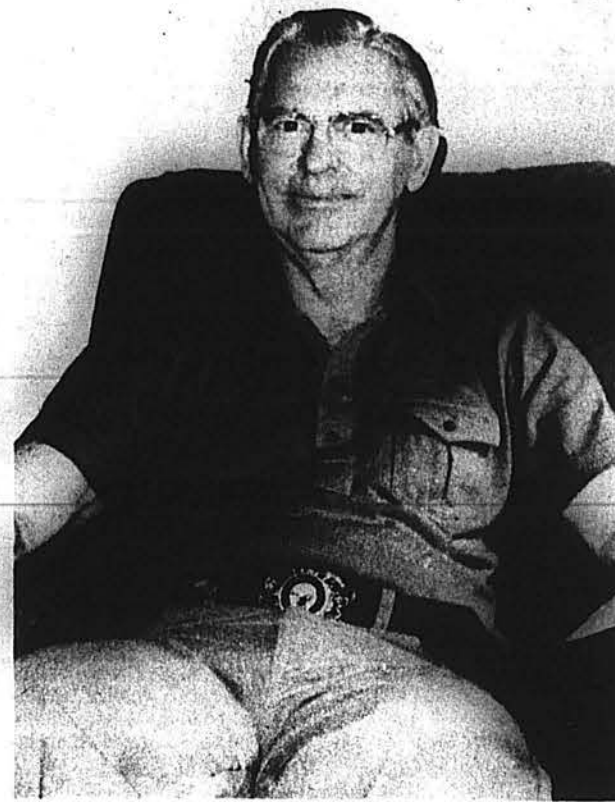
"Bob was a good, defensive player; a strong rebounder; and an excellent assist man. He would take a shot when he had to, he was a good passer, but more than that a team man."

"Bob was also a good football player," Resley said, adding, "he was an excellent pass receiver and blocker."

"We both loved sports and were good friends. We shared a lot of good moments together and a few bad ones."

Resley described Dole as a fighter and no "dumbbell."

Dole was one of 14 students selected as members of the senior National Honor Society from the class of 1941. Membership was based on character, service, leadership and, scholastically, being in the upper third of the class. (Ralph Resley was selected as a member also.)



RALPH RESLEY

lected as a member also.)

Resley stated that he is a registered Democrat, but "I will vote for Bob Dole. Not because he was a classmate but because he is the best man. The best qualified man."

"With Bob's background of working himself upwards — from the local level as county attorney to the national level, as Republican Party Leader in the United States Senate, having never been defeated, with all his experience of elections, the handling of other

politicians, and his expertise with foreign leaders — he could only do a good job in the White House.

"I never dreamed in high school that he would go into politics, but always felt that whatever Bob would do, he would succeed."

"And whenever Bob comes home, I'm still 'Ralph' and he's still 'Bob,' not Senator Dole."

"At times Bob Dole uses few words, but his few words say a lot."

Dole's Family Life Collapsed in 1970s

As Richard M. Nixon's gunslinger in the early 1970s, Bob Dole fought for the Administration's program virtually down the line: He supported the war in Vietnam, helped lead the successful campaign to build the Safeguard antiballistic missile system (it won approval by one vote), and vainly endorsed the President's nomination of Clement Haynsworth and G. Harrold Carswell for the Supreme Court.

As Dole's career took on momentum, his family life was collapsing. Although he and his wife had been drawing apart for years, he had maintained the marriage — as he is frank to admit — out of fear that a divorce would harm him politically in conservative Kansas.

Phyllis Dole had loved to campaign with him back home, when he was on the way up, but she disliked big-time politics.

"I had a lot of fun stuffing envelopes and working with volunteers," she says now.

"That's a lot better than being handed a schedule and told to go out alone and make a speech."

Phyllis Dole wanted to try to keep the marriage together a while longer, but the senator wanted out. On Jan. 11, 1972, she agreed to a divorce, influenced in part by Dole's arguments that the unhappy marriage might harm the couple's only child, Robin, then a 17-year-old high school student.

Later, Phyllis married Lon Burick, Sylvan Grove, a member of a prominent banking family, a rancher, and the Republican chairman in Lincoln County, Kan. For years, until his death, the couple lived in Sylvan Grove, 40 miles northeast of Russell.

Recently, Phyllis married for a third time, to Ben Macey. The couple live in Topeka.



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