

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas) SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510-1601

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, March 18, 1987

CONTACT: BRENT BAHLER
(202) 224-6521

DOLE SALUTES WASHBURN AS NAIA BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS

Washington, DC -- In response to the often asked question, "what's an Ichabod?", U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-KS) today answered "national champion" during a tribute to the Washburn University Ichabods' victory over the West Virginia State Yellow Jackets for the NAIA basketball title.

The Ichabods defeated West Virginia State 79-77 last night to clinch the small college title. In a speech on the Senate floor, Dole noted, "As Washburn continued to win and win, more and more attention was focused on our team from Topeka. Sportscasters and writers had some fun with the school's nickname, 'The Ichabods' - what was an 'Ichabod', they asked? Everyone seemed to have a clever answer. Well, today there is only one answer: an 'Ichabod' is a national champion."

Dole, who earned both his undergraduate and law degrees from Washburn in 1952, said, "Today a championship banner flies over Kansas. As a proud alumnus of Washburn, I am especially pleased to salute coach Bob Chipman and his team as winners. They marched through their tough conference schedule, and their even tougher post-season match-ups, with a spirit of confidence and determination that paid off with the national title."

Dole also sent a telegram to the team congratulating the Ichabods on their first national championship. The team's record "represented Kansas with real class," said Dole in the telegram, which also noted his delight in relaying last night's victory to Sen. Robert Byrd of West Virginia.