Remembering

Milt McPike
(1939-2008)

Versatile athlete
Educational hero
Legendary principal

Over the years, Truman State University has seen a number of gifted athletes, among them Milt McPike ('62, '68). At six foot four inches, McPike possessed an extraordinary all-around athletic talent as evidenced by the 12 letters he earned in three different sports – football, basketball and track.

McPike went on to play for the San Francisco 49ers for a brief stint, before devoting his life to education. He taught and coached sports in Quincy, Ill., then served as vice principal of West High School in Madison, Wis. From 1979 to 2002, he served as principal of Madison East High School, and under his leadership, East High was named as a National High School of Excellence by the U.S. Department of Education.

McPike, who was inducted into the Truman Athletics Hall of Fame in 1984, received numerous career recognitions including being named one of the top 10 educators in the United States as well as one of Reader’s Digest’s American Heroes in Education. After battling cancer, he died March 29, 2008, at the age of 68, however his memory will live on through the many lives he touched throughout his distinguished career.