

Who are “The Chieftain Thirteen”? – Answered soon in a new book!

Kerry Byrnes (OHS Class of '63) visited Okemos in November 2018 to interview two former OHS Chieftain Basketball players who continued their basketball careers as a Michigan State Spartan: Bob Fossum (Class of '80) and Conner George (Class of '15) who currently is in his third year of NCAA eligibility as a member of the Spartan Basketball squad.



Kerry with Bob Fossum (left) and Conner George (right)

Over the past 60 years, 50% of MSU's basketball seasons had at least one former Chieftain on a Spartan basketball squad, at times two Chieftains, and once three Chieftains!

“The Chieftain Thirteen” chronicles the OHS and MSU basketball careers of those 13 Chieftains (eleven boys and two girls), what became of each after graduating from MSU, the reflections of each “looking back” on his or her basketball career, and their contributions to MSU Basketball.

Drawing on OHS Tomahawk yearbooks, Lansing State Journal, MSU Media Guides & MSU Game Day Programs, MSU Archives photos, and interviews by email, phone, or in person with each of the 13 OHS-cum-MSU players, Kerry chronicles the journeys of “The Chieftain Thirteen” down the Red Cedar River from Okemos High's O-ZONE to Michigan State's Izzone.

“The Chieftain Thirteen” will soon be available to read online at and/or download from The Alumni Library of the Okemos Alumni Association web site.

A proud legacy for the OHS Chieftains boys and girls basketball programs!!