

Guided Notes (Teacher)

These fans are filling Vermillion's Dakota Dome for one of South Dakota's favorite sports events. The state high school football championships, held here every **November**. Does it really matter who wins? It's only a game, after all.

Sometime soon a road sign will go up proclaiming the **championship**. It's likely both winning and losing players will answer questions about these 48 minutes of play for years.

Sports rank as some of South Dakota's greatly anticipated happenings, like big game **rivalries** between our university teams...high school basketball tournaments every March...and competitions that have been on South Dakota's calendar most of its history, like the July Fourth Black Hills Roundup Rodeo at Belle Fourche.

Some sports events go beyond games. The **Lakota Nation** Invitational Basketball Tournament celebrates an entire culture.

Sports are part of the American **tradition**. People sometimes talk as if traditions always remain the same. But sports have changed dramatically over the 20th century... and they continue to develop in new ways today.

Becky Hammon was born in 1977, two years after **Title Nine** became law. By the time she played high school basketball in the 1990s, at Rapid City Stevens, girls' teams were well established, well coached, and offered her solid competition.

These children are playing in the SuAnne Big Crow Boys and Girls Club at **Pine Ridge**. While a high school player, SuAnne dreamed of going to college and then returning to Pine Ridge to make life better for children. After her death in a 1992 car accident, the people of Pine Ridge honored the memory of her inspirational basketball play—and her dream—by building this club.

When it comes to the nation's biggest sports events, South Dakotans have come to play, beginning with the very first **World Series** baseball game. The winning pitcher in that **1903** game was Pittsburgh Pirate Deacon Phillippe, who grew up and learned baseball near Ashton.

Most years, though, there are no South Dakotans in the World Series. But there are always athletes from our state each December in the National Finals **Rodeo**. That's one reason the state legislature named rodeo South Dakota's official sport. The greatest rodeo cowboy ever? Most folks agree it was Fort Pierre's Casey Tibbs, who collected a record six world championships—and suffered forty-four broken bones.

The state's first **Olympian** was Madison's Gene Vidal, who competed in the track and field in the 1920 and 1924 Games.

In football, Winner's Frank Leahy is remembered as a legendary college coach, whose Notre Dame teams won **five** national championships.

It would seem that winning the **Super Bowl** with a last minute field goal kick would be a once-in-a-lifetime experience. But Rapid City's Adam Vinatieri did it twice for the New England Patriots, in 2002 and again in 2004.

Probably the biggest sports accomplishment by a South Dakotan, though, belongs to Pine Ridge's Billy Mills. He trained by running a hundred miles a week and in 1964 did something no American had before; he won the Olympics' **10,000** meter run. Forty years later, Billy Mills recalls that run as much more than a game.