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HOWARD TO BE INDUCTED INTO KALAMAZOO COLLEGE ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

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The late Joe Howard '39 is one of fourteen individuals in the inaugural class of the Kalamazoo College Athletic Hall of Fame. Howard, one of the top athletes of the '30s, will be honored in a special ceremony at the Homecoming dinner on October 18, which begins at 7 p.m.

A native of Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, Howard participated in basketball and track at Kalamazoo College, where he was coached by fellow Hall of Fame member Chester Barnard. In basketball, he was a starting forward on the MIAA (Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association) championship teams of 1938 and 1939. He also participated in the unique championship tie-breaking format of 1939. In that year, Kalamazoo, Albion, and Hope were tied for the league championship at season's end. A playoff was devised in which each team played one half against each of the other two teams, resulting in each team having played an entire game. Kalamazoo won each half it played, and was declared MIAA champion.

It was in track that Howard excelled. Referred to as a "one-man track team," he was MIAA champion in the high jump, broad jump, pole vault, and hurdles from 1936 to 1938. The captain of the 1939 team, he set an MIAA record with a broad jump of 23 feet, a record that stood for a number of years. At the league field day that year, he accounted for the majority of Kalamazoo points as the team finished second in the league.

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Following his graduation, Howard enlisted in the Coast Guard and served in World War II. After the war he returned to Kalamazoo and took a position as a salesman with Doubleday. In 1957, he became manager and vice-president of Business Supply Company in Kalamazoo. In 1968, he moved to Naples, Florida, to manage the Marco Island Division of Rutenberg Homes Company. He passed away in June of 1981.

A plaque honoring Mr. Howard as a charter member of the Athletic Hall of Fame will be mounted in the lobby of Kalamazoo College's Anderson Athletic Center.

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