

NOTABLE DEATHS

John Kundla (1916 - 2017)



AP / Matty Zimmermann

JOHN KUNDLA (1916 - 2017)

By: Legacy Staff  7 months ago

John Kundla, a Basketball Hall of Famer who was the first head coach of the Minnesota Timberwolves, died at age 101.

He coached pro basketball from 1946 to 1968. His teams won six league championships, including the NBA title in 1957. He also coached in the Basketball Association of America. The

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John Albert Kundla was born July 3, 1916, in Star Junction, Pennsylvania. He was a graduate of the University of Minnesota, where he was a standout for the

He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. After the war, he coached for the Minneapolis Lakers. After that, the Minneapolis Lakers hired Kundla as head coach. His team went on to win five BAA-NBA titles in six years, from 1949 to 1954. Kundla's major players at the time included Hall of Fame center George Mikan and

After his coaching days with the Lakers ended in 1960, he stayed in Minnesota at his alma mater and taught physical education at the University of Minnesota until 1981.

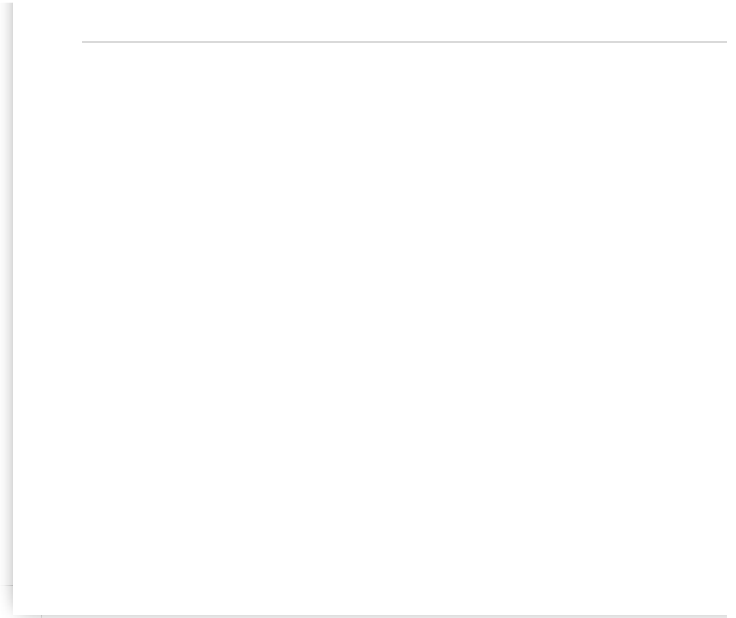
He was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 1985.

He is survived by six children. His wife, Marie, whom he met at the University of Minnesota, died in 1998.

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