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Bob Burns to Speak at Alumni-Letterman's Banquet

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MORRIS (5/28/76) — Bob Burns, one of the most successful coaches in South Dakota football history, will be the guest speaker at the University of Minnesota, Morris Alumni-Letterman's Banquet set for Saturday, June 5, at the Sunwood Inn in Morris.

Burns began his involvement in South Dakota football in 1947 and, after a 15 year absence from the coaching ranks, will return as football coach at O'Gorman High in Sioux Falls this fall.

"A guy has to get away from coaching to learn how much he misses it," remarked Burns. "A time comes when you realize what enjoyment and self satisfaction is involved in it.

"I found out that, in my case, working with boys in athletics is the best life there is," he added.

Burns did most of his coaching in Sioux Falls, heading the Washington High football program from 1949 through 1955, and compiling a cumulative record of 55-8-3.

After opening with a 4-5 campaign, his Washington High teams lost just three contests in the final six years, including one 37 game stretch without a loss.

Burns, 53, starred in athletics at Sioux City Central and at South Dakota State University. He began his coaching career at Yankton High School, posting 8-2 and 8-1-1 seasons before moving to Sioux Falls.

In 1956, Burns accepted the head coaching job at Augustana College and recorded a 28-20-3 ledger in six years with the Vikings. His 1959 team captured the North Central Conference championship with a 6-2-1 overall record, the best at the school since 1949.

In 1962, he left Augustana to enter private business, most recently in a shopping center development in Minneapolis before accepting the O'Gorman position.

Former UMM athlete and graduate Pat Popowski will join Burns in Sioux Falls as an assistant this fall.

Tickets are still available at the P.E. Center Office for the banquet at \$5 each. Cougar supporters and the public are invited to attend.