

# Remembering One of the Greats:

## *Don Rubisch*

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The list of exemplary athletes to grace the court at Thorp High School is as long as its history is deep. From breaking personal records to leading the team to new heights, some of these individual players still hold a big place in Thorp's heart as well as their trophy case.

In the 1951-1952 season, one Cardinal flew to new, extraordinary heights—Don “Grundy” Rubisch, class of '52. Known for scoring a majority of the points on Thorp's scoreboard, Rubisch proceeded to write all new scoring records into the Thorp record books. Throughout his final year as a Cardinal, Rubisch averaged 19.1 points per game, piling up 439 points in 23 games. The talented senior shattered the previous record of individual scoring in a single season of 304 points, which was held by Ken Bachmeyer.

Breaking one record is an outrageous accomplishment that very few get to experience, but one record wasn't enough for Rubisch. He went on to break the team's single game record—twice—scoring 35 points in Thorp's game against Altoona and again against Spencer. Both of Rubisch's records would remain untouched for over a decade.

In the years following his graduation, Rubisch went on to play basketball at Michigan State. Stuart North, Rubisch's head basketball coach, later established the Rubisch Award, which was awarded to one deserving basketball player in the years that followed.

Sadly, the legacy of Don Rubisch was cut short. Soon after graduation, while on his way home from Detroit on November 15, 1952, Rubisch was killed in an automobile accident. His teammates from the Thorp basketball team served as the hometown hero's pallbearers. To this day, Rubisch is still remembered as one of the best cage stars in Thorp history.



**Coach Stuart North and Don Rubisch**