

Langhough, a former, longtime sportswriter for the Alert, dies

A longtime sportswriter for The Chetek Alert—who was known for his colorful writing and deep pride of his hometown sports teams—has died. Dr. Orv Langhough passed away on Saturday, Jan. 2. He was 92.

Langhough covered Chetek High School football and basketball games for the newspaper for more than 30 years, retiring in 2000.

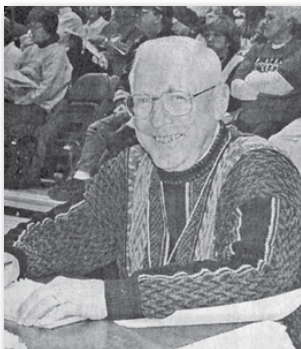
“His articles were more like stories than articles,” recalled Melodee Eckerman, former owner of the Alert. The stories were animated, she said. He knew all of the players’ personalities and their nicknames.

He wrote with such flair and flourish that when he filed a story, newspaper staff had to look in the dictionary for the words he was using, Eckerman recalled. “He was quite the writer.”

His talent was recognized elsewhere, too, said John Erickson, an old friend of Langhough’s. He recalled people in Cumberland wanting to read Langhough’s articles first after Chetek played games there.

He was one of Chetek’s biggest hometown sports fans, up there with the likes of Gary Haugen, Eckerman said. He also worked hard to recognize others in the sports community. Langhough and former co-owner of the Alert, Paul Lange, were instrumental in getting the school’s gym named after Haugen, a mega-fan and booster of Chetek. Langhough and Haugen went to all the games, home and away, Erickson said.

Langhough and Lange were also the drivers behind the naming of Denny Overby Field. Overby, from



CHETEK ALERT ARCHIVES

Orv Langhough, pictured above in 2000, wrote sports articles for The Chetek Alert for more than 30 years. He died on Saturday, Jan. 2.

Chetek, was a phenomenal baseball pitcher in high school, played in the minor leagues and was expected to be called up to the majors before he had a career-stopping shoulder injury.

Langhough, who was a chiropractor, saw many of the school’s athletes in his office, often helping them for free, Eckerman said. He just wanted to see them back in the game, at their best.

“Hell of a nice man and generous. But strong minded,” Erickson said.

Eckerman said Langhough, ever busy, was not one to sit on the sidelines in the community. He served on the school board and city council, and he helped establish Christ Lutheran Church. He also was a charter member of the Bulldog Booster Club, Erickson added. Langhough was inducted into the Bulldog Hall of Fame in 2004.

He was always outspoken and passionate for what he believed in.

“He was such an exceptional man,” Eckerman said.

An obituary for Langhough can be read on Page A2.