WALTER (BUZZ) LUTTRELL NOMINATION/ALLEGAN H.S. “SPORTS HALL OF FAME”

(Tom Hunter/April 16, 2012)

To the Allegan Sports Boosters,

I would like to nominate Walter “Buzz” Luttrell, class of 1962, for induction into the Allegan Sports Hall of Fame. His exploits as an Allegan athlete are impressive as are his post Allegan endeavors.

Buzz had a total of 11 letters, which included 6 different sports. He played football in the 10th and 12th grade, taking his junior year to get in condition for basketball by lettering in cross country. As a senior quarterback, he engineered the upset of then 8th-ranked University High, ending the Tigers 13-game losing streak.

Basketball was really Buzz’s strength. After leading the reserves to a 12-4 record as a sophomore, he joined the varsity for the state tournament. He made first team all-conference both as a junior and senior and honorable mention all-state as a senior. The Tigers were undefeated in the conference in 60-61, going 14-4, not only winning the conference but taking the Kalamazoo Class B trophy. We only lost one conference game the next year, ending 17-4, losing the regional final to eventual state finalist East Grand Rapids.

In the spring, Buzz would do both track and baseball in his sophomore and junior years; in his senior hear he added golf. The logistics boggle the mind. He play outfield in baseball and as a trickster put the shot, high jumped and broad jumped. He still owns the Allegan broad jump record at 22’ 5 1/2 “ which was also a regional record at the time.

Buzz was a scholar as well as an athlete. He was a member of the National Honor Society, president of the Student Council, and member of the band, the dance band, and Men’s Glee Club.

After Allegan, Buzz was offered full rides to a number of different schools, and decided to take an academic/athletic scholarship to MSU. After playing freshman ball, he was seriously injured in a bike-car accident. Unfortunately he was on the bike. After sitting out a semester, he enrolled at Olivet, where he played and started as a guard/forward until his graduation in 1967. He scored 30 points in his second game there. Buzz was awarded a Distinguished Alumni Award from Olivet in 1987.

Upon graduation, Buzz got into PR work, then became director of communications for New Detroit, where he created the highly effective campaign, “Detroit is People.” He then joined Chrysler Corporation as Urban Affairs Executive, where he worked until he was offered a position at WXYZ-TV as community affairs director. He also hosted radio and TV talk shows. He was lured to Boston to host talk shows at WBZ-TV, where he hosted and interviewed many national/international personalities, even Oprah.

Since then, Buzz has been busy as head of AHA! Multimedia and is involved in many international and national projects. He had written a book, (available on Amazon) called “What the World Should Know About Black History in the USA” and is collaborating on a multi-artist world theme song. He has other projects going and has done other things but I get tired just thinking of it all. I’m going to stick to bicycles.

Thank you for considering Buzz and thank you for being boosters.