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Dave Martin Papers

Finding Aid

South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections
Briggs Library (SBL) Room 241 Box 2114
1300 North Campus Drive
Brookings, SD 57007
Phone: 605-688-5094
Email: arcrefs@sdstate.edu

Collection Summary

Identifier

UA 53.27

Title

Dave Martin Papers

Creator

Martin, Dave

Dates

1975-1977

Extent

1.42 linear feet – 1 document box and 1 oversized item

Language

English

Repository

South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections, Hilton M. Briggs Library, Brookings, South Dakota.

Access note

The collection is open to researchers without restrictions. The materials in the Archives do not circulate and may be used in-house only.

Preferred Citation

Name of item. Dave Martin Papers. UA 53.27. South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections, Hilton M. Briggs Library, Brookings, South Dakota.

Abstract

Five members of the South Dakota State University (SDSU) Men's Basketball Team participated in a trip to Cuba in 1977 as part of a South Dakota delegation led by Senators George McGovern and James Abourezk. This collection comprises material related to the 1977 trip to Cuba, including photographs, slides, newspaper clippings, and programs. Also part of the collection are letters and other documents that detail the effort that went into making such an endeavor happen. David Martin, former Sports Information Director at South Dakota State University, created and compiled these material.

Biographical Note

David Martin, the SDSU Sports Information Director, sought to bring SDSU men's basketball players to Cuba and play the Cuban National Basketball Team. He worked with Senator George McGovern and Senator James Abourezk to bring members from both SDSU and the University of South Dakota's men's basketball teams to Cuba. Due to the severed diplomatic ties between the United States and Cuba at this time, Senator McGovern saw this as an opportunity to rebuild relations between the countries. After two years of tremendous effort, Martin's vision became a reality. Five basketball players from SDSU and five players from the University of South Dakota were selected to serve as ambassadors for South Dakota and the United States. Including the basketball players and their coaches, a total of 100 Americans made the trek to Cuba in April 4, 1977. Other visitors consisted Senators McGovern and Abourezk, dignitaries, officials from the universities, spouses, and the press, including Tom P. Nelson, the trip photographer.

While in Cuba, the Americans toured the country and met with Cuban dignitaries. As the American basketball players charged on the court, they were given a standing ovation. Cuban Prime Minister, Fidel Castro, along with 15,000 attendees watched the games. Fans cheered for both teams. The American basketball players lost every game against their Cuban counterparts. The Americans returned to the United States on April 8, 1977.

Contents Note

The collection contains documents relating to the arrangements made for the Cuba trip and the political implications that surrounded the trip. Correspondence between David Martin and Senator George McGovern detail the breadth of such an undertaking. In addition, a post trip overview, numerous newspaper clippings, photographs, and radio excerpts are included in the collection.

Key Words

David Martin

McGovern, George S. (George Stanley), 1922-2012

Abourezk, James

Cuba

South Dakota State University

University of South Dakota

Basketball

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

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Arranged and Described by

Lori Jacobson, 2016 December 6

Container List

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
1	1	Games, Newspaper Clippings	1977
1	2	Cuban Basketball Trip Proposal and Post Trip Overview	1975-1977
1	3	Newspaper Article	1977
1	4	Past Trip Newspaper Articles	1977
1	5	Press Reservations and List	1977
1	6	Game Programs/Information	1977
1	7	Pictures of Cuba Trip	1977
1	8	Cuba Trip Slides 0001-0119	1977