RUSSELL O'NEILL
SPORTS

Russell 'Rusty' O'Neill grew up in Aberdeen, South Dakota. He attended the South Dakota School for the Deaf (SDSD) from 1947 to his graduation in 1959, where he was an accomplished athlete. O'Neill won many medals in track: 100 meters, 220 meters, relays, and high jumps. He was also involved in football and basketball. In 1957, along with his track mates, O'Neill earned the Class C title at the Howard Wood Dakota Relays, where he was instrumental in bringing the Little Sioux Conference track championship back to SDSD. During the Little Sioux Track Conference, O'Neill gained 1st in the 220-yard dash, 3rd in the 100-yard dash, 1st in the 880 relay, and 3rd in High Jump. O'Neill also received an honorable mention on the All-State football team from the Argus Leader.

O'Neill went to Gallaudet University and then he worked in Washington D.C. as a floorman at the printing shop for 25 years. He moved to Denver and worked as a mobile dog groomer for 40 years. O'Neill enjoyed playing golf and volleyball. He was an avid participant in the deaf events such as local meetings, camping, conventions, basketball games, and softball games. He was a coach for a basketball team in Minnesota and a coach for a softball team in Washington D.C. Along with Dean Keefe, he co-founded the Hyattville Club for the Deaf in Washington D.C. He passed away in Denver on July 28, 2013 at the age of 73. He had seven children.