### SPORTS LEGENDS OF MICRONESIA: 1966 TO 2012

Throughout the history of sport, the efforts to name the greatest athletes of all time never seem to end, and the topic is often the focus of discussion at various social gatherings. Sports in Micronesia are no different. The same questions have been kicked around and discussed in Micronesia since the middle sixties. Among these questions are: Who’s the greatest athlete in the history of Micronesia? Who’s the greatest athlete in the history of each island? What’s the name of the greatest Micronesian female athlete of all time? Who are the five all-time best athletes to ever compete in various sports in each of the Micronesian states/nations? Is there one baseball or basketball or track athlete that reigns supreme over all of their Micronesian contemporaries? Who’s the coach that most enhanced the athletic venues of Micronesia? Are athletes from the 1960s equal in athletic skill to those of today? Or are athletes of one decade better than those of another? Though these questions may not be directly answered in this book, readers can certainly draw their own conclusions. These and other similar questions are often in the forefront of any discussion of sports in Micronesia.

The primary purpose of *Sports Legends of Micronesia: 1966 to 2012* is to foster an understanding and appreciation of Micronesia’s greatest sports personalities. I also hope the book serves to stimulate memories and discussions of each Micronesian country’s historical athletic culture. This effort is a first in terms of identifying and authenticating legendary athletes, coaches, officials, and pioneers who were, or still are, involved with sports in Micronesia, from 1966 to 2012.

Sports certainly have come a long way since the mid-sixties. Athletic facilities have been upgraded from crude, rudimentary sites to modern, world-class facilities. Playing and coaching rules, strategies, and techniques have evolved from the older, more informal methods to modern systematic ways. Similarly, a reliance on untrained, naturally talented Micronesian athletes in the past has given way to state-of-the-art training and preparation and the development of well-honed, mature, world-class athletes who are now to be found in all parts of Micronesia. This book will chronicle and showcase the people in Micronesia who are responsible for where we are today.