

Korch ends career on his terms

Often times, professional athletes in the twilight of their careers talk about leaving the game on their own terms. They don't want an injury, illness or outright release putting an end to their career.

Keeping with that theme, the EagleHerald lost a key member of its staff this month when Sports Editor Jody Korch called it a career.

He left on his own terms.

Korch started his tenure here 34 years ago when he was hired as a news reporter at the Eagle-Star. When a sports editor left in the mid-1980s, Korch took over and

OUR OPINION

he was a fixture for more than three decades.

During that time, Korch covered the Marinette Marines — and many other teams and sports topics — with passion. He made sure every school got fair coverage.

Whether going across town or across state, Korch focused on every team receiving proper publicity. During tournament time, it wasn't unusual

for him to hit three games or matches in three different cities on a Saturday. At least once, he traveled to the WIAA state track meet in La Crosse and back in one day to make sure we had photos for the next day's paper.

If a coach or player had a bad word about Korch, we never heard it. Parents can often be harder to please and we never heard any gripes from them.

Born and raised in Chicago and a die-hard fan of every professional sports team in the Windy City, Korch never let it influence Packers' news, which is so important in this

area. It had to be hard for a longtime Bears' fan — whose own father worked for that storied franchise — to put in news about the great Brett Favre and Aaron Rodgers.

He never let his allegiance show. That's a sign of professionalism.

Besides his game stories, Korch also wrote many features on individuals entering both the Marinette and Menominee high school athletic halls of fame. The in-depth, candid stories were some of his best work.

With a love for fishing and hunting, Korch excelled at making our weekly Outdoors

page a must-read for those with those type of interests. Some of his personal stories — such as adventures from his North Dakota duck hunting trips — were gems.

More than a co-worker, Korch was a friend to many who worked with him at the EagleHerald. We hope the next chapter of his life finds him catching a lot more fish and shaving some strokes off his golf game.

Whatever he does, it will be on his terms. And he no longer has to worry about making a deadline.