

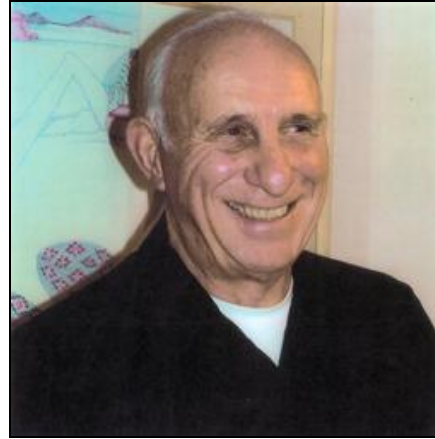
Lorne & Sons Funeral Home

Randall G. Cooper

(July 29, 1929 - October 23, 2014)



“Coach” Randy Cooper’s journey on this earth ended on October 23, 2014. He shall be remembered not for his death but for the way he “played” the game of life. He lived and loved athletics his entire life. Born in West Virginia in 1929, he was a star athlete in high school playing four years of football, basketball and track, making All Conference in football and graduating at age 16. A “walk on” at WV Institute of Technology in 1946, he was the only high school graduate to receive a full scholarship. He led the WV Conference in rushing his Junior year and went on to set six Conference records his senior year. He made small college All-American his senior year. He was Who’s Who among students in Colleges and Universities in 1950. After graduating in ‘50 he coached at Oak Hill High School for two years.



He volunteered for the US Air Force (Korean War) and served from 1951 to 1954 as First Lieutenant. He was voted Most Valuable Player in the year he played football at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois.

After leaving the Air Force he coached in Van, West Virginia, winning the Boone County Championship before heading to South Florida to play minor league baseball for two years.

He became a teacher and coach at Seacrest High School in Delray Beach in 1955. He coached JV basketball through the 1959-60 school year, highlighted by an unbeaten 20 game season in 1958-59 that was the centerpiece of an overall 35 consecutive wins. He coached the baseball team as well, with a record of 33 wins and 19 losses.

He was made Head Football Coach in 1960 and remained in this position for the final 10 years of Seacrest High School and the first two years it became Atlantic High School. The record for these twelve years was 90 wins, 23 losses and 7 ties. The teams won six Suncoast Conference Championships and never had a losing season. After a 1 point loss to Pahokee in the 2nd game of the 1966 season, Seacrest never lost another game and won 29 of its final 30 games. Coach Cooper was named coach of the Decade (1960-1970)

for Palm Beach County.

He is in the Oak Hill High School Hall of Fame, the WV Tech Hall of Fame, was inducted into Palm Beach County Sports Hall of Fame in 1986, and elected to Florida Coaches Hall of Fame in 2003.

After stepping down as head coach, he became Director of Atlantic Community High School for 23 years and was awarded Educator of the Year in Palm Beach County in 1987. He continued his athletic endeavors during these years and was Southeastern United States Pentathlon Champion in 1986 for ages 55-60. He became a champion tennis player too, and won the class A men's singles and doubles at Quail Ridge Tennis Club 2000-2003, and was a member of the Quail Ridge County championship team in 2004.

He loved and was adored by his grandchildren, Nicole Cooper and Jonathon "Corey" Cooper and his son Chris Cooper, daughter Danna Cooper, and his lifelong mate of 63 years, Patricia Cooper. He is also survived by his sister, Mayzella Mahan, and many nieces, nephews and extended family and friends.

A Memorial Service celebrating his life will be held on Sunday, November 30, 2014, at 2:30PM in the end zone of the Old Atlantic Community High School field, 2223 North Seacrest Blvd., Delray Beach.

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