**'Among the best' Dick Peregrine remembered for setting high standards for Homestead athletics: Newspaper Obituary and Death Notice**

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**Deceased Name: 'Among the best' Dick Peregrine remembered for setting high standards for Homestead athletics**

MEQUON - Richard "Dick" Peregrine was one of the original hires when Homestead High School opened its doors in 1959.

He served as the school's athletic director until he retired in 1988. He also was the varsity boys basketball coach, a track coach and taught physical education and health. He died Dec. 20, 2014, at age 85.

"Dick set the standards for what has transpired in Homestead athletics," said longtime friend Jim Coutts, who taught at Homestead from 1965 to 1994 and spent many of those years as the freshman basketball coach.

"Dick was a very high-caliber guy in terms of expecting the best out of everybody," said Coutts, who has been asked by the family to speak at a yet-to-be-scheduled memorial service. "He always put his best foot forward. As athletic director, he supported his coaches to as high of a degree as he could." A 1947 graduate of Juneau High School in Milwaukee, Peregrine spent several years in minor league baseball, rising to as high as AAA in the Braves' farm leagues before going to college at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. That is where he met his future wife, Pat, who was also from Milwaukee.

After graduating, Peregrine spent five years teaching and coaching at Oostburg High School. He heard about the new high school opening in Mequon and applied for a job there. He not only got the athletic programs off on the right foot with a firm guiding hand, he also celebrated a Braveland Conference basketball championship with his team in 1964.

As Pat sat at the kitchen table of their Port Washington condominium just after Christmas to talk about her husband, she said that perhaps the biggest thing that occurred while Dick was athletic director was the implementation of girls sports under Title IX.

He embraced the addition - saying "it's about time," his wife recalled. "He treated his girl athletes the same as he did the boys."

Pat Peregrine said that her husband's best friend was John Brodie. The two also met at UW-La Crosse. Dick, a senior, was a pitcher on the baseball team; John, a sophomore, was a shortstop. "He took me under his wing and we became good friends," Brodie said.

By the time Brodie graduated and served a stint in the Marines, Dick was athletic director at Homestead. The position of head football coach came open and Brodie got the job. He taught at Homestead from 1974 to 1989, serving 15 years as head football coach. He also coached wrestling and girls track.

"I always felt that Dick was among the best - if not the best - athletic directors in the state," he said. "He really had a feel for all of the activities, the coaches involved and the athletes involved. He took a personal interest in all of them. And, when you needed help, he was always right there to assist."

During his career at Homestead, Peregrine spent three terms as the president of the conference athletic directors. He also was a founding member and first president of the Wisconsin Athletic Directors Association. He later was among the first group inducted into the Homestead Athletic Hall of Fame.

Pat said she wanted to make clear that there was much more to Dick than the time he spent as athletic director and a coach at Homestead.

When Peregrine was a boy, he competed in table tennis tournaments. After he retired in 1988, he picked up the sport again. The basement of his home has a wall filled with medals and certificates marking his achievements in numerous events. They include winning the national championship for competitors over age 70 in 2006. He competed - and won - into his 80s.

"If you had Dick here, this is what he would talk about," Pat said.

After retiring, Peregrine spent time working at both Ozaukee County golf courses, first as manager of the pro shop at Mee-Kwon Park in Mequon and then, up until about three years ago, at Hawthorne Hills in Saukville.

He also served as the announcer at the state high school track meet for years, first when it took place at Madison Memorial High School and later when the event moved to UW-La Crosse. Dick also was an active referee for high school basketball and football. He was part of the officiating crew for the first state high school championship football game.

Coutts, a Cedarburg resident who also served as the city's mayor, said he and several other former Homestead teachers met for lunch on Friday. Peregrine's legacy was the main topic of conversation.

"He was a real gentleman," Coutts said. "We coached together for 12 or 13 years - and we worked together as a team. He was the easiest guy to deal with as far as a head coach. He was not demeaning or demanding. He was just a very fair and honest individual.

"He set the standards and lived by those standards," he added. "He was just a great guy."

(Gary Achterberg can be reached at gachterberg-@conleynet.com.)

Author: Gary Achterberg  
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