

= Bill Schmeisser =

William Christian Schmeisser (1880 ? 1941) , known widely as " Father Bill " , was an American lacrosse player , coach , and patron . He served as the head coach of the Johns Hopkins Blue Jays for ten non @-@ consecutive years , and won eight national championships . He was also an active patron of the sport and promoter of its development . He helped found the highly successful amateur Mount Washington Lacrosse Club . Schmeisser viewed his role in the sport as altruistic , and he never received monetary compensation for coaching .

= = Education = =

He was born on August 4 , 1880 in Baltimore , Maryland and attended high school at Baltimore City College , from which he graduated in 1899 . He received his undergraduate college education at Johns Hopkins University and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1902 . While at Hopkins , Schmeisser played as a defenseman on the lacrosse team from 1900 to 1902 . He was also a member of the Beta Mu chapter of Phi Gamma Delta .

Schmeisser returned to Johns Hopkins for graduate study in the field of political economy , and played an additional year of lacrosse , in 1905 . In 1907 , he graduated from the school of law at the University of Maryland , Baltimore .

= = Role in lacrosse = =

In 1902 , he served as team captain and as a co @-@ coach for Johns Hopkins alongside Ronald T. Abercrombie . That season , the team was awarded the Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association (ILA) national championship . The following year , Schmeisser became the sole head coach , and the team again garnered the ILA championship . He returned to Hopkins as its head lacrosse coach from 1905 to 1909 . Schmeisser took the position again from 1923 to 1925 , and Johns Hopkins secured the United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association (USILA) championships in 1923 and 1924 .

Schmeisser helped organize and played on the Mount Washington Lacrosse Club , a highly successful Baltimore @-@ based amateur team . Since there was no professional league , many former college lacrosse stars played for Mount Washington . The club regularly participated in exhibition games against the top intercollegiate programs and very rarely lost . In 1904 , Schmeisser and Abercrombie co @-@ authored Lacrosse : From Candidate to Team , a book which became the sport 's standard text for the next fifty years . He also helped promote lacrosse at the University of Maryland and the Naval Academy .

Schmeisser was known to often carry a furled umbrella on the sidelines , regardless of the weather , and he stated that his reason for doing so was , " This way I know it won 't rain . " In 1919 , he helped start the tradition in which flags bearing gold stars are attached to the goals prior to the season opener . This was first done to honor three former Hopkins players who were killed in action during the First World War . The tradition has continued to date and additional stars have been added for players killed in the Second World War and Viet Nam .

In 1928 , Johns Hopkins won a postseason tournament to represent the United States in a lacrosse exhibition event during the Summer Olympics in Amsterdam , and Schmeisser accompanied the team as an assistant coach . He also traveled to England in 1937 alongside the all @-@ star team . In 1941 , just two months before his death , Schmeisser convinced the undefeated Johns Hopkins team to accept a challenge from the likewise undefeated Mount Washington Club . The Blue Jays edged their opponents , 7 ? 6 .

Schmeisser was a long @-@ time official of the USILA , and he held positions that included member of the rules committee , chief referee , and president . US Lacrosse , the American sport 's governing body , inducted him into the National Lacrosse Hall of Fame in 1957 . He was inducted into the Johns Hopkins University Athletic Hall of Fame in 1995 . He is also the namesake of the William C. Schmeisser Award , which is given annually to the most outstanding defenseman in

NCAA Division I men 's lacrosse .

= = Professional life = =

Schmeisser was an attorney by trade and never accepted payment for his coaching . After earning his undergraduate degree , he worked first as a bank clerk and then as a law clerk . His next job was as an attorney for the Willis and Homer firm . Later in his career , he ran his own law firm and was a member of the American Bar Association , the Maryland State Bar Association , and the Bar Association of Baltimore City . Schmeisser also served sixteen years on the board of directors of the YMCA 's Baltimore Branch and as president from 1938 to 1941 .

He married Isabel Wooldrige , with whom he had two children , a son and a daughter . Schmeisser died on July 1 , 1941 at Union Memorial Hospital in Baltimore after a month @-@ long illness .