

## **Keynote Speaker - Steve Bandura –**

*“A life is not important, except in the impact it has on other lives.” - Jackie Robinson*

During the summer of 2014, the Taney Dragons were the toast of Philadelphia. Many people deserve credit for the success of the Dragons but perhaps no one more than Steve Bandura, who founded the Anderson Monarchs. Seven members of the Taney Dragons, including Bandura’s son Scott, got their start on the Monarchs.

In 1989, Steve began as a volunteer at the Marian Anderson Recreation Center in South Philadelphia. A few years later, he left the business world to dedicate his life to providing athletic and educational opportunities to inner city boys and girls.

In 1993, Steve started the Jackie Robinson Baseball League. The League introduces baseball and the history of baseball in the African American community to hundreds of young boys and girls each year and gives them the opportunity to learn and play the game.

In 1995, Steve founded the Anderson Monarchs travel sports program, with the idea of giving his inner city kids the same opportunities to play and develop as their counterparts in the suburbs – an attempt to “level the playing field” for less fortunate kids.

The Monarchs carry on the legacy of Jackie Robinson by shattering stereotypes and breaking down barriers wherever they compete, showing what’s possible when inner city kids are given opportunities to succeed.

In athletics and education, Steve continues to challenge his players, believing strongly that, “Nobody rises to low expectations.”