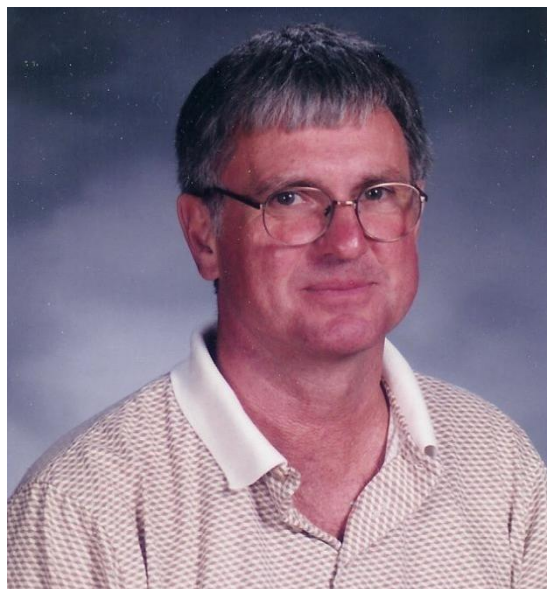


2013 Saugerties Sports Hall of Fame



Ron Buzon

Saugerties High School sports programs have always been blessed with laudable coaches. But what makes a coach laudable? A successful coach is normally defined solely by wins and losses, which inevitably puts the coach first and the athletes second. An effective coach is defined by the impact and relationships formed with athletes, by being of voice of positivity and affirmation, by the ability to develop talent and provide opportunity, and one who leads by example. Ron Buzon was an EFFECTIVE COACH. Ron genuinely cared more about the athletes he coached than wins and losses or any praise that he may receive. He wanted to inspire athletes to reach their potential both as athletes and more importantly as people. Many of Saugerties' athletes credit Ron for his support and guidance both on and off the field and attribute their success, both in athletics and in life, to Ron's interest in them as both competitors and individuals. It is this selfless and sincere devotion to both coaching and teaching that made Coach Ron Buzon unique and has made his 2013 election into the Saugerties Sports Hall of Fame one in which the Saugerties community takes great pride.

Ron Buzon was born on 9/17/46 to Edith and Michael Buzon in Schenectady, New York. Ron grew up in Schoharie County on a dairy farm located in Middleburgh, New York, where both of his parents, in addition to running the farm, were in the real estate business. Ron has two younger brothers, James of Middleburgh, who is a retired teacher and Rudy who is deceased. Neither of his brothers participated in sports but Ron's dad ran track in high school and performed very well. His parents encouraged Ron's participation in sports but unfortunately weren't able to see him participate often due to their business and responsibilities with the farm. Both Edith and Michael Buzon have long passed, however Ron will always cherish their support and credits their inspiration for making Ron the person he is today.

While growing up in Middleburgh, Ron participated in Little League and Babe Ruth baseball. At Middleburgh Central, Ron participated in soccer, basketball and track and field. Ron's talent as a skilled athlete was recognized early as he began competing as a 7th and 8th grader on the varsity track team and as a 9th grader Ron was the starting goalie for the varsity soccer team, while later as a sophomore, he was a starter on the Middleburgh Varsity Basketball Team. Ron and his teams excelled as the Middleburgh track team won 3 County Championships, the

soccer team won 2 County Championships and the basketball team won 1 County Championship in his tenure there. Ron excelled in track and field and held school and county records in the high jump, long jump and triple jump as well as the Sectional record in the long jump. Also to his credit, Ron also competed at the New York State Track Meet for 3 years and placed in the top 10 each year. Ron credits his high school Physical Education teacher and Varsity Basketball Coach, Joe Galotta, for assisting him not only in athletics but also academically and personally. He took Ron on college interviews and credits Galotta for assisting him in getting the attention of Indiana State University and securing an athletic scholarship there.



1965: Ron at Middleburgh H.S.

As college coaches in the local area recognized his talent early, Ron rolled into Cobleskill College starring as a 2-sport athlete from 1966-67. He participated in soccer as the starting goalie for both seasons and enabled the team to have winning seasons each year. A highlight in both seasons was Cobleskill's appearance in regional tournaments with much of the success attributed to their talented goalie. Ron's favorite sport and the one he felt he truly excelled at best was track and field. He had a passion for the field events and competed in the

high jump, long jump and triple jump. Ron set numerous records in these events and won all three events in the regional tournament in both years at Cobleskill. In 1967, Ron was recognized and selected as the Cobleskill Outstanding Field Athlete. Further recognition was bestowed in 2007 as Ron was elected to the Cobleskill College Athletic Fighting Tigers Hall of Fame for his stellar athletic accomplishments.

Ron graduated with his Associates Degree in Business in 1967 and after such an exceptional athletic career at Cobleskill, he was recruited and offered a Division I Scholarship from Indiana State University. As was the case at Cobleskill, Ron entered ISU as a two sport athlete and quickly excelled as a star in both Division I sports. Just think, most if not nearly all athletes today compete in just one collegiate sport finding it difficult to juggle their sport with their academics. Ron was able to participate in 2 sports at the highest collegiate level, surpass many other athletes, and complete his academic major. This illustrated Ron's work ethic and determination. As a member of the ISU Sycamores soccer team, Ron fondly recalls competing as the starting goalie against Notre Dame and recording a shut out as the Sycamores went on to best the Irish and win 1-0. At ISU, he also continued his track and field career by competing in the long jump and triple jump. A noteworthy accomplishment for Ron was in 1968 when he competed in the NCAA Track and Field Tournament and finished 5th with at 46'6" triple jump. In that monumental event, Ron had the privilege of competing against Olympic and World Record holder Bob Beamon in the long jump. In Ron's 2 years at ISU, the Sycamore track and field team won conference championships in both years. Track and field conference champions had become routine at ISU, as at that time, Indiana State had won 5 conference championships in a 6 year period.



1965: Ron set a Sectional Record in the long jump

As stated earlier, Ron not only was a superb athlete but was also diligently working on his academic major. While completing his student teaching in Physical Education, he was mentored and supervised by the renowned Indiana State Basketball coach Howard Sharpe. Ron states "Coach Sharpe really inspired me during my student teaching at ISU. I was lucky to teach during his basketball season and was able to sit on the bench with him and learn from the best. Coach Sharpe told me the first thing you must learn in coaching is you must know the ability of every player on your team before you can come up with an offense or defense." Ron has always remembered this and made it the mantra for which he followed and emulated throughout his coaching career.



Ron participating in the high jump while at Middleburgh H.S

Graduating in 1969 from Indiana State University with a Bachelors Degree in Physical Education, Ron continued his graduate studies at SUNY Brockport in Special Education. Shortly thereafter, Ron was hired by the Saugerties Central School District where he went on to teach and coach for thirty years. During that span Ron was the dependable "go to guy" when it came to Saugerties interscholastic sports, taking on teams when

Graduating in 1969 from Indiana State University with a Bachelors Degree in Physical Education, Ron continued his graduate studies at SUNY Brockport in Special Education. Shortly thereafter, Ron was hired by the Saugerties Central School District where he went on to teach and coach for thirty years. During that span Ron was the dependable "go to guy" when it came to Saugerties interscholastic sports, taking on teams when

coaching vacancies occurred and “filling in” as a coach until a permanent coach could be found. He coached just about every sport that was offered at SHS: modified track and cross country, modified girls basketball, junior varsity boys basketball, varsity boys soccer, varsity boys cross country, assistant coach for varsity football and varsity track and field (1993- 2001). Ron fondly recalls, “Fred Seither and Bud Smith helped me a lot at Saugerties. I tried to do my best to be like both of them both in coaching and in life.”

Many great athletes cannot make the transition from athlete to coach. However for Ron, the transition was seamless and this is where he did his best work. He was able to assist and encourage young athletes to explore sports and find the sport that would work for them as they made their way to high school. This is where we begin to understand Ron; his unselfishness and true character. He always put students and athletes first. He had this willingness to do anything for the program and always did so in the background and never in the limelight, stepping forward, always willing to coach teams no one else wanted. Ron was more interested in building character in children rather than building teams. Athletes wanted to attend his practices as Ron always made them



Coach Buzon teaches a Saugerties Jr. High class in soccer fundamentals

exciting. He was the positive coach that parents dreamed their children would have. Ron possessed an expansive knowledge of sport and could teach the proper skills and techniques to all. What was important to him was the character of the athlete and he always stressed to his athletes that sportsmanship was of the utmost importance. As the SHS Track and Field coach, Ron’s biggest thrill was winning the 1993 County Championship with a 10-0 record, but more important to Ron was the success of his athletes who went on to participate in the NYS Track and Field Meet.

In June 1968, Ron married his loving wife Lois, and in 2013 Ron and Lois will celebrate 45 years together. Ron states “Lois was always behind me when I was competing in high school and college.” When they were first married, Ron was competing at ISU while Lois worked. Ron further states “she was always helping me do better and she gave up a lot of her time so I could do my best in soccer and track and field.” While Ron was teaching and coaching, he credits Lois for taking care of their two children, Ronda and Michael. Both Ronda and Michael participated in sports in school. Ronda was a cheerleader and participated in track and field and in

her senior year she jumped over 14 feet in the long jump. Ronda still lives in Saugerties and is a teacher’s aide at Cahill Elementary School. Michael was also an athlete, participating on the football, basketball and track and field teams. He went on to compete in track and field and football at Sacred Heart University. Michael lives in Oregon and works for Danner/LaCrosse. Ron has four beautiful grandchildren: Madison (13), Kimberlee (9), Nadia (5) all of Saugerties and Beau (2 ½) of Oregon. Madison and Kimberlee are both involved in sports both in school and in the town programs where both Ron and Lois enjoy watching them participate.

Outside of his teaching and coaching career for the School District, Ron continued to participate as an athlete in SAA Basketball, Softball and Co-ed Volleyball. Once an athlete, always an athlete! In addition, Ron was an assistant coach for his son Michael’s Babe Ruth team as well as an assistant coach for his daughter Ronda’s YMCA gymnastic team for 5 years where he also served as the director of the YMCA Ulster County Gymnastic Meet. Ron volunteered over 1000 hours at the YMCA and in 1984 was selected as YMCA Leader of the Year. Although Ron was never “officially” an umpire or referee for Saugerties community programs, he was often “pulled” from the stands to help officiate baseball/softball or soccer games when the scheduled official was a no show, once again illustrating Ron’s spirit of helping programs wherever he could and at the same time assisting young people’s growth and aspiration to become productive adults. Further illustrating Ron Buzon’s versatility, it must also be mentioned that he is an avid outdoor sportsman and is currently the Vice-President of the Saugerties Fish and Game Club.



As illustrated in the text above, Ron Buzon was not only a great athlete, but he was also the consummate professional both as a coach and as a teacher. We are sure that athletes coached by Ron are passing on that special knowledge and praise that he provided them, to their young athletes. 2012 Sports Hall of Fame Inductee Jay Harris

recalls his years participating in sports under Coach Buzon, “Coach Buzon always worked us hard but always allowed us to have fun. Even when we frustrated the heck out of him, he would always come back the next day in a positive mood. He treated everyone fairly and did not have a ‘win at all cost’ attitude. He always encouraged us positively and would never turn negative no matter how we performed. He truly had a huge impact on me and I have nothing but great respect for him”



Ron and wife Lois

In recognition of his athletic prowess, his ability and dedication as the “never ending coach” who always found the best in children, and his unselfish character to step forward when no one else would; family, friends, and the community of Saugerties proudly congratulate Ron Buzon on his 2013 enshrinement into the Saugerties Sports Hall of Fame.