

Arthur L. Baker

1905-1976



Arthur Baker was hired as a physical education director and athletic coach upon graduation from Syracuse University, where he later received his Masters Degree. While at Mynderse he coached virtually all sports, compiling an enviable won-lost record. During his tenure he coached a total of 561 contests, including football, boys' and girls' basketball, and baseball for a total of 16 years.

He coached 110 football games, with the able assistance of Warren "Speed" Wormuth. The team won 69% of its contests, including the undefeated, untied, and unscored upon 1938 team. While holding the opposition scoreless, the Mynderse eleven scored 170 points. The boys' basketball teams played 240 contests, winning 53% of these, girls' basketball won 54% of 62 games, and the baseball teams won 56% of their games. His teams never had a winless season and were frequently in title contention. Early in his Mynderse coaching career (1930), the Myndersian yearbook was dedicated to Mr. Baker.

In 1944 Arthur Baker left Mynderse to become Supervising Principal at Moravia Central School, only to return to Seneca Falls in 1949 as Superintendent of Schools. Under his leadership, the School District was centralized, a new Mynderse Academy and the Frank Knight Elementary were built, as well as an addition to the Elizabeth Cady Stanton School. Plans were also laid for an addition to the new high school, which became the Junior High School and then the Middle School. Rapidly increasing enrollments were responsible for these school expansions.

Mr. Baker retired in June 1962, culminating an extraordinary career in education. However, he was asked to return as acting Superintendent for the final months of the 1973-4 school year when the position became vacant.

As a gesture of gratitude, the School Board resolved to name the primary gymnasium in his honor and it became the Arthur L. Baker Gymnasium early in the 1974-1975 basketball season.