

MICHAEL R. BULLIS

Class of 1970



Mike got his start in athletics helping with the football team at a young age while his dad, Raymond, was coaching in the 1950's. Mike admired the tough athletes of that era and wanted to be just like them. He developed his competitiveness on the local fields playing with some older boys just to have fun. The youth programs of baseball (Elks) and football (Yellow Jackets) provided more opportunities for him to play. By high school, Mike looked forward to playing three sports and trying to compete well in all three.

During his four years at Mynderse, Mike received varsity letters in football, wrestling, and baseball. He received the Most Improved Player Award for baseball in his junior year and for wrestling during his senior year. Mike also won the Block M MVP Baseball Award and the VFW Highest Batting Average Award during his senior year. Mike's high school days culminated as runner-up for the Aldo Beatini Most Outstanding Athlete Award. He also was a Junior Rotarian and student council representative.

After high school graduation, Mike enrolled at Springfield College in Massachusetts to pursue a degree in physical education. He got an early start as a pre-camp leader at the East Campus. He participated in intramurals and with the Hosaga Indian Dance and Cultural Touring Group as a student representative on the Physical Education Advisory Committee. Mike was a member of the Springfield College wrestling team for all four years, winning various tournaments around New England and receiving the Outstanding Wrestling Award at the NEIWA Future's Tournament. One of Mike's proudest moments came when he was asked to wrestle against Penn State University at State College in his freshman year.

Mike completed his graduate work at Slippery Rock University (PA) as a graduate assistant in the Physical Education Department. He worked with the football and wrestling teams and was in charge of scouting and organizing the scouting reports for the varsity coaching staff. Another great thrill for Mike was beating Division 1A Youngstown State University on their home field with the junior varsity football team. He also organized the intramural wrestling program.

Mike's teaching and coaching career spanned the country, finally in New Jersey for the last 33 years. While at Mendham High School, he taught physical education, health, and driver's education. He helped start the Project Adventure Challenge Program, and coordinated the Winter Activity class, Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser, and the Sunshine Club. He coached football, wrestling, and lacrosse. As a football assistant coach, Mike organized the scouting reports. Mendham advanced to the state group finals 6 times and Mike was named as the Morris County Assistant Coach of the Year in 2003. Serving as a lacrosse assistant, his team won the 1994 New Jersey State Overall Team Championship. Mike was the head wrestling coach for 15 years and an assistant for 5 years. During that time, he coached two individual state champions and his team won the Morris County Tournament in 1986 and was runner up in 1987. Mike was president of the Morris County Coaches Association where he organized clinics and workshops. He started the Morris County Wrestling Tournament and the Mendham High School Summer Tournament. Mike also had an individual champion at the Waterloo Tournament.

Mike considers himself lucky to have had a wonderful, supportive environment growing up in Seneca Falls. The love and encouragement of his mother Lori, father Ray, and siblings Ron, Patty, Gary, and Greg was instrumental in all of his successes. Mike would also like to thank the community, teachers, and coaches who worked hard to enable him and his teammates to compete and enjoy playing games.

Mike is married to his Slippery Rock sweetheart Jane Myers. They have one daughter, Rebecca, and reside in Belvidere, New Jersey.