

RONALD FLEURY



Ron Fleury graduated from Port Byron High School in 1964 where he participated in football, basketball, and track & field. He began competing in the sport of cross-country as a student-athlete at Auburn Community College (now Cayuga Community College) and upon transferring to the State University of New York at Cortland in '67, continued to run cross-country and spring track. In '67, Cortland won the SUNYAC Cross-Country Championships for the first time in school history and repeated as conference champs in '68. Ron was elected to the SUNYAC Cross-Country Hall of Fame.

In '70, Ron was hired as a junior high mathematics instructor in the Seneca Falls Central School District as well as coach of the track & field squad. With only a three-year hiatus in the late 70's because of injuries suffered in an automobile accident, his coaching career at Mynderse has spanned 49 years.

Ron retired from the classroom in 2000 but stayed on as mentor for the Mynderse track team. The Blue Devils won the '01 Section V Class CC Championship and garnered a handful of Finger Lakes League titles over the last five decades. In '18, the Blue Devils took the league championship again with a record of 21 and 1 in the final year of scoring meets. Mynderse won league titles in 1975, 1995 and 2003.

In addition to numerous team honors including tournament and invitational championships over the past half-century, the Blue Devils have had a great tradition of individual and relay league and sectional champions. Since 2000, Mynderse has had at least one student-athlete advance through Section V class and sectional tournaments to qualify for the NYSPHSAA Championships ten times. While too many to list here, a pair of these student-athletes are members of the Mynderse Academy Athletic Hall of Fame. Chris Dragone (HOF class of '13) ran in three successive state meets (3200M in 2000 and '01, and 1600M in '02) and Nick

Wilson (HOF class of '16) won state titles in his sophomore ('05 high jump) and senior years ('07 110M hurdles).

Besides coaching high school track & field at Mynderse, Ron has also had a distinguished career at the Division III collegiate level. He coached the cross-country program at Eisenhower College for twelve years until the college closed in 1982. A year later, he was hired to coach at Hobart where he has remained for 38 years and trained several all-conference runners and two NCAA Championship qualifiers. During Ron's tenure at the Geneva institution, he started a cross-country club for women that later became the William Smith intercollegiate cross-country team. In '09, Hobart and William Smith Colleges established the Ron Fleury Cross-County Award to honor Ron's commitment to runners in their roles as students, athletes, and citizens. The award is presented annually to "the runner whose dedication to his academic work, his teammates, and to the HWS community has been outstanding".

Outside of scholastic and collegiate competition, Ron has been instrumental in providing opportunities for Central New York area runners by organizing summer events in conjunction with community Canal Days, Founders' Days, and summer festivals. For a number of years in Seneca Falls, he hosted the Women's Hall of Fame Convention Days 5 and 10 K races as well as providing a "Fun Run" for non-competitors.

Ron Fleury has dedicated the greater part of his life to the promotion of a healthy lifestyle through running and has set the standard as a living example. Embracing the lifetime activity for which they trained in high school, many Mynderse track alumni continue to run recreationally or competitively today.