

OSCAR JAMES KASTEN

Jim Kasten graduated from Herculaneum High School in 1966. He was an Eagle Scout, a member of the football and track and field teams. Upon graduation, he received an appointment to the United States Naval Academy. He attended the Naval Academy and ultimately graduated from Southeast Missouri State University. Jim served in the Navy and Navy Reserves for five years.

In 1972, Jim began his teaching and coaching career at Herculaneum. After four years at Herculaneum, he began teaching and coaching for Windsor High School for the following three years. In those first seven years of coaching, he coaches six individual state champions and led Windsor High School to its first and only state championship in Boys Track.

He left education to enter the private business industry, but never left coaching. He coached little league baseball and softball as well as youth soccer and football. He was also a Boy Scout leader. In 1989, Jim re-entered the coaching ranks at Herculaneum, first with football and track and later cross country and track. In the sport of Cross Country, he has helped to coach seven Girls State Championship teams and five Boys State Championship teams. In all, he has coached twenty Individual State Champions, over one hundred All-State athletes, and even two undefeated junior high football teams.

In his success in coaching, Coach Kasten has been honored multiple times. He has been the Cross Country Coach of the Year in 2002, 2006 and 2008, and Track coach of the Year in 1979. He was MSHSAA Coach of the Year for 2003, as well as a finalist for National Coach of the Year. He was inducted into the Missouri High School Track and Cross Country Coaches Association Hall of fame in 2011, plus was inducted into Windsor High School's 2007 Hall of Fame.

Jim has served his community in a variety of ways. He has been a member of the Dunklin R-V School Board for seven years. He has been a member of the Jefferson County Port Authority for six years and vice-president, a member of the Jefferson County Water Authority Board for six years, and co-founder and member of the Herculaneum Today and Tomorrow for ten years.

Throughout his life, Jim has dedicated decades of service to his town and his school. More than anything, he has influenced countless athletes, not just in winning, but generally in life. These athletes continue to sing the praises of Coach Kasten and how he has positively affected their lives.