

HARRY JEFFERSON

Class of 1953

Inducted 1997

For 45 years Harry Jefferson, Class of 1953, was a fixture at White Plains High School -- first as an outstanding student athlete, then as a teacher, coach, administrator and assistant principal.

Mr. Jefferson was the mainstay -- the captain, a fleet running back and tenacious defender -- on the powerful White Plains High School football team, winning many honors including being named MVP of Section One and to the All-Metropolitan and National High School All-American teams. In track, Mr. Jefferson captained the squad, won the state 180-yard low hurdles championship, and All-County and All-Metropolitan honors. He was also elected vice president of the High School student government.

Mr. Jefferson went on to a distinguished football career at the University of Illinois, where he was selected to the All-Big 10 and A.P. All-American teams. After earning his degree from Illinois in 1957, he played football for the Quantico Marines as a 2nd Lt. and was named to the All-Sea Service team.

Following a brief professional career with the New York Giants that was cut short by an injury, Mr. Jefferson joined the White Plains High School faculty. He earned a masters degree from Columbia University while coaching the high school varsity football and basketball teams.

Eventually, Mr. Jefferson switched to administration, where he had an even greater impact on more students. As Assistant Principal of the High School, he assumed responsibility for coordinating student activities, as well as providing leadership to the staff and faculty.

Before his retirement in 1995, "Coach Jeff" taught both on- and off-field skills to thousands of students, becoming a mentor and role-model for many.