



In the early 1960's, well before the opening of Shawnee High School in 1970, Richard “Dick” Brown helped organize and develop what was then known as the Lenape Youth Athletic Association (LYAA,) to provide organized sports for children in both Medford and Evesham. The LYAA changed its name in the 1990's, and has since been known as the “Medford Youth Athletic Association,” or “MYAA.” The original purpose of the association was to develop athletic programs for local youth in Medford. Richard Brown, one of the founding fathers of the LYAA, served the organization for well over **forty** years, coaching for forty-two seasons (sixteen football, six girls’ basketball, twenty baseball.) He also served as commissioner for both boys’ and girls’ basketball, where he established the first travel team for girls’ basketball. During the years he devoted to youth athletics in Medford, New Jersey, Richard touched the lives of many athletes who accomplished great things at Shawnee High School and beyond.

Since its inception, the MYAA has grown to provide organized sports for over 4400 participants and has a volunteer force of **over 700 people**. The MYAA provides hardship scholarships for athletes who are otherwise not financially able to pay, and the MYAA currently provides organized teams and leagues for fourteen different sports. Richard Brown was a dedicated and driving force from the small beginnings of youth athletics in the rural community of Medford, to watching the organization grow and offer an exceptional athletic experience to all boys and girls. The success, tenacity, skill, and character of many Shawnee athletes is directly attributable to Mr. Brown’s unyielding support and guidance to Medford athletics.



As Richard’s own daughter entered Shawnee High School and began to play the sport of field hockey, Richard became involved in the sport of field hockey at Shawnee; however, his interest went far beyond his own daughter. Richard learned the essentials of the game and was able to easily spot athletic potential. He assisted as a “scout” for the field hockey team and loved to talk about strategies, the sport, and his love for the Shawnee team. Richard’s experience with field hockey grew, he found himself interacting with many college coaches and helping connect field hockey players with college selection.

From Bobbie Schultz, (Former Shawnee Field Hockey Coach):

“Dick was a major contributor at my yearly field hockey meetings which I held to help girls in the college selection process. A motivational speaker, many people came just to hear Dick Brown. He helped many a family through the process, and then he continued to follow the athlete’s career well after they had graduated Shawnee.”

From Tim Gushue (Shawnee Head Football Coach):

“Richard was the founding father of the MYAA in 1964. He was one of my first coaches when I was 12 years old, and has been my mentor for 50 years. Richard is one of the reasons our football program has been so successful –a pioneer for coaching/scouting long before anyone else was preparing teams for competition.”

From Sue Murphy (Former Shawnee Girls Lacrosse Coach and Athletic Director):

“Dick’s involvement in MYAA laid the foundation for promoting athletics in our area. His efforts are directly proportional to the early successes that Shawnee experienced. He is true blue, and his contributions are intangible – Shawnee High School would not have had the athletic start that it did without its unsung hero, Richard “Dick” Brown.”

Dick and his wife Pat reside in Medford and are parents to Robert Engel, Suzanne Keeler, Colleen Roche, Kathleen Engel, Linda Engel, Michael Brown and Bonnie Brown.

Congratulations, Richard!