



Sporting life

High School athletics director John Lockwood talks about his career in sports as player and coach and the importance of teamwork in the life of the ASL athlete

The American School in London



Volleyball

The A



Baseball

Over the summer, the Farmer Family Gymnasium was decorated with banners representing the competitive sports played at the American School in London. Each banner includes a list of the ISST championship years for the sport. Winning is nice. It feels good. It looks good. But for each

championship won, there are numerous second-place finishes, losses by one goal or forfeits by injury. But those occasions are no less important. They can

represent lessons learned, obstacles

overcome, individual goals reached. The athletic program at ASL is not about winning at any cost, but rather the personal growth of the student through the discipline of athletic preparation and competition. In a school with such a high turnover from year to year, teamwork is paramount and teams must be rebuilt each season. Few are more familiar with this philosophy and the growth and development of the School's athletics program than High School athletics director John Lockwood, who joined ASL in 1967. Publications editor Rebecca Moore talks with Mr. Lockwood to learn more.

What brought you to ASL?

I had taught for four years in an English Catholic Comprehensive school in Sussex. I was also playing serious rugby in north London, but combining Saturday school sports and playing was difficult. I saw an advert by ASL, applied, and got one of the two PE jobs going. [PE department head] Eddie Hufford got the other!

At the time, it was an ASL guiding principle that school should not impinge on weekends—this was considered family time—so it was perfect for my rugby situation.

How did your own school experience compare with ASL?

At my own school, a co-ed grammar school, I played rugby, cricket and track & field—athletics as we Brits call it. I also ran cross-country and was actually my school champion one year, when the hot favorite to win went off course.

What was it like coming to an American school?

Arriving at the American School in London was a considerable culture shock. The students were much more confident, and they were far less deferential to the teachers.

I like their confidence, their "can do" attitude, but I found it very scary when taking ski trips. Kids would claim expertise and then find themselves in tricky situations.

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Basketball

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Crew