

**Paul Lankau Sr.**  
**Football, Track, Coach, Athletic Director**  
**Class of 1958**

Few people have been as instrumental to the success of Nyack Athletics as Paul Lankau. As a student of NHS, he played Football and threw the discus for the Track team. After four years at Ithaca College, where he competed in Football, Wrestling and Track, he returned to Nyack as a Physical Education teacher in 1963. As a Coach and an Athletic Director, he contributed to Nyack sports over the course of 35 years.

Paul taught at Valley Cottage Elementary from 1963 to 1968. While at VCE, he also coached at the High School. Lankau was an Assistant Football Coach under Head Coach John Beake. He also coached with the Wrestling and Track teams. In 1968, he became a P.E. teacher at the High School, and also became the Head Football Coach. During his football tenure, his team won the League Championship in 1969 and 1970.

In 1974, Lankau was granted a sabbatical to attend Penn State, to get his Master's Degree in Educational Administration. While there, he served as an Assistant Football Coach under the legendary Joe Paterno. Paul worked mostly with the linebackers, including Nyack's Steve Wanamaker (NHSAHOF, Class of 2015).

The following year, Lankau returned to NHS, continuing to work as a P.E. teacher. In addition, he began coaching the Golf team. In 1978, Paul was named Director of Physical Education, Health and Athletics, a position he held until his retirement in 1997. He played a significant role in planning the athletic facilities at the new Nyack High School on Christian Herald Road. Lankau supported equality for girls in Phys. Ed. and sports, implementing Title 9 mandates for co-ed Gym classes, and promoting girls athletic teams. He also fought for salary equality for Nyack coaches. In the early 1990's, Paul was named Outstanding Athletic Director of the Year.

Lankau's legacy at Nyack is reflected in the success of many of the athletes he coached. Also in the Nyack High School Athletics Hall of Fame, class of 2015, are Bob Corvino and Robbie Woods. Several of Paul's former players have been inducted into the Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame, including Corvino, Woods, Steve Wanamaker, Dale Lydecker and Homer Wanamaker.