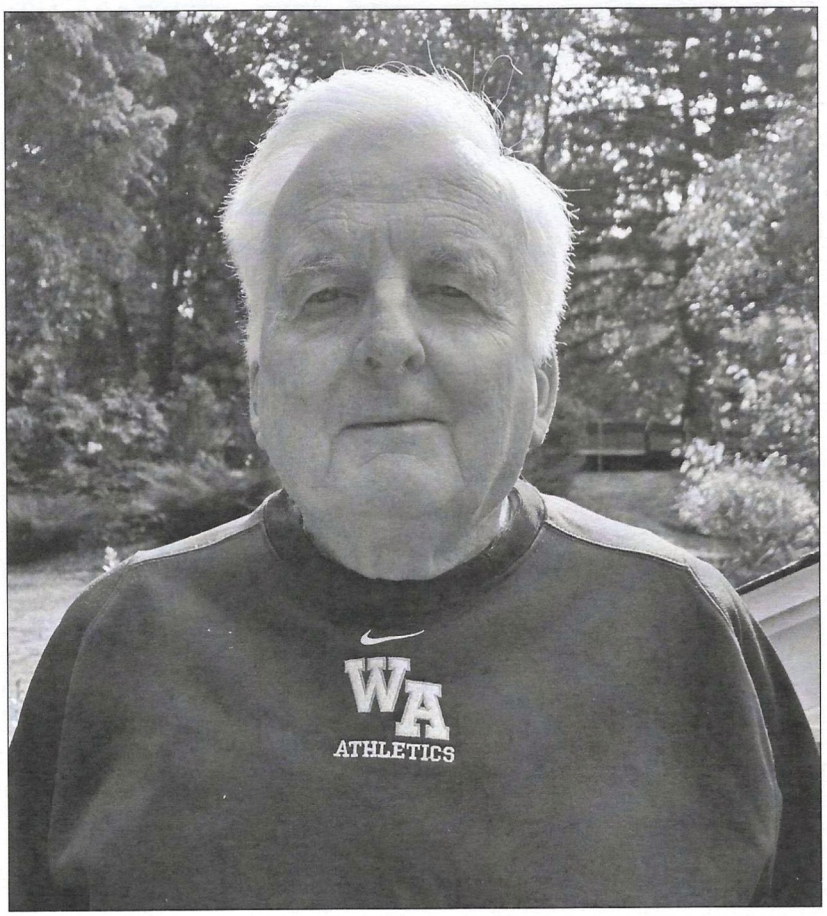
Peter Dennechuk

Coach: Cross Country, Indoor Track & Outdoor Track



In the early 1990s Westford initiated a cross country program at the Blanchard Middle School. Soon after the interscholastic program commenced Peter Dennechuk grabbed the coaching reins and sprinkled his "magic dust" turning cross-country into a popular and tremendously successful sport for middle school student-athletes. When the Stony Brook Middle School opened and offered cross country, Coach D. coached that program for several years; resulting in Westford Academy reaping the benefits of his coaching commitment.

Peter was a driving force with the creation of a cross-country course for middle schoolers through the then East Boston Camps (E.B.C.) in Westford. Coach D. also created a three-mile course at E.B.C. The feedback from Dual County League coaches was, "the course was challenging, yet a trek that exemplified the intent of the sport."

In 1997 Peter became one of the outdoor Assistant Track Coaches at Westford Academy. Coach D. assumed coaching responsibility with the distance runners. Yet, it was his priority to know and nurture all team members. His encouragement and knowledge were instrumental in enhancing their athletic skills.

Coach D. also assisted the indoor track team and cross-country teams at Westford Academy as a volunteer coach. Due to budgetary limitations there was only one coach provided per team. Recognizing the need for additional coaching support, he donated his time and uncommon expertise. Peter's direct involvement was a significant reason for the success of these teams.

In the early 2000's Peter transitioned to Head Coach of both the Westford Academy indoor and outdoor girls' track teams. After many years with winless seasons, Coach D. instilled a work ethic that gleaned incredible results. In 2008 the Westford Academy girls captured the Division 2 Indoor Track championship, the first championship since the program began during the 1991-1992 school year. When Peter retired after the 2018 indoor season nearly all of the girls' and boys' indoor track records belonged to runners under his coaching guidance.

His outdoor track teams experienced successes such as league titles, individual league, state and New England champion status.

Although his student-athletes and team achievements are more meaningful to him than his coaching accomplishments, Coach D. was honored as *Lowell Sun* Coach of the Year (2008-2009) and *Boston Globe* Coach of the Year (2008-2009).

Peter is a 1969 Westford Academy graduate. Retired from the Westford Fire Department, he resides in Westford with his bride Linda. He's also the proud father of two daughters, Sarah and Kate (Ghost tracksters, of course!). Peter is a current member of the Westford Academy Athletic Hall of Fame Executive Board.