

Saugus soccer coach Ted Moriello loses his fight with cancer

By Joyce Erekson / The Daily Item

When Saugus High girls soccer coach Ted Moriello took his place on the sidelines for his team's opening game this fall, there was a sense among those who knew him, played for him, coached with him -- and even those who coached against him -- that sometimes, the good guy does win.

Moriello had defied the odds by returning to coaching after fighting a brutal battle with cancer during the offseason, but the happy ending everyone was hoping for wasn't in the cards. His cancer returned with a vengeance midway through the season, and although he somehow remained on the sidelines until his team was eliminated in the state tournament three weeks ago, the cancer eventually won. Moriello died on Saturday morning. He was 60.

When Moriello was diagnosed with cancer last winter, soccer coaches and players throughout the North Shore showed their support for him by forming the "Coaches Army" to take part in the annual North Shore Walk for Cancer last June.

"He was definitely an ambassador for high school soccer and for girls soccer," Swampscott High coach Fred Day said. "He was always a gentleman. He believed in good sportsmanship, and he tried to teach that."

Day said Swampscott and Saugus had a great rivalry going over the years, with the games usually being decided by a goal, one way or the other.

"He was definitely a competitor," Day said. "Coaching soccer, coaching the kids, was definitely a passion for him. It's what he loved to do. He was given a gift to come back to health and coach one more year. Hopefully, the kids appreciate what he was able to do, to come back and give whatever he had to the program." Marblehead High coach Sam Yawson also knew firsthand just how tough it was to beat Moriello and the Sachems.

Yawson said that whether the result was a win or loss, Moriello was gracious. He said he would come around to all the kids and tell them what a great job they did.

"He was such a great person," Yawson said. "It's going to be hard to replace him."

Classical coach Marcy Durgin saw the same side of Moriello.

"He was so positive about everything," Durgin said, adding that even if Classical had had a tough game, Moriello would come over and have a kind word for her players.

"The Lynn Classical girls send their sympathy to the family and to the Saugus girls," she said.

Former Bishop Fenwick coach Jose Isidro said he got to know Moriello through their involvement in the Agganis soccer games and through the Bay State Games, where they coached together.

"Ted was a great guy," Isidro said. "For him to fight as long as he did, and to come back and coach the team, was something. My thoughts go out to his family."

Isidro said that although Moriello will be deeply missed in Saugus, his loss will be felt throughout the soccer community.

"What a fighter he was," Isidro said, adding that when he was first diagnosed, everyone was just hoping he would make it to his daughter's wedding last spring.

"He walked her down the aisle, and it looked like he had turned the corner," Isidro said. "He's just a great guy. He'll be sorely missed."

English High coach Ed McNeil said Moriello was just a "brave, brave guy." McNeil was amazed he was able to make it through the entire season.

"He was always upbeat when I saw him. He never complained," McNeil said. "He was just a classy guy, friendly to the end and very supportive to me. He was always complimentary about my players, which was nice."

Although St. Mary's and Saugus didn't play each other, St. Mary's coach Jim Foley said he got to know Moriello through the Agganis soccer games.

"He's just a good guy. I can't say enough about him. It's a big loss for Saugus and for the coaching community. I always respected the program he runs. He's a good coach and a good guy," Foley said.

Saugus senior goalie Lauren Garchinsky said it meant a lot to the players that Moriello came back to coach this season.

"I think soccer kept him going," Garchinsky said. "He loved soccer. He's been doing it for 19 years or so."

Garchinsky said the players from this year's varsity, junior varsity and freshman teams will all be at the wake tonight, as well as players from some of his past teams.

Moriello's funeral will be held at the Bisbee-Porcella Funeral Home on 549 Lincoln Ave. in Saugus on Tuesday at 9:30 a.m., followed by a funeral Mass in St. Margaret's Church on 431 Lincoln Ave. at 10:30 a.m. Relatives and friends are invited.

Visiting hours are on Monday from 2 to 4 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. Donations in his memory may be made to the North Shore Cancer Center, 17 Centennial Drive, Peabody, MA 01960.



Stickers have work cut out for them

By Ryan Wood
Fri Dec 05, 2008

PLYMOUTH – Teams face it every season. Players graduate, leaving gaping holes on the field. With the departure of nine seniors, including two all-stars, the Plymouth North field hockey team has its work cut out heading into 2009.

"(The) senior class worked very hard in the off-season during the last four years," Head Coach Kim Allen said. "The girls have participated in camps, clinics, Cape Cod Classics, and Bay State Games."

The biggest losses come at key positions - back and forward. Three-year Atlantic Coast League all-star back Lauren Paton, as well as all-star forward Lauren Foley, who led the Eagles in scoring ever since her

sophomore year, are the two major losses. Not only did Paton make the ACL all-star team, she made the Massachusetts State Coaches Association Best of 60 All-Star team.

The Lady Eagles also say goodbye to four-year varsity goalie Emily Bryant and Colleen Taylor, who won the team's sportsmanship award, and five other seniors.

"Losing nine players is difficult for any team so I am hoping that our remaining players, led by juniors Chrissy Rosa, Ellie Caramello, Kelsey Schranze, and Meghan O'Reilly work very hard to continue the growth of our program," Allen said. "As for our seniors, I am proud of all of them. They are wonderful young ladies who have accomplished a great deal at Plymouth North over the last four years on the field and off. At least half of the girls are interested in playing in college. This is a goal I would like many of my players to strive for."

The Eagles made quite a run halfway through the season and even put themselves into position to qualify for the postseason. Unfortunately for the Eagles, they had to face the toughest teams in the ACL down the stretch, and their tournament dreams were dashed. But even after becoming mathematically eliminated from postseason contention, the girls played like they were fighting for the league title. They played hard through the final whistle of the season.

"I am proud of the accomplishments of all of our girls. Many of them have improved and exceeded the expectations I had for them prior to the season."

The Eagles made some major steps this season. They tied Falmouth for the first time and only lost by one goal to both Dennis-Yarmouth and Nauset.

"We were a threat in the ACL," Allen said. "In the past we have lost games by scores of either 8 or 10-0. Our worst loss this season was 4-0 to Falmouth."

Allen was impressed with her team's progress this year and the leaps that it made. She's hoping the legacy the seniors left will carry over into next season.

"Overall, we had a great season; I enjoyed every minute of it," Allen said. "Our record is deceptive because we were probably at our strongest since I have been involved in the program. We were able to bring a few younger players up this year for valuable playing time that should benefit the team next year."

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Old Fashioned Penny Social in Williamstown

December 09, 2008

The Williamstown Community Chest will once again host an Old Fashioned Penny Social and Non-Profit Fair as part of Williamstown's annual Holiday Walk Weekend. The Penny Social takes place on Saturday, December 13 from 3:00 to 6:00 pm in Lasell Gym, located at 22 Spring Street.

The Old Fashioned Penny Social and Non-Profit Fair showcases local organizations and features numerous raffles donated by local businesses. Raffle tickets can be purchased the day of the Fair for fifty cents each. Participating businesses and organizations include: the Williams College Museum of Art, Williamstown Elementary School 6th grade, Girl Scouts, Christmas Brook Figure Skating Club (Bay State Games), Berkshire Dance Theatre, League of Women Voters, Pine Cobble School, Berkshire Food Project, Williamstown House of Local History, Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation, Williamstown Youth Center, Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic, United Cerebral Palsy, Northern Berkshire YMCA, Equus Therapeutic, Buxton School and Barrington Stage Company.

The Fair raises funds for the Williamstown Community chest, which supports 16 local member agencies, including the American Red Cross, Berkshire County Chapter; the Berkshire Center for Families and Children; the Brian Center for Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services; Child Care of the Berkshires; Ecu-Health Care; Elder Services of Berkshire County; the Elizabeth Freeman Center; Equus Therapeutic Inc.; the Family Life Support Center; the Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts; the Little Red Schoolhouse; the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition; the Northern Berkshire YMCA; United Cerebral Palsy; the Williamstown Community Preschool; and the Williamstown Youth Center.

The Williamstown Community Chest is committed to helping solve problems within the local community. They conduct annual fundraising campaigns to support the local services provided by their member agencies. The Williamstown Community Chest, supported by its own endowment, is able to give every dollar it raises back to the community and helps people in the community meet a variety of challenges.

For a full list of Holiday Walk Weekend events, please contact the Williamstown Chamber of Commerce, (413) 458-9077, info@williamstownchamber.com



Brayton walking all the way to the bank



Photo by Stephen Dravis

Brayton Elementary School students sit with the giant check presented to the school as its award for being one of four winners in the fall 2008 Kids Fitness Challenge.

By STEPHEN DRAVIS

Posted: 12/22/2008

NORTH ADAMS - Five hundred dollars for 30 minutes of work sounds like a pretty good deal, but the organizer of a recent fitness event at Brayton Elementary School hopes the program has benefits far beyond money.

Brayton physical education teacher Karen Daigle was joined by the entire student body in the school cafeteria on Dec. 12 as the school received a \$500 grant from the Massachusetts Amateur Sports Foundation in recognition of Brayton's participation in the fall 2008 Kids Fitness Challenge.

For a half-hour on a November afternoon, all of the children at the school participated in a walk through the neighborhood followed by an exercise session at the school.

Although fitness is part of the curriculum at Brayton, the one-day event helped focus all the pupils' energy - physical and mental - on the notion of a healthy lifestyle, Daigle said.

"It was a nice community builder for the Brayton community," she said. "Kids who don't normally see each other had a chance to get together. And it was just another way for them to learn the message that being physical is better for them.

"Some teachers from that are hoping to do their own walks through the kids at different times of the day and different times of the year so we can stress (fitness) to the kids and also be role models for the kids. We can show them as adults that we can stay active. And one of the messages is if they start now, they'll have an easier time later in life. It will be a natural thing for them to do."

MASF Executive Director Kevin Cummings was on hand to present the check to Daigle at a ceremony attended by Mayor John Barrett III and North Adams Public Schools Superintendent James E. Montepare.

Cummings said the Kids Fitness Challenge was created in 2006 to help address the problem of childhood obesity and raise awareness about healthy living.

MASF is the organizer of the Bay State Games, which return to Berkshire County for the 24th year in February with events scheduled in North Adams, Williamstown and Pittsfield.

In his remarks to the Brayton pupils, Cummings recognized the city's ties to the Bay State Games.

"Although this program is completely separate, it is fitting that a school from North Adams should benefit from the Kids Fitness Challenge," Cummings said. "We appreciate your support for almost a quarter of a century."

The Kids Fitness Challenge is open to elementary and middle schools throughout the state and is held twice a year - in the fall and the spring. Schools that achieve 100 percent participation are eligible for a drawing for grant money that the school can use to support its health and physical education programs.

This fall, 40 schools qualified for the drawing, and four received checks from a fund supported by the Boston Bruins Foundation and Savings Bank Life Insurance. The other winners were in Mashpee, Lynn and Dudley.

More than 14,600 children participated in the fall 2008 event, and the MASF said 64,000 children have participated in the program since its inception, with \$8,000 in grants being awarded to 18 different schools.

The spring '09 challenge is scheduled for April 13-17, and Daigle said Brayton plans to participate.

"I do an after-school program called 'Fit Math,' which combines math and fitness," she said. "It's a two-hour program, and the first hour, at least, we walk in the community. The kids are really getting used to the idea of walking, and want to know why we can't go longer.

"I'm encouraged by their enthusiasm, that they are seeing it now as a fun thing to do. It's not work. Being active is not work. It's fun."

More information about the Kids Fitness Challenge is available at baystategames.org or by e-mailing

kidschallenge@baystategames.org.



Reflections on Stu Campbell

By JOHN HITCHCOCK
Thursday, December 18

Stu Campbell, one of Bennington, Vt.'s, most prominent skiers, authors and conservationists, died early last month at his home in Stowe. He was 65 and had been fighting cancer for some 20 years, while still skiing and writing about the sport.

He skied all four events in high school and at Middlebury College, where he graduated in 1964 with a bachelor's degree in American literature. He later won his master's degree from the University of Vermont. He then taught at Harwood High School and also coached skiing.

Campbell went into skiing full time in 1969 when he became technical director at the Sepp Ruschp Ski School at Mt. Mansfield in Stowe. He left some 10 years later to become vice president of skier services at Heavenly Valley at Lake Tahoe in California.

He returned to Stowe in 1997, where he was one of the founders of the Country Club of Vermont in nearby Waterbury, one of the top golf courses in Vermont.

Campbell and his wife, Carol, lived in an almost-underground house he built as one of the pioneer Green Movement people.

He was deeply involved in the Professional Ski Instructors of America and also the Stowe Ski School. In addition to writing several books on skiing and the environment, he served as technical editor of Ski Magazine, where he filled several pages each issue with words and photos on his favorite subject.

I first met him in June 1968 at a summer ski camp I operated in Cooke City,

Mont. I kept up with his ski career and finally skied with him at Heavenly Valley in 1995 at a Ski Writers of America rally. He was a superb ski teacher, and it was a wonderful experience.

His father, J. Duncan Campbell, was an artist and a businessman in Bennington. Although I met him in Stowe at an international race around 1958, I never actually saw J. Duncan, a longtime Bennington selectman and a columnist for The Banner.

We were sharing press accommodations at a Stowe motel. The first night, I was asleep when J. Duncan entered the room and insisted on not turning on the lights. But we soon were in a deep conversation about skiing, that amazingly lasted around two hours. He was an early riser and took off for the slopes while I was still sleeping.

Throughout the ensuing years we spoke regularly on the telephone, but I never did get to see the senior Campbell, who died a few years ago.

Bay State races at Bousquet

The 24th annual Bay State Winter Games, which always have been held in North Berkshire, are coming Feb. 6, 7 and 8, with ice events at the Williams College and North Adams rinks.

Skiing, which until last year had been at Jiminy Peak in Hancock for the first two decades and consisted only of a high school giant slalom, will again be held at Bousquet in Pittsfield on Feb. 8.

And for the first time, there will be Open and Masters divisions for skiers 19 through 35 and 36 and older, as well as the usual high school division.

Bousquet operator George Jervas has been turning out bountiful snow for the past month, despite uncertain weather conditions. Bousquet is also the home base for the Berkshire high school giant slalom and slalom races, and also holds night skiing races for adults in January and February.

Jervas announced recently that Cindy Bartlett, a member of the well-known Richmond apple-growing family, has assumed the position of ski school director. She served as assistant director last winter and has been a member of PSIA since 1981. Legendary skier Court McDermott held the position for more than 40 years, but since his retirement there have been several people, each holding the job for a year or two at the most.

For details on the Bay State Games visit baystategames.org or call 7881-932-6555.

Snowshoers and XC skiers wait

A lack of snow in the Berkshires has limited cross-country skiing and snowshoeing to adjacent Vermont, where the Prospect ski resort in Woodford and the nearby Woodford State Forest have offered the best conditions.

The annual "I love Woodford" 3.5-mile WMAC snowshoe race is scheduled for Dec. 28 at 10 a.m. and Prospect operator Steve Whitham said he has seen skiers on the trails for the past six weeks.



Physical education teacher honored as female athlete advocate

December 29, 2008

Alice MacInnis, an elementary school physical education teacher in the Andover Public Schools, was inducted into the New Agenda: Northeast Hall of Fame at a recent luncheon.

MacInnis was selected for the Hall of Fame for her contributions as an advocate for girls and womens sports, according to a release from the organization.

"Throughout my career I have held the distinct opportunity to influence young women, within the athletic fields, to reach for their goals, and continue to break that glass ceiling toward success," MacInnis was quoted as saying.

New Agenda: Northeast is an organization that promotes the advancement of girls and women in sport and recognizes the accomplishments of girls and women in sports throughout New England. Each year, individual states recognize participation in sport in some manner during the National Girls and Women in Sports day held in February. In Massachusetts, there is a high school girls' recognition day held in Faneuil Hall in Boston.

MacInnis received her bachelor's degree from Boston State College and her master's degree from the University of New England. She has been the athletic director at Minuteman Tech, Melrose High School and North Reading High School.

MacInnis coached field hockey, basketball and volleyball at Minuteman Tech and Burlington High School.

She coached the Bay State Games Northeast Field Hockey and Metro/Northeast Field Hockey teams, and was a US Futures Program coach for field hockey.

Recipient of the NIAAA Distinguished Service Award in 2005, and the MSSADA Distinguished Service Award in 2004-05, MacInnis has been an active contributor to many state associations. MAHPERD presented MacInnis with the Honor Award in 2003, the same year she received the MSSADA Presidents Award.

She has served as president of MAHPERD, vice president of the Mass. Voc. Ad's Association, on the board of directors for MIAA, and on the MIAA Field Hockey Committee.

As an active member of the MIAA Equity Committee and a participant at the MIAA Girls and Women in Sports Day, MacInnis is an advocate for girls and women sports, according to the organization.