



## Edward J Mills “two-sport Athlete and Winningest KHS Baseball Coach”

Ed graduated from Kingston High School in the class 1965 where he was an All-DUSO league selection as a lineman in football. In baseball, Ed was a catcher on the 1964 DUSO Baseball Championship team. In his

senior year, the 65' baseball season, with Ed handling the pitching staff, the Maroons tied for the championship with both Newburgh and Poughkeepsie but lost in the playoffs. After graduation Ed attended Dean Junior College in Franklin, Massachusetts where he played on the golf team. He then attended Parsons College in Fairfield, Iowa where he became a member of the baseball team which finished second in the nation. Ed is listed in "Who's Who of American College Students" as top student in math and was a member of the international fraternity of Tau Kappa Epsilon.

Ed taught Math in Iowa for a year before becoming a physical education teacher and beloved coach in the Kingston City School District for thirty-seven and half years. He coached baseball, football, wrestling, basketball, and a few other sports.

Anyone who knew Ed was aware of his philosophy of coaching, teaching and LIFE. That philosophy centered around a popular Mark Twain Quote. that went like this; "It's not the size of the dog in the fight, it's the size of the fight in the dog!" He believed in it, he taught it, played, and lived it!

When Ed retired from baseball in 1999, he rediscovered his love of teaching. As Athletic Director I had the pleasure of hearing many of Coach Mills' lessons as my office was right above the gym. This one particular speech got me crank up and I heard it hundreds of times. The students came to know that Coach Mills was going to teach something about life before they got to play. If they listened it could be short, if one impatient student would say;" why can't we just play the game?" Then Ed would embellish yet another Mark Twain reference. Don't go around thinking the world owes you something the world owes you nothing. It was here first" I knew it was coming, the coveted HIGH-OCTANE Speech! He

would look into their eyes and say, do you want to go around life on regular fuel? When your car needs fuel, you have a choice of regular, middle, or high octane. You want to go on HIGH OCTANE, you go all out in sport, education, and life. Don't go on regular. You go all the way to High Octane, that's the way you do it!

Ed had a knack of making all sport a contact sport, golf, horseshoes, or running. He truly enjoyed being part of any game and any activity that had to do with his wonderful family.

Glen Maisch, KHS Athletic Director

Edward J. Mills KHS Baseball Coach 1979-1999 WON 331 – LOST 151 -TIE 1

Ed guided his teams to seven New York State Sectional Championships (84, 88, 92, 93, 94, 97, 99) and eight league titles. His teams won the OCIAA American Conference Championship six times (88, 89, 91, 92, 93, 94) In 1981, his diamond nine captured the DCSL Division I title and then defeated Division II titlist Poughkeepsie 9-4 for Ed's first championship. It was the Tiger's first DCSL championship since 1975, winning a school record 22 games. After blasting Mount Vernon 19-3 in the opening game of the best 2 out of 3 Section One Class A championship series, the Tigers lost two heartbreaker games, one 7-5 and the other 5-4. In 1984, the Tiger's captured their first Section One Class A Title under Ed and the Class A, B-C Open title in 9 years. The 1987 edition of the Tigers won the (NHVAL) Northern Hudson Valley Athletic League (11-3) in a close race over perennial power Ketcham (10-4), finishing the season with a record of 19-7. Ed was selected as the NHVAL Coach of the year. The next year (1988), his team ran off a school record 19 consecutive wins in a row before losing a nail-biting 4-3 decision in the regionals. Duane Baxter gave Ed the first no-hitter in his tenure that season pitching his gem against Middletown in a 5-0 victory. After starting off the 1989 season with 16 consecutive wins, the Tigers finished the season with a league record of 12-0. They were eliminated in the sectionals losing to Pine Bush 3-2. He finished his coaching career at KHS with 13 consecutive winning seasons, sent more than 30 former players to Division I baseball programs and 8 played professional baseball. He currently holds KHS Baseball records for most seasons coached (21), most wins (331). His sectional championships (7) were the most in the history when he retired. Ed's #13 was retired in his honor on April 14, 2000. Each year there is an Ed Mills Baseball Tournament held at the Albert G. Gruner Memorial Baseball Field in Lake Katrine. In his eight seasons at Gruner, Ed compiled a record of 75-29 for a winning percentage of .743. His 1992 team still

holds the record of most wins (14) in a season at Gruner. Ed was also the assistant varsity football coach from 1971-1992 and was a key driving force behind Tony Badalato's and Rick Clausi's KHS championship teams.