

## Ralph King



The Norwalk Old Timers honors one of Connecticut's winningest and most highly regarded coaches tonight.

**Ralph King** has won over 700 games coaching two sports at Brien McMahon High School during parts of four decades, a feat that has landed him in the Connecticut High School Coaches Hall of Fame.

A native of Bellows Falls, Vermont, and raised in Massachusetts, King joined the Norwalk school system in 1960 and one year later the physical education instructor became one of McMahon's original teachers. He would spend the next 34 years on Highland Avenue and before he was done would certainly leave his mark.

Although King played football and baseball at the University of Bridgeport, he made a name for himself on the high school level coaching boys' soccer and basketball. He started the soccer program at McMahon in 1961 and by the time he retired following the 1994 season, King had racked up nine FCIAC titles, two state championships, and three more state runner-up finishes.

In 33 seasons, King had compiled a sparkling record of 317–151–45 for a .677 winning percentage and was third on the all-time list for victories among state coaches. He was named Connecticut High School Coach of the Year in 1975, and in 1983 received the highest honor when he was selected as the National High School Soccer Coach of the Year.

King also made an impact on the hardwood as the McMahon basketball coach from 1964–'87. In 23 consecutive winning seasons, King compiled a 396–130 ledger for a glossy .753 winning percentage, won five FCIAC championships, a pair of state crowns, and finished runner-up in the state on two other occasions.

Among the numerous basketball honors bestowed on King over the years, he was named Connecticut High School Coach of the Year in 1985; *New York Daily News* Coach of the Year in 1973, '77, and '85; both the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce Coaching Award and Norwalk Jewish Community Center Coaching Award in 1973 and '75, and the *Sunday Post* Class AA Coach of the Year in 1986.

But perhaps his biggest honor came in 1989 when he was inducted into the Connecticut High School Coaches Hall of Fame.

In addition to his coaching at McMahon, King has also been actively involved as an administrator in the FCIAC and around the state, as well as on the national level, including some positions he still holds. Among the many offices he has held, King was the FCIAC basketball chairman from 1966–'76 and again from 1987 to present, a member of the CIAC Basketball Committee from 1968–'75, the CIAC Soccer Committee from 1974–'81, and chairman of the CIAC Soccer Committee in 1980–'81.

He has also served on the FCIAC Board of Directors from 1973–'85, the CIAC Board of Directors from 1983 to present, was president of the FCIAC from 1980–'82, president of the CIAC in 1987, and was the National High School Athletic Association National Soccer Chairman from 1974–'77.

And every summer since 1972, King was associate director of the prestigious Connecticut Soccer School at Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts. In fact, he recently became owner and director of the popular and successful camp along with his son, Ricky, a former all-state goalie who played for his father and will now serve as president of the soccer school.

After 35 years, King retired from the Norwalk school system this past June, at which time the Brien McMahon gymnasium was named after him and longtime physical education co-worker Mary Kehoe.