

## *Randy McCue*



As an athlete, Randy McCue made his mark in football, first at Norwalk High School and then at the University of Connecticut.

But it was in the sport of lacrosse years later that he carved out a very impressive legacy as a coach.

In fact, McCue, perhaps more than anyone else, is the person most responsible for the growth and popularity of lacrosse in Norwalk, not only at NHS, but in the entire city.

And it was through football, his signature sport growing up, that he became so enamored with lacrosse and introduced it to the rest of Norwalk.

Born in Wyoming but raised in Norwalk, Mc-

Cue's roots in football date back to his touch football days at the old Honey Hill Elementary School and later tackle football with the Winnipauk Bears.

All roads led to Norwalk High where McCue enjoyed a solid football career playing for the late Carl Paight. He started every game at linebacker as a junior and was a two-way starter his senior year, playing fullback on offense. In one game that season, he scored two touchdowns—one on an interception return and the other on a short run—to lead NHS to a win over Andrew Warde. He received All-FCIAC Honorable Mention as well as the NHS Fathers Club Award.

It was during the fall of that season Paight brought McCue and some other seniors to West Point to see the Army spring football game. At another field nearby, lacrosse was being played and caught McCue's attention. In his words, "it looked kinda neat."

Following his graduation in 1967, McCue played football at UConn and earned varsity letters in 1968 and '69. At the same time, the lacrosse program at Storrs was in its early stages as a varsity sport and McCue, recalling his introduction to the lacrosse at West Point, decided to give it a shot. He ended up playing all four years, earning a varsity letter his last three seasons.

He would return to NHS as a Phys Ed teacher and spend the next three decades as an assistant coach in the Bears' football program. It was during his first season, in the fall of 1974, when a couple of students started a club lacrosse program and asked McCue to coach. He agreed, but only for two years until the program got off the ground.

That "two-year" commitment turned out to be a 31-year journey for McCue. Lacrosse made its debut at Norwalk High in 1975, was elevated to varsity status in 1977—only the sixth FCIAC school to do so—and by 1979 the Bears posted the first of many winning seasons under McCue.

It was also in 1979 that McCue, recognizing the importance of a feeder system that surrounding towns had, helped start a middle school program in Norwalk, which eventually became the highly successful Norwalk Junior Lacrosse. The benefits quickly paid off as NHS finished runner-up in the state in 1982 while in 1985 the Bears were FCIAC runners-up.

When he stepped down as coach following the 2005 season, McCue had accumulated 310 victories, only the fourth person in the history of high school sports in Norwalk to have amassed 300 coaching victories in one sport.

As a tribute to his career and contributions to local lacrosse, the Norwalk and Brien McMahon boys lacrosse teams now play for the coveted Randy McCue Trophy.

But what may be an even greater testament to McCue's success as a coach are the dozen of former players he coached who became lacrosse coaches themselves on the high school and collegiate level.

McCue has been recognized as the Connecticut Coach of the Year twice (1979 and '93), the Connecticut High School Coaches Association's Outstanding Coach in 1998, and last November was inducted into the Connecticut Lacrosse Hall of Fame.

Now retired, McCue and his wife Elizabeth reside in Milford and have two daughters, Marissa and Gwynne, and one grandchild.