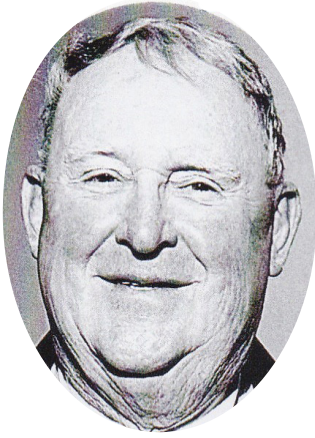


Jerry McDougall



The name Jerry McDougall is synonymous with Trumbull High School.

After all, he was the head football coach there for three decades and when he retired from the gridiron in 1997 he was the all-time winningest coach in state history with 265 victories.

What many people don't realize, however, is that McDougall's legendary coaching career got its start in Norwalk and that his first 21 victories came at tiny Central Catholic High School.

He was named the Cavaliers' first football coach in 1961 when, with no senior class, they played a JV schedule. The following year, 1962, was the first varsity football season in CCHS history and the Cavaliers went 2-5-1.

But McDougall was slowly building a football power up on the hill. He would coach at Central Catholic for six years total, five on the varsity level, and compiled a record of 21-20-4.

That included two dream seasons his final two years on West Rocks Road. McDougall guided the 1965 Cavaliers to a 7-1-1 record, which included a 27-6 win over Norwalk High, and the team received one of two Class M Merit Awards from the CIAC.

Then in 1966, McDougall coached Central Catholic to an 8-1-1 mark, its only loss coming in the final game against St. Mary's of Greenwich on Thanksgiving.

A few months later, McDougall was named the new head football coach at Trumbull High School and began the second portion of his legendary career in the fall of 1967. But not before he left his mark at Central Catholic and the city of Norwalk, going 15-2-2 in his last 19 games.

Not surprisingly, it wasn't long before he built Trumbull into a football power as well as McDougall led the Eagles to four FCIAC championships and three state titles, including back to back Class LL crowns in 1985 and '86.

All told, McDougall's teams played in seven FCIAC championship games and another seven state finals, while posting five undefeated regular seasons. In addition, his teams were ranked No. 1 in Connecticut four times.

But football wasn't the only sport McDougall enjoyed success in. His hall of fame resume also includes 510 wins in 32 years as the Trumbull High baseball coach from 1974-2005, leading the Eagles to nine divisional titles, three FCIAC championships, a pair of state crowns and two more state runner-up finishes. His 1986 and 1998 state-championship clubs were both ranked No. 1 in Connecticut as well as ranked in USA Today. In 2005, his final season, he coached the Connecticut all-stars at Fenway Park.

McDougall has earned numerous coaching awards in both sports. He was named the FCIAC Football Coach of the Year four times and the conference's Baseball Coach of the Year in 2001 and '05. He was recognized as the Connecticut High School Coaches Association (CHSCA) Coach of the Year in football in 1976 and in baseball in 1995.

And he was selected as the National High School Coach of the Year in football in 1993 and in baseball in 2003.

The longtime Trumbull High athletic director was also named the CHSCA Athletic Director of the Year in 2000 as well as the National High School Coaches Association District I winner which made him eligible for the National Athletic Director of the Year award.

While at Central Catholic, McDougall also coached track and field and won the Thruway League one season, while at Trumbull he coached both indoor and outdoor track for seven years, winning an FCIAC title in each. He also started the wrestling program at Trumbull.

McDougall has been a presence in the FCIAC and state off the field as well. He is a former president of both the FCIAC and Connecticut High School Coaches Association (CHSCA), and for 10 years presided over the Ralph DeSantis/Fairfield County Chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame.

Although he retired from Trumbull in 2001, McDougall is still a member of the CHSCA Executive Committee and Board of Directors, is very active with the CIAC Football Committee, and very involved with the annual Governor's Cup All-Star Football Game between Connecticut and Rhode Island as well as the annual Hall of Fame Classic between the Fairfield County and New Haven County all-stars. He is also a 40-year lifetime member of the American Football Coaches Association, and a lifetime member of the IAABO Board 9 Basketball Officials.

McDougall has been inducted into a total of seven hall of fames, including the National High School Coaches Hall of Fame in 1999. He's also in the Connecticut High School Coaches, FCIAC, Trumbull High School, University of Bridgeport and Connecticut Sports Museum hall of fames, and most recently was a member of inaugural class inducted into the Fairfield County Sports Hall of Fame in 2005. He's also been previously honored by the Bridgeport and Stratford Old Timers.

Three of McDougall's biggest honors were receiving a Gold Key from the Connecticut Sports Writers Alliance in 1997, the naming of Jerry McDougall Stadium at Trumbull High School in 1998, and receiving the Thomas R. Monahan Honor Award, one of the state's highest awards, from the Connecticut High School Coaches Association in 2005.

After more than a decade away from the sidelines, McDougall returned to coaching football last year and is currently in his second season as an assistant at St. Luke's in New Canaan, and 46th year overall in high school football.

Before he began coaching, McDougall played football, basketball and baseball at Bassick High School, where he captained all three sports as a senior. Following his graduation in 1954, he played the same three sports at the University of Bridgeport and captained the football team as a junior and senior.

He graduated in 1958 and after a 13-month Army stint in Korea, McDougall began his legendary coaching career at Central Catholic.

McDougall, who would have celebrated his 49th anniversary this year with his late wife Lolly, has two children, Jerry McDougall and Lauren Jorgensen, both graduates of St. Luke's, and his trusty Black Labrador "Coach" who accompanies him to football practice everyday.