

John F. Squires



John Y. Squires has had a brilliant athletic career as an athlete at Norwalk High and Springfield College, then as a freshman coach at Springfield before going on to the University of Connecticut, where he was the head mentor of soccer, swimming, and briefly tennis from 1937 to 1976 — a span of 37 years.

Jack grew up on West Avenue as the family home was on the site of the present YMCA. He was on the Norwalk High basketball and track teams, graduating in 1930. At Springfield College, he competed in soccer and swimming.

After his graduation from Springfield in 1935, he stayed on to gain his Masters degree while coaching the freshmen swim team. Then he joined the coaching staff at Connecticut in 1937 where he handled soccer, swimming, and tennis as well as teaching physical education. He continued his education by obtaining his

doctorate degree in physical education in 1956. In his undergraduate years at Springfield he was an exchange student attending the University of Geneva in Switzerland in 1933-'34. He also had graduate work at New York University in 1954 and at Connecticut during the summers of 1952 and 1953.

Dr. Squires had outstanding success as soccer coach directing Connecticut to New England and National titles with his 1948 team winning in both tournaments. During his years at UConn he coached many All-American soccer players.

In addition to coaching, Dr. Squires had a big part in New England and National soccer administration. He was a member of the NCAA Soccer Rules Committee and the NCAA Selection Committee for the U.S. Olympic and Pan-American Games. He was the chairman and tournament director of the first NCAA soccer championships hosted by UConn in 1959. He was a longtime member of the College Soccer Coaches Association of America serving as its president in 1960. He also directed soccer clinics for the CIAC.

At Springfield College he became the New England backstroke champion on the swimming team. Twice he was president of the New England Intercollegiate Swimming Association.

Retiring from active coaching in 1975, Dr. Squires remained as a full-time teacher in the School of Physical Education. During his coaching career at Connecticut, he had many fine Norwalk area athletes on his teams.

He is a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Naval Reserves and served in World War II directing aquatic training programs.

Summer vacations found Dr. Squires conducting life-saving and swimming classes at camps and clubs. He has three sons, all excellent swimmers. Jack and his wife, Mary, live in Storrs, but spend time in Florida winters. His hobbies are boating and traveling. He has a boat docked at Stonington. Future plans call for a trip to Africa.