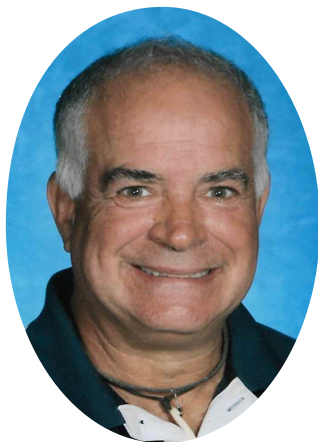


Steve Annunziato



Steve Annunziato has been a part of the Norwalk sports scene in some way, shape, or form for more than a half century.

A path that began in local youth leagues eventually led “Nunz” to Norwalk High School where the 1974 graduate played football for the Bears and was a sprinter on the track team. In fact, one of his teammates on the NHS football team was fellow *2019 Old Timers* honoree Jeff Spahr.

But Annunziato’s involvement in local sports wasn’t restricted to just one side of town. When he landed a teaching position at Brien McMahon, he embarked on a successful coaching career that spanned over two decades.

Annunziato was an assistant coach with the Senators’ football program from 1983–’93, most of that time coaching the team’s defensive backs. He stepped away from the football team to take over as head coach of the McMahon

boys basketball program, a position he held from 1993–2000.

The Senators, once an FCIAC and state power, had struggled on the hardwood the previous five seasons. But Annunziato slowly rebuilt the once-proud program and led McMahon to a pair of Class L state tournament Final Four appearances in 1997 and 2000. That 2000 season was Annunziato’s seventh and final year and the Senators went 16–8 — their best record in 13 years — and lost to No. 1 seed and eventual state champ Holy Cross by two points in the semifinals. A year earlier, the McMahon coach was voted by his peers as the 1999 *FCIAC Coach of the Year*.

During his time on Highland Avenue Annunziato was also an assistant coach in the baseball program under Joe Madaffari and later served as head coach of both the BMHS indoor and outdoor track teams.

Annunziato’s sports endeavors extended beyond the high school arena, both as a competitor and coach. In 1975, just one year out of high school, he began playing recreation softball with the Sportland team. His most memorable years, however, were as a member of the Laurel Athletic Club softball team and their four city championship clubs during the 1980s.

A couple of decades later, Annunziato played locally with Jacoby Outdoor Maintenance when it won the first-ever wood bat state championship. He still plays in the Norwalk Wednesday Night ‘Mimi’ Lawrence Wood Bat League with a team he started, Nunz’s All-Stars. And if you’re keeping score at home, this summer was Annunziato’s 45th year playing softball.

He also played rec league basketball with Italia Restaurant and Jacoby Construction, as well as flag football in Wilton where he won multiple championships.

While his coaching days are behind him, Annunziato is still indirectly involved with the Brien McMahon Athletic Department as the public address announcer at the Senators’ home football games. In addition, one of the school’s most popular teachers has hosted the annual McMahon Fashion Show for over two decades with proceeds benefitting the BMHS Post-Graduation Party.

Over the years, Annunziato also developed a love for kayaking and fishing. He’s competed in the annual Lighthouse-to-Lighthouse Race on three occasions, paddling his kayak through 14 miles of open water racing from Calf Pasture to Rowayton.

In addition, he’s a member of the Black Rock Historical Commission, which is celebrating the town’s 375th anniversary this year. His community involvement also includes being a part of the Red Cross Disaster Assistance Team.