

Walt Czepak



A long and distinguished Hall of Fame coaching career by **Walt Czepak** began in the city of Norwalk where he coached football and track at Brien McMahon in the 1960s. One of the track athletes he coached was fellow 2017 Norwalk Old Timers honoree Kelly Myrick.

Czepak also initiated the club football program at Norwalk Community College and later in his career became the head football and wrestling coach at Norwalk High.

Czepak made a few other stops along the way. He went from McMahon to Trumbull High, where he became Jerry McDougall's longtime assistant coach. After more than a decade there, he returned to Norwalk to become head football coach at NHS from 1979-82. He also became head wrestling coach during that time and led the Bears to their only two FCIAC championships in 1982 and '84.

Czepak eventually returned to his alma mater, Stratford High School, where he played four years of football in the early 1950s and also competed in track and field. It didn't take him long to turn a floundering program into a state power. After a 3-7 first season, Czepak guided the Red Devils to 14 straight winning seasons, which included five Coastal Football Conference titles and five CIAC playoff appearances.

His best season was 1988 when Stratford went 10-1 and captured the Class SS state championship as well as the No. 1 ranking in both state polls. His overall record in 15 seasons at SHS was 117-44, a .730 winning percentage.

Czepak also started the wrestling program at Stratford in 1985 and by his second season won the first of his six CCIAC league titles. He coached the program for 11 years, compiling a 109-31-1 record.

Walt Czepak passed away in October 2008 at the age of 72.