

Joe Troy



Joe Troy was a big part of Norwalk sports for nearly three decades in his role as the citywide athletic director for Norwalk and Brien McMahon high schools.

Troy, who passed away in 2006 at the age of 77, began his career with the Norwalk School System in 1953 and 10 years later succeeded Joe Andrews as supervisor of physical education and director of athletics. At the time, student enrollment in Norwalk was experiencing dramatic growth and it reflected in the city's sports teams.

In fact, when Troy took over, there were nine boys sports and only two for girls at the two local high schools. But under his watch, interscholastic athletics reached new heights as additional sports were added.

He was also responsible for bringing a number of highly regarded coaches to both high schools during his tenure. One of his best hires was Ray Barry as the new Norwalk High boys basketball coach in 1976-'77.

Barry had coached two of Troy's sons at Central Catholic High School during his successful run at the Norwalk private school.

When the NHS head coaching job opened up, Troy quickly recruited Barry, who won eight FCIAC championships in basketball and 11 more after becoming the Bears' girls softball coach.

"I am indebted to him for the opportunity he gave me," Barry said in a 2006 interview following Troy's passing. "He's touched a lot of lives in Norwalk."

As Supervisor of Physical Education, Health and Safety, Troy was constantly trying to expand the involvement of students in Physical Education at an early age. He also lobbied the school board on the idea of having a PE and Health teacher in every elementary school.

After 27 years as director of athletics and 37 total years in the school system, Troy retired Dec. 31, 1990..