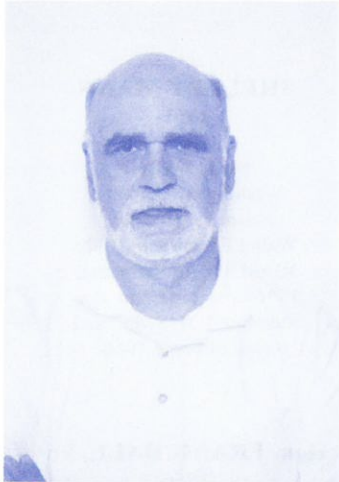


BOB BONACCORSO - 1999 HALL OF FAME



Robert J. 'Doc' Bonaccorso grew up in Massachusetts. He attended St. John's Prep in Danvers where he played hockey (goalie) and baseball (pitcher/outfielder). He went on to Boston College and earned a B.S. in Biology where he also played baseball for three years. He coached youth baseball in Peabody, Massachusetts for six years (1962-1967), winning the state Little League championship in 1964.

Between summer baseball seasons, Bob went to Dental School at Georgetown, graduating in 1969. Except for a brief tour in Korea in 1970 with the Army Dental Corps, Bob's volunteer youth coaching career in Arlington spans 31 years.

Bob joined the Optimist Club of Arlington in 1971 and has served continuously as the club's director of youth activities. The one constant in his coaching career has been his philosophy regarding youth: "give kids a chance to learn enough about a sport to enable them to move up to the next level, and allow them to have enough fun so they want to move up."

Known more for his achievements in baseball, Bob also coached youth basketball for 22 years (1975-1996) and Arlington Bearcats 70-pound football for five years (1973-1977). In 1975, along with Hall of Famer Bob Rusevlyan, Bob founded the highly successful Optimist Club youth basketball program which grew from 20 players initially to more than 550 players by the mid-eighties.

In the early 1980's, Arlington's youth baseball program was suffering from a dearth of participation by players, coaches and sponsors. Following a tireless search for a baseball program that would best fit the community's needs, Bob was a founder, in 1985, of the Arlington Babe Ruth Leagues, in cooperation with the county recreation department. After obtaining a charter from the national Babe Ruth organization, the Arlington league which began with several hundred players in 1985, has grown in 15 years to over 2000 participants in the springtime, making it one of the largest programs in Virginia. The fall program exceeds 500 players. Bob had earlier spearheaded the notion of a no-cut county baseball program in the mid-seventies. The Arlington Babe Ruth program has proven to be an ideal solution.

In Bob's 31 years coaching baseball in Arlington, his teams have amassed over 550 wins, including eleven undefeated seasons, 19 county titles, seven Babe Ruth district championships, four state Optimist Invitational crowns and three Virginia state Babe Ruth championships. In 1992, '93 and '98, his Arlington All-Star Babe Ruth state champs went to the Southeast Regionals, the last stop on the way to the Babe Ruth World Series.

Bob practices dentistry in Falls Church. Bob and his wife Nancy reside in Arlington and "The Crossings" in West Virginia. They have six grown children.