



THOMAS L. HANDWERK
CLASS OF 1969

Tom grew up in "hometown" Point Pleasant where he developed his love for sports from his Dad (Lee) and his Mom (Ginger). In high school, Tom received 8 varsity letters: football, (2); basketball, (3); and baseball, (3); but his real love developed in basketball. Tom was honored his senior year at the Spring Sports Banquet by becoming Point Boro's very first "Athlete of the Year."

Tom attended the University of Bridgeport in Connecticut, (1969-1973), before coaching 22 years with stops at Point Beach, Point Boro, Lakewood, and Monmouth University. In addition to coaching basketball, Tom coached football, baseball, and softball. He was one of the original director's (1985) of the Point Pleasant Hart's AC Basketball Camp and also coached Pop Warner Football.

He was recognized by The Ocean County News and Observer publication as the 1984 "Basketball Coach of the Year" and was selected to coach the South Jersey All-Stars for the NJSIAA in 1984 and 1985. Tom also coached the Shore Conference Boys Basketball South All-Stars in 1983 and 1995. He served on the Executive Board for the NJSIAA High School Basketball Coaches and was a respected member of the Shore Conference Basketball Coaches Association.

Tom organized and coached Hart's AC AAU High School Basketball traveling teams comprised of players from Point Pleasant and other Shore Conference schools. The teams traveled to elite National Tournaments at Arizona State University, Ohio State University and various other tournaments along the east coast.

Tom was an assistant with the Monmouth University Woman's Division I Basketball Team that went undefeated (16-0) in the ECAC and also won the ECAC Tournament in 1986-1987.

After stepping back from coaching in 1995, Tom spent the next 18 years teaching physical education at Nellie F. Bennett Elementary School. In 1996, Tom instituted a school-wide Positive Behavior and Character Initiative known as the "Star Program" that is still in place and benefitting teachers, students and the community. He was recognized in 1999 and 2005 with Teacher Recognition Awards and was honored by the Point Pleasant Foundation for Excellence in Education. He retired from teaching in 2013.

Tom married his high school sweetheart Karen Wilson, Class of 1969, in 1974. They have two daughters, Tracy Horn (married to Timothy Horn), Class of 1994; and Kristin, Class of 1999; as well as two granddaughters, Caroline and Ashley. All proudly reside in Point Pleasant.