

Gene Kruczek

Gene Kruczek is a long-time track and field coach who has one of the longest consecutive coaching careers at HHS. Although Gene also coached football for six years at HHS, he coached boys and girls track every year from 1974 to 2005. Gene has been considered by those in the sport to have been one of the most widely-respected and successful throwing coaches in the state.

Before he began his coaching career, Gene was a successful football player as a young man growing up in Manville, NJ. Gene was a Pop Warner All-American scoring 158 points in the 1964 football season. He continued his athletic success as a three-sport varsity athlete at Manville High School in football, basketball, and track and field. In 1969, Gene received the Victor Hall Memorial Trophy, an award given to the Outstanding Senior Track Athlete.

As throwing coach, Gene had a positive impact on a number of notable and outstanding athletes in his time. In 1995, Gene coached the team of Ed Kropewnicki, Shaun O'Hara and Marc Behn to a 27-0 record on five consecutive meets while leading the team to a 9-0 overall record. This trip also swept the discus event going 1-2-3 in every dual meet. From 1986 to 1990 he coached Sandi Everett in the shot put and javelin. Sandi went on to attend NC State where she became a 1994 All-American Athlete Heptathlete. That year, Sandi won three of the seven events - high jump, shot put, and javelin. Finally, in 2000, the *Star Ledger* selected shot put and discus athlete Lois Malencheck as Thrower of the Year. In all, Gene coached 36 conference champions, 24 Somerset County champions, 3 Bernards champions, and 8 Central Jersey Group IV State Champions totaling 71 individual championships. He also coached 8 boys and 11 girls to a total of 19 State Meet of Champions appearances.

Gene has also contributed to a total of 48 team championships. Not including regular season dual meets, Gene's throwers have earned over 3,000 points in major championship meets.

Gene lives in Flemington, NJ with his wife, Barbara Jo.

The Committee is proud to induct Gene into the HHS Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2013.

