



WEST CATHOLIC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
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2011 WEST CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS HALL OF FAME

Franklin O. Harwell



Franklin O. Harwell, Coach, Mentor, Teacher, Counselor, and Friend had been devoted to our children for the past 50 years.

A graduate of Overbrook High school, Franklin attended North Carolina A&T and went on to receive his Bachelor's Degree from Antioch University. Coach, as he is known to his students and colleagues, has spent many years with youth of all ages in basketball, bowling, and track & field.

When Frank retired from the U.S. Postal Service after 17 years of service, he devoted his time to coaching and mentoring full time at West Catholic. Coaching and helping children has always been a part of Frank's life. During his high school years, he was a member of Overbrook High School's Cross Country and Track & Field Championship Teams which won championships in both 1946 and 1947. As a young adult he promoted affairs to help raise funds for boy scouts and he also organized a basketball league at the Haddington Recreation Center in West Philadelphia.

In 1972, he and four others founded the Jimmy Junior Bowling Program which started with 30 children and young adults ranging from 7 to 18 years of age and ended in 1989 with over 100 youths. Even while Frank continued to be President of the Bowling Program, he became assistant coach of the Bowling Program at West Catholic High School for Boys. In 1985, he became full time Head Coach of Track & Field at West Catholic while



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maintaining his President position in the Jimmy Junior Bowling Program. He held this position until 1996 when he was offered a position to fulfill his lifetime dream ~ to coach Track & Field on the college level.

Over several years, he held many titles ~ some of which were YABA Pennsylvania Instate Instructor: Vice President of YABA Greater Philadelphia Bowling Association, ABC, President of Greater Philadelphia Bowling Senate, Philadelphia, Pa., and National Officer of the National Bowling Association, Inc., President Philadelphia Catholic Coaches Association, Member Board of Directors Greater Philadelphia Track & Field Coaches Association.