

PAUL W. “FROSTY” FRANCIS JR. (DECEASED)



Frosty was an outstanding athlete who excelled at Wesleyan University. At K-O, Frosty served for 25 years as a teacher, coach and administrator, and he founded the annual Kingswood-Oxford Invitational Basketball Tournament.

He was the varsity basketball coach in the '50s and '60s and won several New England titles.

Frosty was instrumental in recruiting athletes to the School, and he cared deeply for them, often driving them to and from school and serving as coach, teacher, parent and mentor.

Outside of K-O, he served as president of the Connecticut basketball officials association and was an excellent official himself. He was nationally known and respected, serving as the officials assigner for the Ivy and Patriot leagues.

The following is an excerpt of a eulogy given by his son, David '73.

“There is a quote that says, “The true object of all human life is play. Earth is a task garden; heaven is a playground.”

That pretty much sums up the way Dad lived his life, whether consciously or not. With Dad it was all about the game. As a youth he played games, whatever sport he could get his hands on. He even wrote sports articles for the Middletown Press at age 13 and was fortunate enough to be invited to try professional baseball, which he did for a few years. When playing was exhausted, he committed his life to teaching, coaching and mentoring those youth who wanted to play. As a coach he taught fundamentals and discipline, allowing him to use his own creativity to coach these kids to victory – and boy was he creative. Dad was a brilliant basketball mind. As an official it was his way of proving that if you are going to play, you play by the rules, and those officials that he mentored will carry on his commitment....

If things didn't work, he figured out a way to make it work, in basketball, golf or anything he did....

Dad knew a lot of things we didn't, but he shared them with us. Everyone here has a Frosty story. Everyone here has a part of Dad that will continue to live on. His legacy is intact and it's a good one....”