



DAN HOVANESIAN

By Bob Gross
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During his 25 years as head basketball coach at Holt High, Danny Hovanesian climbed to many mountain tops.

He won conference championships. He won district, regional and quarterfinal titles and in 1974, his Ram team lost to Muskegon Heights, 52-44, in the Class B final at Michigan State's Jenison Fieldhouse.

But perhaps what Danny will be remembered most of all throughout his glorious career in which he posted a 348-165 record, was his friendliness and concern for others. He was one of the most respected coaches in the state, yet never put personal accomplishments ahead of his team or his peers.

One of the nicest tributes came from fellow rival Stan Stolz, the head coach at Okemos High.

"When Paul Cook left the Capital Circuit to coach at Lansing Eastern, I was really down and felt terrible because not only was he a heckuva coach, but a fine man. And when Holt left our league to join the Capital Area Conference, it also left a big void because Danny Hovanesian was leaving, too, and you don't replace a man of that caliber."

Hovanesian coached at Holt from 1953 to 1978. His teams were always sound fundamentally and strong defensively.

As Paul Cook said: "Danny's retirement is a great loss to the teaching and coaching profession. He was a great competitor. He was a great analyst of the game and a support of coaches. I never heard him say a bad word about a coach and he got the utmost respect from his players."

It's a fitting tribute that Danny Hovanesian be inshrined into the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan's Hall of Fame this evening. No coach ever deserved the honor more.