



ELMER WALCOTT



Steve Gunn
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Elmer Walcott has coached high school basketball in four different decades, and he's always been successful.

Walcott coached the Western Michigan Christian boys team from 1951 through 1979, with the exception of three seasons in the early 70s. His teams won 400 regular season and tournament games and four state titles. He took the Warriors to the state finals six times, including his final season.

Despite his record, he was always reluctant to take full credit for the program's success.

"Anyone who knows me knows I believe in teamwork," said Walcott in 1988. "No one individual could've accomplished this by himself."

Last fall, after 13 years away from basketball, he was coaxed out of retirement by WMC officials. He took over the Warriors girls team and led it to a berth in the Class D state quarterfinals. Amazingly, the team was successful without a single returning starter from the previous year.

"Getting him as our coach helped our team's morale," said WMC girls player Teresa Witte last year. "We figured if he was taking as interest in us, we must have some potential."

Walcott, a member of the Muskegon Area Sports Hall of Fame, has also coached tennis and baseball and been principal and athletic director at WMC. He's currently the school's part-time development director.

He served on the Muskegon City Council from 1979 to 1986, including a stint as mayor from 1981 to 1985.

Walcott, 67, has been married to his wife for 43 years. They have four surviving children.