



Jim Mongeau

Thirty-five years of basketball coaching and nearly 400 career wins are only the beginning of the impressive resume that makes Jim Mongeau one of the coaching legends of Michigan.

Outstanding community involvement and leadership, excellence in teaching in the classroom and a commitment to teaching players lessons that reach far beyond winning games made Mongeau the example after which coaches everywhere could pattern their lives.

"Never give up" were the words almost every one of the hundreds of players who learned from the former Gaylord High School coach now remember about him. Mongeau lived by those words, fighting cancer to the end before passing away in December 1992.

He started as a boys' basketball coach at Gaylord in 1956 and would coach for 20 years in that position. His best years included 1963-64 through 1966-67, during which his teams went 72-15 and won two regional championships, making one appearance in the semifinals along the way. Mongeau was 210-92 for his career as a boys' basketball coach.

He began coaching girls' basketball in 1976 and also had many good years, collecting several district titles. His best years were in 1989, when his team went 20-4, and in 1990, when Gaylord finished 17-5. After accumulating a 177-111 record in girls' basketball, illness forced him to step down from both coaching and teaching after the 1991-92 school year.

A large book could be filled with the words of those who knew James Mongeau and have good things to say about him, whether they knew him as a coach, teacher, community leader or all three and more.