

**Alain Rocher**  
**Coach - 36 Years**



It isn't a stretch to call former Stoneham High School teacher and track coach Alain Rocher the father of the highly successful girls' track program at SHS.

A native of France who taught the French language, the nuances of track and field and thousands of valuable life lessons during his 36-year career at SHS, Rocher was highly successful both on and off the track. Rocher was a constant at all manner of high school-related events during his teaching and coaching tenure, and finished with more than 300 career wins in both boys' and girls' cross-country and track. Stoneham High achieved a cross-country state championship, a Middlesex League indoor track championship in 1994, and captured an amazing six Middlesex League titles in girls' spring track during his lengthy coaching career.

Rocher's girls were Division II State Champs in 1999 as well as three-time Class C State Champions and six-time Class C Relay State Champions. The affable, worldly-wise Rocher coached tremendous Hall of Fame track talents such as Kristin Seabury, Maura McCusker, and Michelle Gagne over his three plus decades with the Spartans.

"Mr. Rocher was the best coach that I've ever had in my athletic career, and it went so far beyond the athletic aspect of it," said Gagne. "If you were having a bad day you could talk to him about things going in your life, and that meant so much to so many of the girls that played for him. He is the best."

Rocher was deservedly recognized for his stunning success on the track, and was a four-time Globe All-Scholastic Coach of the Year in spring track. The SHS track legend left such a lasting impression at Stoneham High that the outdoor track was renamed the, "Wayne Fillback-Alain Rocher Track & Field Facility" in May, 2007.

Rocher retired from teaching and coaching in 2001, but remains active as an MSTCA official at local meets and still lives in Stoneham with his wife Barbara. Their son and his family reside in Japan.