

Dick Burns

1950 - Football, Hockey, & Baseball



Some Stoneham High alums might remember Dick Burns as a teacher and coach at SHS, but others know the 1950 graduate as an outstanding all-around athlete.

After transferring from St. Pat's, Burns took to the baseball diamond as a catcher and in his senior season led the team in hitting with a .376 batting average and was on a team that went to the State Championship game.

On the gridiron, he captained the football team and ran wild against Ipswich" in an 18-0 victory, according to The Stoneham Independent. It was on the ice, however, that Burns would make his athletic name, which would later lead to a coaching career. Burns was named a GBI All-Star as a junior and then again as a senior, when he also led the GBI in scoring.

After graduating from Stoneham High, Burns took his hockey talents to Boston University before transferring to North Dakota.

His playing days ended when Uncle Sam called Burns into service for a 2-year stint in the U.S. Navy. Burns returned from the service and joined the Stoneham Police Department for six years. While on the force, he went back to school to complete his degree at Salem State College. His coaching and teaching career began at Reading High School where he became the Rockets' first hockey coach as entrants into the Middlesex League. Burns then brought his coaching talents back to Stoneham, first as an assistant and then head coach from 1964-1978, where he compiled an impressive 164-70-38 record.

After leaving the Stoneham High bench, he went on to become an assistant coach at Phillips Andover Academy before again returning to the Middlesex League as the head coach at Lexington. In all, Burns won over 75 percent of his games coached, never had a losing season and took nine teams to the State Tournament. His coaching success led to his recent induction into the Massachusetts Hockey Coaches Hall of Fame.

He currently resides in Lynnfield with his wife Virginia, with whom he's had five children and eleven grandchildren.