

Dick Burnham

Coach, Football, Hockey, Softball - 33 Years



Coach, teacher, gentleman, icon – these are just some of the words to describe Dick Burnham.

Dick's coaching career began at Stoneham High School in 1966 when he was named Freshman Hockey Coach. He coached Freshman Hockey until he retired in 1976; however, he did not actually retire from coaching since he became the Varsity Softball Coach that same year. His softball teams' successes were any coach's dream. In 1980, he coached the Softball Team to their first Middlesex League Title with a record of 17-1. In 1986 they became Middlesex League Co-Champs with a record of 16-2. They went on that year to become Division II North State Champs and Coach Burnham was named by the Boston Globe as Coach of the Year. In 1987 and 1988 the softball teams made it to the Division II North finals. His 1989 Softball Team was the Middlesex League Champ with an 18-0 record. The '90s were just as successful: the 1990 team was named Division II North Champs and in 1991, it was the sixth straight year that his softball team qualified for the State Tourney. They were named Middlesex League Co-Champs in '92 and Division II North Champs in '92 and '95. As a softball coach, he amassed five Middlesex League titles and four Division II North Championships in 24 years of coaching.

Dick was named the Boys Varsity Hockey Coach in 1980. That year his team had 16 wins, the most ever by a varsity hockey team. In 1989 they won the Middlesex League Title, which just happened to coincide with the same year his softball team was named Middlesex League Champs. Dick coached hockey for 10 years.

Coach Burnham was among six assistant hockey coaches inducted in the Massachusetts High School Hockey Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1995. The following year Coach Burnham had his 300th win in softball in 21 years of coaching. The MIAA honored Dick for this outstanding accomplishment.

In 1999, after 33 years of coaching, Dick Burnham retired leaving behind a legacy of over 100 varsity hockey wins and over 300 varsity softball wins. Dick passed away in February of this year.