



“Coach” Al DeShaw (deceased)

Coach DeShaw graduated from Watervliet High School in 1935. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education in 1940 and then his Master’s degree in 1951, both from Ithaca College. He and his wife Justine had two children, E. Marie DeShaw and Timothy (Thomasine) DeShaw. Coach DeShaw was a Navy veteran, a time he served between getting his Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees from 1943 to 1945. He started teaching at Averill Park in 1948 and spent his entire 23 year career as a teacher, coach, and athletic director.

During his tenure at Averill Park, Coach DeShaw was a central figure in the athletic department. He coached boys soccer, football, boys basketball, wrestling, and baseball. Besides teaching and coaching, he also umpired baseball and officiated basketball. Coach DeShaw was also instrumental in the creation of the Center Brunswick Youth Center, where he later became the Director of Recreation. His passion for athletics only surpassed his devotion to the kids with whom he worked.

In honor of Coach DeShaw, who passed away in 1971, Averill Park bestows its highest athletic award on a male and female athlete who, in the opinion of the varsity coaches, have displayed outstanding dedication and athletic skills, contributed greatly to the success of their teams, and exhibited characteristics that one would consider model for any athletic program. Coach DeShaw’s legacy lives on in this memorial award.

