



## **Richard “Coach Abb” Abbatiello**

Coach Abb has been an integral part of the Averill Park community since the early 1970's. He and his wife Joan raised their three children Matthew, James, and Jennifer here in Averill Park. Coach Abb attended Hudson Valley Community College and the University of Maine and graduated with a degree in Physical Education in 1971. He then came to Averill Park and has worked as a teacher and coach for the past 47 years.

Since coming to Averill Park, Coach Abb has worked in a myriad of positions. Not only was he a Physical Education teacher in both the high school and middle school, Coach Abb also coached a variety of sports. He started the boys modified soccer team which he coached for four years. At the varsity level, he coached wrestling for 13 years. He has coached Indoor and Outdoor Track & Field for 29 years and girls tennis for 28 years, and continues to coach these three sports. Among his wrestling accolades is a 133-51-3 record, 10 consecutive league championships, 2 individual Section 2 runner-ups, and an individual Section 2 champion. In track & field, Coach Abb has three league championships and has coached multiple Section 2 and NYSPHSAA champions in the pole vault and the pentathlon. In girls tennis, he had an individual finish as a Section 2 runner-up and go on to compete in the NYSPHSAA Championships.

Coach Abb has been a part of Averill Park athletics for more than 40 years and has had a tremendous impact on many student-athletes and programs. He has served as a role model and cares deeply about the thousands of lives he has influenced here in Averill Park. He has also mentored many young coaches, too. His influence reached outside the community when he was a gymnastics instructor at DC Stars from 1983-1993.

Coach Abb has been and continues to be a remarkable example of dedication and commitment to the students, athletes, and coaches in the Averill Park community.

