

To: The Buffalo Hall of Fame Committee

Subject: Herb Mols

When most of us look back upon our lives it is not the wealthiest, or the most intelligent or those with the best personality who had the greatest impact upon our lives but rather those who have taught us life and academic lessons. Dr. Roaul Halpern for me would qualify in the latter category but Herb Mols would win hands down in the former category.

Despite the lofty title of Athletic Director at Park School Herb was a one man athletic department: he washed and passed out uniforms, he lined athletic fields, he wrote game summary letters after each of our games (that were required reading for all team members) and most of all he coached. Every season of every sport started with the basics: blocking and tackling in football, passing and dribbling in basketball and throwing and catching in baseball. He taught us sportsmanship, he taught us perseverance, and he taught us that we could achieve anything we set our minds to accomplish.

I relate the following as two examples of how strongly Herb Mols coaching and teaching affected me and my life.

I graduated Park School in a class of about 40 students in 1960. I entered Penn State as one of a freshman class of about 4500. I had played football, baseball, basketball and track at Park. I never made an all league team or all star team. But with Coach Mols encouragement I went out (as a non scholarship walk on) for Cross Country and Track. I worked hard, and I stuck it out and four years later I was Co Captain of the Penn State Track team and the holder of an NCAA gold medal (for the indoor 4 x 880 relay).

I went on to become a U.S. Marine, a fighter pilot and a Vietnam veteran spending a total of 21 years in the Corps retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. When things got tough I harkened back to the quote that Coach Mols placed at the end of each of the team letters he put out: "You Can, You Must, You Will." It became my mantra.

Coach, Teacher, Mentor and Lifelong Friend Herb Mols was all of these to me and many, many others. I am proud to support his nomination to the Buffalo Hall of Fame.

From: Michael Sheedy Park School Class of 1960