

2015 “SPIRIT OF BASKETBALL” RECIPIENT

Robert M. Madsen



Bob gained his love and knowledge for the game of basketball at an extremely early age. When he was six, he and his brothers could always be found at the Wall High School in New Jersey practices and games.

At the age of eight, Robert Kennedy gave all three Madsen Brothers (Duke, John & Bob) work scholarships at the Pocono Invitational Basketball Camp in Cherry Valley, Stroudsburg. Bob continued to work through his high school years. It was also an opportunity to hear some of the nation’s best basketball coaches expound upon their basketball knowledge. It gave Bob a fantastic background in the different ways a coach can influence a young ball player’s life!

While attending Brookdale College, Larry Hennesy, the head basketball coach, approached Bob to assist him with the team. While coaching at Brookdale, Bob also completed the refereeing cadet course and was thrown into the world of officiating high school ball and also worked the famous “Jersey Shore Basketball League”.

After Brookdale Bob was hired full time at the Pocono Invitational Basketball Camp (this group was later named the “Hoop Group”). It was around this time period that Jay Butler hired Bob to be his Full Time Assistant Women’s Basketball Coach at Davis and Elkins in West Virginia. When Jay Butler left, Bob was elevated to be the Head Coach. Bob Madsen left Davis and Elkins and after several years, took over the Girls High School Basketball program at Stroudsburg.

Bob moved on a few years later, helping Head Coach Kenny Piontkowski coach the Varsity Boys at Pleasant Valley.

According to former PV coach Ken Piontkowski, the students and athletes of Pleasant Valley have been lucky to have had Bob as a mentor and teacher. “His methods and delivery are sometimes unusual,” Piontkowski joked, “but the students and athletes love him because he’s authentic and they sense how much he truly cares about them.” Bob has touched the lives of so many special-needs students and so many athletes at Pleasant Valley that his contributions to PV alone make him worthy of this honor.”

This past year Bob was invited to work with “The” Denny Douds and his football staff.

“The outstanding thing about Robert M. Madsen is his willingness to give of himself for the benefit of others”. Bob is the perfect example of the Spirit of Basketball Award. Al Keglovits, I am sure, is very proud!!