

Harry Riker
Youth Team Manager/Coach

In a sports dictionary, the definition for the term “jack-of-all-trades” wouldn’t be described by words. It would only need a photo of Harry Riker. An amazing athlete in his own right, Harry’s impact was and still can be seen in his many years coaching and mentoring numerous young athletes — both men and women — around Memphis.

Returning to the Bluff City after his time in the armed forces, Harry taught high school math classes and began his long and successful coaching career at Memphis Catholic School for Boys from 1967-70 and moved to Memphis Catholic High School from 1970-88 and then his final stop at Saint Benedict at Auburndale from 1988-2002. At those three schools and for more than 35 years, Harry coached football, wrestling, boys track, girls track, baseball, basketball, girls softball and boys golf. He also found some time along the way to serve as an athletics director for two years.

Harry not only coached; he won. He led the Memphis Catholic High School football squad to the TSSAA state crown in 1982 with an undefeated record. That came on the heels of the 1981 season that saw the Chargers post a 9-2 record and was just a score away from an appearance in the state title game. Also in 1982, Harry led the Chargers wrestling team to the Large District Tournament championship and had seven of his 12 wrestlers advance to the state tournament. In 1983, he was named the District Coach of the Year for wrestling.

Harry continued his amazing run in 1982 when his track team placed third in the state in Division 1. A year later in 1983, he had track teams place third in Division 1 and 2. Throughout his track coaching career, he had many athletes compete in and win crowns at state meets.

As a young athlete himself, Harry was multi-talented. He earned 13 letters over five sports that included football, wrestling, cross country, track and baseball. Harry was a member of the baseball squad that won a city championship.

After playing on two championship intramural football teams in college, Harry joined the service, where he either played or helped organize tournaments for football, baseball and softball. Harry was a member of a championship baseball team in 1964.

Harry returned to Memphis after his time in the service, and his competitive fire directed him to play fast-pitch softball. He first played with Ace Appliance in 1968-69, and then from 1970-76, he starred in centerfield for the Elvis Presley team. He started every game and earned several all-star team honors.

Harry was honored with his selection to the Memphis Catholic High School Hall of Fame in 2022 and the Saint Benedict at Auburndale Hall of Fame in 2023.

Please welcome to the Hall of Fame, for youth team manager/coach — Harry Riker