

For 39 years James Senske taught and coached at New Ulm High School. Each and every one of those years was an opportunity that Jim had to share with his students and players the value of hard work, dedication and perseverance. He left an indelible mark on the young people he coached and taught.

Jim is a graduate of Wilson High School in St. Paul and received his undergraduate degree at Hamline University; he holds a master's degree in history from Minnesota State University, Mankato. He began his career as a social studies teacher in 1960 at NUHS and that's where he stayed until his retirement in 1999. In the classroom, Jim was enthusiastic about what he taught and challenged his students to always want to achieve better.

Outside of the classroom, Jim poured his energy into coaching both basketball and baseball at NUHS. While he was passionate about education, he was equally passionate about coaching. He gave of his time and talents to help bring basketball and baseball teams to levels of success that were previously unreachable.

Jim is a legend in Minnesota high school baseball; not only for all the wins he had in his coaching career, though 707 wins and a state championship is impressive. He's a legend for how he instilled values and strong work ethic in his players as a part of his coaching. Additionally, he has an immense understanding of the fundamentals of baseball and he taught those to his players which in turn helped them be the best ball players they could be.

On the basketball court New Ulm had a strong following of both students and community when Jim was coaching. The games were exciting, the crowds were involved and enthusiasm filled the gym when the Eagles played. He led the team to more wins than any other basketball coach in NUHS history.

There are many awards and recognitions that Jim has received over his long, successful career. Besides being a finalist for Minnesota Teacher of the Year, he was named District 10 Coach of the Year ten times, Minnesota Baseball Coach of the Year six times, Hamline University Hall of Fame member for baseball and basketball, as well as being honored with Jim Senske Night at the Metrodome in 1995, just to name a few.

Retirement hasn't slowed Jim's interest in the community as he continues to bring that same drive and ambition in his volunteer endeavors. Jim has been a member of the Sertoma Club for over 20 years; he's served in various board positions at Our Savior's Lutheran Church and is the alumni chairperson for the ISD 88 Foundation.

Jim achieved success as an educator and coach through the time he spent working with the students and athletes, by pushing them to strive for better and to never give up. These days he continues to be a vital part of our community contributing of himself, including his steadfast support of the New Ulm school district.