

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

John P. Mulligan Faculty/Track Coach



John Patrick Mulligan, born September 13, 1922 in the Morrisania section of the Bronx, was destined for track. In his neighborhood in the East 160's, good runners abounded in the late 1930's. St. Augustine's, where John went to school, always had one of the top grade school teams in the city. John continued to run track when he went to Power Memorial Academy, where he competed in the half mile and the mile.

After graduating from Power Memorial in 1939, John attended New York University. World War II interrupted John's college career when he joined the Army Air Corps. After overseas service, he was appointed track coach of the Fourth Army Air Force team. After his discharge, he resumed his student life at NYU. He maintained his connection with track by coaching CYO and PAL teams and later as a part time assistant at Power.

He joined the Power faculty as a teacher in Phys. Ed. in 1956, but the school had dropped track as a sport some years previously. Three years later, in 1959, the principal of Power asked John to coach the revived track team. Success came quick for Power under John's direction. In 1960 at the Penn Relays, with Ed Duchini running a spectacular anchor leg mile, Power took 1st Place in the Distance Medley Relay. It was only the beginning for John and Power, as such talented runners as Kevin O'Brien, Chancy Marsh, Garth McKay, Mario Campo, Joe Barbary and the Lovett brothers, Peter and John, continued to bring the coach and the school additional success in the years that followed.

In 1965, John saw Power win its' first CHSAA Varsity Cross Country Championship. Power won the award again in 1966. John relinquished his track coaching duties in 1967, but continued at Power as Chairman of the Phys. Ed. Department. However, the track itch caught up with him again in 1970 and he agreed to coach at All Hallows High School. He coached at the Bronx school from 1970 to 1975, where one of his proudest memories was the close association he had with Gene McCarthy, an outstanding runner who later ran at Fordham University.

John's contributions to high school track go beyond his coaching achievements. He was treasurer of the Catholic High School Track Coaches Association and a co-founder of the New York Relays. He was a member of the U.S. Track Coaches Association and the Cardinal Spellman Committee for Youth Fitness in the New York Archdiocese. His many awards included CHSAA Coach of the Year, the George T. Eastman Memorial Award as the Outstanding Representative of Track and Field in the New York Metropolitan Area in 1978 and induction into the CHSAA Hall of Fame in 1993

John was married to his wife Theresa for 45 years before his death in 1991. They had 10 children: John, Theresa, Mary Ann, Kathleen, Thomas, Timothy, Elizabeth, Patrick, Stephen and Anne and 14 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren. Three of their sons attended Power: John Jr. 1962-1966, Thomas 1970-1974 and Patrick 1975-1979.

John Mulligan often brought his children to Van Cortlandt Park where they watched as their father shouted instructions to his "boys" as they ran around the track or the Flats or the hillsides as a pack...a strong, proud, ambitious group of young men eager to prove their abilities and exceeding them.