

<http://www.grandrapidsmn.com/sports/article_c4b5e1e0-9bfc-11e2-8117-001a4bcf887a.html>

Pat Guyer inducted into MHCA Hall of Fame

Shaymus McLaughlin Herald-Review | Posted: Wednesday, April 3, 2013 5:00 pm

Pat Guyer, former Greenway Raiders hockey standout as a player and a coach, was admitted to the Minnesota Hockey Coaches Association Hall of Fame last month.

Guyer, now 50, graduated from Greenway High School in 1981. He played college hockey for the University of Minnesota-Duluth before starting his high school coaching career at Mora High School from 1985-87.

After a short stint with Chisholm High School, Guyer began coaching for Greenway in 1990. In his tenure as Greenway's head coach, Guyer's teams went 181-105-7. In the 1991-92 season, he led the Raiders to a Tier II state championship. Greenway finished as the runner-up in Region 7 in the 1994-95 season as a Class A team and then again the following year as a Class AA team.

After both seasons, Guyer was named Region 7 Coach of the Year in his class. Guyer and the Raiders returned to the state tournament in 2001, when they placed third in Class AA.

His teams were Iron Range Conference champions in 1994-95, 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01.

In all, Guyer finished with a 225-148-8 career coaching record.

Guyer helped coach the Select 17s from 1996-2001 and is currently the head coach of Team North in the Upper Midwest High School Elite Hockey League. Guyer's family includes his wife, Tessie, son Gino, daughter-in-law Laura, granddaughter Lily, son Andrew and his fiance' Callie, and son Alex.

The Herald-Review spoke with Guyer for a few minutes about his storied career.

Herald-Review: How did it feel to be inducted into the MHCA Hall of Fame?

Pat Guyer: It was definitely a very humbling experience. When you actually went in and saw a lot of the past people that have been elected in there, and saw some of those people in the room, it was quite humbling, and kind of took you back a little bit. There were some great people that are a part of that fraternity and to be even considered to be in that group of people is truly an honor, and was something I won't forget.

HR: Was there a peer there that made you go, 'I can't believe I'm in the same conversation as this person?'

PG: I just think you look back over the years and you'd have some of the coaches from Willard Ikola and Larry Ross...Tom Saterdalen and Jerry Peterson, and those kinds of people that really had an impact on what you did as a coach. When you started as a coach you tried to sneak around and get close to those people to hear what they had to say. Picked up some pointers after the meeting was done, and you'd go up to the room and sit in the background and see what you could pick up. They were very successful people, but more than that they ran great programs, and really had not only great staff but great student-athletes.

HR: Looking back at your coaching career, what one moment are you most proud of?

PG: I don't know if it was my proudest, but it was probably the most fulfilling moment when we won our first game of the state tournament against Eden Prairie in overtime. But to get to that point there's so many other things that happened before. We had a number of teams that really over achieved in previous years that helped solidify and build our program...Some of those teams were people where we didn't really have superstars, to say, but they always found a way to believe in what we did. It was kind of that whole process of building a belief system, that we're a small school but we wanted to play the big schools and compete and believed we could. That whole process there, I think it was just that building over time that was probably the fulfilling part...But that whole process is really neat because there's so many alumni and former players that had something to do with us being there, way before we were even there. That helped build a benchmark for what each of the future players had to at least try to uphold and to achieve.

HR: That role of being the small team, the underdog role: Is that something you tried to get your teams to embrace?

PG: I wanted to instill in the student-athletes we had, that it didn't really matter where you came from, but it mattered what you believed in and how much you put in...We knew we were smaller, but I think if you looked at Roseau or Warroad or any of those traditional small towns, you better have that kind of belief in what you're doing. That you move along and you can do it, That size doesn't matter, it matters how you prepare and how strong your program is, and tradition has a lot to do with that.

HR: What do you miss most about being a high school head coach?

PG: I do coach in the Minnesota High School Elite League right now...but it's on weekends, and the thing I miss the most is the everyday practice and being with the kids. I probably could go down right now and coach a high school team and do the practices, and Friday or Saturday nights, whatever nights they play on now, it probably wouldn't mean as much to me because I just miss the one-on-one interaction every day, and watching student-athletes accomplish things and grow and then when they leave here, they leave here hop fully prepared better for life. The vast majority of them aren't going to play beyond high school, so you just try to provide that great high school experience as something they won't forget, and that they can put towards their life in the future and look back and say you know, I've been in this situation, a pressure situation where I had this happen with teammates, and you're able to know you've been in that situation and be able to handle it as an adult and go on. To prepare a kid for life I believe athletics, done correctly, can go a long way in helping shape and mold a person's personality and what they do in the future.