



JOHN J. HOWARTH

Coach

BASKETBALL

For most members of the Northern Valley community, John Howarth is best remembered as a respected superintendent who brought out the best in both teachers and students. For many of these same people, he is also remembered as the dedicated, disciplined principal of Northern Valley Demarest from 1961 to 1974. John, however, did not begin his career as an administrator. Rather, he began his professional life the way so many educators do – as a teacher and coach.

John's career predates Northern Valley Regional High School. He taught at Closter High School, where he was the head coach of the basketball team (boys, of course; girls athletics had not yet arrived) beginning in the 1950-51 season. He held that position for five years, until the school closed in 1955, and continued in the same role for the first three years of Northern Valley's existence. His most successful season came in 1952-53, when he led Closter to the North Jersey Section 1, Group I championship. John's squad defeated Park Ridge and Pompton Lakes on their way to a sectional final meeting with previously undefeated Franklin High School of Sussex County. There the Shamrocks overcame a three-point halftime deficit to win, 45-38.

At Northern Valley, John and his cagers made steady progress in his three seasons, improving from 8-12 to 9-9 to 12-9. His final team in 1957-58 qualified for both the Bergen County Jamboree, where it won its first round game, and the state tournament.

John hung up his whistle in 1958 and moved to the front office. He served as vice principal and principal before becoming the longest-serving superintendent in district history. John Howarth retired in 1990 as one of Northern Valley's most beloved figures.