

## **JOANN ARMSON (PHS 1969)**

Joann Armson graduated from Portage High School in 1969 and is considered to be one of the most successful varsity coaches in the history of Portage High School. After graduating from PHS, Ms. Armson earned her degree from the University of Wisconsin – LaCrosse and returned to Portage as a teacher at St. Mary's school in 1975. In 1977, Ms. Armson became the head coach of the PHS girls' volleyball team and the success of the program began almost immediately as the PHS girls' volleyball team finished first that year in the South Central Conference with a 12-2 record. Building on that successful first year, Ms. Armson went on to lead the girls' volleyball program with eight trips to the state tournament where they captured the 1981 WIAA Class B state championship and the 1987 Class A state championship. Her teams also finished as state champion runners-up in Class B in 1980 and 1982. Ms. Armson's teams have claimed no less than 16 regional titles, including 12 straight from 1977 to 1988, and 21 conference championships. In addition to her teaching position and being varsity head coach for girls' volleyball, Ms. Armson was also the girls' junior varsity basketball coach for 10 years, was an assistant coach for the girls' varsity basketball (including the 1982 state championship team), coached 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys' track and field for 3 years, and has volunteered numerous hours as a mentor to youth volleyball programs. Ms. Armson has been inducted into the Portage High School Hall of Fame as head coach of the 1981 girls' volleyball team and 1987 girls' volleyball team, and as an assistant coach on the 1982 girls' basketball team. As of this writing, Ms. Armson is still the active head coach for the varsity girls' volleyball team and is teaching at St. Mary's.