

Donn Trinrud – PHS CLASS OF 1996

HOF CLASS 2025

Donn “Trinny” Trinrud is an everyday hero in our community whose reach and impact is immeasurable. Donn’s place in Portage began as a math teacher at Fredrick Jackson Turner High School in 1977 after graduating from UW-Whitewater in 1975. Donn’s teaching career as a high school math teacher spanned over 30 years, two buildings and thousands of students. His calm demeanor was always an indelible force during his time in education but his true warrior spirit has shined on the various courts and fields he coached on over the past 45 years. A conservative estimate of games coached would be 2,000 competitions as head, assistant and volunteer coach. He coached boys and girls basketball at all levels (being head boys coach from 1983-1992), JV and Varsity football, JV and Little League baseball. After he retired in 2008 he continued as a volunteer coach with boys basketball and attended many athletic events as a fan.

Donn’s involvement came from a place of dedication, love of the game, and civic mindedness. If he wasn’t supporting a team or player, he was supporting the coach. Donn believed that athletics instilled values and lessons in our young people like resilience, friendship, problem solving and collective responsibility. He always looked to give back to the community in so many ways. His fortitude, perseverance and heart are just continued examples of the exemplary human being that Donn is.