

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Edward “Jack” Kuhnert

Faculty 1961-1971



Jack Kuhnert joined the mathematics department of Power Memorial following his 1961 graduation from Manhattan College. He entered the Power coaching ranks in 1962 as an assistant and took over the head coaching reins in 1965. He compiled an incredible 89-18 (.831 winning percentage) record in 5 seasons and continued Power’s dominance of basketball in New York City. Jack coached Power to 4 division titles and the 1970 city championship victory over Archbishop Malloy was one for the ages. The 1970 team completed an undefeated (22-0) season and garnered the #1 national ranking with the All-American trio of **Len Elmore, Jap Trimble and Ed Searcy.**

The undefeated 1970 Power Memorial Academy varsity basketball team was the CHSAA city champions, the number one ranked team in NYC, NY State and the number one national ranked high school basketball team in the country. During the 1969-1970 season, the Panthers cruised to a record of 22 wins and no losses against many of the top private and public teams in the

country.

They won the Cambria War Memorial Tournament in Johnstown, PA against Mansfield High School and the number one rated player in the country, Tom McMillen, who came into the game averaging 57 points per game. They beat powerhouse Boys high from Brooklyn at Madison Square Garden, which marked the first time a public high school team was allowed to play there since 1964. They defeated Mackin High School, one of the top rated high schools in the Washington, D.C. area at Georgetown University and they beat Archbishop Walsh High School at St. Bonaventure University. The team’s true strength was evident as they cruised through the CSAA playoffs on their way to another city championship. They crushed their opposition by an average of 28 points per game and avenged their loss a year earlier to Archbishop Molloy High School in the championship game.

It was the only team in the history of NYC high school basketball to have 3 players named to the All City First Team by the New York Daily News and the New York Post. These 3 players, Len Elmore, Ed Searcy, and Jap Trimble were also selected as All Americans during the 1970 season. Many team members had success playing collegiately and two members of the team, Len Elmore and Ed Searcy, played in the NBA, with the Bucks, Nets, Knicks and the 1975-1976 NBA champion Celtics. Team member Steve Donohue was the last coach of Power’s varsity basketball team.

Kuhnert declined the offers to coach at the collegiate level after the dream season and followed his love of teaching and coaching high school to Freehold, NJ, where his young family had relocated in 1967. While at Freehold High School, Kuhnert won a state championship, 7 division titles and a record 10 Freehold Regional Holiday Tournament crowns. The Holiday Tournament was renamed in Kuhnert’s honor following his sudden passing on October 6, 1997.

Coach Kuhnert was repeatedly recognized for his commitment to the student athlete, high standards of sportsmanship and the coaching profession both during and after his career. Honors included **the National High School Coaching Gold Award, Governor’s Teacher Recognition Award, New Jersey Interscholastic Coaches Association Hall of Fame, Freehold High School Hall of Fame and New Jersey Sports Hall of Fame. In 2017, named as one of the Jersey Shore’s greatest boys hoop coaches. In Sept. 2000, inducted into the NY City Basketball Hall of Fame as an Assistant Coach.**