

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Mr. Thomas Danko Class of 1972 Faculty



Tom Danko came to Power from Incarnation parish in Washington Heights in September of 1968. As an up-and-coming baseball talent, he played catcher for the JV team under Br. McNamara and the Varsity team under Mr. Malone. Some of Tom's greatest baseball memories at Power were of all the great pitchers he caught, many of whom went on to play Division 1 and/or professional ball, including Julio Alonso, Jim Buggy, Joe Hernandez, Steve Kallas and Mike Smith. They won a lot of games at Power and Tom Danko caught them all.

After Power, Tom attended Manhattan College and upon graduating in 1976, he returned as an assistant on the Power baseball team. He officially joined Power as a faculty member in the Phys Ed Department in 1979. During his time at Power, Tom oversaw the introduction of ice hockey as an official team sport and he coached both the JV and Varsity at the same time. When Power closed in 1984, Tom was both the Varsity hockey and Varsity

baseball coach. Tom was also very active in the Save Power movement begun by the lay teachers in a heroic bid to prevent the school from closing.

Tom's greatest memory of the sad ending at Power was that he was, literally, the last faculty member to teach a Power Memorial class. Unbeknownst to many, when Power closed in June of 1984, Juniors that year (who would have, and should have, been graduates of the Class of '85) were given the opportunity of taking three summer classes and receiving a PMA diploma. The three classes were English, Math and Health and they were taught in that order, just down the block at John Jay College. Approximately 25 students took part in that offer and it was Tom Danko, the Health teacher, who taught the final class on the final day.

After Power closed, Tom went west to New Jersey, working at Clifton High School as a Phys Ed teacher, while also coaching baseball, ice hockey and soccer. It was in coaching ice hockey that Tom made his mark on the sport. The following is taken directly from his biography on the NJ HS Ice Hockey Hall of Fame website: "Tom Danko is well-known throughout the New Jersey High School hockey community as one of the good guys. In his 32 years as the Head Coach of the Mustangs, Danko amassed 374 wins, won four Cup Championships, five Passaic County titles and the 2000 Public State Championship.

He has also earned many honors during his long and successful career. Danko is a five-time Passaic County "Coach of the Year" and Big North "Coach of the Year". Most notably, Danko was named the Star Ledger "Coach of the Year" for guiding a young Mustang team to the 2000 State Title." Tom was inducted into the NJ HS Ice Hockey Hall of Fame in 2022.