



Stan Noland
Monroe 1938-2023

Stan Noland was such a gifted athlete that he earned 15 letters when competing for Tippecanoe High School in Tipp City, Ohio. He went on to play football and baseball at Ohio Wesleyan until an injury sidelined him in 1957. But he didn't stay on the sidelines for long.

Arriving at tennis-rich Monroe -- home of state champion Vic Braden and three Hall of Famers before his own induction in 1998 made it a fourth -- he founded the boys and girls programs at neighboring St. Mary's Catholic Central in 1979.

Under his leadership, the Falcons captured a total of 8 Huron League titles, won 5 regional championships, made 11 trips to the state finals, had 6 unbeaten seasons, and enjoyed rankings in the Top Ten 16 times. All this on behalf of a school that had not fielded a team until he arrived.

A teacher at Monroe High School for 41 years, he succeeded Hall of Famer Ward Olson in 1993 and never skipped a beat. His kids won two league championships, enjoyed an undefeated season in 1993, captured three regional titles, and took home five invitational trophies.

This success was anything but accidental. In 1978, Stan took over the local Parks and Recreation Department tennis program, started a Junior Tennis League chapter, helped the local YMCA establish a tennis program, and originated a program at the Monroe Racquet Club. He gave that club so many

“free” hours that he was able to use that facility for rained-out Saturday tournaments at no cost for competing teams.

In addition, he created “all-nighters,” situations where high school teams could spend the entire night at the YMCA playing against other teams in scrimmage situations, especially appreciated by coaches in March when so often kids couldn’t get in shape outdoors because of the inclement Michigan weather.

Stan ran three USTA junior tournaments each summer, hosted nine high school 8-team tournaments each school year (an innovator before his time, he established the use of walkie-talkies to communicate between sites before the era of cell phones), and was director of the Nike Summer Tennis Camps held at Monroe High School.

He served as an officer of SEMTA for six years, was Rankings Chairman for six (especially helpful when he was at MHSAA seed meetings), and served for six years as the chairperson of the Tournament Committee. For three years, he was the on-site director for the Western Tennis Association Junior Davis Cup competitions held at Miami of Ohio University.

Active in the MHSTeCA, Stan was our president from 1987 to 1989. He was the chairperson of the State Seed Committee for both boys and girls for 20 state tournaments. Genial and competent, he was the on-site director of three of those Class B final contests.

Stan was our Coach of the Year in 1981, only four years after our organization began bestowing the award. In 1996 he was a finalist for the Tennis Coach of the Year Award given by the National Federation of Interscholastic Associations. In 1992, he was given the Lombardi Award for Community Service for his work with the Western Open Girls 16 Tournament. In that same year, he received a proclamation from the City of Monroe for his extensive community service.

He retired to Batavia, Ohio with Pat, his wife of 62 years, to be closer to their daughter Barbara and her family. His son Steve, who played for Monroe Catholic Central, lives in North Carolina with a wife and four children.

Although the word giant is too-often loosely launched, such is not the case here. Coaches getting their feet wet in our profession should read the above and appreciate the kind of contributor that preceded them.