

Kenosha Unified Athletics – Hall of Fame Inductee – Class of 1996

Bill Mikolyzk – 1964

True Kenosha basketball fans remember the name of Bill Mikolyzk from the outstanding 1963-64 basketball team. A two year letter winner in basketball and golf, Bill was a 6'3" starting forward on one of Kenosha's finest basketball teams. The Red Devils, coached by Joe Brittelli (HOF class of 1988) were ranked number one in the state. They had rolled over its opponents on the way to a Big 8 Conference title, and chalked up 19 victories for the season. Both the sophomore and varsity teams played before capacity sellout crowds at home games. In fact, most fans had to be there by 6:30 pm to get a seat in the old Bradford gym.

After beating Racine Park twice in the regular season, Bradford fell victim in the WIAA Regional Finals to the old saying, "it is hard to beat a team three times in one season." They lost in a heart breaking overtime game to the Panthers 77-72 before a packed South Milwaukee gym. Nevertheless, Bill did not let that loss damper his enthusiasm for the game of basketball. After graduation from Bradford he went to Ripon College where he played basketball for four years. Earning three varsity letters and being selected as captain during his junior and senior years, he graduated in 1968 with a teaching degree in History.

For the past twenty-eight years, Bill has been teaching at Plymouth High School. He was an assistant boys' basketball coach for eighteen years and took over as head coach in 1986. Since his tenure as head coach, Plymouth's boys' teams have won four conference championships while recording 136 wins. In 1990 Bill guided his team to the WIAA Division I Elite Eight. Twenty-six years later Bill Mikolyzk made it to Madison.

Bill has not limited his coaching abilities to just basketball. He also has won eight golf conference championships with two state appearances and he was the JV football coach for three years. According to Cabby Wild, Plymouth's athletic director, "Bill has been an integral part of the athletic program at Plymouth High School for the past twenty-eight years. He is an excellent coach and deserves the honor of being inducted into the Kenosha Hall of Fame."