



Henrietta Snyder

If a biography were written on our grandmother's life, it would have been laden with her passion for girls' sports and the numerous achievements both she and her teams achieved over the years.

To simply say her passion was girls' sports would be an understatement. As we glance through the many pictures that she left in scrapbooks and the articles written about her it was evident that she became infatuated with sports from a young age. We remember her telling us that she was "a tomboy" when growing up much to her mother's dismay. She never really liked frilly dresses, hair bows or playing with dolls. She preferred sports; this became her life-long passion, her comfort zone.

After accepting a "temporary" position at Fort Hill High in 1947, she embarked on a 22 year coaching career sharing that passion with her students. Along the way, she was credited with reviving girls' sports in Allegany County. Not only was she a solid coach, she was a mentor as well. She instilled the values of citizenship and hard work into her girls while providing them the foundation and the life skills to grow up and become strong, productive young ladies.

Her accomplishments at Fort Hill include 15 unbeaten seasons in basketball, including winning streaks of 40 and 56 games. In her first two years she led her teams to the Maryland High School Championship games only to be beaten both years by a very strong Bethesda team. As a volleyball coach her teams won State Championships in 1951, '53 and '54. Following the 1954 season, girls' teams no longer participated in state tournaments. That lasted until after she retired in 1970.

Our grandmother would have been so proud to receive this award. Fort Hill was her life. Her extended family was the many fine people that helped her along the way to live her passion. Our sincere thanks go out to the Fort Hill community for recognizing and selecting Henrietta Snyder for the "Deeds, Not Words" award.