

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

'She cares for every kid'

Bellwood-Antis track coach Roseborough is now in her 56th season

By Buck Frank

Altoona Mirror

Bellwood-Antis High School has only ever employed one girls head track and field coach.

Julie Roseborough began the program back in 1966, and 56 years later, she is still guiding the team.

"This is my 32nd year coaching with her," Robin Campbell, Roseborough's longtime assistant coach, said. "I thought I'd always retire when she did, but she kept going."

Roseborough, known as "Miss R" among all of those who have known her over the last five and a half decades, will become the third recipient of the Blair County Sports Hall of Fame's Lifetime Achievement Award Saturday, April 9, at the Blair County Convention Center.

Roseborough, 79, not only has coached girls track and field, but she has guided boys and girls cross country for the last 29 years and had also coached field hockey for 25 years in the 1970s and 1980s.

"Bellwood is such a really good school district," Roseborough said. "There are so many good people, good kids, and my experience there has been wonderful."

Roseborough is a 1960 graduate of Juniata Valley High School and graduated from West Chester University in 1964. She was then hired as a physical education instructor at Bellwood a week before classes began that fall.

In the early spring of 1965, she agreed to add a few girls events to the Bellwood-Antis Track and Field Invitational Meet, and that led to the creation of a girls team for the spring of 1966.

Except for the 2020 track season, which was canceled due to the pandemic, she's been at the helm every year. The track and Bellwood's



Julie Roseborough is the third recipient of the Blair County Sports Hall of Fame's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Memorial Stadium was dedicated in her name on May 1, 2006.

"I think as a coach she epitomizes bringing the best out of everyone," Nick Lovrich, who has been the boys head track coach for the last 23 years, said. "Not everyone is a state champ, but each athlete can improve by working hard and doing their best

in competitions. She's that way as a coach — she cares for every kid."

Roseborough, who was inducted into the Huntingdon County Sports Hall of Fame in 2009, began the 2022 track season with a 474-98-3 all-time record. She's coached 34 state medalists,

(Continued on page 58)



In 2006, Bellwood named its track for Julie Roseborough. Here, she is flanked by, from left: student-athlete Liam Flynn, Principal Diane Williams, student-athlete Ashley Mueller and academic principal Tom Otto.

(Continued from page 57)

including Lisa Haupt, who won a PIAA gold medal in the long jump in 1977 and also won four other medals.

Roseborough's record in field hockey was 123-38-16, and she's compiled a 188-130 mark with the boys cross country team and a 179-141 record with the girls squad.

That's a grand total record of 964-367-19 in 1,347 competitions.

"She is always very well organized," Campbell, who also was coached in track by Roseborough, said. "She was a lot more intense when she was younger — she's mellowed over the years. But she doesn't like to lose."

Roseborough, however, would deflect the credit.

"Throughout the years, I've been fortunate to have many, many good assistants," she said. "There are too many to name, but it was not a one-woman show."

Beyond the wins and losses, though, are the positive impacts she's made on countless young student-athletes, who now range in age from teenagers to some currently in their 70s.

She's coached three generations of Bellwood athletes.

"She's been a pillar of the Bellwood community," Lovrich said. "She's the type of person who makes relationships with everyone she comes into contact with. All of the kids love her. She knows the family histories of everyone — she's just a great person."

Roseborough said she's now taking coaching one year at a time.

"I still enjoy the kids," she said. "I'm going to have to make a decision on when it's time to give someone younger a chance to coach — whether the program would be better off with somebody younger. But I still enjoy the kids."

No one in Blair County history has coached more scholastic seasons (56) than Roseborough, and that's a record that might never be broken.

"You're not going to see another coach coach as long as she has," Lovrich said. "It's amazing."

HOF LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNERS

- 2010 Jim Lane
- 2018 Jake Webb
- 2022 Julie Roseborough



Changing lives through innovation in English language training, cultural exchange, leadership development and literacy.

Our work at the Sequoia Foundation offers programs to expand the knowledge, vision and capacity and confidence of people of all ages, helping to offer them a future filled with opportunities. The best way to do this, we have decided from the outset, is to offer programs from reading to music, from language to dance.

To do this, we offer a broad range of experiences to audiences that seldom have access to the many forms of arts and education. We have linked our efforts to many internationally acclaimed organizations and their programs, while at the same time reach many local organizations, by providing funds to aid in their growth and development.

sqafoundation.org