

Alums "Making a Difference"

Vince Drake

Mercy

Class of 1964

November

Coach Vince Drake has made such an impact on many students over the years. Before becoming the person he is today, he went through life with a goal and a focus.

Vince graduated from St. Thomas Moore grade school in 1960. He then went on to play soccer at Mercy High School. Little did he know, he would soon meet the love of his life, Marianne. They both graduated from Mercy in 1964.

He was accepted into St Louis University where he played soccer and was a part of the National Championship team in 1965. After graduating from SLU in 1968, he began his outstanding coaching career. He started teaching and coaching at Mercy High School, which later merged with Aquinas High School in 1985. That same year, Coach decided to go back to school to earn his Master's Degree in Education from Maryville University.



He vividly remembers times of hauling all sports equipment over to Ferdinand Park for practices and games. This continued for about 30 years until the late 90's, when Aquinas received a home field.

In 2003, Aquinas Mercy and Rosary merged to become Trinity Catholic High School. Drake continued his role as Varsity boy's soccer coach and Athletic Director, along with teaching Spanish and P.E.

Accumulating all of his years as a high school faculty member, shows that he spent 17 years as Athletic Director; 5 at Aquinas Mercy and 12 at Trinity. He spent 47 years as Varsity Boy's Soccer Coach, and 28 of those years as the Varsity Girls Soccer Coach as well. He also coached football, baseball, and basketball at Aquinas and Aquinas Mercy. Receiving 1080+ wins, 12 State Championships, and 7 State- Runners-up, he is known as the winningest coach in the nation!

Other tremendous awards he has received over the years are the National Soccer Coach of the Year Award in 1977, 1994, and 1998. The 90's was a great decade for him as he was honored by St Louis Baseball Writers with the Outside of Baseball Award in 1994. He received the Jimmy Dunn (Outstanding High School Soccer Coach) Award in 1990, the Silver Boot Award from CYC in 1991, and was selected to enter into St. Louis University's Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame in 1999.

The start of the next century continued to be more years of success in his career. In 2012 he received the Archbishop Carlson Archdiocesan Service Award. He was selected into the High School Coaches Hall of Fame as a part of the 2013 inaugural class, and that same year, received the Legends Award from St Louis Sports Hall of Fame. His success did not stop there. His most recent accomplishment was getting selected into the St. Louis Soccer Hall of Fame in October, 2014.

Putting aside all of his success and accomplishments, the humble heart of Vince Drake was stolen by his high school sweetheart Marianne. The two have been married for 46 years. They have 2 grown children, Jeff and JoAnne, and have been blessed with 5 beautiful grandchildren.

Vince's favorite past times are spending time with family and friends, and his 91 year old father. He continues to enjoy going out to dinner once a week with Marianne, barbecuing as often as possible, and taking long drives, sometimes covering 3000-4000 miles.