

Maley Selected for Hall of Fame

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When Ottoville golf coach Jim Maley retires from the coaching ranks, the two things he will remember most about his coaching career are the players he has coached and the friendships he has made along the way.

The long time Ottoville coach will have a little help in remembering the past as he recently was selected to join the Ohio High School Golf Coaches Hall of Fame. Along with his selection Maley received a plaque, which will help him trigger the memories about his coaching days at Ottoville.

"It (the plaque) will be something that when I look at it, I will look back at the memories," Maley said. "When I retire, the two things I will remember the most are the players and the friendships I have developed among the other coaches."

"When my golfers leave high school, I hope they take a lot of memories with them. That is something I talk about because sports are memories and the friendships you develop always go with you. If the players don't leave with a lot of good memories, it's disappointing."

Entering the Hall of Fame with Maley this year were fellow coaches Jack Buhi, Lakota, Milton Lewis, Graham, Mike Rabes, Dover and Doug Kassen, Milford.

To be considered for this award Maley says you must have at least 15 years of experience, have spent a lot of time in junior golf and be a member of the organization as well as having your name nominated for the award.

Maley was nominated for consideration to the Hall by long time friend Tom Reynolds, the golf coach at Findlay High School and a 1990 selection to the Hall of Fame. After he was nominated Ottoville Superintendent Rusty MacDonald and Don Cook, the Club Pro at the Delphos Country Club wrote letters of reference in support of Coach Maley.

Maley is set to begin his 20th year of coaching at Ottoville in the fall. He has been a member of the Ohio Golf Coaches Association for 18 years and has been a Northwest District representative for the Ohio Coaches Hall of Fame for the last six years.

His record for dual, triangular and quadrangular matches is 337 wins and 93 losses. He also has coached nine Putnam County League championship teams as well as seven sectional championship teams.

He has taken 14 teams to the district golf tournament and has seen three of them, 1983, 1985 and 1987, advance to the state tournament. His 1983 team finished as runner-up at the state tournament. Maley also has seen five individual golfers advance to the state tournament.

Several Ottoville golfers have gone on to play college golf with two now serving as assistant pros in Northwest Ohio.

The Ottoville coach has served two years as President of the Northwest Golf Coaches Association and has helped to organize and run the Delphos Country Club High School Golf Invitational the last 15 years.

Over the past 16 summers he has been giving junior golf lessons along with the head pro at the Delphos Country Club.

"I was shocked, very surprised when I was told I would be receiving this award," Maley said. "I found out right before our annual clinic was to start."

"I feel privileged to be associated with some of the top name golf coaches in the state. It also feels good that what we have done here has reflected on coaches in other parts of the state so they would vote for you."

"Still you have to remember who got you there. Without the hard work and determination of the young kids at Ottoville, we wouldn't be able to be as competitive as we have been over the years. This is like the culmination of a lot of good memories."

The Ohio High School Golf Coaches Hall of Fame inducted its first class in 1981 and now has 35 members with this year's class. Although Maley has voted in past elections he declined to vote this year since his name was on the list.

As Coach Maley adds another memory to his scrapbook, it will not only remind him of his coaching days at Ottoville, but also how far high school golf has come in those many years of dedication to the sport.

"I have seen golf grow in Putnam County to where it is now accepted by everyone," Maley says. "That says a lot for the coaches, players and schools who have worked very hard to get the game accepted and have it continue to grow."

"There will be the memories I look back on when I decide to retire. The wins and losses all seem to blend together, but the friendships and players are hard to forget."

Coach Maley coached at Ottoville from 1974-1994. He retired as golf coach at the conclusion of the 1994 season with a final record of 370-99. This does not include all the matches from invitationals. His teams won eight PCL Tournaments, six Sectional Tournaments and two District Tournaments. Ottoville also qualified for 15 District and four State Tournaments. In 1983, Ottoville was the State Runner-up.