

PYA Hall of Fame

KATHY GALLAGHER DOUGHTY

Before there was Title IX or the WNBA or even girls' soccer, there was Kathy Gallagher. A Port Washington native, "Keg" has spent her lifetime on the playing fields and in the classrooms of this community, working with children.

As a child she was one of the early "pioneers" of the PYA girls sports program and played softball and basketball. Later in Schreiber High School she excelled in varsity field hockey, basketball and club lacrosse. In those days the girls didn't play for trophies or championships — they were given milk and cookies when the season was over. At Slippery Rock State Teachers College, where she earned her degree in education, Kathy was an outstanding lacrosse and water polo player.

While many college athletes view graduation as a time to "hang it up," Kathy obviously viewed it as a time to "give something back." For ten years she coached varsity and JV lacrosse and field hockey at Schreiber. Her teams were always highly competitive and produced numerous All-Americans, All County and All-Conference players. More importantly, she provided young women athletes with guidance, support and a positive role model at a time when women athletes played in the shadows of their male counterparts.

Kathy's involvement with PYA began in 1989 when she developed the girls lacrosse program. Starting with only a handful of girls 12 years ago the program has grown to now serve over 70 players in five age groups. Her competitive spirit is tempered with nurturing and encouragement as she doesn't concern herself with running up scores or only playing the superstars. Her focus is on teaching the game.

In addition to her work on the field Kathy has been an active member of PYA's Board of Directors since 1991. She has served as Secretary of the Board, Lacrosse Commissioner and has been a contributing member of the Harborfest, Dinner Dance and Ethics & Sportsmanship Committees.

Kathy has been a teacher in the Port Washington School District for 24 years. She has taught at the middle school, the high school and for 12 years has taught physical education at Sousa Elementary School. She spends the hours between 9-3 (and often later) working with the youth of this community, teaching them skills and values and providing them with a firm foundation of teamwork and sportsmanship. So many of Port Washington's finest athletes are able to look back and proudly say that they "had Miss Gallagher for gym."

In 1998 Kathy married Chuck Doughty and now has Bobby and Laurie as children. She is an outstanding golfer and, when she's not teaching or coaching, you can usually find her tearing up the links — though lately most of the tearing has been done on their house as she and Chuck go through the joys of renovating.

Kathy Gallagher Doughty is PYA's first female Hall of Fame member but she surely will not be the last. The seeds she has sown as a coach and as a teacher have already sprouted. Many of today's top women's college lacrosse players got their start on Lion's Field with Kathy. Hopefully, they too will decide to give something back to the community. When one of them steps up to make her acceptance remarks she will certainly want to thank Coach Keg for all that she has done.

