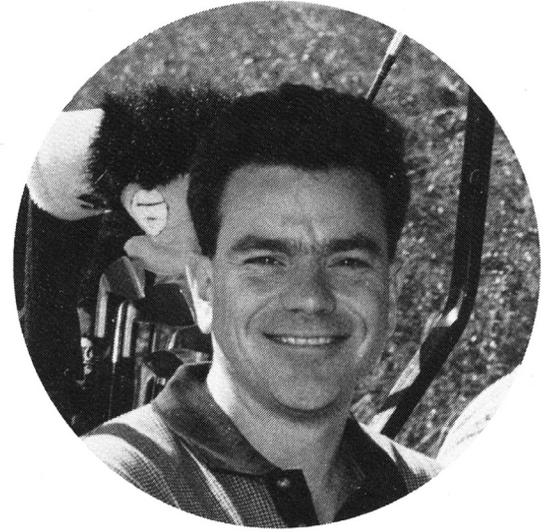




## **PYA Hall of Fame**

---

### **DAN O'CONNELL**



As a PYA program alumnus who enjoyed a solid athletic career at Chaminade High School and Villanova University, Dan has been involved with PYA as a long-running two-sport coach in our football and lacrosse programs, and has proudly served on the PYA board since 1983. A lifelong resident of Port Washington, there are not many more volunteer coaches, commissioners, or directors that can match Dan's 17 year tenure with PYA who are still looking ahead to their 40th birthday.

Throughout grammar school, Dan played PYA football (5 years), lacrosse (5 years), and baseball (1 year), oftentimes with his across-the-street neighbor, Marty Bergin. Continuing to develop his athletic prowess at Chaminade, he spent 4 years playing lacrosse (2 with the varsity), 2 years wrestling (1 varsity), and 2 playing football (1 varsity). Lacrosse being his best sport, Dan moved on to Villanova's Division I program where he started all 4 of his varsity seasons at midfield.

Back home after graduation in 1983, he joined Merrill Lynch, and played 1 year with the North Hempstead Lacrosse Club. At this point, he began his involvement as a PYA volunteer with his initial head coaching stint for PYA football, followed by his first lacrosse head coaching assignment the following spring. Dan moved quickly up the administrative ladder at PYA. He served as commissioner of the senior football division for 8 years, and of the lacrosse program for 12 years. He was the PYA/Port Washington representative to the Long Island Midget Lacrosse League for 12 years, and co-founded (along with Harvey Cohen) the PYA developmental lacrosse program for 6 and 7 year olds.

Dedicated to lacrosse, Dan coached the indoor (winter) league high school team for 4 years, and a high school summer league team for 2 years. In giving back to PYA since that fall of 1983, he has assisted many of our young lacrosse players in focusing on their scholastic and collegiate potential by initiating contacts with top-level high school and college coaches on their behalf.

Dan's loyalty is further exemplified by his 17-year steady rise through the ranks of Merrill Lynch's Garden City branch where he is currently a First Vice President. He and his wife Susan are parents to budding PYA athletes Molly, Daniel, Jack, and Moira.