

North Dakota Interscholastic Activities
Administrators Association
★ ★ HALL OF FAME ★ ★

Myron J. Spitzer



A Bismarck native and stand-out football player, Myron "Jim" Spitzer attended Bismarck High School and Bismarck State College before graduating from Bemidji State University with a teaching degree in social studies and physical education. He continued advanced training by taking various classes at UND, NDSU, University of Mary, Minot State University, and Dickinson State University.

Jim began his career in education at Stirum, MN. He taught and coached there for 2H years before moving to Tappen, ND in 1956. While at Tappen, Spitzer assumed the duties of athletic administrator in addition to serving as a teacher and coach. Three of his girls' basketball teams advanced to the Class C state tournament; one of his boys' basketball teams placed second in the regional tournament falling one win short of also advancing to the state tournament.

In 1961, Spitzer accepted a teaching/coaching position in the Hebron, ND school system. He also served as the athletic administrator for the next 4 years. Jim's coaching successes in Hebron were many. While his contributions to the teams and individual athletes in basketball, track, and baseball were significant, it was in football where Spitzer and his Brickmakers made their mark. Jim's 13-year football coaching record in Hebron was an outstanding 71-23-6. His teams posted an impressive 24 consecutive win streak and two undefeated seasons while garnering five conference

titles during his tenure as head football coach. Several of his players went on to successful collegiate careers. One can only wonder "what might have been" had the NDHSAA-sponsored play-off system been in place during Spitzer's coaching stint at Hebron.

In 1980, Spitzer again assumed the position of athletic administrator and led the community drive to rebuild the Hebron Recreation Complex and install lights at that site. He also provided the leadership in expanding the athletic programs for girls. Jim served as the manager for several district basketball tournaments along with being a member of many district committees for basketball, track, and conference football.

Along the way, Spitzer was recognized several times for outstanding achievement in his educational career. Twice he was named Football Coach of the Year and also earned an accolade as Driver Education Teacher of the Year. He also received a Regional Athletic Administrator of the Year Award and has been named a nominee (selection pending) to the North Dakota Football Coaches' Hall of Fame.

Spitzer's contributions to the Hebron community were also significant as he served as the Hebron Fall Festival chairman for many years. Jim was a Lion's Club member for 25 years and held the position of club secretary and club president. In addition, he was elected to serve as Lion's District Governor. Jim is a lifetime member of the Fraternal Order of the Elks and a 45-year member of the American Legion.

The military also played an important role in Spitzer's life. He served in the United States Air Force for three years and was a 28-year member of the North Dakota Air National Guard and the United States Army Reserve. Jim was an instructor at the Army Engineering School in Ft. Belvedere, VA; at the US Army Command General Staff College in Ft. Leavenworth, and at the University of Nevada-Reno. His military career ended in 1982 upon his retirement as a Lieutenant Colonel.

As an educator, Jim retired in 1990 after having served 29 years in the Hebron school district. He and his wife, Delores, continue to reside in Hebron. They have four daughters - Colleen, Gillette, WY; Karen, LaCrosse, WI; Jimmy Ann, Breckenridge, MN; and Kimberly, Fargo. The Spitzers are also very proud of their seven granddaughters.