

## Neil A. Hickoff

Neil graduated from Duncannon High School in 1951, the 1950 team he quarterbacked was declared by "Bus Funk's GRIDFAX" magazine as one of Duncannon's best teams ever. His senior year he was elected to the "Twin Valley All Star Football" team, "MVP" of the basketball league, Captain Of The All Star Basketball team and was the starting pitcher in the "All Star Baseball Game". He was also voted by his football teammates as the "Player's Play Of The Year". He attended Gettysburg College for 1 1/2 years when he was drafted into the Army. Assigned to Austria where he quarterbacked the "Area Command Golden Bears" to an 8-1 record and was elected to the "United States Forced In Austria All Star Football Team". He returned to Gettysburg College where he quarterbacked one of Gettysburg's best teams ever in 1957. Neil became the head coach of Lykens High School in 1958, the smallest school in Pennsylvania playing football. The previous year the team was 0-5, 35% of his losses came in his first 4 yrs. at Lykens. After creating his own offensive system in 1962 he had only one losing season in 20 years. In 1962 they won the only "Twin Valley League Championship" in the history of the school. That year there was only 13 students, 5 girls and 8 boys in the entire senior class. In 1965 he became the head coach at Bermudian Springs High School, a school that never had a winning season. There he compiled a total win loss record of 37-9-1, 5 straight winning seasons and twice were ranked second in Class C Football in District III. He coached one of two players ever to be elected to the "Big 33" team, Charles Green (his player) and Darrin Oswald. In 1970 he became the head coach of C. D. East, another team never having a winning season. At East he compiled 37-11-2 record, with 5 straight winning seasons and were Co-Champs in 1973 and in 1974 outright Champs of the "Central Penn League". Both those yrs. they were ranked in the top 10 in the state Quad A Football. In his first year at East he was elected "Coach Of The Year" & in five years had 5 players elected to the "Big 33" squad, Dave Teter, Dick Keyes, Jim Wicks, Rick Zimmerman and Win Green. In 1975 he became the head coach at Carlisle High School and in 7 years completed a 56-20-2 record & in his first year went 10-1. They were also Champs of the "South Central League" & had another top 10 ranking in the state. In 1976 they were Tri-Champs and in 1977 Co-Champs of the same league. After completing an undefeated season in 1981 (11-0) and another "South Central" championship they were ranked 4th in the state. Neil retired from high school coaching after the undefeated season. As coach at Carlisle he had one player elected to the "Big 33" team, Mike Knox. His teams in high school went 18 years without a losing season at four different schools. Eighteen years later he spent one year as offensive coordinator at "Sunny Brockport University" where they had a 6-4 record. In 1970 was appointed as an assistant coach of the "Big 33 East Squad" & "Coach Of The Year" of the Central Penn League. In 1973 & in 1981 he was elected "Coach Of The Year" by the Harrisburg "Old Timers Association" & in 1974 he was honored by the "Penn Central Family Club" as one of the top coaches in the area. In 1994 he was inducted into the "Capital Area & in 2003 Adams County Hall of Fame" In 24 years as a head coach Neil compiled a record of 152-77-8.