

Officials Appreciation Week Profile:

Bill Milone

Bill Milone was destined to continue his involvement in sports after his own athletic career had ended.

“I played baseball in high school and college, and had a (pro) tryout, but looked hard about what life would hold,” he said. “I thought that a teaching profession was the way to go, and looking back it was.”

From those days in the late 1960s, his educational career took off.

“I wasn’t interested in baseball, and my mentor asked me to coach track,” he said.

Eventually, Jay Dakelman, a legendary coach and administrator in Middlesex County, offered him a suggestion.

“In the process, Jay Dakelman asked me to consider becoming an official, and he really made me make the right decision.”

He now has decades of experience, not only officiating meets, but organizing them as well.

Aside from officiating in Middlesex, Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren counties, he has worked as an assignor and directs the NJSIAA North Jersey, Section 2, Group 2 and 3 meets, as well as the Group 1 and 4 state meets.

“As I grew, I learned not to make mistakes of other officials,” he said. “And to do the best I can for the athletes to feel comfortable in all situations. My officiating career has been the most rewarding, along with my coaching career. I have been blessed with great athletes, but more importantly, great student-athletes and upstanding people.”

Getting to know NJSIAA sports official Bill Milone:

What do you enjoy most about being an official?

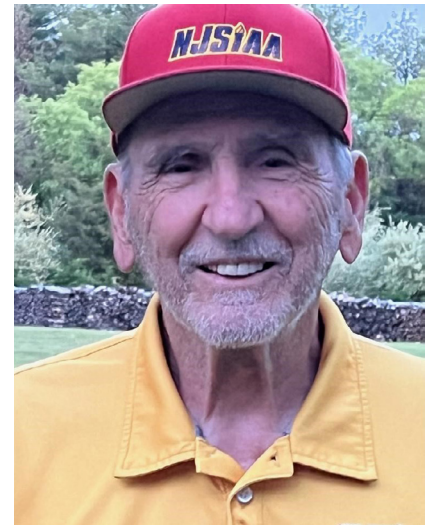
“Seeing smiles on the faces of athletes during and after competition.”

Do you have a favorite memory from officiating an event?

“Working as an official at the Penn Relays for 22 years and working with athletes on the Olympic Development competition.”

What’s the best part about any given day of officiating?

“Doing the best job possible and having a working relationship with athletes of all ages, making sure they are comfortable during competition.”



What's the most rewarding aspect of your officiating career?

“Having an athlete say ‘Thank You.’”

Do you have a particularly funny memory from a meet?

“Working a championship meet with some good athletes and having one run down the runway holding the javelin backwards ready to throw.”

What's the biggest misconception about the job of being an official?

“That an official is not fair because he called a foul.”

What would you say to anyone thinking about becoming an official?

“It's one of the best jobs other than being a teacher. I was told a long time ago that if you want to be a great official, be a great teacher. Try to make all student-athletes believe in themselves.”

***Think you might be interested in becoming a high school sports official?
Check out this link to learn more: <https://www.njsiaa.org/officials/become-official>***