

## *Carol Parsons*

Few can go through a career being universally liked and appreciated by those that they serve.

Carol Parsons was one of those people.

After a 25 years as a teacher, coach and administrator at the Princeton Regional District, she joined the NJSIAA staff as an assistant director in 1992, and stayed on until her retirement as associate director in 2010.

Parsons joined the NJSIAA at a very important time. She was tasked with carrying on the role of Florence Peragallo, who was hired in the early 1970s to implement the girls sports program after the passage of Title IX. Parsons replaced Peragallo after her retirement, and became a major factor in New Jersey cementing its place as the national leader in number of girls sports offered.

Not only did Parsons continue to administrate and additionally guide the growth of girls sports, she accomplished much more. The time when she came aboard was also a period when the NJSIAA began to be much more outward in dealing with the public, and her personality, knowledge and availability to answer inquiries were much appreciated by the statewide media and others outside the walls of the headquarters building in Robbinsville.

As part of that, the 1990s were also the start of the internet age, and Carol established the original NJSIAA website, the very useful list-serve site which linked the state's athletic directors, as well as all other technological implementations within the association which greatly improved work flow and communications with member schools.

During her time with the association, the first 13 as an assistant director and last five as associate



director, she was involved in every sport, girls and boys, offered by the NJSIAA. When she was leading a long championship day, such as in sports like field hockey, basketball and softball, you knew it would be a well-run event.

Prior to joining the NJSIAA, she spent 25 years working in the Princeton District, mostly at the high school. During her time there, she was a teacher and head coach of soccer, basketball and track and assistant coach for softball, lacrosse and field hockey. Her final 12 years were spent as the athletic director.

While at Princeton, Carol also served as the director for the Mercer County boys and girls tennis tournaments, and also as the NJSIAA tournament director for field hockey. She also part of the NJSIAA Advisory and Eligibility Appeals committees.

Carol was recipient of the prestigious NJSIAA Award of Honor in 2010, and inducted into the NJSIAA Hall of Fame in 2011.