

# Coach Mols

*We had asked Herb Mols to write about himself for the Postscript since he was certainly a favorite faculty member of many alumni. Coach was too modest to do so but he did consent to the following article written by Nan Lipsitz Haynes '73.*

Park School was a turning point in Herb Mols' life. In 1946 he made a complete switch from his position with the US Forest Service to join the Park faculty. He talked to then headmaster Dolph Cheek and says he "came face to face with a philosophy of education so unique, inspiring and satisfying" that he couldn't refuse Mr Cheek's challenge to build a science department and an athletic program.

It was "the fantastic rapport" between faculty and students that sold Coach Mols on Park. The whole family, Herb and Ruth Mols and their six children, became an integral part of the Park School community for twenty-eight years. Coach notes that at Park "they got a feel for community involvement." He recognizes that his family was not unique and explains, "It seems like it was common for area families to become involved at the school. That was the beauty of Park." He talks proudly about his children, all actively involved in the communities they now call home.

Mr Cheek felt it was important that all students be active in the athletic program. In that feeling he found an ally in Coach who remembers, "All students participated in all sports. It was a unique aspect of their education. All types were exposed to athletics... many alumni have warm memories of trips to Rochester, Syracuse and Lakemont." Those trips in pursuit of competition in the CUPS league were compliments of Coach Mols. His efforts were instrumental in the organization of the league.

Another goal set by Mr Cheek was that Park School be visibly active in the community at large. Again Coach Mols was happy to oblige. His involvement with amateur athletics in the area brought the community to Park School and took Park out into the community. Mr Mols' participation with the Amateur Athletic Union led him to a 1960 appointment on the US Olympics Committee.

Eleven years later he was the manager of the Pan American basketball team. The following year he was the manager of the US basketball team at the Olympics in Munich, which he describes as the most memorable event in his career. The US team won eight consecutive games which led them to the finals to face the USSR. It appeared that the US had won

when, due to confusion among the officials, the USSR was granted an extra three seconds of play—during which they scored the winning basket! The result, according to Mr Mols, was "the three-second controversy heard 'round the world." After the game the referee, a Brazilian, described it as a "robbery." Mr Mols lodged the official US protest and was widely quoted nationally and internationally. Park Schoolers, past and present, were treated to the sight of their coach on national television.

When he returned to Buffalo after the games, Mr Mols was offered a job as executive director of the Niagara AAU. He accepted and left Park School to become the first full-time paid executive in the history of that organization.

While serving in that capacity Coach Mols became involved with the creation of the Empire State Games: Olympic games in New York State for New York residents. He explains that the games "show people that there is a lot more going on in this area than professional sports." In 1978 Governor Carey appointed Mr Mols regional director of the games. He now devotes his time exclusively to that position since he left his post at the AAU in 1982. His office is in his home at 99 Chateau Terrace in Snyder (NY) where a regular flow of athletes into the house keeps it filled. Mr Mols lives there alone since the death of Mrs Mols in the fall of 1981.

Coach Mols' dedication to amateur sports is never-ending. He is honored to sit on the executive committee of the Dunlop Pro-Am Awards. His efforts have brought Olympic notables Kurt Thomas, Bruce Jenner and Micki King to the Buffalo area for the annual awards ceremony.

Last spring Coach was a guest of the Hurstys for dinner preceding the Cheek Lecture of his former student, Jack MacKenzie '48. After spending that evening with alumni and David Hursty, Mr Mols was pleased to report that the present headmaster is in harmony with the philosophy embraced by the Park School he knew for twenty-eight years.

## A Tribute to Herb Mols:

*Jack MacKenzie '48 was a reporter for the Washington Post for many years and is now on the editorial board of The New York Times. When he spoke at Park last spring as our last Cheek Lecturer of the season, Jack mentioned how Park School and the people here had influenced him.*

"Spirit we always had, Lord knows. And sportsmanship in abundance. Losing gracefully in sports had become for me



*Ruth and Herb Mols*

A family reunion brought the widely-scattered Mols family together in August. Attending from New Hampshire were Sandra '55 and Cary Hughes with their children Karl (19), Dan (11) and Kristin (9); from Rochester Brenda's husband Jack Fraser with children Alex (19), Christina (17) and Andrew (16); from Victoria BC, Gary '64 and Rebecca Mols and their children Sarah (7) and Joseph (3); from Rochester, Sue '66 and Gerry Bushee with children Justin (6) and Erik (2); from Boston, David '71 and Sharon Mols with children Jessica (4) and Adrian (2); and from Bolinas, near San Francisco, Mary '73 and Jack Siedman with son Nate (2).

boys, at least, an art form. From Herb I learned many things, but the one I remember best is that winning is not an evil in itself. We began to put things together, in the new game of football, in basketball, and even in baseball. There were sensational losses but memorable victories and many of the wins were triumphs of character. Herb had the notion that Park would experience some winning seasons, but not indefinitely into the future. In the future there would be highs, lows, and middlings. There would be triumphs and disasters and we would learn 'to treat those two imposters just the same' to quote from the Kipling chestnut that Dolph Cheek was so fond of quoting."

Jack recalled having jumped offside during a football game and remembers the team razzing him as they watched a film of the game later that week. Then Coach Mols said, "I can forgive such mistakes of aggression but not mistakes of omission and sitting back waiting to be hit. I'm not worried about MacKenzie jumping offside, but I do worry when he doesn't move after the ball is snapped."

In his lecture Jack MacKenzie said to us, "Now, my friends, if that isn't education, and if it doesn't show the place for sports in the curriculum, then I'm Matthew Arnold's father. If I didn't learn something from that episode, why do I remember it?"