

Herb Mols, dedicated to amateur athletics

A Mass of Christian Burial for Herbert J. Mols, of Amherst, was offered at 10 a.m. this morning in Christ the King Catholic Church, Snyder.

Mr. Mols, 71, who was the founder of the Empire State Games and Western Region director since the games began in 1978, died early Sunday, Aug. 10 at Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital after suffering a heart attack at the games the night before.

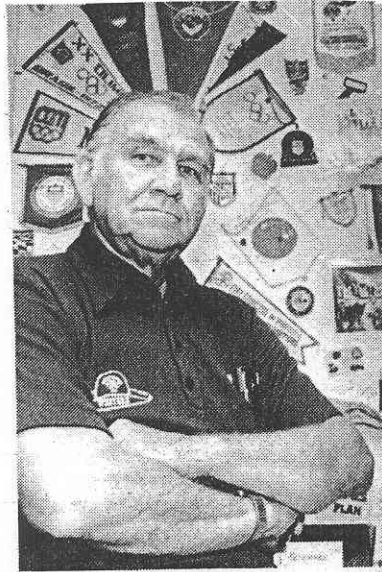
Mr. Mols also coached football, basketball, baseball and track at the Park School, where he was athletic director for 27 years until his retirement in 1973. During his first eight years at Park School he taught biology, chemistry and physics. Mr. Mols was also an organizer of Conference of Upstate Private Schools, a division in which Park competed.

A past chairman of the Amherst Recreation Committee, Mr. Mols was named to the Amherst Avenue of Athletes by the town's

Chamber of Commerce in 1981. He was also a member of the U.S. Olympic Committee for several years.

Nicknamed "The Father of the Western Region," Mr. Mols had a long history of amateur athletics. As head of the Niagara District of Amateur Athletics Union, Mr. Mols suggested an "Olympics of New York State" in 1976. Plans were then drawn for the Empire State Games which hailed in 1978 with Mr. Mols as the Western Region director, the position he held until his death.

"Amateur athletics has lost a tireless champion in Herb Mols," Orin Lehman, commissioner of New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and John M. Prenderville, deputy commissioner, said. "A man of pure ethics and genuine kindness, his successful efforts to establish the Empire State Games as a premier athletic event, and to bring the games to his beloved Buffalo will long be remem-



Herbert Mols

bered."

Mr. Mols had been active in sports since his high school days at Fosdick Masten. He served as manager of the U.S. basketball team at the 1972 Olympics in Munich, Germany. He also managed the U.S. basketball team in the Pan-American Games in Cali, Columbia, in 1971, and the 1970 Pan Am Games which toured the Soviet Union, Poland and Finland.

Born in Buffalo, Mr. Mols earned bachelor's and master's degrees at Cornell, where he played basketball, baseball and football.

He also served in the U.S. Navy during World War II as a radar specialist.

"The hallmark of Herb's life was service to others through athletics," Lehman and Prenderville said.

His wife, the former Ruth M., died in 1981. He is survived by two sons, Gary and David; three daughters, Sandra Hughes, Susan Bushee and Mary Siedman; two brothers, Charles and Robert; and one sister, Charlotte van Nynegan and 17 grandchildren.

AMHERST "BEE"

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