

Chip Rosser Coaches Award



The 'Chip Rosser Coaches Award' is in memory of Chip (Alan) Rosser for his exemplary character and passion for coaching youth sports. Eligible for the award are coaches in the ATPD Basketball Leagues who have demonstrated, by example, their "big-picture" understanding of youth sports.

Chip Rosser, a long-time resident of Anderson Township, coached his daughter's basketball team in the ATPD leagues from 1993-1997. When his daughter out-grew the ATPD league, Rosser's love for youth sports was such that he continued coaching, taking on a 6th grade girl's team for some friends during the 1998-1999 season. Through his years of service, Coach Rosser built a 'pay it forward' legacy. The sport was never about him; it was about the kids on his team. In his mind, the importance was not any specific game; it was about those kids as adults 20 years after that game. His attitude and his example were very refreshing; he was very instrumental in the evolution of the ATPD leagues.

We extend a special thanks to the Rosser family for permitting us to carry on Chip Rosser's great legacy of coaching youth sports. He will be missed, and he will always be remembered.

The Anderson Township Park District has offered youth basketball leagues for girls in 3rd – 12th grades and boys in 3rd – 6th grades since 1983. The ATPD thanks the countless volunteer coaches, assistant coaches and parents who enable their children to play basketball each year.

'Chip Rosser Coaches Award' recipients

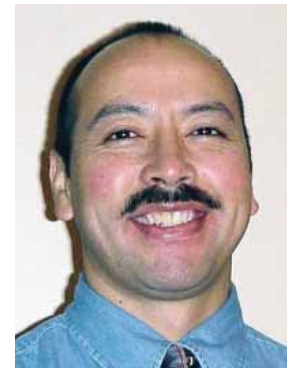
2001 - Coach Ron Doss

- Ron Doss coached his daughter's recreational basketball team from the 4th grade to the 7th grade. He set a great example with his positive courtside manner. Fair Play was his motto. Even in a nail-biter, he made sure every girl played – no matter what her skill level- so each girl could taste the excitement of playing in a close game. He hooted and hollered with the best of them, always displaying top-level sportsmanship.



2001 - Coach Ken Martinez

- Ken Martinez coached his son's recreational basketball team from the 3rd grade to the 6th grade. He instilled in his players a sense of heart and a 'never say die' philosophy. He lead by example and taught his players that the value of the sport was not in the final score, but in the effort they put forth as a team. Downplaying any mistakes his players made on the court, Martinez instead enthusiastically praised his players for their accomplishments. The enthusiastic praise he would exude was best witnessed whenever his team worked together to score a basket... truly a sight and sound to behold!



2002 - Coach Bret Furtwengler

- Bret "Candy-man" Furtwengler coached his son's recreational basketball team from 1998-2002 and his daughter's team 1999-2000. "Candy-man" earned his nickname when it was learned by ATPD staff that he had established a candy giving incentive program to reward his player's for their accomplishments. Coach Furtwengler's mission was to teach his team how to play and enjoy basketball. He taught his players that the value of the sport was measured by how much fun they had while playing. Aside from handing out candy he also incorporated family involvement during practices. Player versus parent scrimmages was an activity often chosen by the player's to end weekly practice, and was a definite highlight for all participants. Coach Furtwengler not only demonstrated to his players the "big-picture" of basketball, but to all who came in contact with him during the various seasons.



2003 - Coach Ken Glassmeyer

- Ken Glassmeyer has coached his two sons in the ATPD basketball league for many years. Coach Glassmeyer is an excellent example of a coach with integrity and character. With Ken, winning a game was not nearly as important as fair playing time, sportsmanship and love of competition. Coach Glassmeyer found kind and uplifting things to say to about all of his players at every game and every practice. "My son believes he is a good basketball player because of Ken's constant encouragement and specific suggestions," wrote Sue Randall about her son's experience on Ken Glassmeyer's team.



2004 - Coach Scott Robertson

- Scott Robertson began his coaching career in 1996 due to a little arm-twisting by his wife Lori and Recreation Director, Emily Armstrong. At the time his daughter Heather was in the fourth grade. Eight years later Coach Robertson was still on the court volunteering his time to Heather's team, but also his younger daughter Lesley's. "He was always very positive, fun and had the best interests of the girls at heart... Scott remained loyal to the girls throughout their recreational basketball experience. He deserves a medal," expressed Terry Miller about her daughter Emily's coach. When notified of his selection as this year's award recipient, Coach Robertson mentioned that having many of the girls on his team every season since the start made coaching wonderful and allowed him to develop great relationships with his players. "You can never give as much as you get back."



2005 - Coach Greg Houston

- Below is a copy of the nomination form we received from one of Coach Houston's players:

"Coach Houston has coached me for 5 years. The first couple of years we were really bad. We couldn't dribble or make a free throw. We lost every game. Coach Houston kept encouraging us. He taught us drills to run that made us better at handling the ball. He taught us how to set picks and make lay ups. We practice free throws at the begging and end of every practice. After 5 years we won almost every game this year. We always believe we can win because Coach Houston believes in us and has us believing in each other and ourselves. We play together as a team. Coach Houston tells us that we lose together and win together. Sometimes, I get really down on myself if I have a bad game. Coach Houston has sent me encouraging cards in the mail. It really makes me want to go back out and play my best. Coach Houston doesn't yell or scream at us but he teaches us in an encouraging way. I think Coach Houston is the best!!



2006 - Coach Tim Shepelak

- This year we received a written nomination from Brad Smith, the parent of one of Coach Shepelak's players. Brad had this to say "Tim has coached my daughter for 7 years in (the Anderson Township Park District) basketball league. He is the most positive coach I have ever seen. Just look at the girls sitting on the bench during the game. They are smiling and cheering on their teammates no matter what the score. They get this from Tim. He is always smiling and makes sure the girls are playing to the best of their ability, whether it is their first year playing or their seventh year playing. He makes sure it is a team sport."



2007 - Coach Mike Benassi

- This year we received a written nomination from Jill Mackzum, a player on Coach Benassi's 9th and 10th grade girls' team. Jill had this positive message of Mike: "Mr. Benassi is truly passionate about basketball. At our practices he was always ready to jump in a scrimmage if we were down a teammate. During practices and games coach Benassi never played favorites and treated us all equally. We had quite a tough beginning to the season yet coach never gave up on us and by the end we finally won! Coach Benassi is one of the best coaches I've ever had and he does a great job with us crazy girls."



2008 - Coach Dave Knuth

- This year we received a written nomination from Kevin Lammert, basketball official with ATPD. "One week, Coach Knuth came across the court and excitingly told me how his team had been working on learning the difference between being a winner and being a champion. He explained champions don't win every time but always play the game a way they can be proud of." Not only has Coach Knuth made an impact on the lives of the youth he works with, but also the officials and those that have had to opportunity to watch his coaching enthusiasm.



2009 - Coach Dave Rose

- This year's winner, Coach Dave Rose, has been a resident of Anderson Township for 20 years, and has been coaching in the ATPD Basketball Leagues for the past two seasons. Coach Rose was nominated by a parent of his 5th Grade Boys Basketball team who wrote, "while being disciplined and organized during practice, he still made things fun. He showed no favoritism for the more experienced players and displayed nothing but encouragement for the new comers!" Coach Rose explains that he enjoys teaching his boys to have fun while playing because "if it's not fun at this age, kids won't want to continue to play."



2010 - Coach Scott Stricker

- Coach Stricker, who has had the privilege of coaching his three daughters, was nominated by ATPD league scorekeeper, Elsa Basler, who said, "He always gives positive feedback to his players with a cheerful smile. Even without having a child on the team, he's stepped in to coach. He has helped many coaches at their practices and games, only because he enjoys teaching, helping, and he truly cares about making it fun for kids."

Dedicated, teacher, laughter, and fun are all words that describe Coach Stricker's coaching style. "I enjoy seeing the change in kids' faces when they have fun and begin to understand the skills of basketball. I teach, not tell kids how to play basketball. I want to make sure they have fun now when they are young because it is short-lived," stated Coach Stricker.

