

Gentlemen:

Charlie Dirvin served as a track and field coach at my Alma Matter, Bishop McDevitt High School for over 30 years, and last week was selected as this year's John A. Glascott Memorial Award recipient. The John A. Glascott Award is given in his memory as a track coach at West Catholic who passed-away in the mid-1960's. It is not only unique in its presentation by a high school track alumni organization, but also by its recipients. This Award has been given out each year at the McDevitt Track and Field team banquet for the last 48 years to honor those who have contributed significantly to Track & Field in the Southeast Pennsylvania area. The previous winners of this award include college coaches, high school coaches, administrators and Olympic coaches.

During Coach Dirvin's tenure, Bishop McDevitt, one of the smallest schools in the PCL, in one 16 year stretch starting in 1985, won the Philadelphia Catholic League Championships in Outdoor Track and Field 13 times.

In all, he helped lead the Lancers to 26 indoor and outdoor Catholic League titles. Dirvin guided 48 individual Catholic League champions in the hurdles and two at the state level. Every single record holder in Hurdle events at both Bishop McDevitt and Cabrini College were coached by Brother Charlie.

One of his former runners relayed a funny story to me, about meeting coach Dirvin for the first time as a freshman and a potential hurdler. (I'll save you the suspense, it was not me)

"What leg do you lead with?" said Coach Dirvin.

Student had a blank look on his face.....

"Go run to that hurdle and jump over it" he said to see what leg the runner would lead with.... To which the runner sprinted over to the hurdle, stopped and did a frog leap with both legs over it.

"I don't think this kid is going to make it" he said to another coach.

4 years later he was coaching the same runner to the Pennsylvania Indoor State championship in the 55m high hurdles, a testament to Coach Dirvin's chops.

At the college level, he has coached six All-Americans in hurdles events – one at the Division II level and five at the Division III level.

In 1999, Brother Dirvin was inducted into the Bishop McDevitt Track & Field Hall of Fame. Seven years following, he earned the Greater Philadelphia High School Coaches Service Award. Charlie also served as a Penn Relays track & field official for over 30 years and was twice the Clerk of Course at the NCAA cross country championships.

As a student-athlete, Dirvin played basketball at Peirce College and the Philadelphia College of Textiles and Sciences. As we all know, He's also a hell of a story teller, knows everyone - everywhere, is a fantastic Hibernian, and yet another credit to our Division. Join me in congratulating Brother Charlie Dirvin.