

Domenic Pannitto

Sports



Domenic Pannitto graduated from Collinwood High School in January 1953. While at Collinwood, Domenic excelled in sports. He earned 3 varsity letters for football, 3 for basketball and 2 for baseball. Domenic was the Cleveland News All East Senate Football and All Scholastic Football recipient in 1951 as well as the Cleveland Press Star Football recipient that year. The Plain Dealer also recognized him as All East Senate in 1952. In basketball, he was East Senate Champion in 1951 and an Ohio regional finalist as well.

Domenic also had perfect attendance from K-12!

Domenic went on to Mt. Union College and earned his Bachelor of Science degree, then to Cleveland State University for his Masters. His time at Mt. Union was interrupted by being drafted into the army for the Korean War. He returned in 1955 to complete his education and to play football again. He was starting quarterback from 1955 to 1957. Because he had played in one game prior to being drafted, he was not eligible to play during his senior year. Domenic became the assistant backfield coach, and this marked the start of his coaching career. He even received a try-out letter from the Green Bay Packers!

In 1959 he became a teacher at Max Hayes Vocational High School in Cleveland. His teaching responsibilities included history, health and physical education. Domenic was also named J.V. basketball coach and assistant track coach that year.

In the '60's Dom continued his teaching responsibilities. He also organized the first Gym Leaders at Max Hayes, coached the Decathlon team, served on the Open House Committee, and organized the Physical Education Open House Program in which he ran the physical fitness competition for the school. Dom was named head basketball coach for the 1964-65 season. His 1966-67 team was ranked 7th in the Cleveland Dealer's top 50 schools. With his wins over Lincoln and St. Ignatius, he was named "Coach of the Week" in the Plain Dealer. Sportswriter Dan Coughlin referred to Dom as "That scrappy little quarterback from Collinwood who led them to the Charity Game in 1951. . . Pannitto's trademark is never quitting".

Domenic retired from teaching in 1997 after 31 years. He has received awards too numerous to fit on this page. Dom and his wife live in North Olmstead, Ohio.