



Iona “Bud” Cole (deceased)

Bud Cole was a Physical Education and Health teacher at Averill Park High School from 1946 to 1979. She received her Physical Education and Health degree from Asbury University in Kentucky. As a collegiate athlete, she played basketball and tennis.

Before the days of Title IX there were few opportunities for girls to participate in interscholastic competition. Bud was instrumental in getting girls into activities such as “play days” and “school exchanges” before varsity level sports were introduced. In house, a student officials club was formed and Bud oversaw these student officiated contests. It was here that Bud was able to instill high expectations of students and emphasize fair play and sportsmanship.

Though not a coach, Bud supported and chaperoned many sporting events. Her early efforts were the springboard to the beginning of interscholastic athletic competition for girls. Opportunities to play field hockey, volleyball, basketball and softball came to fruition in 1972, and girls outdoor track & field followed in 1975.

Bud was a pioneer in the evolution of female athletics at Averill Park. We bring to light what was available to girls prior to Title IX and how Bud contributed to what was to follow. Averill Park has an outstanding interscholastic athletic program for females due in large part to Bud’s influence and efforts.

