



Harold “Dutch” Reis “Legend-Maker Alumnus”

An all-around prolific hoopster was formed at Charlestown High School during the 1937-1941 seasons when Harold “Dutch” Reis was budding into a solid Pirate athlete on the hardwood.

Eventually, he would be the first professional basketball player to come out of Charlestown, and later, return to take over the reins of directing the Pirates. He would be the first alumnus to guide the Pirates, as a former player.

Reis, a top-notch All-American collegiate player at Wesleyan College and an honor roll student, had a winsome smile directing his teams on the hardwood, but relentless as a potent mentor. His lighthearted persona would later endear many an athlete at Charlestown to go the full distance on the court. He was a fervent advocate for basketball fundamentals in cultivating strong athletes for action.

Coach Reis had a great passion for the sport and was one of the more animated mentor’s on the sidelines. It had been rumored many times amongst fans that they would pack the Jonathan Jennings High School gymnasium just to observe the young coach put on his own show with the zebras! They never knew what to expect from him and his animated gestures, or his up and down movements on the team bench during a ballgame. He was a very expressive person toward the game he loved, but in the end, was always the sportsman.

One of the great attributes of Reis was his ability to put himself in the shoes of his players. He knew teaching new and different game philosophy was very important—not only to him, but his athletes as well, and that meant no distractions from the outside during drills. Prior to his first work-out sessions with the athletes, he made the announcement that no one would be allowed to watch practice. The gym would be off limits to the public.

He had a genuine desire to have all sports played at Charlestown. As a result, he was one of the early advocates of the football program and other elevated athletic competitions at the high school. Today, we have the Harold “Dutch” Reis Football Field dedicated in his honor reminding us of what an enormous asset he was to Charlestown High School and the community.

Read more on Coach Harold Reis in “Pirates of the Hardwood” and “The Centennial” book



Coach Harold “Dutch” Reis (Photo courtesy of the Reis family archives)