

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

1974 Track & Field Team



Competitive, with Common Goals, Cohesion, Talent, Commitment, Leadership. Essential ingredients for a championship team. The 1974 Power Memorial Academy Track & Field Team had them. They pushed and pulled each other up the hills and through the valleys of the Cross Country, Indoor and Outdoor seasons. And they were pretty good doing it, setting seventeen school records along the way.

The 1974 squad is among the very best Track & Field teams in Power Memorial's history. A big claim, but there are fast times and big wins to back it up. This team was made up of many bright lights and when combined, stars were created. And City Champions, and Penn Relays winners and All-Americans. Not known at the time, they even made a mark on the international stage.

In the fall of 1973, Power's Varsity Cross Country team won the CHSAA City Championship, while establishing a league record that lasted over 40 years, for the fastest five-man average time. Three varsity harriers broke the magical 13-minute barrier on Van Cortland Park's famed 2½ mile course. The Junior Varsity won the City Championship too, and with a perfect score! That day, 22 of 36 Power harriers ran personal bests.

During the 1974 Indoor Season, the Distance Medley Relay set a league record running, what was then, the fastest time in the nation, 4th best all-time and just one second off the National Flat-Floor record. At the "World's Most Famous Arena", Power won the Millrose Games CHSAA Medley Relay. Two weeks later, the feat was repeated on Madison Square Garden's track, this time earning gold medals in the U.S. Olympic Invitational CHSAA 1600-meter Relay. Power's Mile Relay had the #1 time in the league, finished 2nd at Eastern States and claimed the nation's fifth fastest Indoor time that year. The Power Varsity was victorious at the CHSAA Indoor Sectionals, but their biggest Indoor accomplishment took place at the New York City Mayor's Cup "All City" Track & Field Championships. Going head-to-head with schools from the CHSAA and PSAL, Power captured the team title earning bragging rights as the best in all of New York City.

Outdoors, team success continued with an Outdoor Sectional title. At the renowned Penn Relays, a crowd of thousands cheered with excitement as a battle raged on the home stretch of the Distance Medley. After four relay legs and nearly 2½ miles of racing, the contest had come down to the last fifty yards. Three teams were in a virtual tie. Fans were on their feet. All eyes were glued to the athletes on the Franklin Field track. As the runners crossed the finish line, the crowd roared. In a thrilling finish, Power Memorial Academy won the Distance Medley Relay Championship of America. But what may be the 1974 team's most extraordinary feat was still to come. At the Jersey Relays they set a New York State record in the Four-Mile Relay. Their stellar time of 17:19.6 earned them All-American honors with the country's fastest time that year. It was the fifth fastest prep time in U.S. history and an all-time #5 for World Junior Men. For the next 26 years, Power Memorial ranked among the World Junior Men's all-time top ten. In 2005, the relay was still 8th fastest in U.S. history. Their New York State record stood until 2006, a span of 32 years.

Record setters, CHSAA Champions, New York "All-City" Champions, Penn Relays Champions, All-Americans, nationally ranked in sprint and distance events. This outstanding group left bright marks on the local, national and world athletic stages, some lasting more than a generation. Their camaraderie and achievements add richness to the enduring legacy of our alma mater. For these reasons and more, the 1974 Track & Field team is welcomed to the Power Memorial Academy Hall of Fame.