

Jim Flynn

Irvington Club Newsletter

The tennis world and the Irvington Club lost a good friend in the passing of Jim Flynn on 3/12/2016. Jim joined the Irvington Club at an early age and tennis was an important part of his life for over 70 years.

Jim first received tennis recognition by winning the state high school doubles tournament representing Central Catholic High School in 1949 playing with Mike Walsh. The following year he won the state high school singles championship. He then had more success in tennis at the University of Portland where he compiled a singles record of 67 - 3 and a doubles record of 68 - 2. He is a member of the U of P Athletic Hall of Fame and the Central Catholic High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

In 1970, Jim became the Portland Tennis Center Association Executive Secretary and several years later with fellow Irvington club colleagues, Sam Lee and Emery Neale was influential in bringing the first public indoor tennis facility on the west coast to the Portland Tennis Center. In 1981, he left a 25-year insurance job to devote full time to the sport he loved and became the first tennis director for the Portland Bureau of Parks. He had a strong and long dedication to bringing tennis to people who couldn't afford to join a private club. He also was an advocate of junior tennis serving as the tournament director for the Oregon Boys High School Tennis Championships from 1971 to 1997. In 1984, he brought the USTA schools Program to Portland, working with USTA clinicians and Physical Education leaders. Some of the other awards Jim has received as a result of 60 years of Portland public tennis service are:

- Portland Parks Olmsted Award - 1983
- National Community Services Award by the USTA - 1984
- Oregon Sports Awards, Merit Award - 1990
- Greater Portland Tennis Council Community Service Award, 1991
- USTA/PNW Hall of Fame - 2012

Over the years, Jim has been active in many club activities including recently the Oregon Tennis Historical Committee. He has also coached junior players. One of his students was Carolyn Lumber who won the state high school girls singles championship while playing for Grant High School in 1969 and 1970. Carolyn later became the tennis professional at the Irvington Club.

Jim's presence and warm smile will be greatly missed.

3/21/2016
Steve Hall
Chairman
Oregon Tennis Historical Committee

