

PRIDE *of the* HAWKS

NEW BASKETBALL CENTER
DEDICATED TO HALL OF FAME COACH
JACK RAMSAY '49

By Phil Denne '96 (B.A.)

Spacious, spectacular and state-of-the-art have not typically described Saint Joseph's athletics facilities, but with the opening of the Ramsay Basketball Center in June, the University entered a new era. Named in honor of Hall of Fame coach Jack Ramsay, Ed.D. '49 (B.A.), the new building provides the teams with the finest amenities and assures Dr. Jack's lasting legacy for generations of future Hawks.





Ramsay '49 and Fr. Lannon (center) cut the ribbon to dedicate the new Ramsay Basketball Center. Looking on are (front row, from left) former Trustee Mike Hagan '85, Jameer Nelson '04, Trustee Jamie Maguire '84 and Board of Trustees Chair Paul Hondros '70; (back row) Associate Vice President/Director of Athletics Don DiJulia '67, former Trustee Tom Wynne '63, Trustee Mike Kempski '68, Martelli and Griffin.



Ramsay '49



Fr. Lannon

"The Ramsay Center provides an excellent home for our men's and women's basketball programs," says University President Timothy R. Lannon, S.J. "Our coaches, student-athletes and athletic department staff finally have space worthy of a first-class NCAA Division I operation with a history as rich in tradition and success as that of our Hawks. The Ramsay Center and Hagan Arena will have an immeasurable impact on our students and the entire University community."

Ramsay was the clear choice when it came to naming the building. "To walk every day into a Center named for Dr. Jack Ramsay is an honor," says men's basketball head coach Phil Martelli. "Jack epitomizes Saint Joseph's and SJU basketball. I consider myself very fortunate to play a role in the tremendous history of this program, but Jack Ramsay sits at the top of the mountain. The Center could only be named for him."

The venerable Alumni Memorial Fieldhouse, described as quaint, cramped and cozy, lacked the resources of many top-tier high schools — let alone those of a University seeking to achieve preeminence. The fact that the men's and women's teams combined to reach the post-season 54 times and won nearly 80 percent of their home games during nearly 60 seasons in the historic building is a testament to the coaches and student-athletes.

"We are asking young men and women to compete and perform with the very best in their sport," notes women's basketball head coach Cindy Griffin '91 (B.S.), '93 (M.B.A.). "A place to truly become a team is paramount."



Among the speakers featured during the program were former Alumni Association President Tess Boyle '84, the widow of former men's basketball coach Jim Boyle '64; DiJulia '67; and Ramsay's daughter Susan Dailey.

Ramsay Basketball Center Benefactors

Lead Benefactors

Mike '85 and Joyce Hagan
Mike '68 and Carol Kempski Sr.
Jameer Nelson '04

Naming Donors

William '68 and Susan Conway
John '75 and Rosemary Conway '76
Conway Lobby in honor of
William A. Conway '43

Jane Gallagher and Family
Gallagher Conference Room in honor of
Jack Gallagher '63

Jamie '84 and Lisa Maguire
Women's Basketball Locker Room and Lounge

Barbara McKenna and Family
Men's Basketball Head Coach's Office
in honor of Charles McKenna, Ph.D. '66

John '70 and Fay McManus
Athletic Director's Office Suite

Jameer Nelson '04
Men's Basketball Locker Room

Tom Rafferty '52 and Family
Basketball Reception Area
in honor of Anne Rafferty

Delonte West '05
Men's Basketball Lounge

Thomas J. Wynne '63
Hall of Fame Room

Among the highlights, the new two-story, 20,000-square-foot facility features spacious locker rooms and lounge areas for players, a reception area, expanded coaches offices, conference rooms, academic/video study space and film editing suites.

The Center is also the home of the new and beautifully appointed Wynne Hall of Fame room featuring an upscale conference room and lounge area complete with flat-screen TVs. Just outside the Hall of Fame room, guests can take in a striking view of campus from the well-manicured patio space. The building also includes new offices and expanded archives for the Office of Athletic Communications.

“The Saint Joseph’s experience has always been focused on what we have and not what we lack,” observes Associate Vice President/Director of Athletics Don DiJulia ’67 (B.S.). “With the opening of the Ramsay Center and the Arena later this fall, we are not lacking anymore. We finally have facilities that match the passion we all share for this University.”



A member of both SJU’s baseball and basketball Halls of Fame, Wynne ’63 was the naming donor for the new Hall of Fame Room.



Among the new amenities are spacious locker rooms and lounge areas. Jamie ’84 and Lisa Maguire (above) donated the women’s locker room and lounge. Jameer Nelson ’04 (right) was the donor for the men’s locker room.



Hagan ’85, Nelson ’04 and Ramsay ’49



Men’s basketball head coach Phil Martelli’s expanded office suite was donated by Barbara McKenna and family in memory of former player Charles McKenna, Ph.D. ’66.



Named in honor of former player William A. Conway ’43, the new Conway Lobby was a gift of William ’68 and Susan Conway and John ’75 and Rosemary ’76 Conway.

A Basketball Life

By Joe Lunardi '82 (B.A.)

To label him simply a coach or commentator doesn't tell the story. More descriptive, perhaps, are teacher, scholar, ambassador, icon. Others, without exaggeration, prefer Living Legend.

In the sport of basketball and well beyond, the life of Jack Ramsay, Ed.D. '49 (B.A.), is one worth emulating. While his coaching statistics are staggering — a .765 winning percentage (234-72) over 11 seasons on Hawk Hill, including 10 post-season tournaments and the 1961 Final Four; plus 864 victories in 20 NBA seasons, including the '77 World Championship with the Portland Trail Blazers — it's much more than numbers that set him apart.

For the man everyone calls "Dr. Jack," basketball, and life itself, are more an academic exercise than a sport. Always learning, always striving, always competing, Ramsay's singular approach has spawned a coaching legacy unmatched in the history of the sport.

Many have taught the game. Few have applied a doctorate in education, which Ramsay earned at the University of Pennsylvania in 1963, to that pursuit. Ramsay's published works — *Pressure Basketball* and *The Coach's Art* — have stood the test of time. His more recent work, *Leadership Lessons Learned from a Lifetime in Basketball*, is a must for those in and out of the game.

His best-ever player, legendary UCLA and NBA center Bill Walton, who anchored the champion Trail Blazers team, is effusive in his praise.

"The very best coaches are teachers of basketball and life," he says. "Jack Ramsay is a Hall of Famer at both. We all loved playing for Dr. Jack, but we loved being with him even more.

"I know how much he meant to the Portland Trail Blazers, where he made me the best player that I ever was, so I can imagine how revered he is at Saint Joseph's — where it all began."

Current Saint Joseph's Associate Vice President/Director of Athletics Don DiJulia '67 (B.S.) also played for Ramsay and speaks for hundreds of former players in remembering the man beyond the coach.

"In regard to coaching, he was the Wilt [Chamberlain] of his era," DiJulia says. "In life, he is a renaissance man, truly a man of Ignatius and Joseph.

"He taught us all to 'compete and compete hard.' It was all about teamwork. He is still positive, upbeat and inspirational. He'd make us believe that beating Duke was as easy as beating Albright."

Ramsay, in turn, took his own substantial lessons from the experience.

"I was privileged to work with students of the highest quality," the one-time mathematics major said. "They were great, tough-minded competitors who played their hearts out for



Ramsay and his players celebrate the 1963 Quaker City Championship.

team success. My experiences at Saint Joseph's as a student, athlete, coach, teacher and administrator were immensely fulfilling and helped form me as a Christian person."

Ramsay mentored five would-be NBA head coaches from Saint Joseph's — Jack McKinney '57 (B.S.), Paul Westhead '61 (B.S.), Jim Lynam '63 (B.S.), Matt Guokas '66 (B.S.) and Jim O'Brien '74 (B.S.) — along with future NBA assistants, including the late Jim Boyle '64 (B.S.). His first position in the professional ranks as general manager of the 1966-67 Philadelphia 76ers resulted in a world championship and one of the most dominant teams the game has even known.

"How lucky can a guy get?" he asks. "For all but the earliest years of my life, I have played, coached and been associated with a game that I have loved since my father bolted that basketball hoop to the barn door. I feel like I've never really worked a day in my professional life."

What an understatement. A 1992 Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame inductee, Ramsay was named one of Ten Greatest Coaches in NBA History. His combined victory total of 1,098, college and professional, is among the highest in the history of basketball. The senior triathlete became part of the SJU Athletics Hall of Fame inaugural class in 1999. Since 1996, he has been a broadcaster for ESPN.

From humble beginnings at Upper Darby (Pa.) High School and Mount Pleasant High in Delaware, where he first coached, from the Philadelphia Big 5 to the National Basketball Association, from clinics in untold countries to press rooms across America, Dr. Jack Ramsay represents his sport and the people in it like no one else. He is indeed a Living Legend, and now one whose name lives forever on Hawk Hill.

Joe Lunardi is the assistant vice president for marketing communications and a long-time broadcaster for the Saint Joseph's Sports Network.