



(Mural on the wall of the Ramsay Basketball Center, Saint Joseph's University)

Dr. Jack...

In the history of basketball – locally, nationally, and internationally – no two words mean so much to so many.

...Ramsay.

In the history of basketball – collegiate, professional, and in the media – no one name has accomplished more.

Dr. Jack Ramsay.

The label "coach" has become superfluous. More descriptive are teacher, scholar, ambassador, icon. For his sport. For generations. Forever.

A mathematics major and 1949 graduate of what was then Saint Joseph's College, even Dr. Jack would concede that his career numbers are staggering. A .765 winning percentage (234-72) over 11 seasons in the college ranks, including 10 post-season tournaments, seven Philadelphia Big 5 titles, and the 1961 Final Four. Another 864 victories in 20 NBA campaigns, highlighted by the 1977 world championship Portland Trail Blazers.

Ramsay's combined victory total – 1,098 – was once the highest-ever in the sport.

Teacher...

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

From Saint Joseph's alone, he mentored five would-be NBA head coaches – Jack McKinney, Paul Westhead, Jim Lynam, Matt Goukas, and Jim O'Brien – along with future NBA assistants including the late Jim Boyle. His first position in the professional ranks, general manager of the 1966-67 Philadelphia 76ers, resulted in a world championship and one of the dominant teams the game has even known.

Scholar...

Many have taught the game. Few have applied a doctorate in education to that pursuit.

Ramsay's published works – *Pressure Basketball* and *The Coach's Art* – have stood the test of time. A more recent work, *Leadership Lessons Learned from a Lifetime in Basketball*, is a must for those in the game and beyond.

To read Dr. Jack is to have a shared conversation on the sport, its culture, and life itself.

Ambassador...

From Upper Darby (Pa.) High School to Mount Pleasant High in Delaware. From the Philadelphia Big 5 to the National Basketball Association. From clinics in untold countries to press rooms across America.

Jack Ramsay represents his sport and the people in it like no one else. Even his broadcasting features "teachable moments" in which highly evolved concepts are translated into understandable, applicable language.

Icon...

For generations, players and coaches at every level are hushed in the presence of Dr. Jack Ramsay. He never seeks the attention; it is the natural outcome of a lifetime of good works and unmentioned kindnesses.

His best-ever player, legendary UCLA and NBA center Bill Walton, is effusive in his praise.

"The very best coaches are teachers of basketball and life. 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 was ever was, so I can imagine how revered he is at Saint Joseph's -- where it all began. There is no greater honor than to preserve his name forever on Hawk Hill."

...Ramsay.

How many coaches have been to the Final Four and also won an NBA title? How many have eclipsed the gymnasium gone on to win senior triathlons? How many one-time Naval Officers are in the Basketball Hall of Fame?

Who, in the lifetime of a school, a sport, and a profession, command such passion and respect with so few words? One man, and one man alone.

Dr. Jack...