



DENNIS J. HAGLAN
Freedom Area Class of 1962

“An athlete must have the ability to reach the top. . . .”

Major Taylor

Dennis Haglan, a member of the Freedom Area Class of 1962, gained distinction throughout his high school career as an outstanding three-sport athlete. He excelled in football, basketball, and track and field. During his senior year Haglan held both the long jump and discus records. That same year he placed in the long jump in the PIAA State Track and Field Championships.

After graduating from Freedom Haglan attended the College of William and Mary on a football scholarship. He played quarterback and defensive back through his junior year and finished his career as a running back/defensive back. During the “single platoon” 1964 season, Haglan displayed his versatility by serving as the starting quarterback, free safety, kick returner, and punt returner, as well as the lead defender on the kickoff team. Haglan also earned laurels in track at William and Mary where he set the freshman triple jump record and placed in the long jump at the State of Virginia Collegiate Indoor Track and Field Championships.

Following his college graduation Haglan pursued a career in teaching and coaching. He garnered many distinctions as a teacher and assistant coach, notably a share of the Virginia State High School Football Championship in 1967, leading the team to an 11-0 record.

Haglan returned to Freedom in 1969 to implement the initial Elementary Physical Education Program. He also initiated and organized the Freedom Elementary Olympics. During his time at Freedom, Haglan earned his Masters in Education Degree from Slippery Rock State University.

Upon earning his masters degree, Haglan coached at Guilford College, Duke University, and Wake Forest University. Prior to his assuming head coaching duties at Guilford, the football team had chalked up five wins in five years. Under his guidance, the team compiled a 14-5-2 record. His 1974 team played to a tie in the Poultry Bowl. In 1975 Haglan was named as the American Football Coaches Association District 8 Coach of the Year. He was also inducted into the Guilford College Sports Hall of Fame. While assisting at Wake Forest, he helped to lead his team to the Tangerine Bowl.

Haglan left coaching to become an Assistant Athletics Director for Operations at Wake Forest University, a tenure that lasted from 1983 to 1990. During that time he received his MBA degree from Wake Forest. Subsequently he became Director of Athletics at Catawba College from 1990 to 1993. While there he negotiated the first "campus-wide" soft drink contract in the nation

Haglan concluded his vocational career by serving as the Director of Planned Giving at Guilford College from 1998 to 2000 and then as Assistant Athletic Director and Director of Planned Giving for the Wake Forest University Athletic Department from 2000 to 2004.

Of all the accomplishments in Haglan's career, the one he considers his greatest is his 44-year marriage to his wife, Patti, and the family that followed, namely their daughter, Leslie, and son, Todd, and their spouses, John and Tammy. He is the proud grandfather of four grandchildren: Ben, Holly, Blake, and Brooks.

Haglan and his wife currently are enjoying their retirement in Valle Crucis, North Carolina.