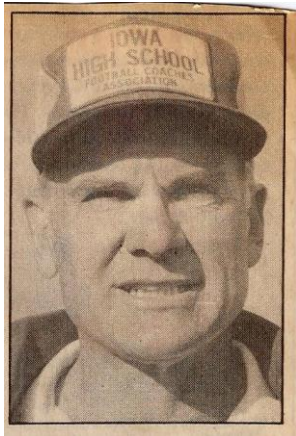


Al Stiers – Head Coach 1983-1986



A native of Nemaha, NE, Al Stiers attended Nemaha High School where he played football, basketball, baseball, and ran track & field. Nemaha was such a small school that they participated in 6-man football. Stiers is certain there weren't enough boys in the school to field a regular 11-man rotation. Stiers played End on offense and defense. His Nemaha teams dominated their competition, losing only 4 games in his 4-year varsity career. Stiers also excelled on the track, earning second place throwing the discus in the state meet his senior year.

After graduating from Nemaha HS in 1952, Stiers received a scholarship to play football at Peru St. Teachers College in Peru, NE. His scholarship award was \$75 per year (annual tuition was \$120 per year). Much like Nemaha HS, Peru St. dominated its opponents. Stiers only lost 4 games in 4 seasons at Peru St., including two undefeated teams. Stiers played Offensive and Defensive Tackle, earning All-Conference honors his junior and senior years. One of Stiers' opponents during his years at Peru St. was former Nebraska Cornhusker coach Tom Osborne, who played at Hastings College. Stiers earned degrees in Industrial Technology and Physical Education from Peru St.

Stiers' first job after college was at a small high school in Johnson, NE. He earned an annual salary of \$3900 and was named the Coach of all boys sports. Not just football, but every boys' sport offered at Johnson High School. And there were no assistant coaches in any of the sports he coached. Stiers had a very successful career coaching football at Johnson HS, his teams going 40-6 under Stiers' leadership.

Stiers left Johnson HS to become the Head Coach at Sac City High School in Sac City, IA. In his own words, it was this job at Sac City that Stiers soon learned it wasn't as simple as putting a whistle around his neck and winning football games. Stiers believes he learned how to be a coach while at Sac City. Stiers experienced modest success at Sac City, but earned the respect from the Head Coach of one of his opponents, which led to his next job.

Dale Tryon was the Head Coach at Audubon High School, a school in Sac City's conference, and an annual opponent of Stiers. In 1967 Tryon accepted the position of Head Football Coach at newly-created Cedar Rapids Kennedy High School and asked Stiers to join him as an Assistant Coach on his staff, which Stiers accepted. Stiers served as the Offensive and Defensive Line coach. In his second year at Kennedy, Stiers also took over as Head Track & Field Coach, a job he held until his retirement in 1997. Stiers also taught Physical Education while at Kennedy.

When Tryon left Kennedy after 3 years to become the Freshmen coach at the University of Iowa, Jerry Mauren became the new Head Football Coach. Stiers served as an Assistant Coach on Mauren's staff as well. When Mauren resigned in 1975, Stiers took a break from coaching

football. In addition to being Head Coach for Track & Field, Stiers took over the Head Coaching duties for Cross Country as well.

Stiers returned to the sidelines as Head Football Coach at Kennedy in 1983. His first season was his most successful, finishing 5-4, including two losses by one and two points. Stiers resigned after the 1986 season with a career record of 10-26 as Head Coach. The following season he took over as Head Coach of the Sophomore football team, a position he held for several years. Stiers experienced great success as Head Sophomore Coach, building the cornerstones for several varsity teams that qualified for the 4A playoffs beginning in the early 1990's. Stiers was well-liked and respected by all his players, many of whom continue to stop by his home for a visit.

Stiers continues to reside in the Cedar Rapids area, and can often be seen in the stands at Kingston Stadium on Friday nights wearing his Kennedy apparel. Stiers recently celebrated his 60 year wedding anniversary with his Nemaha High School sweetheart, Twila. The couple have three adult sons, Steven, Scott, and Brent. Steven and Scott reside in the Cedar Rapids area, while Brent lives in Indiana. Stiers also has several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.