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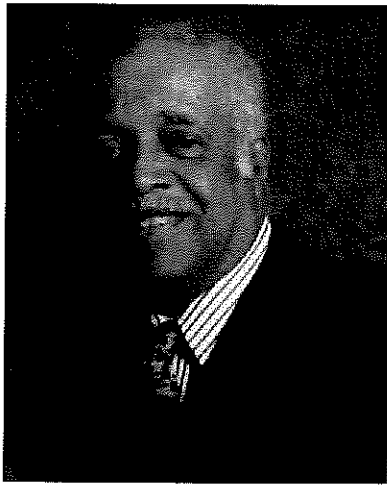
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## COACH LARRY WILSON

If you want to develop a successful long-term relationship with workplace associates, look to Coach Larry Wilson as a good example. Your search can begin right here in Montgomery County at Gwynedd Mercy Academy.

Larry Wilson has been the head track & field coach there for 31 seasons, beginning in 1978. During much of that time he was a fulltime employee of Drexel University where he was Industrial Coordinator from 1969 until his 1998 retirement. A 1957 graduate of Morgan State University where he was awarded a B.S. Degree in Physical Education, Larry served as Director of Physical Education & Recreation at Philadelphia's Eastern Pennsylvania State School and Hospital from 1960 to 1969.

Then add the following volunteer coaching longevity to Coach Wilson's resume: Amateur Athletic Union Region Two chairman, 35 years...AAU Mid-Atlantic district track & field and cross country chairman 36 years; national cross country chairman 20 years...Ambler Track Club co-founder and head track coach... 1989 and 1997 assistant track coach of USA Junior Pan American women's team...head track coach at 1981 National Sports Festival in Syracuse. A United States Army veteran, Larry was a member of the 1960 All-Army track & field team.

Coach Wilson is a product of the Philadelphia School system where he was first introduced to track & field competition. Later, at Morgan State, his passion for the sport was heightened through an association with two former Norristown superstars -- Josh Culbreath and Bob Barksdale. Barksdale was Wilson's roommate for several Morgan State semesters. Culbreath, the 400-meter hurdles bronze medalist in the 1956 Olympics at Melbourne, was another Morgan State track star. In reminiscing, Wilson also credits longtime Norristown High coach/athletic director Leroy (Pete) Lewis for his guidance in pointing Wilson to a track, field, and cross country coaching career.

Larry's enthusiasm for track and field has never diminished in the more than 50 years since Morgan State. The long list of his individual champions and team titles continues to grow. His Gwynedd Mercy athletes have posted 17 Pennsylvania Division AA high school championships and earned 60 district crowns. Gwynedd Mercy's 4 x 800 relay teams won five consecutive State high school Class AA championships. Wilson's runners also captured the Penn Relays' 1500 meter event.

Aside from remarkable accomplishments in guiding his high school squads, Wilson takes pride in dozens of amateurs he helped coach at the Ambler Track Club and his other AAU teams. He played a pivotal role in the development of the late Kim Gallagher, the Ft. Washington runner who would win medals in the 800 meters at the 1984 (silver) and 1988 (bronze) Olympics.

"I've enjoyed coaching so much over these many years," says Wilson. "To be inducted to the Montgomery County Coaches Hall of Fame with so many of the outstanding track and field coaches I've known and admired over the years -- men like Bob Shoudt and Jim Crawford who're already in this Hall - it's truly a humbling honor."