

Helen Dulle Hall of Fame



Helen Dulle was a pioneer for girls' sports in the State of Illinois. Helen coached for Sacred Heart-Griffin (originally Sacred Heart which merged with Griffin in 1988-1989) and accumulated 933 wins, 27 city titles, 21 regional championships, 19 sectional championships and 5 fourth-place finishes in 12 state appearances.

A pioneer, indeed. Helen advocated for girls' sports very early in her career. Quoted in a 2009 article in the State Journal-Register, upon her retirement, "My first teaching job, I even wrote letters to the Illinois High School Association then," Dulle said. "You know what a tiger I used to be, begging Ola Bundy to look at girls' sports. That was way back in 1963. I wrote letters and I had my superintendent sign."

A pioneer, indeed. Dulle was hired at Sacred Heart by Sister Diana Doyle, who would later say, "Helen was a champion of girls sports all 37 years," Sister Diana said. "She was definitely a pioneer for girls' sports in Illinois. Basically, she's a teacher, the teacher of the sport."

Helen, again quoted in the State Journal-Register, "I know I've changed a lot of people's lives for good or bad, mostly for the good," she said with a chuckle. "We missed some and we didn't get justice done to everybody, and I'm definitely sorry about that, but for the most part I think we did a great deal for girls, not just here but everywhere."

Helen Dulle coached, and mentored, nearly 60 athletes who earned college scholarships as well as 25 who played Division I volleyball.

A pioneer, indeed.