

# Sports

## Pearl's Tenure as Medway's A.D. Was a Success on Many Fronts

By KEN HAMWEY, STAFF SPORTS WRITER

An athletic director's success is sometimes tied to the number of State championships that his or her school has won. If that's truly the yardstick for measuring an A.D.'s value, then maybe it's time to rethink that administrative role.

Rob Pearl, who will retire at the end of this month, has been Medway High's A.D. for the last 14 years and the Mustangs have not raised a State championship banner during his era as the school's sports chief. The 58-year-old Pearl, however, has been ultra successful in so many other areas and in so many other ways.

Consider these facts and figures during his time at Medway: athletic participation increased from 50 to 65 percent of enrollment; Medway now has three turf fields instead of one; user fees have remained at \$235 per sport for the last seven years; co-op squads now number four; Medway currently offers 28 varsity sports, 23 at the junior-varsity



**Success isn't always defined by the number of championships. During his tenure, Rob Pearl saw increased participation in athletics, helped grow the number of sports offered, saw an increase from one to three turf fields, hired a good number of strong coaches and kept participation fees affordable for families with students at Medway High.**

level and five for freshmen; middle school sports have reached six; and the 60-plus coaches he's hired have, for the most part, directed successful programs.

For the last 14 years, there haven't been any banners in the Clark Gymnasium that reveal a State championship, but there are numbers of note. During Pearl's era, 34 Tri Valley League titles and eight Sectional crowns have been won. And, the just-completed fall season was dynamic. Medway was Tri Valley League champs in football, volleyball, boys' and girls' soccer and field hockey.

"We've been to State final games four times — three in girls' soccer and once in boys' ice hockey," Pearl said. "But, to sum up my career as an A.D., I've been fortunate to be part of a great family. I live in Medway, and my three children all graduated from here. I've had great associations with students, athletes, coaches, administration and faculty. It's been very rewarding."

Pearl, who graduated from Milford High, taught physical education at his alma mater for 21 years and coached the Milford boys soccer squad for 14 seasons. His 1998 team made it to the State final but lost. Pearl earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Bridgewater State, majoring in phys-ed.

Pearl noted that the success of the fall teams has led to increased participation this winter and he's

also glad that facilities, fees and the sports menu are in a good place.

"The community deserves lots of credit for adding the fields," Pearl said. "Hanlon Field, Maddie Lamson Field and the North Field all handle a variety of sports. Having co-op teams is a plus, too. Take girls' ice hockey, where we co-op with Millis, Holliston and Ashland. There are 22 girls on the team, and we have 10 participating. That concept offers kids an opportunity to play a sport that we might not be able to provide."

User fees have not been hiked for seven years, and that's an area that pleases Pearl. "We've kept them at \$235 per sport, but ice hockey is \$435," Pearl noted. "There is a cap. After \$940, there are no charges for any other amount."

Pearl is leaving Medway, because he's reached the maximum time needed for his pension benefit. Still young, his future has yet to be mapped out, but he'd like to continue to work in athletics. "Maybe I'll be at a private school or perhaps at a college," he hinted. "I'd like to continue with athletics and take what I've learned at Medway with me."

Dedication to the job is what defines Pearl. He did all the laborious work quietly. Tasks that included budgeting, scheduling,

### TENURE

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