

Paul Lehto

Calumet High School Athletic Hall of Fame

A 1957 graduate of Calumet High School who developed his leadership abilities as a young man. At the age of 14 was elected president of the Wolverine Athletic Club and at 16 was playing and coaching in the Calumet Hockey Association.

In 1954, began a 30 year career as player and manager with Wolverine in the Copper Country Twilight Baseball League. Was responsible for leading a group of volunteers to build a new baseball field in Wolverine (1969).

Played for and coached Wolverine in the Copper Country Intermediate Hockey League and the CLK Wolverines in the Northern Michigan-Wisconsin Hockey League (1962-1972).

Lead a group of supporters that secured the Copper Country Chiefs franchise in the United States Hockey League and served the team as general manager and a member of the board (1972-1975).

Coached and managed the reorganized Wolverine senior hockey team (1976-1984). Overall, his teams won four Gibson Cups, seven league titles and hosted the United States National Intermediate Tournament in 1971.

For eighteen years (1984-2002) was an assistant coach for Jim Crawford and the CHS hockey team. During that time, the team won four state championships and finished as runners-up on two other occasions.

Served on the Calumet Hockey Association board of directors in various capacities, including president, for the better part of five decades.

Was a major force during his time on the hockey board, and later as Calumet Township supervisor, in maintaining and improving the Calumet Armory/Colosseum as an ice facility and community center. Became a leading figure, along with the Village of Laurium, in the construction of the Bi-Centennial/George Gipp Arena in (1976) and the installation of artificial ice two years later.

During his involvement with the Armory/Colosseum, he led a large group of volunteers to install artificial ice, purchase three Zambonis, install new side boards, rink glass, locker rooms, score clocks and the renovation of the lobby and concession stand areas.

Made the arrangements for Calumet Township to take control of the Armory when the State of Michigan evacuated the building in 2004 to move into a new facility.

As Calumet Township supervisor, has worked continually to provide recreational areas such as parks, ski trails, fishing ponds, soccer and ball fields for the people of this community.

For seven decades has devoted his life to coaching, managing, building and promoting athletics and recreational activities in Calumet and the surrounding areas.

Inducted September 6, 2014

Sponsored by the Calumet All Sports Booster Club